

**©LAYING THE FOUNDATION**  
**COACH'S MANUAL**  
*(LTFCM)*

**©GROWING DEEP**  
**AND STRONG**  
*-----Series-----*

©Laying The Foundation is Module One  
of a four part intentional discipleship path  
for nurturing new and maturing believers

By  
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# Growing Deep and Strong

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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the **©Growing Deep and Strong Series.**

©Growing Deep and Strong is an intentional discipleship path to establish believers in their faith. A PowerPoint presentation, ©Behind The Scenes was written as an integral part of the series, designed as a way of presenting the message of the Gospel in an animated graphic format that is easy to follow, leading a person to understand their present condition, what the Bible says about how to get into God's kingdom and that Jesus is the bridge to life. It then leads a person to the choice to receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Behind The Scenes has demonstrated its effectiveness already as a tool for evangelism and is available in a booklet containing a script for the presentation, together with an auto-run CD of the PowerPoint presentation.

Once people become believers, they can be soundly established in their faith through Growing Deep and Strong.

### **A) Course Outline**

The ©Growing Deep and Strong Series is an intentional discipleship path of four modules for new and maturing believers. The series can be tailored to coincide with school terms and spread over a twelve months period or longer. It has been designed to be simple to teach, and easy to administrate. It multiplies groups with minimal supervision through equipping and involving ordinary Christians in leadership.

The purpose of the four modules is to establish new believers quickly with strong Biblical foundations, free disciples from bondages that they bring into their Christian walk, help them to reach out to people they know, and equip them to disciple these people.

Each module can be purchased separately and is a stand-alone product. However, we strongly recommend that the first two modules be completed, so that strong foundations are laid down in the life of a new believer and past baggage is dealt with quickly.

### **★ Module 1. Laying the Foundation.**

Module one is nine sessions, beginning with the PowerPoint presentation ©Behind The Scenes, as an introduction and orientation, then seven sessions covering foundational principles such as, A New Life, and how to use the Bible, Kingdom of Darkness, Kingdom of Light, Why Jesus Came, The Holy Spirit our Helper, Existence of Angels, Spirit, Soul and Body. This module concludes with Encounter One Weekend.

#### **✓ Encounter One Weekend**

The ministry weekend is the climax of and completes the first module, where the new believers, or disciples, experience the healing power of the cross in a safe environment, dealing with the baggage of the past, demonic influence and generational curses and learning how walk in freedom from them. ©Encounter One Weekend includes what communion means, and the need for being baptized in water and in the Holy Spirit.

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## ★ **Module 2. ©Power of Godly Character.**

Module two comprises ten sessions and deals with developing godly character. Power principles are addressed such as the power of praise and worship, talking with God, possessions, giving, our words, family, integrity, purity, and a second session on the family. The last session is Encounter Two Weekend.

### ✓ **Encounter Two Weekend**

©Encounter Two Weekend climaxes and concludes Module Two, where ungodly character issues that may have come to the surface in this module are addressed in a safe environment. Demonic influences and other blocks to the development of godly character are removed so that the disciples can walk in freedom from them and live in the power of godly character.

## ★ **Module 3. ©The War Is Real**

Module Three is aimed at teaching and equipping the disciples to pray for the people they know who remain in the kingdom of Darkness.

Firstly, it is to help them discover their own unique God-given gifts and how they can best use their gifts as they serve God.

Secondly, this module teaches on spiritual warfare, combining prayer, intercession and fasting as spiritual weapons against the enemy who has blinded these people.

The third aspect is to help the disciples apply the principles of prayer warfare practically by targeting three people in their circle of influence and praying for them over a 40-day period with the aim of seeing them come into the kingdom of God.

A DVD or PowerPoint presentation called ©Behind The Scenes is available as an effective evangelism tool for presenting the Gospel to their friends at the conclusion of their 40-day prayer warfare.

### ✓ **New converts from prayer evangelism**

New disciples of Jesus should be the result of prayer warfare and evangelism. This is how new groups of brand new believers can be multiplied. Ideally, the person who prayed new believers into God's kingdom would follow them up, and become their coach. With the oversight of their current coach they would assist the new believer to begin Module One while they themselves complete Module Four.

## ★ **Module 4. ©Discipling Others**

Module Four is designed to help the disciple develop leadership skills to coach new believers through Module One and Two, and also to lead small groups of Christians effectively as they grow and multiply.

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## B) Course Structure

### ★ Setting

The series can be run as a one-on-one, as a small group, or as a class in any location or time frame.

### ★ Theme

The theme of each session is presented in three different formats, allowing for every disciple to receive each session in the manner that best suits their learning process.

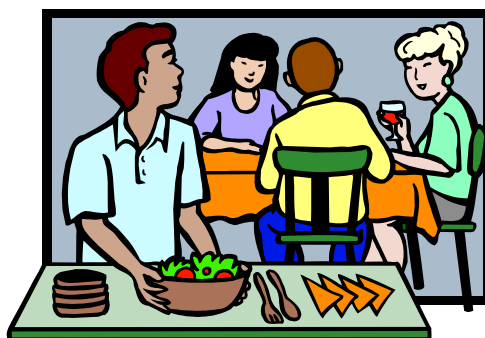
The first format is a verbal presentation with opportunity to take notes for those who receive information by hearing. In the second, the disciple reads the same material in the Personal Discovery section, and completes the fill-ins in their own time. The last is by group review and discussion in the following session so that people can process the topic through discussion.

### ★ Time frame

We have found that the most successful meetings have been when we came together as a group and followed the session format as listed below.

#### ✓ Bonding.

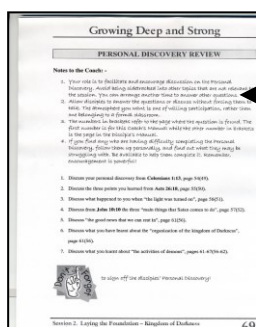
Everyone meet for a meal prior to the teachings and studies. This has helped the disciples tremendously to develop friendships in a natural relaxed environment. Recommended duration: 45-60 minutes.



#### ✓ Personal Discovery Review.

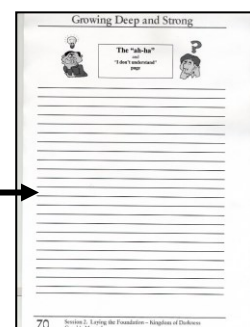


This is designed as group discussion to ensure that the disciple understands the topic they heard and studied. At the conclusion of each session in both manuals there is a set of questions that can be used as discussion topics. Plus, there is what we call the “ah-ha” and “I don’t understand” page. We recommend that the disciples are encouraged to write down any insights or questions that they have. This page can be of great benefit in fostering lively and animated discussions. Recommended duration, 25-30 minutes.



Personal Discovery  
review questions

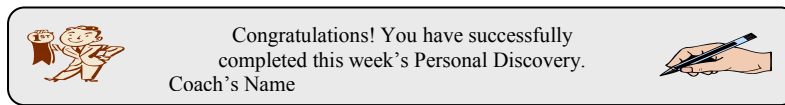
“ah-ha” and “I don’t  
understand” page



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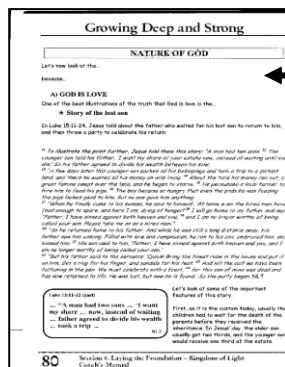
## ✓ Personal Discovery sign-off.

The coach signs off the disciple's Personal Discovery section to confirm completion



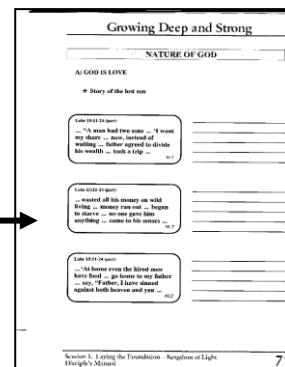
## ✓ Group presentation.

The Coach or group presenter presents the next session's topic from the Coach's Manual. This has been designed in a manner that is easy to listen to and follow. The Coach's Manual provides complete notes for teaching the topic. **This is not a discussion time** but a presentation of the next topic. Recommended duration: 25-30 minutes.



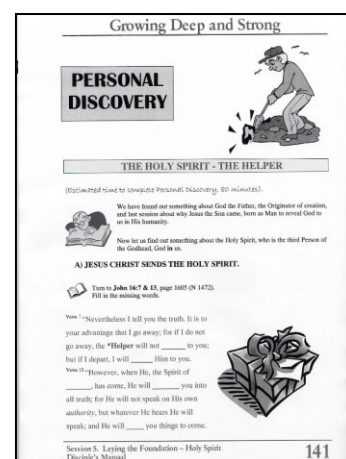
Coach's verbal presentation notes

Disciple's note taking section



## ✓ Personal Discovery section.

Disciples will be required at their own pace to discover personally the topic presented to them. This is done in an easy to follow format by filling in missing words from Bible verses and the other study notes in the Bible. Expected duration: approximately 50-90 minutes per session. We recommend that the disciples spread the study over a period of time, such as 10-15 minutes each day.

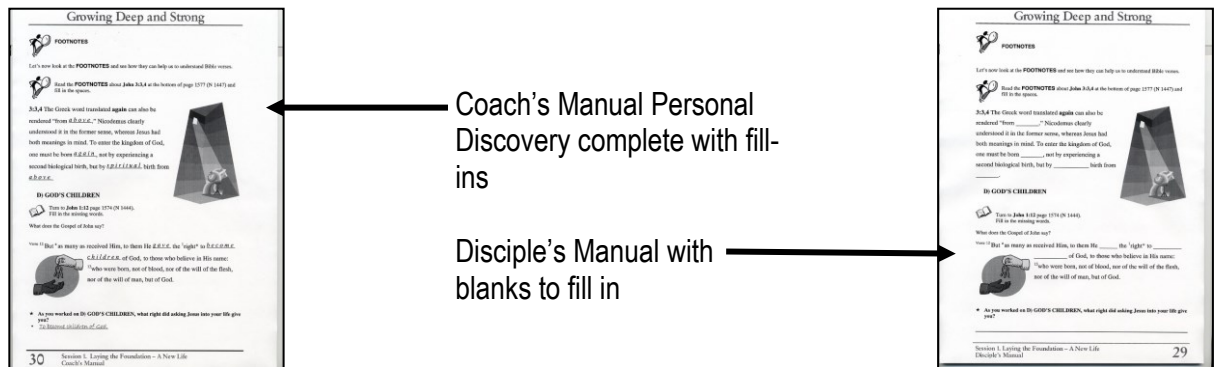


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## ★ Materials

There are two manuals, one for the students whom we call disciples and one for the instructors, or the coaches, as we call them.

The Coach's Manual has the complete script for each session's presentation, all the answers to questions in Personal Discovery filled in, and at the conclusion of each session, a group of suggested questions for review and group discussion.



The Bible used for the Personal Discovery section is the *Spirit Filled Life Bible NKJV*, General Editor Dr Jack Hayford, published by Thomas Nelson.

The Bible verses used in the session presentation are from the *New Living Translation* from Tyndale House Publishers. The reason for this is that this particular Bible is easy to listen to. All Scripture references and references to other Bible notes in the Personal Discovery section are page numbered, making it simpler for new believers to navigate their way around the Bible.

## B) Course Summary

### In summary,

- ☑ **Bonding.** Share a meal together to ascertain where everybody is at, and build fellowship. 45-60 minutes
- ☑ **Personal Discovery Review.** Discuss the previous session. 25-30 minutes.
- ☑ **Personal Discovery Sign-off.** Sign off the disciple's manual if they have completed their personal discovery section
- ☑ **Verbal presentation.** Present the next subject; remember it is not a discussion time but a presentation of the next topic. 25-35 minutes
- ☑ **Personal Discovery Session.** This is when the Holy Spirit will minister to the individuals as they study the topic you have just presented. 50-90 minutes.

As you diligently follow the guidelines we have recommended, you will find your disciples grow and mature quickly.

## ©LAYING THE FOUNDATION

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# **SESSION ONE**

# **A NEW LIFE**







# Growing Deep and Strong

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## WELCOME COACH

### ★ Welcome!

You are about to embark on an exciting journey. As the coach, relax, pray for your disciples and watch God transform these new spiritual babies whom He has entrusted to you.

We have seen many lives significantly impacted as they discovered the foundational principles that were presented to them in this module called ©Laying The Foundation.

Your role as the coach is to encourage, exhort, facilitate and in a loving but firm manner keep the disciples accountable to completing the course successfully.

### ★ Spiritual Babies

Just like a natural baby, these new spiritual babies need intensive care. They need lots of love, attention, patience and tolerance. Like a child, allow them to discover each session at their own pace. **We recommend that you do not introduce other topics.** Allow them to grow in a natural manner.

This module has been designed to be simple yet stretching, giving the disciples strong foundational truths that will become firm foundations for their Christian faith.

You will find the coaching process thrilling and fulfilling as you watch them grow spiritually before you.

May God bless you as you assist these new disciples grow in their relationship with our Maker.

# Growing Deep and Strong

Estimated presentation time 30-38 minutes

## LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Welcome to Module One of the ©Growing Deep and Strong Series.

As I explain the format of ©Growing Deep and Strong, sit back and relax. Close your book if you want. Do whatever helps you to feel comfortable.

This is the first session of an eight-week series called ©Laying the Foundation.

The purpose of this module is to lay correct Biblical foundations so that each one of you can build your Christian faith on a strong foundation.

In this module you will learn about:

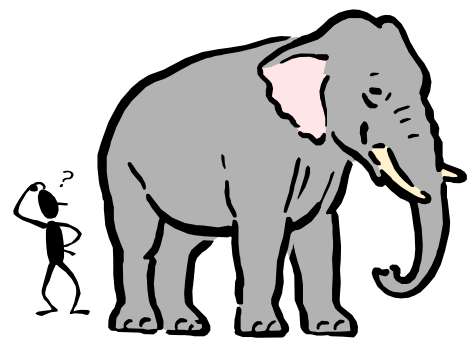
1. The legal transaction that has taken place,
2. The rulers of the two kingdoms, their character and the influence they have on your life,
3. How much God loves you,
4. The existence of angels in the spiritual realm,
5. The baggage in our soul that we carry from the kingdom of darkness into our Christian walk, and how to leave it behind,

And much, much more. At the end of this module, we will gather together for the ©Encounter One Weekend.

### A) HOW DO YOU EAT AN ELEPHANT?

One bite at a time!

We want you to approach the ©Growing Deep and Strong Series with the same viewpoint. Pace yourselves.



Your walk with God is a journey, not a destination.

©Growing Deep and Strong has been put together in a manner that will become a normal part of your lifestyle, just as eating, sleeping, relaxing, brushing your teeth or combing your hair are normal functions of everyday living.

©Laying the Foundation module is structured in the following way: -

- ★ We will gather as a group weekly and discuss your Personal Discovery study from the previous session for approximately 30 minutes.

# Growing Deep and Strong

- ★ There will be a 30-minute live presentation (or video) on next week's topic.
- ★ You will be required to spend on average 10 minutes per day researching that week's topic in your Personal Discovery section.
- ★ Your Personal Discovery section is laid out in easy to follow steps.
- ★ When you come together the following week your coach will sign off your Personal Discovery session.
- ★ At the conclusion of <sup>©</sup>Laying the Foundation you will be presented with a certificate of completion.
- ★ **PLEASE NOTE:** You will need to bring your manual, your Bible and a pen to each session.

## B) DISCIPLE – Definition

Let's define what we mean by being a disciple.

A disciple is like an apprentice, who not only learns the trade, but also catches the spirit of the master craftsman. He or she is a learner, one who follows both the teacher and the teaching. Since we have received Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord, He is our Teacher and we are His disciples. That is what the first Christians in the New Testament were called, disciples of Jesus Christ.

### ★ Our spiritual tastes will change.

This is what 1 Peter 2:2 & 3 says.

1 Peter 2:2 & 3

**... crave pure spiritual milk ... you can grow into the fullness ... Cry out for this nourishment ... a taste of the Lord's kindness.**

NLT

*<sup>2</sup> You must crave pure spiritual milk so that you can grow into the fullness of your salvation. Cry out for this nourishment as a baby cries for milk, <sup>3</sup> now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness. NLT*

One way our spiritual tastes change is that we develop a hunger to read the Bible, God's personal Word to us.

Let's look at why we should study...

## C) GOD'S WORD



There are SIX REASONS.



1. As Peter has written, God's Word is just as necessary for our survival as disciples, as milk is for a newborn baby. In other words, the Bible is our necessary daily spiritual food.
2. We get to know Jesus intimately as we read about Him, how He thought, how He lived, how He taught, how He loves people and has compassion for people.

# Growing Deep and Strong

3. The Bible is the only authority we recognize and submit to as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Psalm 119:89-91, page 859 (N 782)).
4. The Bible gives us practical direction for life when we are in the dark and don't know where to go. (Psalm 19:7-10, page 768 (N 699) and Psalm 119:105, page 860 (N 783)).
5. The only way to grow as Jesus' disciples is by reading and studying the Bible. It is our spiritual food. In Matthew 4:4, Jesus said, *"People need more than bread for their life; they must feed on every word of God."* NLT
6. The Bible is like a mirror. As we look into it, we see ourselves for who we really are. We see Jesus as our example, and we learn how we can grow and change to be more like Him. (James 1:23-25, page 1896 (N 1752)).

The first thing we need to do is to learn how we can find our way around the Bible and how to use it to help us grow in...

## GOD'S KINGDOM - THE KINGDOM OF LIGHT

Just like car manufacturers produce an instruction manual for their cars, God has left us His manual. He wants to tell us personally how we can operate most efficiently.

