

## Lesson #3

# God's Plan After Salvation



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### *Preparation for study*

The only thing that prevents the Holy Spirit from teaching us is our personal sin(s). King David of the Old Testament clearly put it this way:

If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear; (Psalms 66:18).

Therefore, if the Lord cannot hear a believer's prayer due to unconfessed sin in his soul, it follows doctrinally that the Holy Spirit will not teach the individual.

*Here is the solution:*

If we confess [acknowledge] our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness [sins, known or forgotten] (1 John 1:9).

At this point, you may want to pause and acknowledge directly to God any sin that may hinder you from being fully blessed through the Word of God.

### *God's Immediate Command After Salvation - Continued*

#### **Principle 2:** Continued

The prayer to know God and His Word is one that cannot go unanswered. Why am I so sure that God will answer such a prayer? The Bible is the only reliable source to provide the answer.

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him. (1 John 5:14-15).

The key phrase here is, “according to His will.” The compelling question is:

### **Does God want us to know Him?**

Is that His will and eternal plan for the entire human race?

Let us look to Scripture for the answer. The apostle Paul clarified this issue when he declared:

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge [understanding] of the truth [sound Bible doctrine] (1 Timothy 2:3-4).

Therefore, when there is a true hunger for an accurate understanding of the Word of God, God is under obligation to provide it.

**Principle 3:** The physical growth and well-being of the newborn baby depend on what he is being fed.

If he is being fed contaminated milk, the baby will become sick. If this continues, the newborn baby could die as a result of malnutrition. This is the reason why God commands the new convert to crave [have a strong urge for] pure spiritual milk (1 Peter 2:2).

**Principle 4:** Newborn babies are incapable of contributing anything to their family or to society in general. The same is true of new converts in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible views these new believers as potential instruments. When those believers are properly prepared, they will be honorable instruments for God’s work.

### **God uses prepared believers to glorify Himself.**

The apostle Paul had this to say:

Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified [set apart], useful to the Master [God], prepared for every good work (2 Timothy 2:20-21).

From this verse, it is clear that **believers are responsible for the inward renewing of their souls.**

The believers renew their souls by constant exposure to sound teaching of the Word of God.

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2).

**Principle 5:** A baby will always behave like a baby until he starts to grow up.

This concept applies to the new convert. His prayer, witness and attitude toward God and man will reflect his position as a new convert.

God's plan after salvation is that the adult believers make room to accommodate the babies in the Lord Jesus Christ. **Just as parents and older siblings make adjustments for the new baby in the family - so mature believers make adjustments to accommodate baby believers.**

The apostle Paul describes this childish *modus vivendi* (Latin for a "way of thinking") and *modus operandi* (Latin for a "way of doing things") in this way:

When I was a child [new convert], I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man [matured], I did away with childish things (1 Corinthians 13:11).

In summary, NO believer can truly know God (as God intends), pray effectively, witness for Christ properly, love God with an immeasurable love, have an impersonal love (agape love) for all mankind, and glorify God to the maximum without learning and applying sound Bible doctrine on a consistent basis. This is from God's Word and therefore, there is no room for debate.

The importance of learning sound Bible teaching cannot be overemphasized.

For example:

For a believer to pray effectively, he needs to understand God's will.

For him to witness well, he needs to understand the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross.

For the believer to glorify God, he must have a balanced understanding of grace.

All these things come from learning and applying sound Bible teaching. Let us pause to review this doctrine in sequence:

- For a believer to serve God well, he must know God, Whom he endeavors to serve.

- To know God, a believer must make himself available to sound teaching of the Word of God.
- For one to make himself available to the teaching of the Word of God, he must have his priorities straight. Bible doctrine must be on the top of his list.
- And for the believer to make Bible doctrine his first priority in life, he must be willing to make a lot of sacrifices. He must be willing to avoid distractions at all cost.

When these four points are in order, knowing, serving, and glorifying God becomes a reality in the believer's life.

### **Knowledge must come before service.**

Gaining knowledge takes time. The Bible tells us here a little, there a little. We do not grow from babyhood to adulthood in minutes, or days -- but in months and years - growing one day at a time. We do not graduate from school in just a few days - but rather from consistent study year after year. So with your spiritual life. The Bible tells us,

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little.” (Isiah 28:10 NKJ)

Our next lesson will concern gaining that valuable Bible knowledge to “Grow up in your Salvation.” May the Lord bless you and keep you till then.