

## LESSON 1: Salvation Is Needed To Obey God

1. Is it possible to obey God if you are not a Christian? Read the two passages below and fill out the chart for how those who “live by the Spirit” and “live by their sinful nature” act.

Galatians 5:16-17 So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. [17] For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

Romans 8:5-7 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. [6] The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; [7] the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

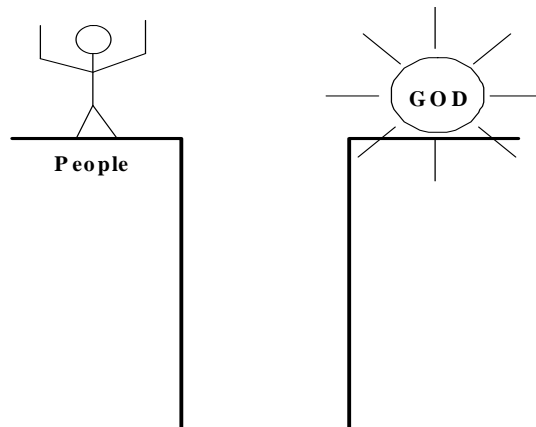
Fill out the chart below using the verses above.

	Living by the Spirit	Living by your sinful nature
How do you view God?		
Can you submit to God?		
Will you submit to God?		
What is the focus of your mind?		
What results from living this way?		

2. What are the results of sin?

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

According to the passage what separate man from God?



3. According to the passage below, how many people are separated from God by sin?

Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

4. According to the passage below, what gift has God provided for the world?

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

5. According to the passage below, what do you have to do to receive God's gift? What does God provide?

Eph 2:8 – 9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

6. According to the passage below, how can you know that you have accepted Jesus death on the cross as the payment for your sins?

Romans 10:9-11 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. [11] As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

7. According to the passage below, what is one of the purposes for God saving people?

Ephes. 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

8. Have you confessed with your heart and do you believe in your heart that Jesus in your Lord and Savior?

## LESSON 2: Ownership and Stewardship of What You Have.

Read pages 10-12 of Giving God's Way

### 1. Underline what God has created in the passages below.

Acts 17:25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

Col 1:15 – 17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Hebrews 1:10 He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

Rev. 4:11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

### 2. Underline what skills, talents, or abilities that God has given people.

Ex 35:35 He has filled them with skill to do all kinds of work as craftsmen, designers, embroiderers in blue, purple and scarlet yarn and fine linen, and weavers--all of them master craftsmen and designers.

Psa 139:13 – 16 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

2Cor 3:5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God.

Romans 11:35-36 "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" [36] For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

John 3:27 To this John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven.

### 3. According to the passage below and those above, what do you have that you own?

What do you have that God owns?

Deut. 8:17-18 You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." [18] But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

### 4. Read the passage below and answer the questions addressing selected portions of the passage.

Genesis 1:26-29

[26] Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." [27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. [28] God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

[29] Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food."

\* In verse 28 God blesses man then gives a number of commands. What are the commands? What is the significance of each command?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

\* In verse 29 what is the significance of God giving man seed-bearing plants and trees that have fruit with seeds in it? How many of the plants and trees did God give man?

5. What is your role over what God has given you? Who owns what God has given you?

## LESSON 3: Being A Steward And The Resulting Faith Relationship.

Read pages 10-12 of Giving God's Way

1. Last week we learned that God owns everything. Our lives, the air we breathe, the food we eat, our houses, children, jobs, talents, abilities and the money we earn. What is your role with what God has given you? Read Matthew 25:14-31.

### **THE CALL:**

In verse 14 who did the man going on a journey call to himself?

Which of the two people are you in the parable, the master, or the servant being called?

If God calls you, what are you supposed to do?

What do you do?

### **THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY:**

In verse 14 what did the man going on a journey charge his servants to do?

In verse 15, did each of the servants receive the same amount?

### **THE RESPONSE:**

How soon did the servants who received five and two talents begin working?

What were their results?

What did the servant who received one talent do with the money?

What was his result?

### **THE ACCOUNTING:**

How long was it before the master returned from his journey? Did the servants know exactly when the master was going to return?

What was the master's response for each of the servants?

The servant who gained five talents:

The servant who gained two talents:

The servant who returned the money:

Why was the servant who returned the money after burying the money referred to as wicked and lazy?

What was his reward?