### A) WE CALL GOD'S MANUAL, THE BIBLE.

There are many translations. However we recommend and use the "®SPIRIT FILLED LIFE BIBLE" New King James Version. This is a Study Bible. Gifted Bible scholars have been contracted to add helpful notes to help believers gain from their wealth of experience in studying the Bible.



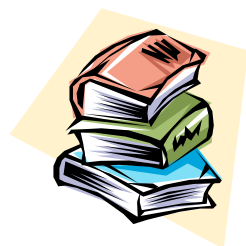
Let's have a look at...

### B) THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

...and how the Bible is divided up.

The Bible has two main parts, the Old Testament and The New Testament.

The Old Testament consists of 39 books written by various human writers over 1500 years.



The New Testament consists of 27 books written by various human writers over some 50 years or so.

The Bible was not written from our 21<sup>st</sup> century perspective. It was written in different countries, in different periods of history and in different cultures, and in different languages as well. To understand what God wants to say to us, we have to understand the Bible in the context in which it was written. That is where the helpful notes are so useful as we study

# Growing Deep and Strong

the Bible for ourselves. Truth is the same truth in every generation, and God was speaking truth to the people of Bible times as well. We need to understand their culture and history, so that we can apply those same truths in our culture and historical context today. The more we understand of Bible times and culture, the more we will be able to hear what God wants to say to us today.

Ultimately God Himself is...

## C) THE AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE



...as He inspired these 40 humans to write the 66 books, even to the words they chose to use. This is seen in the fact that there is an amazing unity in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, from beginning to end. There is harmony, progression of thought and an absence of contradiction in these 66 books. Humanly speaking, it would have been impossible for 40 writers, living in different countries, in different cultures and in different periods of history to have composed such an amazingly unified book. The Bible is **God's Word**, which is supported by the fact that almost 4000 times, words to the effect, "*God said*" --- is used in the Bible. God is interested in talking to us personally, and one way He does that is through the Bible.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** says, *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.* NLT.

When you read these verses, you will notice that it says that **ALL** Scripture is given by inspiration of God. The Bible does not just **contain** the Word of God; it **IS** the Word of God, from cover to cover.

Let's go on a journey on how to use the...

## D) "SPIRIT FILLED LIFE BIBLE".



Open your Bible to "page one", about 20 pages in from the start. One page back you will find a list of the Old Testament and New Testament books.

## E) BIBLE INDEX

### Example:

#### Books of the Old and New Testaments and Their Abbreviations

|           | <u>ABBREV.</u> | <u>PAGE</u> |                 | <u>ABBREV.</u> | <u>PAGE</u> |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|
| Genesis   | Gen.           | 1           | Ecclesiastes    | Eccl.          | 927         |
| Exodus    | Ex.            | 82          | Song of Solomon | Song           | 946         |
| Leviticus | Lev.           | 145         | Isaiah          | Is.            | 958         |
| Numbers   | Num.           | 188         |                 |                |             |

# Growing Deep and Strong

Now that you have discovered how to use the index, let's continue to explore the Bible.

First, let's look at the...

## F) BOOK INTRODUCTION



Turn to the book or, as the Bible calls it, the **Gospel of John**.

That's a New Testament book, which starts on page 1571 in the old version and (N1441) in the new version. If your Bible was purchased after mid 2003, it most likely will be the new version.

At the start of each book of the Bible you will find the following information giving a background to the book, author, setting and so on.

### THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

## JOHN

#### AUTHOR

Early church tradition attributes the Fourth Gospel to John “the beloved disciple” (13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20), who belonged to the “inner circle” of Jesus’ followers-----

#### DATE

The same tradition that locates John in Ephesus suggests that he wrote his Gospel in the latter part of the first century-----

#### PURPOSE

In a broad sense, John wrote to provide the Christians of the province of Asia (now in Asia Minor) with a fuller understanding of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. More specifically-----

#### JOHN AND THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

While John most likely knew of the other three Gospel accounts, he chose not to follow their chronological sequence of events as much as a topical order. In this case -----

#### CONTENT

John divides the ministry of Jesus into two distinct parts: chapters 2–12 give insight into His public ministry-----

#### CHRIST REVEALED

The book presents Jesus as the only begotten Son of God who became flesh-----

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK

Unique to John is the designation of the Holy Spirit as “Comforter” or “Helper”-----

#### PERSONAL APPLICATION

In seeking to fulfill his purpose as stated in 20:20, 31, John confronts his readers with claims -----

#### AUTHOR:

The Apostle John

#### DATE:

About A.D. 85

#### THEME:

Knowing God by believing

In Jesus Christ

#### KEY WORDS:

Believe, Bear Witness, Life

# Growing Deep and Strong

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Now let's look at some of the other features of the Spirit Filled Life Bible.

There are **six** other **features** that we would like to explain to you and the first one we want to look at is...



## KINGDOM DYNAMICS

Turn to page 1577 (N 1447) and look at **John 3:1-5**. You will notice a **KINGDOM DYNAMICS** and how it gives a description to the meaning of those verses. We will be referring to them to help you gain an understanding of what God is saying to you in His Word.

5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, <sup>a</sup>unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

### **KINGDOM DYNAMICS**

#### **3:1-5 New Birth, THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM.**

Upon repentance, a new order of life opens to the believer in Jesus Christ. Jesus used the figure of “new birth” to dramatically indicate three things: 1) Without New Birth, there is no life and no relationship with God (14:6). 2) In New Birth, new perspective comes as we “see the kingdom of God” (3:3), God’s Word becomes clear, and the Holy Spirit’s works and wonders are believed and experienced—faith is alive. 3) Through New Birth we are introduced—literally we “enter” (v. 5)—to a new realm, where God’s new kingdom order can be realized (2 Cor. 5:17). New Birth is more than simply being “saved.” It is a requalifying experience, opening up the possibilities of our whole being to the supernatural dimension of life and fitting us for a beginning in God’s kingdom order.

(Matt. 3:1, 2; 4:17/Matt. 13:1-52) J.W.H.



# Growing Deep and Strong

Second, let's look at...



## TRUTH-IN-ACTION 4 6

Turn to John 3:3 page 1577 (N 1447).

See the small black box beside verse three with the number 4 in the old version or (N 6) in the box in the new version.

4 3 Jesus answered and said to him,  
6 “Most assuredly, I say to you,  
aunless one is born lagain, he cannot  
see the kingdom of God.”

If you look at the **FOOTNOTES** at the bottom of the page, you will find it says: -

3:3 See section 4 (N 6) of **TRUTH-IN-ACTION** at the end of John.



Turn to page 1616. (N 1484)

Down the bottom of the page, you will find a box with the number 4 (N 6) in a section called “**Guidelines for Growth in the Spirit.**” This is a truth that John teaches. Across from that you will find 3:3 and this is the action that John wants to teach us.

| TRUTH-IN-ACTION<br>THROUGH JOHN  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Letting the Life of the Holy Spirit Bring Faith's Works Alive in You!  |  |  |
| TRUTH  | ACTION   |  |
| JOHN TEACHES   | TEXT   | JOHN INVITES   |
| <p>4 <b>Guidelines for Growth in the Spirit</b></p> <p>6 John's Gospel introduces the Holy Spirit's role in spiritual growth. The New Birth and the baptism with the Holy Spirit endow the believer with the life and gifts of the Holy Spirit, including the ability to pray in Spirit power. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher, Helper, Advocate, and Guide. He is our source of true spiritual understanding. He lifts up Jesus and builds up believers, enabling them to live the Christian life.</p> | <p>3:3</p> <p>14:25, 26</p> <p>16:8-11</p> <p>16:12-15</p> | <p><b>Understand</b> that perceiving the kingdom of God and entering it are impossible without spiritual rebirth.</p> <p><b>Understand</b> that the Holy Spirit enables God's people to understand and live by the truth.</p> <p><b>Ask</b> the Holy Spirit to bring conviction to people's hearts. <b>Understand</b> that is one of His primary ministries.</p> <p><b>Understand</b> that knowing the truth of God's Word is made possible by the Holy Spirit</p> |

# Growing Deep and Strong

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Now let's look at the third feature.



## WORD WEALTH



Turn to page 1573 (N 1443) and look at **John 1:5**.

Notice the word <sup>1</sup>**comprehend** is in bold type and directly below the verse is a **WORD WEALTH** with a description of the meaning or interpretation of the word *comprehend*.

1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- 2 He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
- 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- 5 And <sup>a</sup>the light shines in the \*darkness, and the darkness did not <sup>1</sup>**comprehend** it.

### **WORD WEALTH**

**1:5 comprehend**, *katalambano* (kat-al-am-ban-oh); Strong's #2638: The word is capable of three interpretations: 1) To seize, lay hold of, overcome. As such, v.5 could read, "The darkness does not gain control of it." 2) To perceive, attain, lay hold of with the mind, to apprehend with moral effort. With this meaning the verse could be translated, "The darkness is unreceptive and does not understand it." 3) To quench, extinguish, snuff out the light by stifling it. "The darkness will never be able to eliminate it." Light and darkness are essentially antagonistic. The Christian's joy is in knowing that the light is not only greater than darkness but will also outlast the darkness.

**WORD WEALTH** will help you gain a better understanding of what the writer was attempting to say to us by the word that he chose to use. It gives you a really good definition and how that word applies to us.

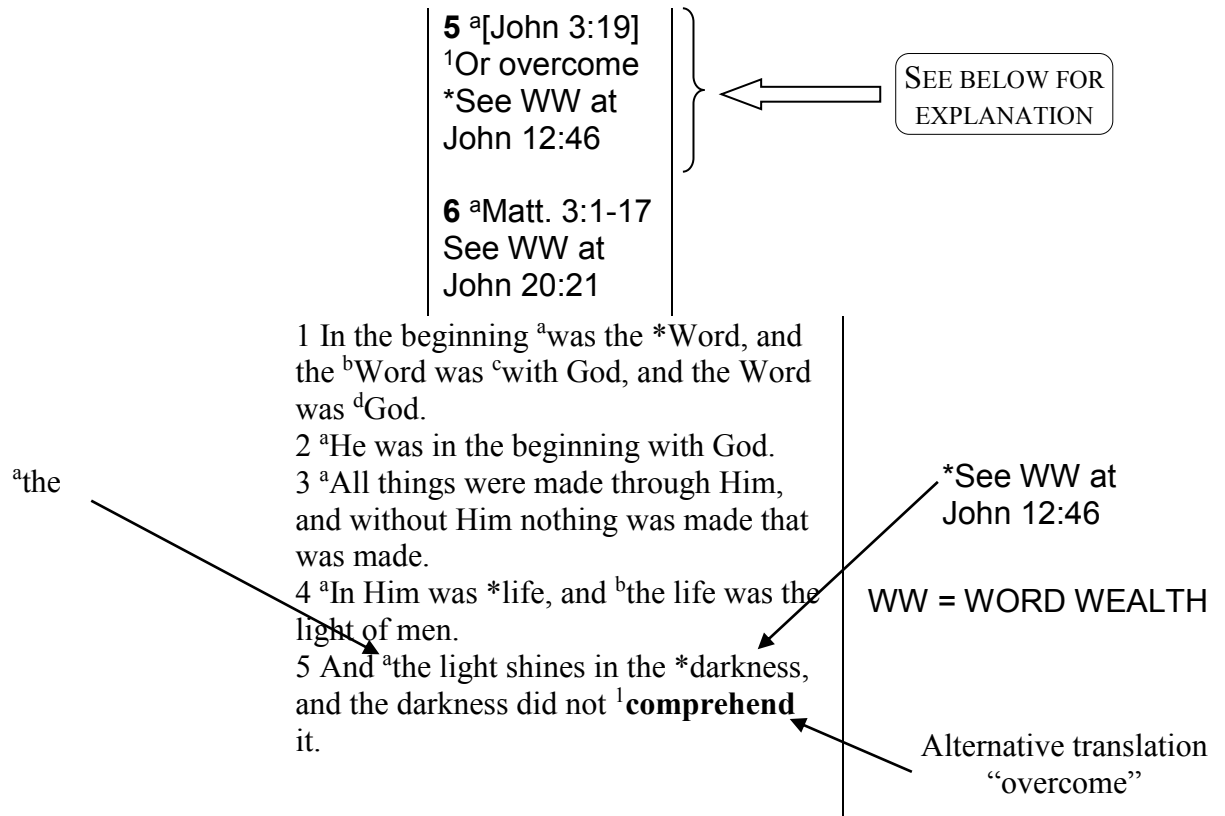
# Growing Deep and Strong

Fourthly, we will look at...



## BIBLE VERSE LINKS and CROSS REFERENCES

This is what your centre column looks like at **John 1:5**, page 1573. (N 1443).



If you look at verse 5 again you will see a small letter "a" beside the word "the". Look to the centre column and you will see a bold 5. The 5 indicates the verse number. And beside the 5 you will find the letter <sup>a</sup> [John 3:19].

This is a **CROSS REFERENCE** and by turning to page 1578 (N1448) and reading John 3:19 it gives us another verse making the same point as the original verse we were looking at.

Turn back to page 1573 (N 1443). Look again at verse 5 and let's look briefly at...

## ALTERNATIVE TRANSLATIONS

<sup>1</sup>**comprehend** is not only in bold but it has a little number <sup>1</sup> before it. Look at the centre column and you will find a little number <sup>1</sup> and beside it, it says "or overcome." This means that in the translation from Greek to English it could mean, "overcome" instead of "comprehend". So this verse could read "And the light shines in the \*darkness, and the darkness did not <sup>1</sup>**overcome** it".

If you look at the word \*darkness you will see an asterisk beside the word. Now look in the centre column and you will find a an asterisk and beside it "see WW at John 12:46." To look up that verse we need to turn to page 1599 (N 1467) and you will find a **WORD WEALTH** description for darkness.

# Growing Deep and Strong

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Now let's look at the sixth feature.

Turn back to page 1573 (N 1443) and look at the bottom of the page. You will find...



## FOOTNOTES

...explaining what the Bible writer meant when he was writing these verses.

Look at verse 1. "*In the beginning.*" The footnote 1:1 below helps us to understand what the writer was referring to.

---

**1:1 In the beginning:** An allusion to Gen. 1:1, with the intention of linking Jesus the Word with the God of creation. The event of Jesus' incarnation therefore had cosmic significance. **The Word** is Jesus Christ, the eternal, ultimate expression of God. In the OT God spoke the world into existence; in the Gospel God spoke His final word through the living Word, His Son. The phrase "the Word was God" attributes deity to the Word without defining all of the Godhead as "the Word."

**1:3** John declares that Jesus was the divine agent who was responsible for the entire creation.

**1:4, 5 Life and light** belong to John's fundamental vocabulary in describing the essence and mission of the incarnate Word.

**1:6-11** John's Gospel records various testimonies concerning Christ, showing that faith in Him is based upon evidence. The **witness** of John the Baptist, as well as the other evidence



Congratulations! That was heavy going. You have done well! Learning to use your Bible is little daunting at first. Remember, how do we eat an elephant? It is one bite at a time.

It is like a child learning to walk. It is a process that is learned, yet once it is learnt it will become a way of life that will be as natural as walking.

# Growing Deep and Strong

The Bible refers to the fact that we are now disciples of Jesus, which we discussed earlier.

The Bible also refers to us as...

## G) SLAVES

...or bondservants. Let's look at what this word means from a Biblical point of view. We need to have a correct understanding of what it means to be a slave or bondservant.

We are all slaves to something, or to someone.

Romans 6:16 says,

Romans 6:16

**... whatever you choose to obey becomes your master? ... choose sin, ... leads to death, ... choose ... God and receive his approval.**

NLT

*Verse 16 Don't you realise that whatever you choose to obey becomes your master? You can choose sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God and receive His approval. NLT*

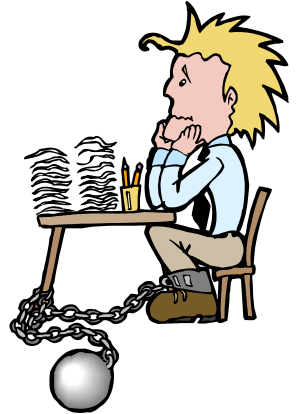
In the kingdom of Darkness, we find that we were mastered by the love of money, or excessive eating, alcohol, drugs, pornography, the occult, and so on.

We may have even thought we were free at first, but found that we became slaves to the very things that we thought would bring us freedom. To continue on that path leads ultimately to bondage and death.

In the times of the Old Testament, when people got into debt, they would sell themselves into slavery to be able to pay off their debt. That debt was considered to be paid off after six years maximum, and in the seventh year the person was released as a free person.

On the other hand, in other countries such as Assyria where the people did not follow God, they had loan charges that exceeded 25% per year. If the debt was not paid, then the arrears were added to the principal for the next year and the same interest charged. That meant that the person got deeper and deeper into debt, to the point where there was no way out.

That is just how the kingdom of Darkness works.



# Growing Deep and Strong

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The kingdom of Light is completely different. Jesus Christ died to set us free from being slaves to sin.

John 8:36 says,

John 8:36

**So if the Son sets you free, you will indeed be free.**

NLT

There is a marvellous paradox in this, because having been set free we become slaves to righteousness.

Romans 6:17 & 18 says,

Romans 6:17 & 18

**... Once you were slaves of sin, ... obeyed ... God ... free from sin, ..., become slaves to your new master, righteousness.**

NLT

*Verses 17 & 18 Thank God! Once you were slaves to sin, but now you have obeyed with all your heart the new teaching God has given you.*

*18 Now you are free from sin, your old master, and become slaves to your new master, righteousness. NLT.*

When we understand the good things that God wants to give us, we become His willing slaves or bondservants, because we know that there is real freedom in serving Him.

