Biblical Obedience Bible Study

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Biblical Obedience Bible Study- Lesson One

Salvation: Obedience to God according to the Gospel

Introduction: As an introduction, please read the preceding article on Biblical Obedience

The Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. Who is He?

1. The motto of the early Church was "Jesus is Lord." What does the Bible say about the Lord Jesus Christ according to the following passages? (Read John 1:1-18, Isaiah 42:5-9, Psalm 103:1-18, Colossians 1:11-20, Philippians 2:5-11 and Hebrews 1.)

2. Some people argue that Jesus Christ never claims to be God in the Bible. List the ways Jesus makes this claim according to John 4:19-26 ("I Am He,") John 6: 26-35, John 7:37-39, John 8:12, John 8:58, John 10:1-9, John 10:10-11, John 11:20-27, John 14: 1-7, John 15:1-5.

3. Jesus makes a number of "I AM" claims. Where does the Name "I AM" come from and to whom does it refer? (See Exodus 3:11-15). What does this tell us?

4. In John 1:1-18, we are introduced to John the Baptist who was the promised "messenger" prophesied in the Old Testament to prepare the way for the first coming of the Messiah (Malachi 3:1, Isaiah 40:3-5). In John 1:29, he points to Jesus and calls Him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. To what is this designation referring? (Read Exodus 12:1-14 Institution of Passover.) How did Jesus fulfill this picture of Passover?

5. The name of a person in the ancient Near East involved his character. With that understanding, what does "believing on the name of The Lord Jesus Christ" mean?

6. John 1:11 says that The Word (Jesus Christ) came to His own people and the majority of them rejected Him. Considering all the Old Testament prophesies about the coming Deliverer (Messiah/Christ) give reasons the majority of Israel rejected her promised Messiah. (Read some O.T. prophesies: Genesis 3:15 (the conflict of the ages is predicted and the promise of a Redeemer given), Isaiah 53:10-11 (fulfilled at the death of Christ on the cross), Genesis 12:3 (Galatians 3:6-8), Genesis 49:10 (Revelation 5:5-10, Lion of the tribe of Judah), Deuteronomy 18:15-18 (Acts 3:18-22,), Isaiah 7:14 (Immanuel means "God with us" fulfilled in Matthew 1:23,) Isaiah 9:6-7 (Luke 2:10-11, Revelation 19:11-16), Zechariah 9:9 (John 12:12-19) just to name a very few). Why did the Jews reject Jesus? Why does mankind today reject Jesus Christ? See Romans 1:18-23, Romans 9:30-33, John 12:42-43.

7. After reading all the Bible verses in today's lesson, who do you say Jesus Christ is?

   Brief commentary

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Why do we need a Savior?

1. What is man's problem according to the following passages: Read Romans 1, Isaiah 53:5-6, Romans 3:21-26, Romans 6:23?

2. Give a definition of the word sin from the dictionary.

3. When did mankind inherit the fallen sin nature? See Genesis 4:8-16, Genesis 5:1-3 (difference between God's perfect image and man's corrupted or broken image transmitted to the following generations).

4. Give several examples of sin from the following texts in the Bible: Romans 1:18-21, Ephesians 4:25-32, Exodus 20:1-17, Matthew 5:21-22, 5:27-28, 5:43-45, Matthew 15:18.

5. Read Matthew 5-7 (Jesus Christ's Sermon on the Mount). After reading these three chapters how would you say you measure up to God's standard of perfection? (Do not be discouraged, but study the next lesson to see what God has done for us in Christ).

   Brief commentary

God's Solution to the problem of sin—the Good News of the Gospel

1. The work of Christ on the cross was prophesied in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament. Why did Christ need to go to the cross, and what did He accomplish? Read Isaiah 53:4-6, Daniel 9:24-26, Isaiah 61:10, John 3:16, Romans 5:6-10, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, and Luke 15:22-24.

2. John 1:13 tells us that we cannot be "not born of blood" (that is we can't inherit salvation because one or both of our parents were Christians) "nor of the will of flesh" (I can't get rid of my old nature and become a child of God by my own power or determination—like trying to keep New Year's resolutions) "nor of the will of man" (someone else cannot determine that I can become a child of God) but "of God" (when we believe and receive Christ as our Lord and Savior, it is God who makes us a new creation in Christ—1 Corinthians 5:17) It is His free gift (Ephesians 2:8-9). What does this tell us about the necessity of God's work in us?