2. According to this passage what should be the ambition of every Christian?

2 Cor. 5:9 Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

3. According to the passage below, how can a Christian show love for God?

John 14:23-24 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. [24] He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

4. According to the passages below, what should be your first step in a faith relationship with God?

2 Cor. 8:5 And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

5. What does it mean to give yourself first to God? How is this done? How often is this done?

6. According to the passage below, what promises has God made to you as a Christian?

Hebrews 13:5-6 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." [6] So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

7. According to the passage below, what is faith? Is faith a choice? What should faith be based on?

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

## LESSON 4: First Fruit and Different Types of Giving in the Bible.

Assignments: - Read pages 15-18 in Giving God's Way  
- Get a free credit report ([www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com))

1. According to these Old Testament passages, the Israelites were commanded to give God the \_\_\_\_\_ of their crops and the \_\_\_\_\_ of their livestock.

"Also you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits of your labors from what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the Ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in the fruit of your labors from the field. (Exodus 23:16)

Leviticus 1:3 "If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he is to offer a male without defect. He must present it at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting so that it will be

How did the giver practice faith when giving this way? Why?

2. Given the answers in question one, what do you think this New Testament passage is calling Christians to do? Why?

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. (1 Corinthians 16:2)

3. According to the passage below, how would you define a tithe? What was Abram returning from when he met Melchizedek? Why did Abram give a gift to Melchizedek?

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, [19] and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. [20] And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. (Genesis 14:18-20)

4. From the Old Testament times through when the New Testament was written people lived in a subsistence economy. The work they did today provided the food for tomorrow. In biblical times when a family gave a tenth of what they had, it required the people to \_\_\_\_\_ God for their food on the next day.

5. According to the passage below, what does the New Testament have to say about tithing?

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. (Matthew 23:23)

6. According to the passage below, how are you supposed to give? If your means increase what is supposed to happen to your giving? If your means decrease what is supposed to happen to your giving?

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. (2 Corinthians 8:12)

7. The New Testament promotes proportionate giving. In question four we learned that people had to trust God for things that they needed when they tithed. Tithing was a method to build the faith of the giver. How would that apply to proportionate giving today?

## LESSON 5: Obedience in Giving.

Read pages 18-20 in Giving God's Way

1. In verse 10 of this passage what is one of God's purposes for everyone's salvation?

Ephesians 2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- [9] not by works, so that no one can boast. [10] For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

2. According to the passage below, what do the lighted torches symbolize? What is the consequence of trusting in the torches? Whom are you supposed to trust?

Isaiah 50:10-11 Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. [11] But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires and of the torches you have set ablaze. This is what you shall receive from my hand: You will lie down in torment.

3. According to the passage below, does God need what we give Him? Why does every person need to give back to God?

Psalms 50:9-10 I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, [10] for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.

Acts 17:24-25 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. [25] And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

4. According to the passage below:

1 Timothy 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. [18] Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. [19] In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

What is uncertain?

What is certain?

What two ways does God promise to provide for the obedient?

God cannot lie. What do you know about the promise given above in 1 Timothy 6?

Hebrews 6:18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.

Mark 9:24 Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

## LESSON 6: Giving For God's Glory *And* How You Will Be Blessed.

Read pages 20-22

### 1. According to these passages who should get the glory for service given by Christians?

1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Ephesians 6:7-8 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, [8] because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

In Ephesians 6:8, what does God give Christians for their good works? Read Mt. 5:12, Mt. 6:1 and Lk. 6:23. What do they have to say about what God gives Christians for their service?

### 2. Underline various services Christians are called to perform in the passage below. On whose behalf is this being done? Who provides the strength to serve?

1 Peter 4:7-11 The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. [8] Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. [9] Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. [10] Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. [11] If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

### 3. According to the passage below, what two things does good stewardship accomplish? How many times does God get praise or thanks in this passage?

2 Corinthians 9:12-15 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. [13] Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the

obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. [14] And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. [15] Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

### 4. According to the passage below, obedience to God is evidence of what? What blessing is given for being obedient to God?

John 14:23-24 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. [24] He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

### 5. According to the passage below, how does God multiply what is done?

Matthew 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.

6. According to the passage below, what were the Israelites doing to God? How? What challenge does God give? What promise is given?

Malachi 3:8-11 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. [9] You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me. [10] Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. [11] I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty.

7. In verse 8, how many times do the words all and every appear? What does God promise to provide in verses 8 and 11? What is the purpose of God's provisions?

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. [7] Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. [8] And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. [9] As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." [10] Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. [11] You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.