The final outcome of following God is eternal life, and God gives us an inheritance that does not perish and is reserved in heaven for us.

This now concludes the presentation for session one. If you turn to the next page in your Disciple's Manual, you will find the beginning of your PERSONAL DISCOVERY section. This is the section that you will study in your own time. You will notice at the beginning of this section there is a comment estimating how long it should take to complete your PERSONAL DISCOVERY. We recommend that you spread the study of the topic over the time before the next session. If you have any questions regarding the session write them down on the "ah-ha" or I don't understand" page at the back of your PERSONAL DISCOVERY section.

When we meet next, your coach will take time to discuss your PERSONAL DISCOVERY session.

# Growing Deep and Strong

## PERSONAL DISCOVERY



## A NEW LIFE

*(Estimated time for disciples to complete Personal Discovery, 55 minutes).*

We have found that many people who call themselves Christians are not really sure whether they have been born again or have been rescued out of the kingdom of Darkness and been transferred into God's kingdom of Light. You can be sure by praying the following prayer. Or you have never invited Jesus Christ into your life to be your Friend and Saviour, you can pray the following prayer and ask Jesus into your life, and come into the Kingdom of light.

**You can do this by praying this prayer.**



Jesus, I recognize that there is no way I can earn forgiveness for my sins. I receive what you did for me on the cross of Calvary. I ask You to forgive all my sins and I receive You as my Lord and Saviour today. Take over my life Lord, and I will follow You as You lead. I renounce my old way of life, the kingdom of Darkness and any sinful hold it had on me. I love You, Lord Jesus and on the authority of Your Word, I believe that I am legally a member of Your family and a resident of Your Kingdom.

**Jesus, You are my Lord.**

Romans 10:9 says: -

For 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. NLT



# Growing Deep and Strong

Now that you can find the different books and verses, let's start to look at what the Bible says about your new walk with God.

## A) LEGAL TRANSACTION

In the spiritual sense, a legal transaction has taken place when you asked Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Saviour.

What did Jesus say He would do when we asked Him into our lives?



Turn to **Revelation 3:20**. What does it say? Page 1965 (N 1822).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 20 “Behold, <sup>a</sup> I stand at the door and knock. <sup>b</sup> If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, <sup>c</sup> I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

★ What happened when you asked Jesus Christ to be your Lord?

1. A legal transaction took place.
2. He came into my life.





# Growing Deep and Strong

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Now let's look at some of the features of the Spirit Filled Life Bible. There are six features that we would like to explain to you and they are as follows. As you go through this week's Personal Discovery, we will introduce them to you.

1. KINGDOM DYNAMICS
2. TRUTH-IN-ACTION **4** (N **4**)
3. WORD WEALTH
4. BOOK INTRODUCTION
5. BIBLE VERSE LINKS
6. FOOTNOTES

## B) BORN AGAIN



Turn to page 1577 (N1447) in the book of **John** and read **John 3:1-5**. Fill in the missing words.

Verse 1 <sup>a</sup> There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

<sup>2</sup> This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for <sup>b</sup>n o o n e can do these signs that You do unless G o d is with him." <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, <sup>a</sup>unless one is b o r n a g a i n <sup>1</sup>, he cannot see the k i n g d o m of God." <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to

Him, "How can a man be b o r n when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup> Jesus

answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, <sup>a</sup>unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.



# Growing Deep and Strong

At the end of verse 5 you will find a **KINGDOM DYNAMICS** page 1577 (N1447).



## KINGDOM DYNAMICS

Is an insight and explanation by some of today's most respected Christian leaders.

Fill in the missing words as you read the **KINGDOM DYNAMICS**.

**KINGDOM DYNAMICS** 3:1-5 New Birth, THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM. Upon repentance, a new order of life opens to the believer in Jesus Christ. Jesus used the figure of "new birth" to dramatically indicate three things: 1) Without New Birth, there is no life and no relationship with God [14:6]. 2) In New Birth, new perspective comes as we "see the kingdom of God" (3:3), God's Word becomes clear, and the Holy Spirit's works and wonders are believed and experienced—faith is alive. 3) Through New Birth we are introduced—literally we "enter" (v. 5)—to a new realm, where God's new kingdom order can be realized (2 Cor. 5:17). New Birth is more than simply being "saved." It is a requalifying experience, opening up the possibilities of our whole being to the supernatural dimension of life and fitting us for a beginning in God's kingdom order.

(Matt. 3: 1,2; 4:17/Matt. 13:1-52) J.W.H.

★ What did you discover in the **KINGDOM DYNAMICS** about new birth? (See last sentence).

- A new order of life opens to the believer.
- We enter a new realm.
- We experience the supernatural dimension of life in God's Kingdom.



## OPTIONAL READING

If you want more information on **KINGDOM DYNAMICS**, you can turn to page ix (N xvi) (Roman numerals) at the front of your Bible.

# Growing Deep and Strong

## C) SPIRITUAL REBIRTH



### TRUTH-IN-ACTION

Let's look at **TRUTH-IN-ACTION** and discover how it can help us learn to apply the Word of God to our lives.



Turn to **John 3:3**, page 1577 (N 1447).  
Fill in the missing words.

**4** (N **6**) <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, “**Most assuredly, I say to you, <sup>a</sup>unless one is born again<sup>1</sup>, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”

Note the number in the black box, or in a circle. This refers to **TRUTH-IN-ACTION**.  
Go to the end of the book of John, page 1616 (N 1482) and you will find The **TRUTH-IN-ACTION** section.  
Fill in the missing words.

| TRUTH-IN-ACTION<br>THROUGH JOHN<br>Letting the Life of the Holy Spirit Bring Faith's Works Alive in You!   |                   |   |
|--|-------------------|---|
| TRUTH  |                   | ACTION  |
| JOHN TEACHES   | TEXT              | JOHN INVITES  |
| <p><b>4</b> <b>Guidelines for Growth in the Spirit</b></p> <p><b>6</b> John's Gospel introduces the Holy Spirit's role in spiritual growth. The New Birth and the baptism with the Holy Spirit endow the believer with the life and gifts of the Holy Spirit, including the ability to pray in Spirit power. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher, Helper, Advocate, and Guide. He is our source of true spiritual understanding. He lifts up Jesus and builds up believers, enabling them to live the Christian life.</p> | <p><b>3:3</b></p> | <p>Understand that <u>perceiving</u> the kingdom of God and <u>entering</u> it are impossible without spiritual <u>rebirth</u>.</p> |



### OPTIONAL READING

If you want more information on **TRUTH-IN-ACTION**, go to page xli (N xxviii) (Roman numerals) at the front of your Bible.

# Growing Deep and Strong



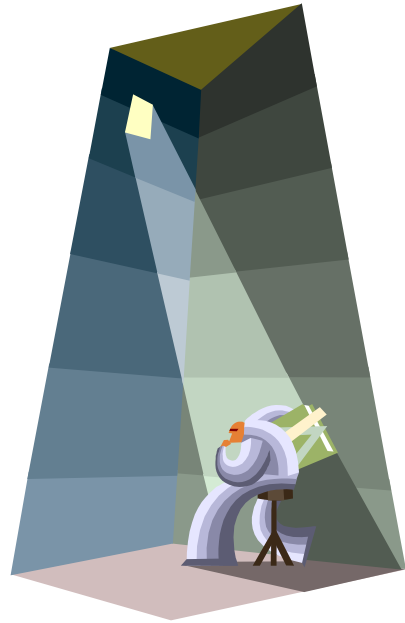
## FOOTNOTES

Let's now look at the **FOOTNOTES** and see how they can help us to understand Bible verses.



Read the **FOOTNOTES** about **John 3:3,4** at the bottom of page 1577 (N 1447) and fill in the spaces.

**3:3,4** The Greek word translated **again** can also be rendered “from a b o v e.” Nicodemus clearly understood it in the former sense, whereas Jesus had both meanings in mind. To enter the kingdom of God, one must be born a g a i n, not by experiencing a second biological birth, but by s p i r i t u a l birth from a b o v e.



## D) GOD'S CHILDREN



Turn to **John 1:12** page 1574 (N 1444).  
Fill in the missing words.

What does the Gospel of John say?

Verse 12 But <sup>a</sup> as many as received Him, to them He g a v e the <sup>1</sup>right\* to b e c o m e  
c h i l d r e n of God, to those who believe in His name:  
<sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh,  
nor of the will of man, but of God.



★ As you worked on D) GOD'S CHILDREN, what right did asking Jesus into your life give you?

- To become children of God.

# Growing Deep and Strong



## BIBLE LINKS and CROSS REFERENCES

Note that the word **right** in verse 12 above is marked <sup>1</sup>right\*  
Look in the centre column of your Bible on page 1574 (N 1444) under **12**.

|   |
|---|
| <b>12.</b> <sup>a</sup> Gal 3:26<br><sup>1</sup> authority<br>*See WW at<br>Mark 3:15 |
|---|

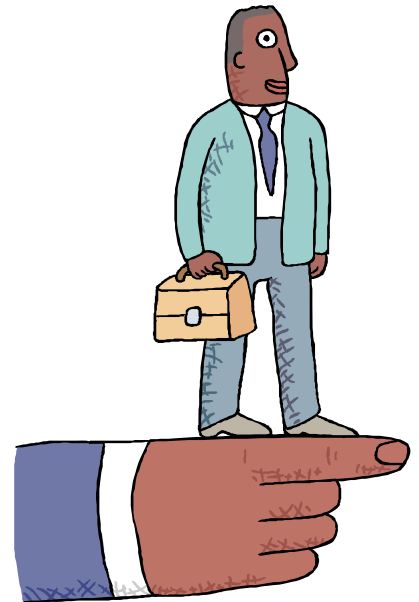
You will find the “1” indicates that the word <sup>1</sup>right\* also means <sup>1</sup>authority. So the verse could read, *But ----- He gave authority -----*

Also, notice that there is an “<sup>a</sup>” beside “<sup>a</sup> as many”. If you look again at the centre column, you will read, “<sup>a</sup> Gal 3:26.”

What this does is give you a similar verse describing the same thought as in **John 1:12**.



Turn to **Galatians 3:26** on page 1777 (N 1635).  
Fill in the missing words.



What does the Bible say about who we are?

**1** (N **1**) <sup>Verse 26</sup> For <sup>a</sup> you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus

Not only John, as we have read above, but also Paul refers to the fact that **everyone** who puts their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is a child of God, and as such, will inherit His promises, (verse 29).

# Growing Deep and Strong

Note next to the Bible verse there is a little box with a **1** (N**1**) in it.



Go to end of Galatians, page 1782 (N 1640) and you will find **TRUTH-IN-ACTION**.

Fill in the missing words.

## TRUTH-IN-ACTION THROUGH GALATIANS

Letting the Life of the Holy Spirit Bring Faith's Works Alive in You!

### TRUTH

### ACTION

#### GALATIANS TEACHES

**1**

**1**

#### Growing in Godliness.

Godliness results from Jesus Christ living through you by the Holy Spirit. It is not achieved by observing some external code. Any attempt to achieve righteousness through a list of external dos and don'ts is fruitless. God calls us to love others and serve others just as Jesus did, by the power of the same Holy Spirit and in the same gracious freedom.

#### TEXT

**3:26-29**

#### GALATIANS INVITES

##### Old edition

3:26-29 Think as if you have put on the life of Jesus Christ like clothing.

Let Christ live freely through you.

##### New edition

13:26-29 Let the life of Jesus Christ cover you as clothing. Let Christ live freely through you.



# Growing Deep and Strong

## E) NEW AUTHORITY



Turn back to **John 1:12**; page 1574 (N 1444) and you will find that the word *right*\* has an asterisk beside it.



## WORD WEALTH

If you look again in the centre column on page 1574 (N 1444) under **12**, you will find, **See WW at Mark 3:15**. This indicates that there is a **WORD WEALTH** to describe the meaning of *right*\* in the original language.



Turn to **Mark 3:15** page 1474 (N 1354) and read what the **WORD WEALTH** for **Mark 3:15** says.  
Fill in the missing words.

**WORD WEALTH** **3:15** power, *exousia* (ex-oo-see-ah); Strong's #1849: One of four power words (*dunamis*, *exousia*, *ischus*,  and *kratos*), *exousia* means the authority or right to act, ability, privilege, capacity, delegated authority. Jesus had the *exousia* to forgive sin, heal sicknesses, and cast out devils. *exousia* is the right to use *dunamis* "might." Jesus gave His followers *exousia* to preach, teach, heal, and deliver (v. 15), and that authority has never been rescinded (John 14:12). Powerless ministries become powerful upon discovering the *exousia* power resident in the name of Jesus and the blood of Jesus.



When we received Jesus as Lord and Saviour, God gave us the authority to become His children, and to use the power resident in the name of Jesus. What a privilege!

# Growing Deep and Strong

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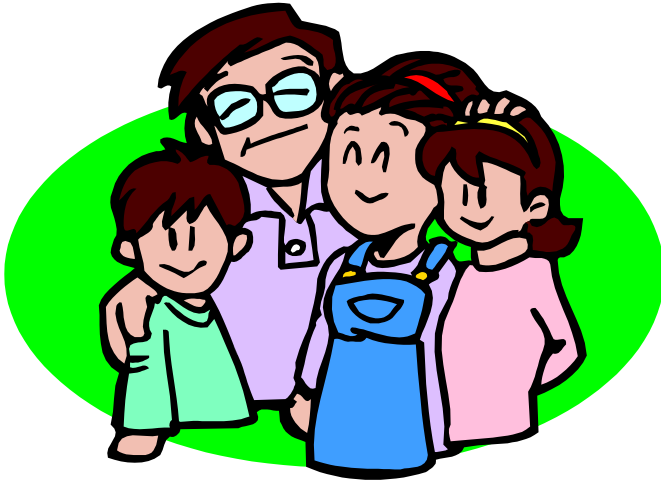


Turn to **1 John 3:1 & 2** on page 1930 (N 1786).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 1 Behold <sup>a</sup> what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that <sup>b</sup> we should be \*called children of <sup>1</sup>God!

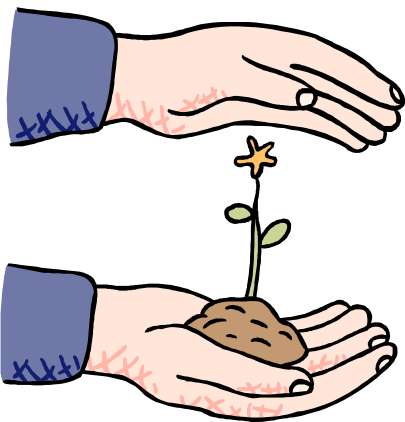
Therefore the world does not know <sup>2</sup>us, <sup>c</sup> because it did not know Him.

<sup>2</sup>Beloved, <sup>a</sup>now we are children of God; and <sup>b</sup> it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for <sup>c</sup> we shall see Him as He is.



Turn to **Romans 8:14 & 15** page 1699 (N 1561).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 14 For <sup>a</sup> as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For <sup>a</sup> you did not receive the spirit of bondage again <sup>b</sup> to \*fear, but you received the <sup>c</sup>Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “<sup>d</sup> Abba, <sup>1</sup>Father.”





# Growing Deep and Strong

## A NEW RELATIONSHIP

### A) HEAVEN IS CELEBRATING YOUR NEW BIRTH.



Turn to **Luke 15:10** page 1545 (N 1418).  
Fill in the missing words.

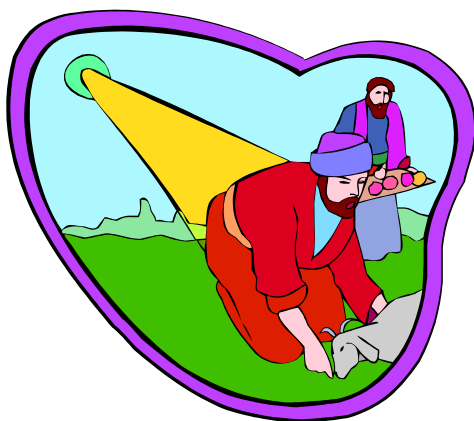
Verse 10 “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Jesus used a story to illustrate how important it was for Him that you should be born again and come into the kingdom of Light.



Now read **Luke 15:1-7** page 1545 (N 1418).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 1<sup>1</sup> Then <sup>a</sup> all the tax collectors and the \*sinners drew near to Him to hear Him.  
<sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “This Man <sup>1</sup> receives sinners and <sup>a</sup> eats with them.” <sup>3</sup> So He spoke this parable to them, saying: <sup>4</sup> <sup>a</sup> “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> “And when he has found *it*, he lays *it* on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup> “And when he comes home, he calls together *his* \*friends and neighbors, saying to them, <sup>a</sup> ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep <sup>b</sup> which was lost!’ <sup>7</sup> “I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents <sup>a</sup> than over ninety-nine <sup>1</sup> just persons who <sup>b</sup> need no repentance.



# Growing Deep and Strong



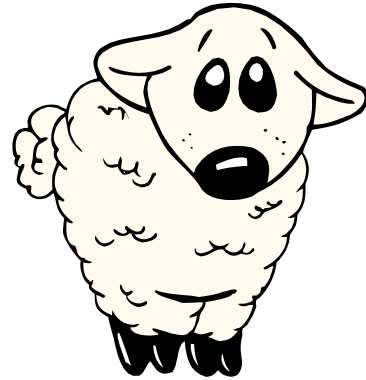
## FOOTNOTES

Let's now look at the **FOOTNOTES** and see how they can help us to understand Bible verses.



Read the **FOOTNOTES** about **Luke 15:1-10** at the bottom of page 1545 (N 1418) and fill in the spaces.