3. Isaiah 40:3 states "Prepare the way for the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our GOD." This is speaking of the first coming of the Messiah (Jesus Christ) as a baby born in the likeness of man and fulfilled in the N.T. in Luke 2:10-11. Read Luke 2:10-11 with Isaiah 9:6-7, Acts 10:36 (Lord of all), 1 Corinthians 2:8 (Lord of Glory), Revelation 19:16 (Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords) and finally in John 20:26-29 when the Bible declares Him "My Lord and My God." Since Jesus is our Savior, our Lord and our God, what does it mean to make Him Lord of our lives? In what ways have you shown, by your obedience, that He is Lord of your life?

4. According to Ephesians 1:13-14 when are we sealed by the Holy Spirit for eternity? (We will study the doctrine of the Holy Spirit in the next lesson and see all the ways He is active in the life of a Christian)

   Brief commentary

How does a person receive Christ?

1. What are we to believe about Christ and about ourselves before we choose to “receive Him”? From all the previous Scripture verses as well as Romans 10:8-11 and 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

2. According to John 1:12, John 6:28-29 and Revelation 3:20, how are we to respond in obedience to God regarding His free gift of salvation in Jesus Christ?

3. If you have believed the truth about Jesus Christ and invited Him into your life, what assurance does God give you in 1 John 5:11-13?

Brief commentary

Biblical Obedience Bible Study—Lesson Two

Sanctification: Obedience to Christ as a Disciple

Introduction: Definition of Disciple: A disciple is a learner or one who receives instruction from another, one who is a follower or an adherent to the doctrines of another. In the case of the Christian, it is a person who has become a follower of Jesus Christ. Knowing the doctrines (body of teaching of God's revealed Word) following in loving obedience by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit and serving God when and where He calls us is the beginning of the process of sanctification. The word sanctification is used as both a noun and a verb and means: "one who is set apart for God's use" and to be made "holy." There are several parts to discipleship that help us to grow in our faith in Christ and our walk with Him in the Holy Spirit. In Romans 8:28-30, the Bible tells us, "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory." As we grow in Christ and in the knowledge of His Word, our character will be changed to become like the character of Christ. This is not something we can accomplish in our own power, but by His Spirit. Both our character and our service to God are by His leading and empowering. However, we are responsible, in loving obedience, to apply the Word to our lives and experience God's supernatural power to live out the life of Christ in us and His supernatural power for service. Being set apart for God does not mean everyone is called into full-time Christian service, but wherever God has placed us whether in our educational pursuits, our career, or in the home, God has a plan for us. Once a person receives Christ, it is important to begin to study the Word of God to understand all that God has planned for us to know Him, to follow Him and to serve Him. In John 8:31, Jesus said, "If you abide in My words, you are My disciples indeed."

True discipleship is getting to know Jesus and growing in our relationship with Him. In John 10:14, 16 Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me…They will listen to my voice." If you are a born again Christian (John 3), you will be excited to learn to follow Jesus wherever He leads you and to carry out His plans. He has allowed us the privilege of partnership with Him in carrying out His plan for the world.

Many new Christians realize salvation means receiving Christ, depending on God's power to transfer us into His kingdom of life. However, often then they begin to try and carry out this relationship building in their own strength. Discipleship cannot be accomplished in our own strength. Therefore, the first part of this lesson will deal with the doctrine of the Holy Spirit and how He works in the life of a believer. We will be covering several aspects of discipleship including the study of God's Word—the Bible, Prayer and meditation, Power of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian, Fellowship with believers (Church) and Finances.

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit – Read Ephesians 1:13-14

1. According to these verses, when does a believer receive the Holy Spirit? Also read John 14:15-18, John 14:25-26, 2 Corinthians 1:22, Romans 8:9 and Revelation 3:20.

2. Can we "lose" the Holy Spirit? Why or why not? Also read Romans 8:9, Romans 8:31-39, John 3:16, Philippians 1:6, John 10:27-30, John 14:16-18 for further information.

3. How did the Holy Spirit operate differently in the Old Testament? See an example in 1 Samuel 15:1-29, 1 Samuel 16:1-14, Judges 16:20 and 1 Samuel 2:29-3:21.