**15:1-3** The Pharisees' criticism of Jesus' open association with known s i n n e r s and social o u t c a s t s occasioned three parables, which illustrate God's l o v e and c o n c e r n for sinners. His attitude is sharply opposed to that of the self-righteous. **The Pharisees** correspond to the 99 sheep, the 9 coins, and the elder brother. **The tax collectors and sinners** correspond to the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son.



**15:4-10** The **or** of v. 8 indicates that the two parables illustrate the same point. God is c o n c e r n e d with one l o s t person and r e j o i c e s in his recovery. Those who are legalistically self-righteous are not even aware of their need.

**15:5** Sheep that are lost lie down helplessly and refuse to budge.

**15:7** Jesus' table-fellowship with sinners (v. 2) is a celebration of j o y, analogous to the joy a shepherd must share with his friends and neighbors on finding a lost sheep (v. 6).



Congratulations! What a champion!



With concentration and diligence, you now understand six features that are unique to the New Spirit Filled Life Bible®.

As you continue your journey of Personal Discovery, you will find these features helpful for gaining a greater understanding of God's Word.

# Growing Deep and Strong

## A NEW KINGDOM



Turn to **Colossians 1:13** page 1813 (N 1671).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 13 He has delivered us from <sup>a</sup> the <sup>\*</sup>power of  
<sup>\*</sup>darkness <sup>b</sup> and <sup>1</sup>conveyed <sup>\*</sup>us into the  
kingdom of the Son of His love,



Read the **KINGDOM DYNAMICS 1:13 People of the Kingdom** page 1813 (N n/a).

### KINGDOM DYNAMICS

**1:13 People of the Kingdom, THE MESSAGE OF THE KINGDOM.** The “transference” of the believer, from under Satan’s authority to Christ’s, is described as movement into another “kingdom.” Ensuing verses describe Christ’s redemption as bringing us to a place of “completeness,” that is, of spiritual adequacy, authority, or ability to live victoriously over and above the invisible powers of darkness (vv. 14-16; 2:6-10). This becomes functionally true, as opposed to merely theoretically so, when we, 1) live and love as citizens of the heavenly kingdom (Phil. 3:20); 2) utilize this kingdom’s currency, which is of irresistible value (Acts 3:6); 3) operate as ambassadors authorized to offer kingdom peace and reconciliation to those yet unrenewed in Christ (2 Cor. 5:20); and 4) serve as the kingdom militia, girded for prayerful conflict against the dark powers controlling so much of this present world (Eph. 6:10-20). The terminology of “the kingdom” holds more than poetic pictures. It is practically applicable to all our living.

(Matt. 13/Luke 17:20, 21) J.W.H.

Fill in the following sentences from the **KINGDOM DYNAMICS** on **Colossians 1:13** about living in a new kingdom.

...The “transference” of the believer, from under Satan’s authority to Christ’s, is described as movement into another “kingdom”

# Growing Deep and Strong

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Turn to **Acts 26:15-18** page 1676 (N 1538).  
Fill in the missing words.

We read where the apostle Paul is telling king Agrippa about his conversion to Christianity. The risen Lord Jesus Christ appeared from heaven and talked to Saul whose name later became Paul. Paul was an apostle and wrote 13 of the 27 New Testament books.

Verse: 15 “So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.**’<sup>16</sup> **‘But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, <sup>a</sup> to make you a minister and a <sup>\*</sup>witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.**’<sup>17</sup> **‘I will <sup>1</sup>deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, <sup>a</sup> to whom I now <sup>2</sup>send you, <sup>18 a</sup> ‘to o p e n their eyes, *in order* <sup>b</sup> to t u r n them from darkness to light, and from the power of S a t a n to G o d, <sup>c</sup> that they may receive f o r g i v e n e s s of sins and <sup>d</sup> an inheritance among those who are <sup>e</sup> sanctified<sup>1</sup> by faith in Me.’**”



The three major things in verse 18 that Jesus said to Saul (Paul) were: -

1. Open their eyes.
2. Turn them from darkness to light.
3. From the power of Satan to God.



Jesus is talking about us, the Gentiles. When we ask Jesus Christ to be the Lord of our life, we turn from the kingdom of Darkness and are transferred into the kingdom of Light. Seeing that we are no longer in darkness, we can begin to see with our spiritual eyes. We are no longer under Satan’s power, but God gives us His power to live a radically different life that is full of light rather than darkness.

# Growing Deep and Strong



Turn to **1 Peter 2:9**, page 1910 (N 1765).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 9 But you *are* a **c h o s e n** generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the \*praises of Him who \***c a l l e d** you out of <sup>a</sup> darkness\* into His marvelous **l i g h t**;



Turn to **Ephesians 2:8**, page 1789 (N 1647).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 8 For by **g r a c e** you have been **s a v e d** through \***f a i t h**, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the **g i f t** of God,



When it comes to our being saved, *grace* is God's part; *faith* is our part. He gives us salvation as a free gift, and even the faith to believe in Him is also a free gift. By definition, even God's grace is a gift. As a God who delights to give, He gave us the gift of salvation freely, even though we did not deserve it!

## A) LAYING THE FOUNDATION.

The purpose of ©Laying The Foundation is to take you on a journey that will assist you to grow strong in your new life in the kingdom of Light, God's kingdom.

Jesus told the disciples of the challenges that they would face as they began their new spiritual walk. This is just as relevant today as you begin your new walk in the kingdom of Light.

Let's read what Jesus said.



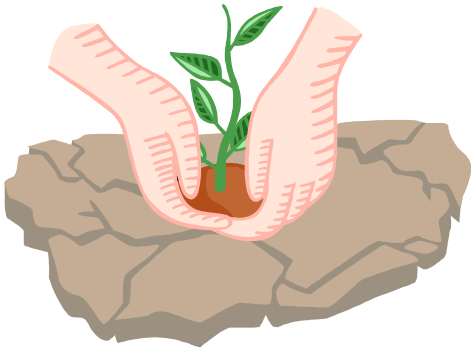
Turn to **Mark 4:2-9 & 13-20** page 1475 (N 1355).  
Fill in the missing words.



Verse 2 Then He taught them many things by parables, <sup>a</sup> and said to them in His teaching: <sup>3</sup>"**Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.** <sup>4</sup>"**And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the w a y s i d e; and the b i r d s <sup>1</sup>of the air came and devoured it.** <sup>5</sup>"**Some fell on s t o n y**

# Growing Deep and Strong

ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. <sup>6</sup>“But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. <sup>7</sup>“And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no <sup>1</sup>crop. <sup>8</sup>“But



other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.” <sup>9</sup> And He said <sup>1</sup>to them, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Verse <sup>13</sup> And He said to them, “Do you not understand

this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? <sup>14 a</sup> “The sower sows the word. <sup>15</sup>“And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown.

When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. <sup>16</sup>“These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; <sup>17</sup>“and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they <sup>\*</sup>stumble. <sup>18</sup>“Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they are* the ones who hear the word,

<sup>19</sup>“and the <sup>a</sup>cares <sup>\*</sup> of this world, <sup>b</sup> the deceitfulness of riches, and the

desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful <sup>20</sup>“But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, <sup>1</sup>accept *it*, and bear <sup>a</sup>fruit: some thirty fold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

Jesus used parables as He taught people. A parable is a short story, usually from human life or nature, that He intentionally used to conceal truth from those who had shut their ears to truth, and reveal truth to those who had ears to hear.



# Growing Deep and Strong

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In the parable of the sower, Jesus taught His disciples that people's hearts were like different types of ground. Jesus defined good ground as those people who hear God's Word and accept it, so that the Word can grow and bear fruit in their lives.

What we want to do in this series is to help you cultivate the ground of your lives, so that it becomes good soil, where God's Word can germinate and grow. That's how your lives will bear really good fruit in God's kingdom.

★ **In Jesus' parable that you have just read, what are the four types of ground that He mentions?**

1. Wayside.
2. Stony ground.
3. Thorns.
4. Good ground.

★ **What sort of ground would you like your life to become?**



Next session we will discover something about the kingdom of Darkness, and who rules it.

The topic will be The Kingdom of Darkness.



# Growing Deep and Strong

## PERSONAL DISCOVERY REVIEW

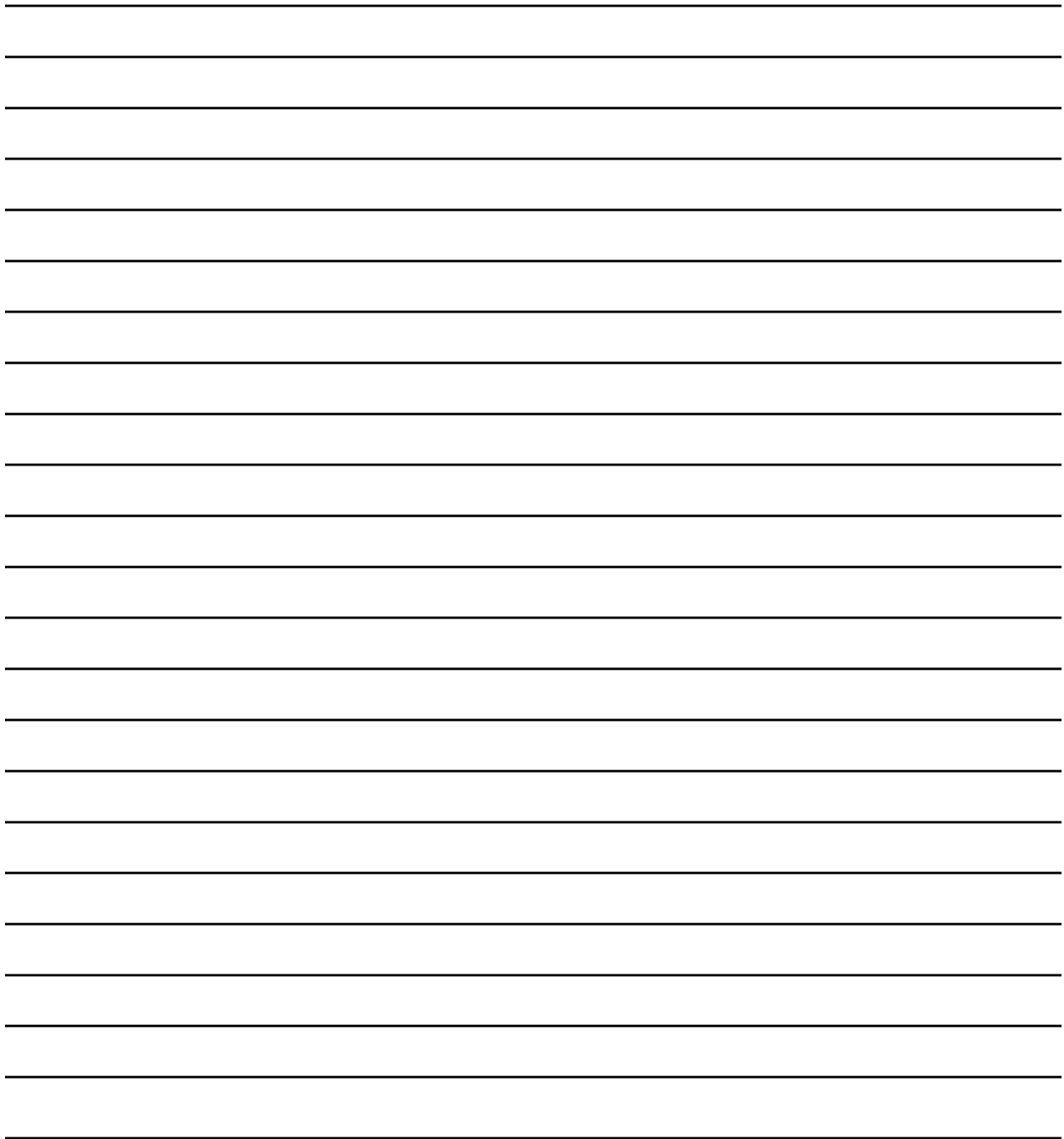
### Notes to the Coach: -

1. Your role is to facilitate and encourage discussion on the Personal Discovery. Avoid being sidetracked into other topics that are not relevant to the session. You can arrange another time to answer other questions.
  2. Allow disciples to answer the questions or discuss without forcing them to talk. The atmosphere you want is one of willing participation, rather than one belonging to a formal classroom.
  3. The numbers in brackets refer to the page where the question is found. The first number is for this Coach's Manual while the other number in brackets is the page in the Disciple's Manual.
  4. If you find any who are having difficulty completing the Personal Discovery, follow them up personally, and find out what they may be struggling with. Be available to help them complete it. Remember, encouragement is powerful!
- 
1. Discuss what you found out about what happened when you asked Jesus Christ into your life (Page 32(25)).
  2. Discuss what you discovered as you filled in the **KINGDOM DYNAMICS** for **John 3:1-5** (page 34(27)).
  3. What did it tell you about "new birth"? (Page 34(27)).
  4. Discuss how to look up **TRUTH IN ACTION** (Page 35(28)).
  5. Discuss what right receiving Jesus into your life gave you as God's children. (Page 36(29)).
  6. Discuss **FOOTNOTES**, their value and how to use. (Page 36(29)).
  7. Discuss what you discovered about your new authority as God's child from the **WORD WEALTH** on **Mark 3:15** (Page 39(32)).
  8. Discuss how to use **BIBLE LINKS** and **CROSS REFERENCES**. (Page 37(30))
  9. Whose child are we? What name can we call God? (Page 40(33)).
  10. What did you discover in the **KINGDOM DYNAMICS** on **Colossians 1:13** about living in a new kingdom? (Page 43(36)).
  11. What are the four types of ground Jesus mentions in His parable? (Page 47(40))
  12. Discuss what sort of ground do you want your life to become. (Page 47(40)).



to sign off the disciples' Personal Discovery!





**SESSION TWO**

**KINGDOM  
OF  
DARKNESS**





## TWO KINGDOMS EXPLAINED

Estimated presentation time 17 minutes

This session will take about 17 minutes. If you have any questions, we ask you to hold your questions, or write them down in your manual. If after you have done your PERSONAL DISCOVERY SESSION and they remain unanswered, please feel free to bring them up with your coach in the PERSONAL DISCOVERY REVIEW SESSION.

Last session we saw how God delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of Light the moment we received Jesus as our Saviour. Remember, all of heaven rejoiced when you came into this kingdom. What great news!

God has now given us new power to live life to the full and to enjoy it as He designed us to live!

In this session we want to reveal something of the kingdom we have been transferred out of. This will help you understand how incredibly destructive this kingdom is in the world and how destructive its effects were on our lives in the past. Then we can realise how different life is in the kingdom of Light, which we will be explaining in the following sessions. What a radical difference! From slavery to freedom, from darkness to light!

We also want to help you to understand the ruler of the kingdom of Darkness so that we know something about the enemy of our souls. Remember that as newborn children of God, He has given us new authority over our enemy. The good news is that we are no longer subject to the enemy's demands on us. We are now living in a different kingdom!

Colossians 1:13 says,

Colossians. 1:13

**He has rescued us from the one who rules in the darkness, ...**

NLT

This tells us what happened to us when we received Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. God **rescued** us.

Just like when we transfer money from one bank account to another, which is a legal transaction, God has taken us out of the kingdom of Darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of Light, God's kingdom.

Acts 26:18 says,

Acts 26:18

**To open their eyes ... from darkness to light, ... from the power of Satan to God. ...**

NLT

<sup>18</sup> *to open their eyes so they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me. NLT*

There are three things to understand from this verse.

# Growing Deep and Strong

1. When we are transferred into God's kingdom, our spiritual eyes are opened. Now we can begin to see spiritual truth, things we never saw before, because we are no longer in the dark.
2. We are now in the kingdom of Light.
3. We are no longer under the power of Satan. Jesus has set us **free** to obey God and serve Him from a willing heart.

When we come to understand how Satan operates, we can resist him much more effectively.

The kingdom of...

## DARKNESS AND LIGHT ARE OPPOSITES

...in every respect, just like darkness and light are in the natural.

One of the writers of this series as a young child sometimes felt afraid to hang his hand over the bed after the light was switched off at night. He was scared that there might have been something underneath his bed that would bite his hand off. This was a very real fear. The only way to overcome that fear was for him to get out of bed, switch the light on, and check under the bed to see if there was anything there. The fears in the dark were very real, but as soon as the light had been switched on, the fear was gone. Darkness and light are opposites. As soon as the light is switched on, the darkness has to flee.

This applies very much to the kingdom we have come out of and the new kingdom we now live in; they are complete opposites. That is why we need to understand something of the kingdom of Darkness.

We can see the light much more clearly against the background of darkness, as...

### A) LIGHT OVERCOMES DARKNESS

In John 8:12,

John 8:12

**... If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, ... you will have the light that leads to life."**

NLT

<sup>12</sup> *Jesus said to the people, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't be stumbling through the darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."*

NLT

Jesus assures us here that when we receive Him, He lives in us. He is the light of the world. He deals with our darkness instantly. We don't stumble around in darkness any more. We become the light of the world as His disciples. What an amazing thought! Wherever we go, the darkness can't hang around, because we bring light there!

# Growing Deep and Strong



Let's now examine...

## THE RULER OF THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

Just like the two kingdoms are absolute opposites, so are their rulers. A kingdom displays the nature and character of the king or ruler who rules the kingdom. We want to help you understand something of the ruler of the kingdom of Darkness, so that he cannot keep us in the dark any longer about who he really is.

### A) KNOWING OUR ENEMY

Satan is no longer ruler over us now we are in God's kingdom of Light. He hates that! In fact, the Bible makes it clear that he has become our enemy. The nature of Satan is to deceive and keep us in the dark about who he really is. That is why we need to find out from the Bible the truth about him.