4. Read Psalm 51. Why did David think God might remove His Holy Spirit from him?

5. What Old Testament prophesies spoke of a new way the Holy Spirit would work in the future? See Joel 2:28-29, Jeremiah 31:31-33, Ezekiel 36:26-27, and Ezekiel 37.

6. How was this new method of the Holy Spirit's work manifested at Pentecost (The birthday of the Church)? See John 14:15-17 and Acts 2.

7. How does the Holy Spirit work today in the life of a believer? (See John 14-16 and Galatians 5:16-23 for examples.)

8. Can a person grieve or resist (referred to as *quenching*) the Holy Spirit? See Ephesians 4:12-32, 1 Thessalonians 5:19. What is the difference between grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit and what are the results?

9. What does a person need to do when they have grieved or quenched the Holy Spirit? See 1 John 1:9.

10. In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit helping you to overcome sin or empowering you to serve God?

Bible Study

It is very important to study the Word of God for ourselves personally and then to share this with another Christian or with a small group. God speaks to us personally through His Word and through other Christians. Always pray for the Holy Spirit's insight into the Word before you study it.

1. The Bible is the Written Word of God and Jesus Christ is the Word of God expressed in human form (Revelation 19:11-13). Why is it important to know the Truth of God's Word and how can we apply it according to Deuteronomy 8:3b, 1 Peter 1:20-21, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:17?

2. Can you share how God's Spirit has impressed you in teaching, conviction, correction or encouragement from your study of the Word of God?

3. In what ways have you used the Word of God in spiritual battles? (See example of Jesus in Matthew 4.)

4. Are you willing to ask God to give you several Christians to form a small weekly Bible study group?

Prayer and meditation

1. Prayer is simply speaking to God and listening to Him. For an example, link to: Principles of Prayer. What does Jesus say about prayer according to Matthew 6:8-13, John 14:12-13, John 15:7-11, John 16:23-24, Matthew 7:7? What promises from God are in these passages?

2. How does the Bible tell us to pray in Philippians 4:4-7? James 4:2-3?

3. What does the Bible say about meditation according to Joshua 1:8, and what promise from God does it carry? What does Psalm 1 say about meditation and what promise accompanies it? (Meditation merely means to dwell on anything in thought—therefore, to think about a passage of Scripture and consider its meaning and application).

Fellowship of Christians (The Church)

1. The Day of Pentecost was the birthday of the Church. This was the day the Holy Spirit came to live within each person who received Christ. Peter explains this day in Acts 2 with the first Christian sermon. Read Acts2:14-42. These first 3,000 people along with the 120 in the upper room formed the first Christian group. The Church met in homes. What do verses 41-42 tell us took place?

2. Do you have a place where you can fellowship together with other Christians to learn more of God's Word and to pray together?

3. According to Hebrews 10:24-25, what is the purpose for meeting together in Christian fellowship?

Finances

1. God's ownership, provisions and promises: Read 1 Chronicles 29:11-14, Psalm 24:1, Psalm 50:10-12, Haggai 2:8 and Philippians 4:19. What do these verses tell us about the true ownership of all our possessions and what God's promise is to us?

2. God calls us to be good stewards of all He has given us. What is our responsibility as a steward according to 1 Corinthians 4:2 and Luke 16:10-13?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 3:12-15, Romans 14:10-12. Do our actions, attitudes and the quality of our work count for eternity? What part does the Holy Spirit play in this? How should this truth impact the way we use our time, talent, money, etc.?

Biblical Obedience Bible Study- Lesson Three

Service and spiritual gifts: Obedience to God in service

Introduction: One of the most exciting things that can happen to a Christian is to experience God using him or her in a particular God-called work of service. When God calls us to a work, He has prepared for us, He also promises to empower us. The first time God called me to give a 45-minute lecture before 350 people, He did not miraculously give me the ability to give a lecture. He had another person teach me how to put a lecture together. I spent 50 hours in prayer, study and writing. I was in agony. I gave the lecture first to my cat, who just yawned. I was devastated. When it came time for my friend to introduce me before the group, I had a "nervous stomach" and my legs felt like jelly. The presentation hall was full, and I saw my Area Advisor come in with a notebook to "critique" my first lecture. However, the moment I stepped up to speak, all of those feelings went away. I was barely aware of the next 45 minutes, and I had a great response from several people. What I experienced was the Holy Spirit taking over to empower me to do what God had called me to do. I immediately thought, "As long as He does the empowering, I can do this, but if He quits, I quit." This principle of learning to follow and depend on Jesus day by day helped me keep my priorities straight (mostly) over the next 36 years of service. I learned how to follow Jesus and depend on Him for the service He called me to do. Once we learn how God empowers His servants, it is much easier to obey His leading and calling into His particular plan of service. In John 15:5 Jesus said, "I Am the vine, you are the branches. If a man abides in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me, you can do nothing." I learned that truth in my first week of stepping out in obedience to His call. Most of us will not be called into full-time Christian service, but will be called to serve wherever God has placed us. This becomes a matter of prayer and listening for His leading. Remember, God has a plan for your life that He prepared before the foundation of the world for you to "walk in" (Ephesians 2:10, Jeremiah 29:11). He has a magnificent plan for people, and especially for those who respond to Him (John 1:12). Our part is to seek Him and to learn how each of us fits into His "Great Plan."

What is a servant of God?

1. Define the word "servant" from a dictionary.

2. Biblical servanthood is different from the world's view of a servant. God is the one who empowers the servant to do the work (although we provide the willingness to obey Him). He has given each individual Christian the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit to lead us and empower us. He has also given us (His followers) spiritual gifts to help each other and to enable us to carry out the work for which He has called us.

3. A spiritual gift, or number of gifts, is given by Holy Spirit to every Christian to enable the Christian to carry out a particular ministry (either in the church community or outside of the church community). The majority of the gifts Jesus gives are listed in Ephesians 4:7-13, 1 Corinthians 12, and Romans 12. It is important for every Christian to seek to know his/her gifts and pray for God's direction in using them to accomplish His purposes.

The gifts of the Spirit are not to be confused with the "fruit of the Spirit" listed in Galatians 5:22-23. The fruit of the Spirit helps define what a Christian is (being) while the gifts define what a Christian does

(doing). People who know their spiritual gifts have a better understanding of their spiritual job description. There are many spiritual gifts tests online. ISI can direct you to some.

The Spiritual Gifts

1. Read Ephesians 4:7, 11-16. What types of gifts are given to Christians?

2. According to Ephesians 4:12-14, what does Paul say is the purpose of spiritual gifts?

3. What gifts are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:1-13?

4. What is their purpose according to 1 Corinthians 12:7 and 12:12-30?

5. Does everyone in the body of Christ (the church community) have the same gifts?

6. What does Paul say is the greater gift according to 1 Corinthians 14:1-5 and why?

7. How does the Bible say we are to carry out these gifts according to 1 Corinthians 13?

8. What gifts are listed in Romans 12:1-8?

9. Do you know what Spiritual Gifts the Lord has given you?

10. In what areas have you used your spiritual gifts for God's service and to His glory?

Knowing Truth

1. According to Ephesians 4:14-16, what is the importance of knowing the *truth*?

2. How well do you know and apply truth, or the teachings of Scripture (the Bible)?

3. What can you do to learn more about truth?

4. What is Christ's goal for the church according to Ephesians 4:15-16?

5. Truth must be based on God's written Word and not on a person's opinion. God's love in our hearts is the motive for all our actions in building up the body of Christ (helping other Christians grow and serve). Read 1 Corinthians, chapter 13 and Galatians 5:22-23. According to these verses, define the different aspects of love.

6. How have you seen Christ's love flow through you and out to others?

7. Referring back to the original article on Biblical Obedience, service to God in His power is only from a willing heart. God does not force us to obey. Have you ever experienced a "call" from God to a particular service or work? Did you obey or refuse? What were the results?

From your study above, describe in your own words what you believe/have discovered about:

1. The Deeper Meaning of Servanthood

2. The Attitudes and Actions of Servanthood

Biblical Obedience Bible Study – Lesson Four

Surrender: Obedience to God in our mind (thinking) and in the midst of "trials" (problems)

Introduction: The Bible's Book of Numbers, Chapters 13-14 describes the plan of God to send Israel into Canaan to possess the land. Moses sent out 12 spies, including Joshua and Caleb, to assess the situation and prepare to carry out God's leading and plan. The nation had experienced miracle after miracle from God in their deliverance from Egypt and their direction and provision while traveling across the desert. However, when the spies checked out the land, their focus was on the size of the people (giants lived there) and the cities and on their inadequacy (smallness). Only two of the twelve believed God would give them the power and the victory to do what He asked. Those two were Joshua and Caleb. The rest refused to obey God and turned the heart of the people to fear, saying it couldn't be done. This disobedience led to Israel wandering in the desert for 40 years until that disobedient generation died. Then God called Joshua and Caleb to lead the new (and obedient) generation into the Promised Land.