In John 10:10, Jesus said,

John 10:10

**The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.**

NLT

Note down the thief's three purposes, and Jesus' purpose. Jesus refers to Satan as the thief.

The thief's main purpose is to: -

- ★ kill,
- ★ steal,
- ★ and destroy.

On the other hand, Jesus' purpose is to give us life in all its fullness.

# Growing Deep and Strong

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We need to understand the...

## NATURE AND CHARACTER OF OUR ENEMY

As we look at the verses that apply to the summary in the next two panels, you may like to take some notes about each of the headings in the panels.

**Enemy to mankind  
Slanderer, Accuser.  
Enchanter, Deceiver.**

Though we may not have realised it before, Satan is man's enemy, even before we believe in Jesus Christ. He is our **opponent**, someone who **withstands us**, our **hateful enemy**. This term *Satan* is used 52 times in the Bible.

He is known as the Devil, which means slanderer, or accuser. He not only accuses us before God, but he slanders God to man.

From *Genesis* to *Revelation*, that is, from the beginning of the Bible to the end of the Bible, Satan is seen as subtle, out to deceive the whole of mankind to carry out his evil purposes.

**Prince of the world system  
Adversary, the devourer,  
Murderer, liar.  
Anti-Christ.**

In John 14:30, Jesus calls Satan *the prince of this world*. He is **in control of the whole world system**, causing mankind to live in disobedience to God's instruction manual, the Bible.

According to 1 Peter 5:8, he is out to **devour** as many people as possible, swallowing them up in the kingdom of Darkness and leading them to death. Peter calls him our **adversary**, or enemy.

In John 8:44, Jesus calls Satan a **murderer** from the beginning, and a **liar**, in fact, the originator of lies, because that is his very nature. There is no good in him whatever. 1 John 4:3 calls him the **antichrist**, one who is absolutely opposed to Jesus Christ.

# Growing Deep and Strong

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In 1 John 4:4, John gives us...

## A) GOOD NEWS!

when he said,

1 John 4:4

**You belong to God ... You have already won your fight ... the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.**

NLT

*<sup>4</sup> But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won your fight with these false prophets, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. NLT*

For us who are disciples of Jesus Christ, this is good news that is worth repeating!

**Because ... *the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.***

What great news! The Holy Spirit of God who lives in us is far greater than Satan and all his hosts.

Now that we have understood something of the ruler of the kingdom of darkness, we want to look at...

## THE ENEMY'S SUBJECTS

...who are carrying out Satan's evil purposes.

Satan has a great host of evil spirits under his control. In the Bible they are shown to have a chain of command of various authorities and ranks. They are called fallen angels, authorities, principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, wicked spirits, and demons. Satan's kingdom and rule is like an earthly dictator who rules a nation and enforces his will via an army consisting of generals, majors, colonels, lieutenants, sergeants, corporals and privates.

Satan and his hosts are created beings who are militant; they hate mankind created in God's image, and are absolutely opposed to all that God is and what He represents.



# Growing Deep and Strong

## A) WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

**Created in God's original order to do God's will.**

**Rebelled against God.**

**Cast out of heaven to the earth with Satan.**

Though we are not told specifically where Satan's subjects came from, we know they were created in God's original order to do God's will, as do the angels who continue in obedience to Him. We will talk about the place of good angels in a later session. What we do know from the Bible is that when Lucifer (Satan) rebelled against God, some

angels rebelled with him, and were cast out of heaven to become the evil agents of Satan in the kingdom of Darkness. We conclude from the Bible that a third of the angels rebelled with Satan. That being so, we have good news! God and His hosts are greater in number and power! We, as Jesus' disciples, are on the **winning side!**

Let's now look at the...

## B) ACTIVITIES OF DEMONS

...who are slaves of Satan. A...

### ★ Summary of their activities

...is in John 10:10.

John 10:10

**The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy ...**

NLT

These evil spirits attack mankind spiritually, morally, mentally, physically and emotionally. They deceive people into believing lies rather than the truth. They draw people away from the truth through seduction.

They blind the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot even see the truth. They are assigned to oppress and torment people physically, mentally and emotionally through sickness, mental problems, depression, and so on. They bind people with physical sickness. They pervert or corrupt the Word of God, so that it is robbed of its power. Galatians 5:19-21 says that demons influence our emotions and the decisions we make. No wonder people do things that seem strange and out of character. Most likely demons are at work in their lives.



Aren't you glad that Jesus has rescued you out of the kingdom of Darkness? You no longer have to be subject to Satan's agents with all of their destructive activities.

God has set you free from their power!

# Growing Deep and Strong

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Romans 14:17 has...

## C) GOOD NEWS FOR US!

It says,

Romans 14:17

**For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

NLT

This is God's kingdom of Light, completely opposite from the kingdom of Darkness we have been looking at. Now we are now in a totally different kingdom.

Isn't it wonderful! We can enjoy a good life, filled with God's goodness. We can experience peace instead of torment, and

have joy instead of depression and hopelessness.

We have...

## D) GOD'S PROTECTION

Yet we need to...

### ★ Stand united

Now that we been rescued out of the kingdom of Darkness and have been transferred into the kingdom of Light, we need to be aware of the fact that Satan will try to do everything he can to divide and devour us. The Devil wants to devour as many as he possibly can.

So it is important that we...

### ★ Protect each other

1 Peter 5:8 says,

1 Peter 5:8

**Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour.**

NLT

Now that we are in the kingdom of Light, we can stand together and protect each other. We can ask God our Ruler, who is more powerful than Satan, to protect those of our group who may be going through circumstances that Satan may have arranged to hinder them in their new life and in following through with these sessions. Let's stop and ask God together to

protect and help each one of us so that we can be victorious over the Devil and his tactics.

# Growing Deep and Strong

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*(For Coach only: You may want to ask (pray) God for specific people or specific circumstances that are relevant to the group. You may like to have others ask God, too.)*

Next session we will help you to understand God as the Ruler of the kingdom of Light. This will become so much clearer, now that we understand something of the kingdom of Darkness and its ruler, who is the complete opposite of God and His kingdom.

On the next page, you will find a section headed...

## **E) PERSONAL DISCOVERY**

This is your section to work through in the next week before we meet for the next session. It will consolidate what you have learned in this session through the teaching time.

We expect that the Personal Discovery should take no more than about ten minutes per day. If you have any questions as you work through Personal Discovery, or if there are things that help "turn the lights on" for you, note them down on the page called the "ah-ha" and "I don't understand." page at the back of this session. Then they can be shared when we meet for the next session.

# Growing Deep and Strong

## PERSONAL DISCOVERY



## TWO KINGDOMS EXPLAINED

(Estimated time for disciples to complete Personal Discovery, 65 minutes).

In this Personal Discovery we want to help you understand how incredibly destructive the Kingdom of Darkness is in the world, and how destructive its effects were on our lives in the past. Then we can realise how different life is in the kingdom of Light, which we will be explaining in the following sessions. What a radical difference! From slavery to freedom, from darkness to light! We also want to help you to understand the ruler of the kingdom of Darkness so that we know something about the enemy of our souls. The good news is that we are no longer subject to his demands on us. We are now living in a different kingdom—God's kingdom!



Turn to **Colossians 1:13**, page 1813 (N 1671).  
Fill in the missing words.



Verse 13 He has delivered us from <sup>a</sup> the <sup>\*</sup>power of  
<sup>\*</sup>darkness <sup>b</sup> and <sup>1</sup>conveyed <sup>\*</sup>us into the kingdom  
of the Son of His love,

★ What does this verse tell us about what has happened to us?

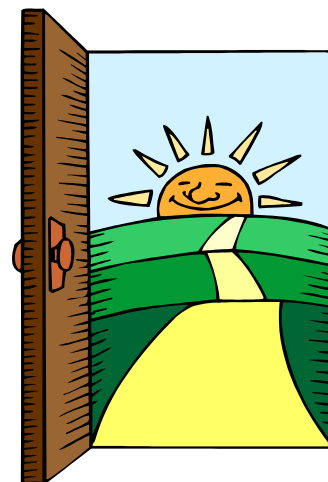
- We are transferred from the kingdom of darkness,
- from under Satan's authority to Christ's,
- to live over and above the invisible powers of darkness.

# Growing Deep and Strong



Turn to **Acts 26:18**, page 1676 (N 1538).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 18 a *‘to open their eyes, in order<sup>b</sup> to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God,<sup>c</sup> that they may receive forgiveness of sins and<sup>d</sup> an inheritance among those who are<sup>e</sup> sanctified<sup>1</sup> by faith in Me.*



★ What are the three points we learnt from Acts 26:18?

1. Open their eyes.
2. Turn them from darkness to light
3. From the power of Satan to God.

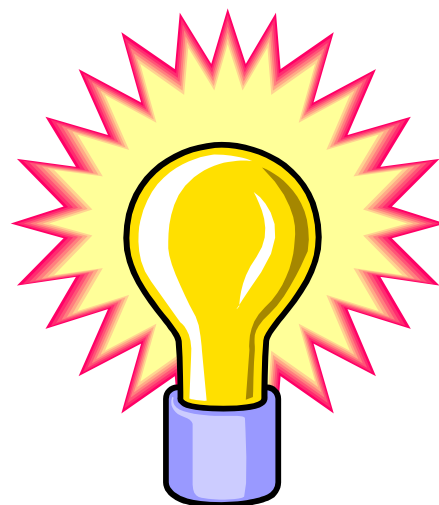
## DARKNESS AND LIGHT ARE OPPOSITES

### A) LIGHT OVERCOMES DARKNESS



#### Illustration

Imagine being in a totally pitch black room. The room is totally void of any light, yet when you reach out and turn the light switch on, in a split second the darkness is gone and the room is filled with light. This is just what happened when you when you received Jesus Christ into your life. Jesus, the light of the world, makes the darkness go instantly, and you are filled with light.



Turn to **John 8:12**, page 1589 (N 1458).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, <sup>a</sup> “I am the light of the world. He who <sup>b</sup> follows Me shall not walk in <sup>\*</sup>darkness, but have the light of life.”

# Growing Deep and Strong



Jesus Christ is the light. As disciples of Jesus Christ we no longer walk in the darkness but in the light! There is no room for the darkness any more.



Turn to **Matthew 5:14**, page 1411 (N 1297).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 14 a “You are the light of the \*world. A  
city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.



★ What did you find out when the light was turned on?

- That the light overcame the darkness, rather than the other way around.



Turn to **John 1:5** page 1573 (N1443)  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 5 And <sup>a</sup> the light shines in the \*darkness, and the darkness did not  
<sup>1</sup>comprehend it.



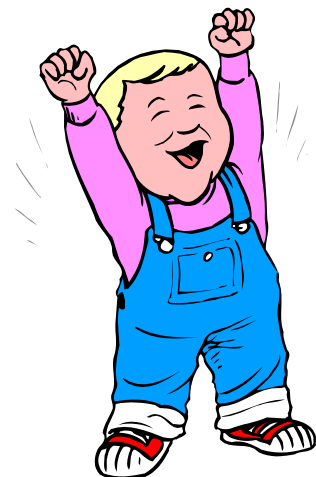
Did you notice the word <sup>1</sup>**comprehend** has a “1” beside it?  
Remember that it means that the translators have given another meaning to the word.  
Look in the centre column of your Bible and you will see:

|  |
|--|
| 5 a [John 3:19]<br>1Or <i>overcome</i><br>*See WW at<br>John 12:46 |
|--|

From this we can see that **comprehend** can mean **overcome**.

The light has **overcome** the **darkness**!

That’s us, you and I! As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are now light to the world. Wherever we go, the darkness can’t hang around, because we bring light there.



# Growing Deep and Strong



Read the **WORD WEALTH** on comprehend John 1:5 page 1573 (N1443).

The word is capable of three interpretations: Fill in the missing words.

...To seize, lay hold of, overcome. As such v.5 could read,

“The darkness does not gain control of it.”

... “The darkness is unreceptive and does not understand it.”

... “The darkness will never be able to eliminate it.”

...Light and darkness essentially are antagonistic. [They completely oppose one another] The Christian’s joy is in knowing that light is not only greater than the darkness but will also outlast the darkness.



## THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

In order to know what Jesus has rescued us from, we need to have a look at the kingdom of Darkness and understand something of the ruler of that kingdom, so that he cannot keep us in the dark any longer.

### A) KNOWING OUR ENEMY

While we do not want to glorify our enemy (Satan and his demons), it is wise to know who our enemy is and to understand his tactics.



Turn to **John 10:10**, page 1593 (N 1461).  
Fill in the missing words.

In **John 10:10**, Jesus Christ sums up the two kingdoms and their roles on earth.

Verse10 “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”



# Growing Deep and Strong

The thief is Satan, the ruler of the Kingdom of Darkness. Jesus Christ sums up Satan's role with three points.

He has come:

- ★ to steal,
- ★ to kill,
- ★ to destroy.



The place where Satan rules is the earth. His target is the human race. He is at the root of the atrocities that happen in our world. Although humans make choices, his evil influence is behind most of those choices, because they are in Satan's kingdom, the Kingdom of Darkness.

Many disciples of Jesus Christ often either ignore Satan's existence and power or overemphasize it. We need to know what the Bible says about the nature and character of Satan, so that we can have balance in what we believe about our enemy.

★ **What are the three things that Satan comes to do as summed up in John 10:10?**

- To kill, steal, and destroy.

## THE NATURE AND CHARACTER OF OUR ENEMY



A kingdom displays the nature and character of the king or ruler who rules the kingdom. That is why all over the world we see a tremendous increase of activity in the occult, spiritism and the worship of Satan.



The Bible tells us that the Kingdom of Darkness is present in the universe and particularly on the earth. It is the absolute opposite of the Kingdom of Light, God's kingdom. Satan rules the Kingdom of Darkness, and it has the same nature as its ruler. The Bible calls him *the prince of the power of the air*, and under his authority are fallen angels and demons, who also show the same nature as their ruler.



# Growing Deep and Strong

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So that we can understand what our enemy is like, let's look at some of the ways the Bible describes our enemy.

## A) ENEMY TO MANKIND



Turn to **Job 1:6 & 7**, page 710 (N 647).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 6 Now <sup>a</sup> there was a <sup>\*</sup>day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and <sup>1</sup>**Satan** also came among them. <sup>7</sup> And the Lord said to <sup>1</sup>Satan, "From where do you come?" So

Satan answered the Lord and said, "From <sup>a</sup> going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."



The word *Satan* means to be an opponent or the enemy to all mankind.



Read the **WORD WEALTH** describing **Satan** from **Job 1:6**. Page 710. (N648).

Fill in the nine descriptive words for Satan.

**Satan**, *satan* □ (sah-tahn); Strong's #7854: An opponent or the Opponent; the hater; the accuser; adversary, enemy; one who resists, obstructs, and hinders whatever is good. *satan* comes from the verb which means "to be an opponent," or "to withstand." As a noun, *satan* can describe any "opponent" (2 Sam. 19:21, 22). However, when the form *ha-satan* □ (the Adversary) occurs, the translation is usually "Satan," not his name, but his accurate description: hateful enemy. Since Satan is the Hater, he is all the more opposed to God, who is love.



# Growing Deep and Strong

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## B) PRINCE OF THE WORLD SYSTEM



Turn to **John 14:30** page 1604 (N1471).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 30 “I will no longer talk much with you, <sup>a</sup> for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has <sup>b</sup> nothing in Me.



Turn to **1 John 5:19** page 1934 (N1790).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 19 we know that we are of God, and <sup>a</sup> the whole world lies *under the sway* of the wicked one.



Turn to **Ephesians 2:2**, page 1789 (N 1646).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 2 <sup>a</sup> in which you once walked according to the <sup>1</sup>course of this world, according to <sup>b</sup> the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in <sup>c</sup> the sons of disobedience,



Notice this verse says that we **once** walked this way. Satan, as the prince of the power of the air, exercises power over the whole earth. But Paul goes on to say that we have been made alive together with Christ, so that we are no longer under the sway of the wicked one. That's great news!

## C) SLANDERER, ACCUSER.



Turn to **Revelation 12:10**, page 1977 (N 1832).  
Fill in the missing words.



Verse 10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, <sup>a</sup> “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, <sup>b</sup> who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

# Growing Deep and Strong

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The “them” is us; you and I. The accuser, Satan, brings accusation against us continuously before God.

But Satan can no longer point the finger, because Jesus has taken our accusation. The Bible says, *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus*; Romans 8:1 page 1698 (N1561).

## D) ADVERSARY, THE DEVOURER



Turn to **1 Peter 5:8**, page 1915 (N 1769).  
Fill in the missing words.



Verse 8 Be <sup>1</sup>sober, be <sup>2</sup>vigilant; <sup>3</sup>because your a d v e r s a r y  
the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he  
may d e v o u r.

Satan is our **enemy**, or the one who **opposes** us. His nature is to **devour** anyone he can, so that they are no longer free, but are consumed by the Kingdom of Darkness.

★ **Good news!**



Turn to **1 John 4:4**, page 1932 (N 1788).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 4 You are of God, little children, and have  
overcome them, because He who is in you is  
g r e a t e r than <sup>a</sup> he who is in the world.



# Growing Deep and Strong



John is saying that the Holy Spirit, who is within us, has assured us of victory, because He is greater than Satan who is just a created being who has set himself in opposition to the Lord Jesus Christ.

★ What is the good news that we as disciples of Jesus Christ can rest in?

- God, who is in us by His Holy Spirit, is far greater than the devil.

## THE SUBJECTS OF THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

Under his control, Satan has a great host of evil spirits. Satan and his hosts were created in God's original order to do God's will, as do the angels who continue in obedience to Him. But when Lucifer (Satan) rebelled against God, some angels rebelled with him, and were cast out of heaven to become the evil subjects of Satan in the Kingdom of Darkness. Now they hate mankind and are absolutely opposed to all that God is and what He represents.

In the Bible they are shown to have a chain of command of various ranks and authorities. They are called fallen angels, authorities, principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, wicked spirits, and demons. Satan's kingdom and rule is like an earthly dictator who rules the people and enforces his will via an army consisting of generals, majors, colonels, lieutenants, sergeants, corporals and privates.

From what we can understand in the Bible, the evil hosts under the dominion of Satan are no match in number or power for the angelic hosts obedient to God.

We as God's children need to rejoice in the fact that we are now on the winning side!

Remember that the Bible says, "you are of God, little children, and you have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." 1 John 4:4.



Turn to **Ephesians 6:12** page 1796 (N 1654).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and \*blood,  
but against <sup>a</sup>principalities, against powers,  
against <sup>b</sup> the rulers of the <sup>1</sup>darkness of this age,  
against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the  
heavenly places.



# Growing Deep and Strong

## A) WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?



Turn to **Revelation 12:7-9**, page 1977 (N 1832).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 7 And war broke out in heaven: <sup>a</sup> Michael and his angels fought <sup>b</sup> with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, <sup>8</sup> but they <sup>1</sup> did not prevail, nor was a place found for <sup>2</sup> them in heaven any longer. <sup>9</sup> So <sup>a</sup> the great dragon was cast out, <sup>b</sup> that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, <sup>c</sup> who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.



Read the **KINGDOM DYNAMICS** “Fallen Angels” from **Revelation**; page 1977 (N n/a) or from the box below.

### **KINGDOM DYNAMICS**

**12:7, 9 Fallen Angels, ANGELS.** The Scriptures reveal both good angels and evil angels. The evil entities are those angels who rebelled with Lucifer and were cast out of heaven with him. Their minds and understanding have been covered with the horrible darkness of deception—the same tactic Satan still uses to lead his victims astray. They were created in God’s original order to do His will, as those angels who continue in obedience to His throne. But these “did not keep their proper domain” (Jude 6) and are now agents of the Adversary, bound under his dark dominion and serving Satan’s rebellious enterprises. (Rev. 1:1/Heb. 1:14) M.H.

## B) ACTIVITIES OF DEMONS

The activity of demons, or evil spirits, as servants of Satan, is best summed up in John 10:10, page 1593 (N 1461) *The thief comes to steal, to kill and to destroy.* These evil spirits attack mankind spiritually, morally, mentally, physically and emotionally.



Turn to **1 Timothy 4:1** page 1844 (N1703).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 1 Now the Spirit <sup>1</sup> expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed <sup>a</sup> to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,

# Growing Deep and Strong



## OPTIONAL READING

Read the **FOOTNOTE** on 1 Timothy 4:1, page 1844 (N 1703).

★ **They blind the minds of unbelievers.**



Turn to **2 Corinthians 4:4**, page 1756 (N 1614).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verses 4 whose m i n d s <sup>a</sup> the god of this <sup>\*</sup>age <sup>b</sup> has  
b l i n d e d, who do not believe, <sup>c</sup> lest the light of the  
<sup>\*</sup>gospel of the glory of <sup>\*</sup>Christ, <sup>d</sup> who is the image of  
God, should shine on them.

The implication is that they seek to draw people away from the truth, to lead them astray, and defraud them of everything good that God has for them.



Turn to **1 John 2:26**, page 1930 (N 1786).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verses 26. These things I have written to you concerning those who *try to* d e c e i v e you.

★ **They oppress, torment and trouble people.**



Turn to **Acts 10:38**, page 1645 (N 1511).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verses 38-40 how <sup>a</sup> God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with <sup>\*</sup>power, who <sup>b</sup> went about doing good and h e a l i n g all who were o p p r e s s e d by the d e v i l, <sup>c</sup> for God was with Him.



The oppression and torment of demons can take place in the body or the soul.

# Growing Deep and Strong

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## ★ They bind people with sickness.



Turn to **Luke 13:11-13 & 16**, page 1541 (N 1415).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 11 and behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way <sup>1</sup>raise *herself* up.

<sup>12</sup> But when Jesus saw her, He called *her* to *Him* and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your <sup>a</sup> infirmity.” <sup>13</sup> And He laid *His* hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

Verse 16 “So ought not this woman, <sup>a</sup> being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?”



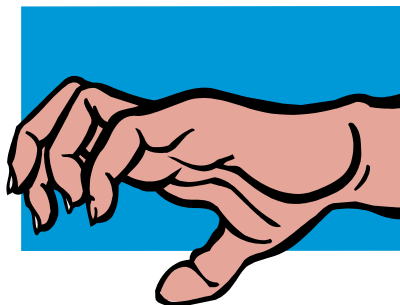
This is why the ministry of healing is so important amongst us as Christ’s disciples, so that people can be loosed from physical infirmity.

## ★ They pervert the word of God.



Turn to **Matthew 13:19**, page 1429 (N 1314).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 19 “When anyone hears the word <sup>a</sup> of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked one comes and\* snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.



Satan twisted the Word of God with Adam and Eve in the beginning, and he has continued to do that ever since through demons influencing the minds of mankind.



# Growing Deep and Strong

They influence our emotions and decisions.



Turn to **Galatians 5:19-21**, page 1780 (N 1638).  
Fill in the missing words.

Here we read how they influence mankind.

Verse 19 Now <sup>a</sup> the works of the flesh are evident, which are:

<sup>1</sup>adultery\*, <sup>2</sup>fornication, uncleanness\*, lewdness, <sup>20</sup>

idolatry, \*sorcery, hatred, contentions,

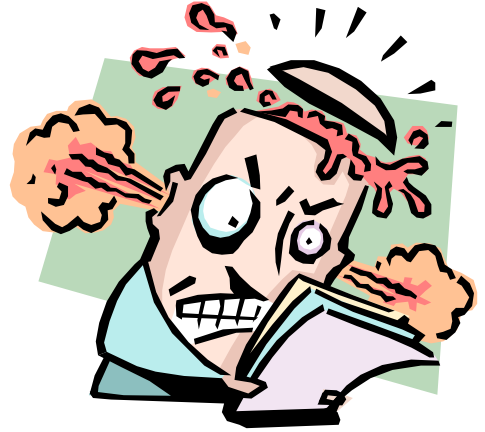
\*jealousies, outbursts of \*wrath, \*selfish

ambitions, dissensions, \*heresies, <sup>21</sup>envy, <sup>1</sup>

murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand,

just as I also told *you* in time past, that <sup>a</sup> those who practice such things will not

inherit the kingdom of God.



Demons influence mankind through what Paul calls *the works of the flesh*.



Does this help you to understand why people occasionally seem to be doing strange things that do not make sense or logic, things that seem out of character? When you observe actions by some people that appear strange, the chances are that there is demonic influence behind these seemingly strange actions.

## ★ They cause division.



Turn to **Matthew 12:25 & 26** (page 1312).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 25. But Jesus <sup>a</sup> knew their thoughts, and

said to them: “Every kingdom divided

against itself is brought to desolation,

and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. <sup>26</sup>“If Satan casts

out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?”





# Growing Deep and Strong

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Turn to **1 Peter 5:8**, page 1915 (N 1769).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 8. Be <sup>1</sup>sober, be <sup>2</sup>vigilant; <sup>3</sup>because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

As you learnt about the activities of demons, how can you see that they may have been at work in your own life? List some areas that come to mind.



- These will be individual answers from the disciples, as they apply the various areas of activity to their lives. See subheadings under ACTIVITIES OF DEMONS, deceive people, blind minds, seduce people, oppress and torment, pervert the Word of God, bind with sickness, influence emotions and decisions.

## GOOD NEWS



PHEW! Aren't you glad that you stepped out of the kingdom of Darkness? Aren't you glad that God, the ruler of the kingdom of Light is now leading your future?



# Growing Deep and Strong



Turn to **Romans 14:17-19**, page 1711 (N 1572).  
Fill in the missing words.



Verse 17 <sup>a</sup> for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and <sup>b</sup>peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup> For he who serves Christ in <sup>1</sup>these things <sup>a</sup> is acceptable to God and approved by men. <sup>19</sup> <sup>a</sup> Therefore let us pursue the things, *which* make for peace and the things by which <sup>b</sup> one may <sup>1</sup>edify another.

This is what we can look forward to as we walk in the kingdom of Light.



Turn to **Galatians 5:22 & 23**, page 1780 (N 1638).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 22. But the <sup>a</sup> fruit of the Spirit is <sup>b</sup>love, joy, <sup>\*</sup>peace, <sup>\*</sup>longsuffering, kindness, <sup>c</sup>goodness, <sup>d</sup>faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> <sup>1</sup>gentleness, <sup>\*</sup>self-control. <sup>a</sup> Against such there is no law.



This fruit grows naturally as we allow the Holy Spirit to change us from the inside.  
PRAISE THE LORD!



Next session we will look at the kingdom of Light and its Ruler.

# Growing Deep and Strong

## PERSONAL DISCOVERY REVIEW

### Notes to the Coach: -

1. Your role is to facilitate and encourage discussion on the Personal Discovery. Avoid being side-tracked into other topics that are not relevant to the session. You can arrange another time to answer other questions.
2. Allow disciples to answer the questions or discuss without forcing them to talk. The atmosphere you want is one of willing participation, rather than one belonging to a formal classroom.
3. The numbers in brackets refer to the page where the question is found. The first number is for this Coach's Manual while the other number in brackets is the page in the Disciple's Manual.
4. If you find any who are having difficulty completing the Personal Discovery, follow them up personally, and find out what they may be struggling with. Be available to help them complete it. Remember, encouragement is powerful!

1. What was your personal discovery from **Colossians 1:13**? (Page 60(49).
2. What were the three points you discovered from **Acts 26:18**? (Page 61(50).
3. What did you discover when “the light was turned on”? (Page 62(51).
4. What are the three interpretations of “comprehend”? (Page 63(52).
5. From the **WORD WEALTH** describing Satan what are the nine descriptive words for Satan? (Page 65(54).
6. From **John 10:10** what are the three “main things that Satan comes to do”? (Page 64(53).
7. From **John 10:10** what did Jesus promise? (Page 63(52).
8. From the Bible where does Satan reside? (Page 65(54)
9. What is “the good news that we can rest in”, (Page 68(57).
10. What are the alternative **CROSS LINKED** words that the Bible says in **1 Peter 5:8**? (Page 73(62),
11. What are the six activities of demons that are listed in this session? (Page 73(62).



to sign off the disciples' Personal Discovery!

# Growing Deep and Strong



# The “ah-ha” and “I don’t understand” page

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# Growing Deep and Strong

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**SESSION THREE**

# **KINGDOM OF LIGHT**





# Growing Deep and Strong

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Estimated presentation time 17 minutes

Having looked at the kingdom of Darkness in the last session, and the nature and character of its ruler, Satan, now we want to look at the...

## KINGDOM OF LIGHT

... and to find out something of God's nature and character as the King of the kingdom of Light. What an incredible difference there is! In this session we want to look at some of the characteristics of the kingdom of Light, and then look at the main characteristics of its Ruler, God Himself. This is a great session, because we will find out what a tremendous kingdom we have been transferred into, and what a great Ruler we now serve.

So let's do that by looking at the...

## KING OF THE KINGDOM OF LIGHT

Many people have very fuzzy ideas about who God is, and what He is like. Most of these ideas are anything but the truth—who knows where they came from? We need to see what the Bible says about God to begin to get a clear idea of Who He is and how He rules His kingdom. As we have said previously, the kingdom displays the nature and character of its ruler.

The Bible tells us about...

### A) GOD THE RULER

...not only of the kingdom of Light, but of everything. That includes this earth and the whole universe!

Psalms 103:19 says,

Psalms 103:19

**The Lord has made the heavens  
His throne; from there He rules  
everything.**

NLT

As the Ruler, nothing is outside His control. That's great news, because when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are assured that nothing is by accident. God is in control of everything!



# Growing Deep and Strong

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## B) THE THREE ARE ONE

That sounds rather confusing! The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three, but are one. We need to try to understand something about this for ourselves if we are to understand something about God.

Genesis 1:1 says,

Genesis 1:1

**In the beginning, God ...**

NLT

The first words of the Bible show that the three Persons of God are one, because in the original language of the Old Testament, the word for God only appears in the plural, which indicates more than one Person in the Godhead. So, although the three Persons of the Godhead, God the Father, Jesus the Son, or the Holy Spirit, are distinct and

separate from each other, they are one as to their essential nature. They are all the same. Jesus the Son said in John 10:30, *I and My Father are one.*

In this and the next two sessions we are going to look at each person of the Godhead. This session is about God the Father. Then we will look at Jesus Christ the Son, and then the Holy Spirit.

The first characteristic of God is that...

## C) GOD IS LIGHT

1 John 1:5 says that...

1 John 1:5

**God is light and there is no darkness in Him at all.**

NLT

Darkness is the complete opposite of who God is. If you are in the dark you cannot see, nor can you learn. But light brings the ability to see and know. God is the source of all light, so that we are not kept in the dark any more, but can perceive and learn the truth.

Secondly, God's kingdom is characterized by light. That means that...

## D) GOD ENLIGHTENS OUR MINDS

He floods our minds with His light. When we were in the kingdom of Darkness, Satan kept us in the dark, quite literally, so that we could not see the truth. There was no way that we could see, until God brought us into His kingdom, the kingdom of Light.

# Growing Deep and Strong

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In Ephesians 1:17-18 Paul was...

Ephesians 1:17 & 18

**... to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding ... that you might grow in your knowledge of God ...**

NLT

*<sup>17</sup> asking God to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. <sup>18</sup> I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the wonderful future he has promised to those he called.*

NLT

What God is doing is to *transform us by the renewing of our mind*, (Romans 12:2). He does that by opening our spiritual eyes, so that we can begin to understand spiritual truth, and then apply it to our lives, so that we can walk it out in our own experience.

## E) GOD LEADS THE RIGHT WAY

...and we can learn to see where we are heading in life, because we are now walking in the light.

As we saw in the last session, in the kingdom of Darkness Satan could lead us anywhere, even lead us astray through seduction, because we could not see where we were going. But the kingdom of Light is completely the opposite. God Himself promises to lead us on the right path.

In Psalm 32:8,

Psalm 32:8

**The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.**

NLT

What a fantastic promise here, that God Himself will advise or teach us and direct the course of our life. He doesn't leave it to chance; He loves us so much that He is vitally interested and involved with how we direct our life. And always the outcome is absolutely the best path for us to take. It is never devious or crooked. He promises to lead us in a straight path.

# Growing Deep and Strong

Let's now look at the...

## NATURE OF GOD

because...

### A) GOD IS LOVE

One of the best illustrations of the truth that God is love is the...

#### ★ Story of the lost son

In Luke 15:11-24, Jesus told about the father who waited for his lost son to return to him, and then threw a party to celebrate his return.

<sup>11</sup> To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now, instead of waiting until you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

<sup>13</sup> "A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and took a trip to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money on wild living. <sup>14</sup> About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. <sup>15</sup> He persuaded a local farmer to hire him to feed his pigs. <sup>16</sup> The boy became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired men have food enough to spare, and here I am, dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, <sup>19</sup> and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired man."

<sup>20</sup> "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long distance away, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'

<sup>22</sup> "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger, and sandals for his feet. <sup>23</sup> And kill the calf we have been fattening in the pen. We must celebrate with a feast, <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began. NLT

Luke 15:11-12 (part)

... "A man had two sons ... 'I want my share ... now, instead of waiting ... father agreed to divide his wealth ... took a trip ...

NLT

Let's look at some of the important features of this story.

First, as it is the custom today, usually the children had to wait for the death of the parents before they received the inheritance. In Jesus' day, the older son usually got two thirds, and the younger son would receive one third of the estate.

# Growing Deep and Strong

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Secondly, the younger son showed his rebellious heart in demanding his portion now, instead of waiting. Notice also that both sons received their portion from the father.

Luke 15:13-17 (part)

**...wasted all his money on wild living ... money ran out ... began to starve ... no one gave him anything ... came to his senses ...**

NLT

The younger son left home as soon as he could after getting his share and ran riot. He cut off his relationship with his father, and the rest of the family. He had lots of friends while he had money to burn. But when his money ran out, so did his friends. And so did the food!

Notice that before any change in his circumstances, he had to come to his senses.

Luke 15:17-20 (part)

**...‘At home even the hired men have food ... go home to my father ... say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you ...**

NLT

He realized that even his father's slaves were better off than him, so he decided to return home and see if he could be accepted back as a slave. His father had to wait for him to come to his senses, and then return home. He did not chase him while he was away, but he waited anxiously for signs of his return. You can picture the father longingly looking down the road to

the far country every day, anxiously wanting to catch sight of his son in the distance.

Luke 15:20-24 (part)

**... no longer worthy ... father saw him coming ... love and compassion, he ran to his son, ... celebrate ... He was lost, but now he is found ...**

NLT

When he saw his son in the distance, the father could not contain himself. He was overcome with love for his son, whom he had not seen for such a long time. He ran to meet him on the road and wrapped his arms around him and kissed him again and again and again. That's what the original word means. The son could not even finish his

confession before the father interrupted and joyfully called for the biggest party that the household had ever put on. His son had been lost, but now was found; he was dead, but now was alive; he was away of his own choice, but now he was home!!

What a remarkable illustration of our heavenly Father, God, as a God of love! We were like that rebellious younger son. But God waited for us to come to our senses. And when we come back to Him in repentance and faith, He wraps His arms of love about us, and calls for all those in heaven to celebrate with Him that we have returned to Him. He is not out to punish us. The lost has been found! We who were dead are alive again! We, as children whom He dearly loves, can now enjoy a completely restored relationship with Him.