Joshua and Caleb exhibited the kind of obedience God is looking for in His children. In their trust of God's character, purpose and plans, they chose to believe God could and would give them the victory even when the situation appeared impossible. Therefore, these two men chose to step out in faith and obey God's leading and plan. What was the difference in the thinking of Joshua and Caleb compared to the other 10 men who went with them to assess the situation? Joshua and Caleb focused on the character and faithfulness of God. They had already experienced God's great power and provision in each situation after their deliverance from Pharaoh and his armies. However, the other 10 men had their focus on themselves and their circumstances (situation). They were terrified by the "giants" in the land and refused to obey God and move forward. The important thing is where we place our focus—our belief about God and His directions and His character.

Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed "impossible" to you, but you knew God was asking you to do it? What was your experience? What causes us to choose to trust God and step out in obedience in the adventure of life and faith or to choose to refuse to obey Him out of fear? The "lies" in our thinking? What we believe about God—about His character and His attributes. Is God really good? Is He all powerful? Can He really do the impossible as His Word tells us? Does He really love us and work all things to our good? Will He work in spite of our limitations? Does He really have a plan that He prepared before the foundation of the world for each of us to carry out? Will He give us the supernatural power to do it? Do we really believe that He will answer our prayers in the best possible way in His perfect timing for His purpose and our joy?

We can have a lot of "head knowledge" and facts about God, but until we choose to pray, to trust Him and then step out in obedient faith to His leading, we will never experience that He can and will do all He promises to do. There are over 800 promises from God in the Bible. I can look back at some of the ways I prayed as a new follower of Jesus Christ and the experiences God gave me as I trusted His Word and obeyed His leading. What an incredible adventure. I wanted the promise of the "abundant life" Jesus promised in John 10 and I asked Him for it. Then I kept a prayer journal (record) with my requests and all the ways He has answered those over the past three decades. God's power is available. He does do the impossible. His love is real and He is always faithful. Most of what is accomplished for God through His children is a result of the time we spend in prayer.

There are two important issues if we are to become all God wants us to be and accomplish all He has planned for us. The first issue has to do with the mind—what we choose to think and what we choose to believe about Him. The second is the issue of the will (our decisions)—will I choose God's will or my will?

My daily prayer for many years has been that God would make my will the same as His will. I choose to submit my will to Him because I "know" (Biblically and experientially) that His will for me is much better than I can think or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). We have no idea regarding all that God has planned for us, but He allows us to choose to follow His way or our own way. People often reject ideas like submission, surrender, and obedience. Independence from God and self-direction are much more popular. However, to those who know God these concepts and actions are what transform our lives and our world.

Obedience to God in our thinking – 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