What an incredible celebration must happen in heaven every time a person repents and comes to Him in faith!

# Growing Deep and Strong

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Having looked at God as the Ruler of the kingdom of Light, now we want to look briefly at some of the most important parts of His nature.

The first of these is that God is...

## B) ETERNAL

He has no beginning and end. Psalm 90:2 says,

Psalm 90:2

**...before you made the earth and the world, you are God, without beginning or end.**

NLT

This means that He is the only One who could have created the universe, because He was before all of that, and he is the only One who can give eternal life, because He is eternal Himself. That is why the name for God the Father is LORD as we read it in the Old Testament. It means I AM. He is eternally present.

## C) GOD IS UNCHANGEABLE (Immutable)

In Malachi 3:6a God said,

Malachi 3:6a

**I am the Lord, and I do not change.**

NLT

God is eternal; that's why He doesn't change. The word immutable just means unchangeable. We all change, and that is part of human life. But God tells us clearly in more than one place in the Old Testament that He does not change. That is not part of His nature.

Isn't it great to know that, although we change, the One we have put our faith and trust in does not? He is exactly the same as He was in eternity past, and will continue to be the same in the future.

# Growing Deep and Strong

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## D) GOD IS ALL POWERFUL (Omnipotent)

In Genesis 18:14a God said,

Genesis 18:14a

**Is anything too hard for the Lord?**

NLT

The word in brackets in the heading, *omnipotent*, is often used of God. It just means that He is able to do anything; He is all-powerful. God Himself said that to Abraham in Genesis 18:14. Abraham and his wife had long given up on having any children, but God promised them, even though Abraham was 100, and Sarah 90,

that they would have a child. They believed that nothing was too hard for the LORD and God's promise came to pass for them.

Nothing is impossible for Him. And just as the people in the Old Testament, and Mary, the mother of John in the New Testament, we can believe Him to do for us things that are humanly impossible.

## E) GOD IS ALL KNOWING (Omniscient)

One thing we need to remind ourselves is that Satan, the ruler of the kingdom of Darkness, doesn't know everything. He is limited in his knowledge, but God's knowledge is unlimited!

Psalms 139 says,

Psalms 139:1, 4, 10, & 13-18

**... You made all ... of my body ...  
You saw me before I was born ...  
How precious are your thoughts  
about me ...**

NLT

<sup>1</sup> O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.

<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my every thought when far away.

<sup>4</sup> You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD.

<sup>13</sup> You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.

<sup>16</sup> You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. NLT

God knows everything about us!

How great it is to know that He cares that much for us!

# Growing Deep and Strong

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## F) GOD IS EVERYWHERE (Omnipresent)

God is unlimited by time, space or gravity. God is above and beyond the universe; in fact, the whole universe depends upon Him for its very existence. He is everywhere present in the entire universe at the same time.

Let me read what David says from Psalm 139:7-10.

Psalm 139:7-10

**I can never escape from your spirit! ... never get away from your presence... your hand will guide me ... strength will support me**

NLT

*<sup>7</sup> I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence!<sup>8</sup> If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the place of the dead, you are there.<sup>9</sup> If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans,<sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. NLT*

God told the same truth to the prophet Jeremiah.

In Jeremiah 23:23-24, God said,

Jeremiah 23:23 & 24

**“Can anyone hide from me? ... Am I not everywhere?” ...**

NLT

*<sup>23</sup> "Am I a God who is only in one place?" asks the LORD. "Do they think I cannot see what they are doing?"<sup>24</sup> Can anyone hide from me? Am I not everywhere in all the heavens and earth?" says the LORD. NLT*

The great thing for us is that we can meet together at any place and at any time and be assured that God is right there with us in our midst. God is everywhere at the same time.

## G) GOD IS RIGHTEOUS AND JUST

Before we see that God is righteous and just, we need to remind ourselves of the definition of sin. It is: -

- Walking away from God.
- Missing the mark.
- Disobeying God's laws, and an
- Offence in relation to God.



# Growing Deep and Strong

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That's why we need His forgiveness, because He is righteous.

God is a moral being who has moral characteristics. Man, created in the image and likeness of God, is a moral being also. That is why man has the problem of sin to deal with. The Bible tells us that we are sinners by nature. We have inherited from Adam a genetically transmitted disease, called sin. No one escapes this disease. And that is why God had to deal with sin—He could not overlook it. Jesus had to be born as a human being, the only perfect Man to have ever lived, and as a sinless human, He could pay the price that we could not pay, so that sin could be dealt with and put away. That is the only way God could freely forgive us.

In 1 John 1:9, God left us a promise that reads like this.

1 John 1:9

**But if we confess our sins to him,  
he is faithful and just to forgive us  
and to cleanse us from every  
wrong.**

NLT

It is great to know that God can be just and forgiving at the same time, because He provided the means for us to be cleansed. All we have to do is to confess, or agree with Him that we have gone our own way and disobeyed what He requires, and we are assured of complete cleansing—every wrong is dealt with and put away.

God has given us...

## ETERNAL LIFE

There is a radical difference between the kingdom of Darkness and the kingdom of Light. The nature of the kingdom of Darkness is eternal death; but the nature of the kingdom of Light is eternal life.

In Romans 6:22 & 23, Paul wrote the following.

Romans 6:22 & 23.

**... you are free from the power of  
sin ... The free gift of God is  
eternal life through Jesus Christ  
our Lord.**

NLT

*<sup>22</sup> But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*  
NLT



# Growing Deep and Strong

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Wages are what you work for. And the kingdom of Darkness makes you work for the wages of death. But God gives us a free gift and that is eternal life as we live in the kingdom of Light.



Remember, eternal life started from the moment you accepted Jesus Christ into your life. You have eternal life now! You can enjoy the benefits of eternal life right here and now. Jesus said that this is life in all its fullness. What a great way to live the rest of your life! Then, when you leave your physical body you will go to live in God's presence and continue to enjoy eternal life in heaven forever.

All...

## A) LIFE

...was given by God, because He is life Himself. We read in *Genesis 2* that when God created man, that He breathed into him, the breath of life—literally, the breath of *lives*, physical and spiritual.

It's recorded in John 3:16 that Jesus said,

John 3:16

**For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.**

NLT

The most familiar verse in the Bible also tells us the same thing. God loved humankind so much that He provided the way for them to enjoy life for eternity, and have a relationship of love with Him for eternity. That is because God Himself is eternal.

Having found out something about the nature of God, we can see that He is good, and everything that He does for us is good. Above all, God is love, and that affects and controls everything He does for us as His children.

The next session will be about Jesus Christ the Son and why He came.

# Growing Deep and Strong

## PERSONAL DISCOVERY



## THE KINGDOM OF LIGHT

*(Estimated time for disciples to complete Personal Discovery, 75 minutes).*

Having looked at the Kingdom of Darkness in the last session, and the nature and character of its ruler, Satan, we now want to look at the Kingdom of Light and to find out something of God's nature and character as the King of the Kingdom of Light. What an incredible difference there is!

## KING OF THE KINGDOM OF LIGHT

As we noted last session when we looked at the Kingdom of Darkness, the kingdom takes on the nature and character of its ruler. It's the same in the Kingdom of Light.



Many people have very fuzzy ideas about who God is, and what He is like. Most of these ideas are anything but the truth. So we need to learn what the Bible says about God to begin to get a clear idea of Who He is and how He rules His kingdom.

Let's have a look together at some of the characteristics of God, the King of the Kingdom of Light.

# Growing Deep and Strong

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## A) GOD THE RULER

The Bible tells us that God rules the whole universe. We want to have a look at just three references to that fact.



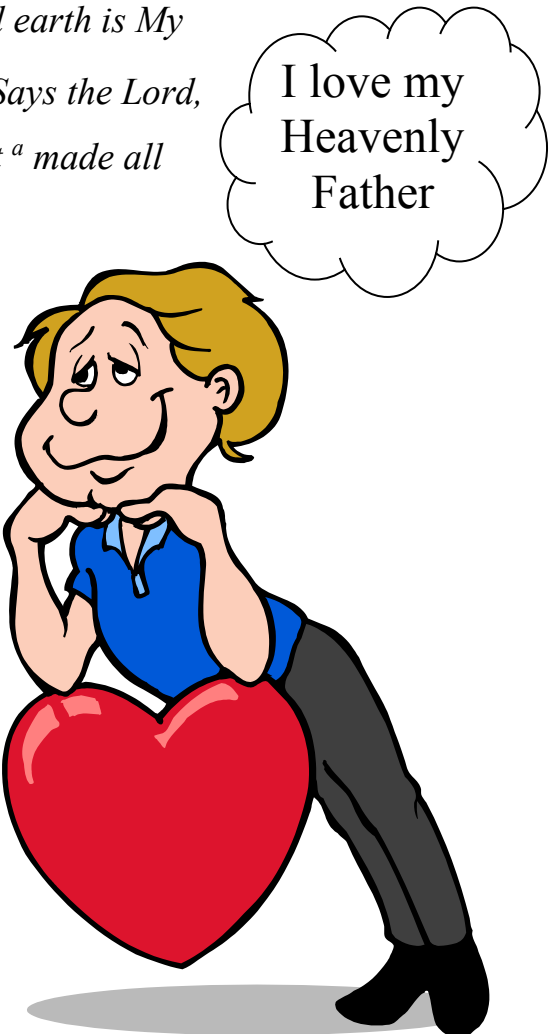
Turn to **Psalm 103:19**, page 842 (N 765).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 19 The Lord has established His throne in heaven, <sup>a</sup> And His kingdom rules over all.



Turn to **Acts 7:48-50**, page 1638 (N 1503).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 48 “However, <sup>a</sup> the Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands, as the prophet says: <sup>49</sup> ‘Heaven <sup>a</sup> is My throne, And earth is My footstool. What house will you build for Me? Says the Lord, or what is the place of My rest? <sup>50</sup> Has My hand not <sup>a</sup> made all these things?’



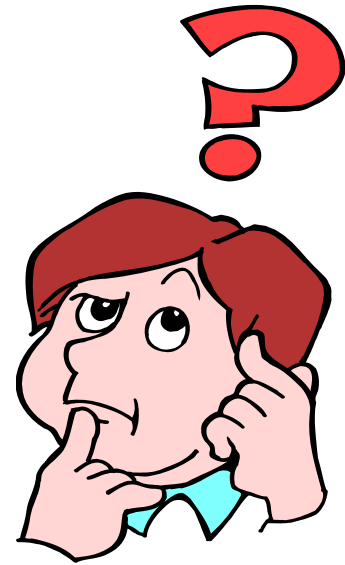
I love my  
Heavenly  
Father

When we realize how great God is, the Creator and Ruler of the whole universe, how amazing it is that He wants to own us as His children, and to relate to us as our **loving** heavenly Father. Compare that with Satan, who is an absolute tyrant as the ruler of the kingdom of Darkness.

# Growing Deep and Strong

## B) THE THREE ARE ONE

Now, doesn't that sound confusing? The three are one. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three, but one. While we may never understand this thought completely, we can at least get some light from the Bible, so that we can know a bit more about God, who He is, and how there can be three Persons in the one Godhead.



Turn to **Genesis 1:1**, page 3 (N 3).

Verse 1 In the <sup>a</sup> beginning <sup>b</sup> God\* -----.

In the original language of the Old Testament, the word for God only appears in the plural, which indicates that there is more than one person in the Godhead.



The asterisk beside **God\*** indicates a **WORD WEALTH**. If you look in the centre column, you will find that it directs you to **2 Kings 19:15**, page 558 (N 507).



Turn there to read what it says about the word *God*.  
Fill in the missing words.

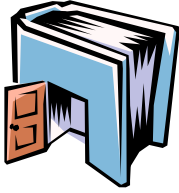
### ★ What does '*Elohim*' mean?

- Mainly refers to God, sometimes it refers to heathen gods or idols. 'Elohim' is plural in Hebrew. God is more than one person.*

### ★ What are the three distinct parts of our God? Fill in the missing words.

... God has more than one part of His being. We call those distinct parts "the Father," "the Son," and "the Holy Spirit." Nevertheless, we have *one* God, not three gods.

# Growing Deep and Strong



## OPTIONAL READING

1 John 5:7, page 1933 (N 1789).

### C) GOD IS LIGHT



Turn to **1 John 1:5**, page 1928 (N 1783).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 5. <sup>a</sup> This is the message which we have heard from Him  
and declare to you, that <sup>b</sup> God is light and in Him is no darkness\* at all.



Check the centre column for reference to **WORD WEALTH** on **darkness**,  
in **John 12:46**.

Fill in the missing words.

#### WORD WEALTH

**12:46 darkness**, *Scotia* (skot-ee-ah); Strong's #4653: Darkness, gloom, evil, sin, obscurity, night, ignorance, moral depravity. The NT especially uses the word in a metaphorical sense of ignorance of divine truth, man's sinful nature, total absence of light, and a lack of spiritual perception. Light equals happiness. *Scotia* equals unhappiness. *Scotia* as spiritual darkness basically describes everything earthly or demonic that is at enmity with God.

You found it, without prompts! Congratulations!  
You are becoming experienced in using the Bible.



# Growing Deep and Strong

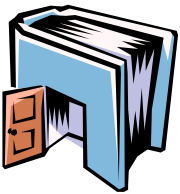
## D) GOD ENLIGHTENS MINDS



Turn to **Ephesians 1:17 & 18**, page 1788 (N 1645).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 17 that <sup>a</sup> the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, <sup>b</sup> may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, <sup>18a</sup> the eyes of your <sup>1</sup> understanding\* being enlightened; that you may know what is <sup>b</sup> the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Note that understanding\* has an asterisk beside it. Remember, it means there is a **WORD WEALTH** explanation to that particular word.



### OPTIONAL READING

Look in the centre column in the verse 18 links.  
You will find that it reads, \* see W.W. at **Mark 12:30**, page 1494 (N 1373).



Read the **FOOTNOTES** for **Ephesians 1:17 & 18** at the bottom of the page 1788 (N 1645).



★ Who is the source of wisdom and revelation?

- The Holy Spirit is the source of both.



- Complete the following sentence from the **FOOTNOTES**.

... “**Eyes of your understanding being enlightened**” literally means that your heart may receive the brightness of hope resulting when the wealth of God’s investment in you is understood.

What the Holy Spirit is doing is to *transform us by the renewing of our mind*, Romans 12:2. He does that by opening our spiritual eyes, flooding them with the light of His kingdom, so that we can begin to understand spiritual truth, the great future that He has planned for us, and the incredible glory that we inherit in Him as His children.

# Growing Deep and Strong

## E) GOD LEADS THE RIGHT WAY

Turn to **Psalm 32:8**, page 780 (N 710).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way  
you should go; I will guide you with My eye.



What an exciting promise, that we have God Himself to teach us and direct the course of our life! He doesn't leave it to chance, but loves us so much that He is vitally interested and involved with how we direct our life.

## NATURE OF GOD

As we go through this section, we want to look at some of the important aspects of God's nature. We are referring to the Godhead, without distinguishing the individual Persons, as we study these characteristics of God.

## A) GOD IS LOVE



Turn to **John 3:16**, page 1578 (N 1447).  
Fill in the missing words.



Verse 16 a “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten <sup>b</sup> Son, that whoever\* believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.



Read **WORD WEALTH** “loved” from **John 3:16**; page 1578 (N 1447).  
Fill in the missing words.

**3:16 loved**, *agapao* (ag-ah-pah-oh); Strong's #25: Unconditional love, love by choice and by an act of the will. The word denotes unconquerable benevolence and undefeatable goodwill. *Agapao* will never seek anything but the highest good for fellow mankind. *Agapao* (the verb) and *agapao* (the noun) are the words for God's unconditional love. It does not need a chemistry, an affinity, or a feeling. *Agapao* is a word that exclusively belongs to the Christian community. It is a love virtually unknown to writers outside the NT.



# Growing Deep and Strong

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Turn to **1 John 4:7-10**, page 1932 (N 1788).  
Fill in the missing words.



Verse 7 <sup>a</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for *\*love* is of *G o d*; and everyone who <sup>b</sup> loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> <sup>a</sup> In this the *love* of God was manifested toward us, that God has *\*sent* His only begotten <sup>b</sup> *S o n* into the world, that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, <sup>a</sup> not that we *love d* God, but that He loved us and sent His Son <sup>b</sup> *to be* the **propitiation** for our sins.

This is an incredible glimpse at the love and mercy of God! Not only did he send Jesus to show us how to live, but also He showed His love in sending Him to be the only and perfect sacrifice for our sins, so that our guilt could be put away and our relationship of love with God restored.

## ★ Story of the lost son

The story of the lost son is a remarkable window into the truth that as our heavenly Father, God is a **God of love**. He is not out to punish us for our rebellious nature and attitude toward Him. He loves us too much for that. So when we come back to Him in repentance and faith, He calls for all those in heaven to celebrate with Him that we have returned to Him, that the lost has been found, that we who were dead are alive again, that we, as children whom He dearly loves, can now enjoy a completely restored relationship with Him. What an incredible celebration must happen in heaven every time someone repents and turns to their heavenly Father in faith!



Turn to **Luke 15:11-24**, page 1545 (N 1418).  
Fill in the missing words.



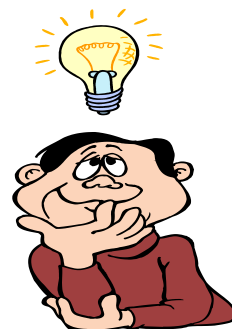
Verse 11 Then He said: “**A certain man had two sons.**”<sup>12</sup> “**And the *y o u n g e r* of them said to *his* father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls *to me*.’ So he divided to them** <sup>a</sup> ***his* livelihood.**”<sup>13</sup> “**And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there *w a s t e d* his possessions with <sup>1</sup>prodigal living.**”<sup>14</sup> “**But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in *\*want*.**”<sup>15</sup> “**Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.**”<sup>16</sup> “**And he would *\*gladly* have filled his stomach with the <sup>1</sup> pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him *anything*.**”<sup>17</sup> “**But**



# Growing Deep and Strong

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when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!’<sup>18</sup> ‘I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, <sup>a</sup> I have sinned against heaven and before you,<sup>19</sup> “and I am no longer worthy to be <sup>\*</sup>called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’<sup>20</sup> “And he arose and came to his father. But when <sup>\*</sup>he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had <sup>\*</sup>compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.”<sup>21</sup> “And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven <sup>a</sup> and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”<sup>22</sup> “But the father said to his servants, ‘<sup>1</sup>Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet.’<sup>23</sup> ‘And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry,’<sup>24</sup> <sup>a</sup> ‘for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.



Read the **FOOTNOTE** on Luke 15:12, page 1545 (N 1418).

★ What does the footnote say about the nature of the younger son?

- The younger son was rebellious in wanting to live independently, out of relationship with his father.



Read the **FOOTNOTE** on Luke 15:18, 19, page 1545 (N 1418).

★ What are the three things that are essential in repentance?

1. Sorrow for sin.
2. Confession to God.
3. Change of heart, change of action.

# Growing Deep and Strong



Read the **FOOTNOTE** on Luke 15:21, page 1545 (N 1418).

★ What response does the father make toward his younger son?

- His father calls for a joyful party.



Read the **FOOTNOTE** on Luke 15:22-24, page 1545 (N 1418).

★ What two things does genuine repentance bring about?

1. pardon
2. complete restoration.

★ Write down briefly what it means to you that God is love.

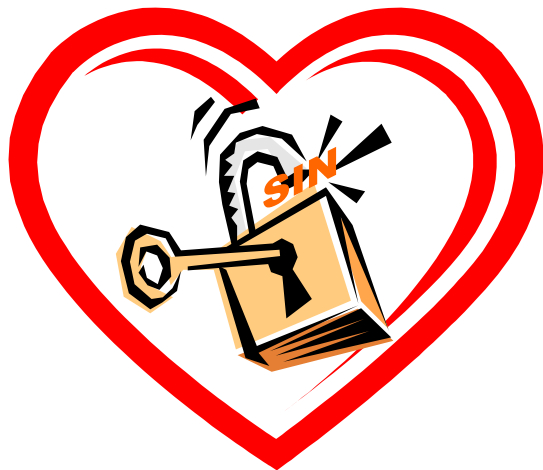
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[Discuss the individual answers from the disciples.  
They will vary.]

**COACH:** Ensure that the disciples understand that God loves them personally and unreservedly regardless of what they have done in the past.



# Growing Deep and Strong

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## B) GOD IS ETERNAL (No beginning, no end)



Turn to **Psalm 90:2**, page 832 (N 756).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 2. a *B e f o r e* the mountains were brought forth, or ever You <sup>1</sup>had formed the earth and the world, even from *e v e r l a s t i n g* to *e v e r l a s t i n g*, You are God.

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament show that God had no beginning and He has no end.



## C) GOD IS UNCHANGEABLE (Immutable)



Turn to **Malachi 3:6a**, page 1386 (N 1271).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 6 “For I *a m* the Lord <sup>a</sup>, I do not *c h a n g e*;



Turn to **Psalm 102:27**, page 841 (N 764).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 27 But <sup>a</sup> You *a r e* the *s a m e*, And Your years will have no *e n d*.



Isn't it great that God never changes, even though we may change? He is always the same, and that is why we can rely on Him.

# Growing Deep and Strong

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## D) GOD IS ALL POWERFUL (Omnipotent)



Turn to **Genesis 18:14**, page 31 (N 28).  
Fill in the missing words.

God said this about Himself.

Verse 14 <sup>a</sup> “Is anything too h a r d for the L O R D? <sup>b</sup> At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.”



In the society of Abraham’s time it was regarded as a curse to be barren. What makes this statement of God significant is that Abraham was 100 years old and his wife Sarah was 90 years old (Genesis 17:17). Abraham and Sarah would have long given up on having any children, yet nothing is too hard for God. In Genesis 15:5 God promises Abraham that his descendants will be like the stars too numerous to count. God kept this promise, and caused it to happen.



Turn to **Matthew 19:26**, page 1442 (N 1326).  
Fill in the missing words.

This is what Jesus said about God.

Verse 26 But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them,

“With men this is i m p o s s i b l e, but <sup>a</sup> with God  
all things are p o s s i b l e.”



Jesus Christ, the Son of God recognizes the almighty power of God.

In these verses above, we read that God is all-powerful. This is the God that we now believe in. His almighty power is now available to us as children.

# Growing Deep and Strong

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## E) GOD IS ALL KNOWING (Omniscient)

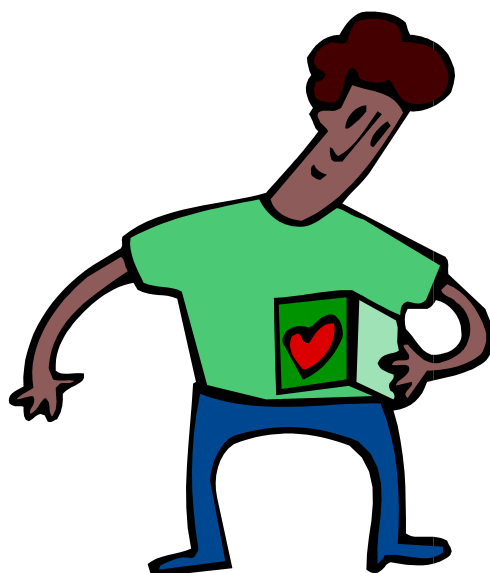


Turn to **Psalm 139:1-4,10 & 13-18**, page 871 (N 793).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 1 O Lord, You have searched me and known me.<sup>2</sup> <sup>a</sup> You know my sitting down and my rising up; You bunderstand my thought afar off.<sup>3</sup> <sup>a</sup> You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.<sup>4</sup> For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *But* behold, O Lord, <sup>a</sup> You know it altogether.

Verse 10 Even there Your hand shall lead me, And  
Your right hand shall hold me.

Verse 13 For You formed my inward parts; You  
<sup>1</sup>covered me in my mother's womb.<sup>14</sup> I will praise  
You, for<sup>1</sup> I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made;  
\*Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul  
knows very well.<sup>15</sup> <sup>a</sup> My <sup>1</sup>frame was not  
hidden from You, When I was made in secret,  
*And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the  
earth.<sup>16</sup> Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your  
book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as *yet there were*  
none of them.<sup>17</sup> <sup>a</sup> How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How  
great is the sum of them! <sup>18</sup> *If* I should count them, they would be more in number  
than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You.



### OPTIONAL READING

**Psalm 147:5**, page 877 (N 798).

# Growing Deep and Strong



Turn to **Ephesians 1:4a**, page 1787 (N 1645).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 4a. Just as <sup>a</sup> He c h o s e us in Him <sup>b</sup> before the  
foundation of the world...



God knows the end from the beginning. That is why He was able to choose us from the beginning. Isn't it tremendous that God knows everything about the universe, but also every detail about us as well? He knows us in every detail! That is why we can be confident in His great care for us.

## F) GOD IS EVERYWHERE (Omnipresent)

God is unlimited by time, space or gravity. God is above and beyond the universe; in fact, the whole universe depends upon Him for its very existence. He is everywhere present in the entire universe at the same time. The Bible says that God fills all things. There is nowhere where God is not present.

On the other hand, Satan and his demonic hosts, who are created beings, are unable to be everywhere at once.

Let's see what the Bible says about this.



Turn to **Psalms 139:7-10**, page 877 (N 793).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 7 <sup>a</sup> Where can I g o from Your <sup>\*</sup>Spirit? Or where can I f l e e from Your presence? <sup>8</sup> <sup>a</sup> If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there; <sup>b</sup> If I make my bed in <sup>1</sup>hell, behold, You *are* t h e r e. <sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning, *And* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, <sup>10</sup> Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.



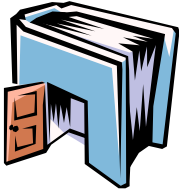
### OPTIONAL READING

**Jeremiah 23:23 & 24**, page 1092 (N 992).

# Growing Deep and Strong



Wherever we are, God is there with us; there is nowhere that we can flee from the presence of God. That's why He says to His people, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (See **Hebrews 13:5**.)



## OPTIONAL READING

**Hebrews 13:6**, page 1889 (N 1746).

**WORD WEALTH 'helper'**, page 1889 (N 1746).



Turn to **Matthew 18:20**, page 1440 (N 1324).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 20 "For where two or three are  
gathered<sup>a</sup> together in My name, I am  
there in the midst of them."



What an exciting prospect, to think that when we get together, when we meet in His name, God is right there in our midst!



## G) GOD IS RIGHTEOUS AND JUST

God is a **moral** being, who has moral characteristics. Man, created in the image and likeness of God, is a moral being also. Animals are amoral, having no morality, because they were not created in God's image and likeness. We humans cannot be amoral, despite some claims that we can be, because we have been created in God's likeness as moral beings. Therefore we are either immoral or moral in all that we do, never amoral.



## OPTIONAL READING

**Romans 3:23**, page 1691 (N 1553).

**Romans 6:23**, page 1697 (N 1559).



# Growing Deep and Strong



Turn to **1 John 1:9**, page 1928 (N 1784).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 9. If we <sup>a</sup>confess our sins, He is <sup>b</sup> faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins  
and to <sup>c</sup>cleanse us from all <sup>\*</sup>unrighteousness.

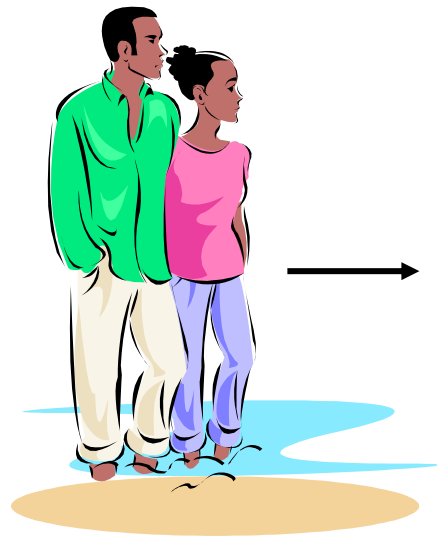


Do you remember the presentation, “©Behind the Scenes” that you saw prior to starting this course? How did it describe sin? Let’s go back and take another look at how sin was defined.

## SIN DEFINITION

It means to:

- ✗ Take the wrong course, walk away from God
- ✗ Keep missing the mark in our relationship with God
- ✗ Deeds of disobedience to divine laws
- ✗ An offence in relation to God



Turn to **Jeremiah 17:9 & 10**, page 1083 (N 984).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 9 “The heart<sup>\*</sup> is deceitful above all *things* and <sup>1</sup>desperately wicked; who  
can know it? <sup>10</sup> I, the Lord, <sup>a</sup> search the heart, *I* test the <sup>1</sup>mind, <sup>b</sup> even to give every  
man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

The Bible tells us that we are sinners by nature. We have inherited a genetically transmitted disease, called sin. No one escapes this disease. It infects everyone, and is seen most clearly by the condition of the heart. It “has the footprints of hell all over it” says Jeremiah. That is why Jesus had to be born as a human being, the only perfect Man to have ever lived, so that as a human without sin, He could pay the price that we could not pay, so that sin could be dealt with and put away.



## OPTIONAL READING

Read the **WORD WEALTH** definition on heart<sup>\*</sup>. See **Psalms 37:4**, page 784 (N 714).



# Growing Deep and Strong

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Turn to **Psalm 103: 2-4 & 12**, page 841 (N 764).  
Fill in the missing words.

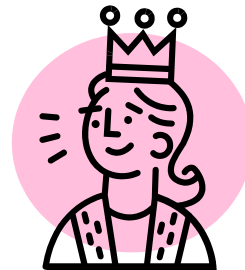
Verse 2 \*Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: <sup>3</sup> <sup>a</sup> Who *forgives* all your iniquities, Who <sup>b</sup> *heals* all your diseases, <sup>4</sup> Who



\* *redeems* your life from destruction, <sup>a</sup> Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

Verse 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He <sup>a</sup> *removed* our <sup>\*</sup> *transgressions*

from us.



Read the **WORD WEALTH** on **forgives**.

★ In your own words, write down what this and the verses we have just looked at mean to you.

- God is the only one who forgives. He is eager and willing to forgive. He not only covers our sin, but he completely removes it from us, where it cannot be retrieved—as far as the east is from the west.

# Growing Deep and Strong

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## H) ETERNAL LIFE



Turn to **Romans 6:22 & 23**, page 1697 (N 1559).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 22 But now <sup>a</sup> having been set *\*f r e e* from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit <sup>1</sup>to holiness, and the end, *e v e r l a s t i n g* life. <sup>23</sup> <sup>a</sup> For the wages of sin *is* death, but <sup>b</sup> the <sup>1</sup>gift\* of God *is* *e t e r n a l* life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



**Eternal life started from the moment you accepted Jesus Christ into your life.** You have become an eternal being who now has eternal life. You can enjoy the benefits of eternal life right here and now. And, as Jesus said, this is life in all its fullness. What a great way to live! Then, when you leave your physical body you will go and live with God in heaven forever and continue to enjoy eternal life.

When do we get eternal life? What happens then after we die physically?  
The moment we believe in Jesus, eternal life starts. We enjoy abundant life as part of eternal life here and now. It continues when we die. It doesn't stop; it just gets better.

# Growing Deep and Strong

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## I) LIGHT OF LIFE



Turn to **John 8:12**, page 1589 (N 1458).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, <sup>a</sup>“**I** am the light of the world. He who <sup>b</sup>follows Me shall not walk in \*darkness, but have the light of life.”



Turn to **John 3:16**, page 1578 (N 1447).  
Fill in the missing words.

Verse 16 a “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten <sup>b</sup>Son, that whoever <sup>\*</sup>believes in Him should not \*perish but have everlasting life.

Because God **is** life, He was able to breathe life into man when he was created. God, as the Author of life, gives that same gift to every human being since.

In contrast to Satan, the ruler of the kingdom of Darkness, who hates God and mankind with vehement hatred, and is the enemy of mankind, **God** loves us with an everlasting love. He loves us so much that He gave the best He had. He was willing to allow His Son to die on the cross for us, so that we could come out of the kingdom of Darkness and be reconciled with Him in the kingdom of Light. The Ruler of the kingdom of Light is love, and that that is the major characteristic of His kingdom, too.



Next session we want to look at:-

Jesus, God’s Son, and why He came to this earth for us.

# Growing Deep and Strong

## PERSONAL DISCOVERY REVIEW

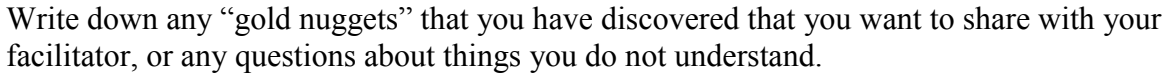
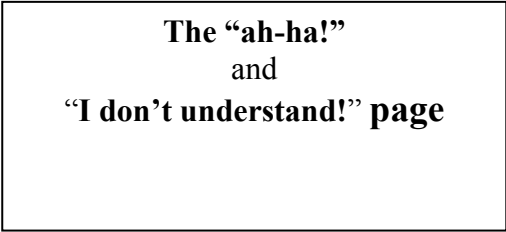
### Notes to the Coach: -

1. Your role is to facilitate and encourage discussion on the Personal Discovery. Avoid being sidetracked into other topics that are not relevant to the session. You can arrange another time to answer other questions.
2. Allow disciples to answer the questions or discuss without forcing them to talk. The atmosphere you want is one of willing participation, rather than one belonging to a formal classroom.
3. The numbers in brackets refer to the page where the question is found. The first number is for this Coach's Manual while the other number in brackets is the page in the Disciple's Manual.
4. If you find any who are having difficulty completing the Personal Discovery, follow them up personally, and find out what they may be struggling with. Be available to help them complete it. Remember, encouragement is powerful!

1. What does ELOHIM mean? (Page 92(78).
2. What are the three distinct parts of God? (Page 92(78).
3. Who is the source of wisdom and revelation? (Page 94(80).
4. What does the "eyes of your understanding being enlightened" mean to you? (Page 94(80).
5. What does **Psalms 32:8** mean to you? (Page 95(81).
6. What revelation of God did you learn from the story of the lost son? (Pages 95 & 97(82 - 83).
7. What does the **FOOTNOTE** for **Luke 15:12** say about the nature of the younger son? Can you relate to that in your own life? How? (Page 97(83).
8. **FOOTNOTE** for **Luke 15:18 & 19**. What are three things essential in repentance? (Page 97(83).
9. **FOOTNOTE** for **Luke 15:21**. What was the father's response? What relevance is that to God and you? (Page 98(84).
10. **FOOTNOTE** for **Luke 15:22-24**. What are the two things that genuine repentance brings? (Page 98(84).
11. What does it mean to you "God is love"? (Page 98(84).
12. What does it mean to you that God is unchangeable, all-powerful, all knowing and everywhere? (Pages 99 - 102(85 - 88).
13. What is your understanding on **WORD WEALTH** on "forgives" **Psalms 103:3**? (Page 105(91).
14. What is your understanding of "eternal life"? (Page 106(92).



to sign off the disciples' Personal Discovery!

This image shows a full page of blank white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing or drawing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.