1. Read Romans 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Galatians 5:13-14, Ephesians 3:20-21,then give some of the reasons why God asks us to submit to His will rather than choosing our own.
2. Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. What kind of warfare is being spoken of here? How are we to fight these battles in order to win (see verses 3 and 4 as well as Ephesians 6:1-12)? What are some of the ways you think or believe that you try to hide from God? What are some of the thoughts or attitudes that you do not want to let go of?
3. What we believe to be true about God is the most important thing for victory in the battle for our mind (thoughts and attitudes). Do you believe God will give you victory over the wrong attitudes and choices in your life? What kind of "thoughts" hinder you from obeying God? (For example you may believe that you will lose what you really want by obeying God, or you may feel that your own limitations will interfere with your obedience, etc).
4. What do you believe would happen if you applied these verses and other promises of God to the problems of your attitudes, actions and behavior?
5. The word "stronghold" refers to wrong or evil thinking in our mind which result in wrong attitudes that lead us to wrong actions which produce difficult problems or destructive habits in our lives. This is where the "battle for the mind" takes place. This is also where Satan speaks his lies and encourages wrong thinking patterns. Ask God to help you identify any "spiritual strongholds" in your own thinking and attitudes. Can you identify any strongholds in your life?
6. We have looked at "weapons of our warfare" and at "strongholds." Now consider the phrase, "We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God." People who do not believe in God think that they can "reason things out" and they pride themselves in the idea that they do not need God. Wrong thinking leads us to trust in ourselves instead of in God. We often believe that what is wrong in us isn't very important and we continue to choose doing those things. Can you identify any "lies" you are choosing to believe in your life? Ask God to help you understand His truth about this and to help you to change your attitudes and actions.
7. What does the phrase "we capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ" mean? How do you believe Joshua and Caleb did this and had the victory and the courage to move forward in obedience to God's direction?
8. What are some thoughts you have had that you know are wrong and destructive to you or others?
9. For over 30 years I had a good friend with whom I could share my "thinking errors", but that friend died two years ago and I can no longer share my inner thoughts with her. I have been asking God for a new "accountability partner" (someone to share my deepest thoughts with). Do you have such a person in your life? If not, is there someone you trust that you could begin to share your thoughts with and ask them to kindly challenge you on any wrong thinking or attitude that they see in you? If you do not have someone like that, ask God to bring that person into your life. It will make a big difference because we often fool ourselves and think that our thoughts are always right.

Principle: We act on what we believe to be true, but if we "rationalize" or create truth in our own minds we can fail to see and believe God's truth as revealed in the Bible. If we want to avoid making wrong choices in our lives we must understand and follow ("believe") God's Truth that is written in the Bible. The solution to our problem is to correct our "thinking" (mindset) and to choose to obey God's Truth.

Illustration: Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 14:1-9)

Application: Until we understand the issues in the battle for our mind, we will never learn to surrender our will in obedience to Christ and all He wants to accomplish in our lives. Is Jesus Christ the Lord of your thought life? Can you identify any spiritual battles have you won over wrong thinking patterns or wrong habits in your life?

The meaning of submission (surrender) to God's will

Introduction: Before we can choose and act in the right way we need to know and believe the right truth, the Truth of God's Word. The next step is to accept the Truth of God's Word (the Bible) and apply it to all our life circumstances and decisions. Often people think that God's will (and guidance) will be bad for us, and that He will take all the pleasure and fun out of life. But the truth is that God's will is far more interesting (and satisfying) because He is helping you to become who you were created to be and to do the things that bring great satisfaction and joy in your life. In Ephesians 3:20 the Bible says, "Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us [God's Holy Spirit in us], to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Wow! What an amazing statement. Most of us have great ideas about what we think will work, but God gives us the right ideas when we are willing to ask Him and follow His plans and purposes. They are often things we never thought of and are far better than anything we could have imagined.

1. a. The definition of "volition" is the power or ability to take an action—to make a personal choice or decision. Knowing what to do, but refusing to take the right action still leads to failure. Read Romans 12:1-2. What action does verse 1 ask us to take and how do we do this?

   b. In what way is that your "spiritual worship"?

   c. How do we renew our minds?

2. It has been said that the trouble with "living sacrifices" is that they keep trying to get off the altar. What action steps can we take to prevent this? Read Romans 12, Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-32, Ephesians 5:17-21.

3. Ephesians 5:18 tells us to choose to be filled with God's Spirit. What actions can we take in order to be filled with the Spirit?

4. In Ephesians 1:13-14 we are told that we received the Holy Spirit the moment we believed and received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We were "sealed" with the Holy Spirit for eternity. What is the difference between being "sealed" with the Holy Spirit and being "filled" with the Holy Spirit? Read 1 John 1:7-9, 2 Corinthians 7:1, Romans 6:11-13, Romans 4:20-22 and Psalm 139:23-24.

5. What action steps can you take today to apply these verses so that you may be "filled" with the Holy Spirit? Is this based on "feeling" or faith?

Surrender of the will in obedience to Christ in the midst of suffering

Introduction: There is a principle that "Faith that can't be tested, can't be trusted." Read Job, Chapters 1 and 2.

1. Why do you think Job's faith was so severely tested? Read Job 42:1-6.
2. Read Romans 8:18-31. What is God's purpose for you according to Romans 8:29?
3. How are we to respond when we go through times of suffering (read James 1:2-4)?
4. What does God accomplish during this time and what promise does He give us (see 1 Corinthians 10:13)?