

BIBLE STUDY:

**GUIDE FOR SPIRITUAL
GROWTH FOR EVERY
CHRISTIAN**

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GUIDE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH FOR EVERY CHRISTIAN BIBLE STUDY

➤ Index

1. Responsibility
2. Be more like Christ
3. Comfort
4. Confession
5. Consequences
6. Courage
7. Death
8. Deceit
9. Decisions
10. Depression
11. Desire
12. Doubt
13. Example
14. Faith
15. Loyalty
16. False Hope
17. Fear
18. Forgiveness
19. Grace
20. Guiltiness
21. Habits
22. Healing
23. Hope
24. Justice
25. Loneliness
26. Love
27. Mercy
28. Mistakes
29. Obedience
30. Patience
31. Peace
32. Perseverance
33. Praise
34. Prayer
35. God's Presence
36. Promises
37. Repentance
38. Rest
39. Salvation
40. Self-esteem
41. Spiritual war
42. Suffering
43. Affection
44. Temptation
45. Gratefulness
46. Problem
47. Trust
48. Truth
49. Understanding
50. Values
51. God's will
52. Word of God
53. Word of God
54. Worship

RESPONSIBILITY

1. How can I be more responsible?

*Psalm 1:1 (New King James Version)-Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;*

Proverbs 27:6- Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

- ◆ To be more responsible, follow the path that God gives you through His commandments written in the Bible (His Word) and choose wise men for friends in whom you can trust and confess issues concerning you.

Proverbs 12:15- The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise.

- ◆ NOTE: God's advice and the advice of good friends in Christ can separate us from actions that can bring us problems and cause us so much pain.

2. How can we choose trustworthy people to whom we can confide our very selves?

*Proverbs 10:32 -The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable,
But the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.*

- ◆ The best counselors are those who walk closely devoted to Christ.

3. How can I effectively hold someone responsible for their actions?

Titus 1:6-9 - if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. ⁷ For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, ⁹ holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

- ◆ If we are going to minister others holding them responsible, we have to be wise, honest, devoted to God, and trustworthy.

4. Do we have to give God count of all our actions?

Jude 1:4 -For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

- ◆ Rejoice and enjoy life, but keep yourself under God's limits. God will hold us responsible for our actions. Who wants to explain bad and ungodly things to a Holy God on judgment day?

GOD'S PROMISE:

Psalm 119:9 -How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

Psalm 119:66 -Teach me good judgment and knowledge, For I believe your commandments.

BEING MORE LIKE CHRIST

1. How is it possible that we are able to be or live like Christ?

Romans 8:9 (New King James Version) -But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

1 Corinthians 1:30 -But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

- ❖ **Wisdom** –For our benefit, God made Christ wisdom itself, Christ is the wisdom.
- ❖ **Justification**– Jesus is the only one who enables us to be accepted before God.
- ❖ **Sanctification** –Jesus makes us pure and holy.
- ❖ **Redemption** –Jesus gave himself to buy our freedom.

- ◆ By ourselves we cannot hope to live like Christ because we are not capable of this, but when it is the Spirit of Christ who controls ours lives then it is possible.

2. ¿How then can we develop the Spirit of Christ in us?

2 Corinthians 3:18b -... are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- ◆ As the Spirit of the Lord works within us we will be more and more like him. As we allow Christ to control our inner life, so he controls the outward expression of the inner self in our lives.

1 Corinthians 1:2b -... called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

1 Corinthians 6:11 - And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

- ◆ We are made more like Christ by simply believing in Him.

John 17:17 - Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

- ☞ What Jesus is saying is: *Father make them pure, deliver them from evil. Separate them for yourself (Holiness) teaching them Your Word.*

- ◆ NOTE: We grow to be like Christ when we constantly learn the truth of the Bible and live by it.

2 Corinthians 7:1 – Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

- ❖ **Answer:** Let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can taint or corrupt and deceive our body or spirit.
We will become more like Christ just as we surrender ourselves more to Him.

Romans 12:1-2 - ¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- ◆ As believers, there's something we have to do and this is that we have to surrender our bodies to God. This takes a sacrifice on our part. Out on the world we have money to reach the so called "happiness" that the outside world offers and which at the end brings us so much pain. Now the sacrifice is to please God. This sacrifice brings us true happiness and joy even though we don't always receive it from our fellow man to which we've done well.

3. How can we hope to become more like Christ?

- ❖ **Answer:** By ourselves it is impossible since we are sinners, but we can give our bodies to Christ as an offering and a living sacrifice before Him and He will help us to have a Christ-like behavior.

1 John 2:3 - *Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.*

- ◆ NOTE: This in turn becomes a test of our faith in Christ. Are we living the way He wants us to live? Are we living a Christ-like life?

-If we are living this way, then this means that Christ lives in us.
-If we are not living like Christ, then it means that Christ is not in us.

GOD'S PROMISE:

John 3:2 – This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

COMFORT

1. When I'm in trouble, Where should I go first to find comfort?

Psalm 119:52 – *I remembered Your judgments of old, O LORD, and have comforted myself.*

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 – *Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.*

- ❖ **ANSWER:** First, we have to come to God through prayer and the reading of His Word. God is the fountain of solace and consolation. His Word is power and in His Word we will find the help and hope we need. The Word of God is at our fingertips. God himself is so close to us that we can disclose to him our most intimate secret in prayer.

2. How does God give us comfort?

Matthew 5:4 – *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

- ◆ Comfort when we suffer.

Psalm 147:3 – *He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*

- ◆ Comfort when we are discouraged.

Psalm 145:14 – *The LORD upholds all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down.*

- ◆ Comfort when we are afflicted.

John 16:33 – *“...These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”*

- ◆ Comfort when we are persecuted.

John 6:37 – *All that the Father gives to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.*

- ◆ Comfort when we are rejected.

Psalm 138:3 – *In the day when I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul.*

- ◆ Comfort in the midst of conflict.

Psalm 23:4 – *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

- ◆ Comfort when we are afraid.

Psalm 41:3 – *The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed.*

- ◆ Comfort when we are sick.

Romans 8:28 – *And we know that all things work for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

- ◆ Comfort when we try to know our future plans.

3. How can we comfort others?

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 –*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*

- ◆ NOTE: The comforted becomes the comforter.
This is the work God has given us, that as He comforts us in times of trouble, we comfort others.

GOD'S PROMISE:

1 Peter 5:7 –... *casting all cares upon Him, for He cares for you.*

CONFESSION

1. To whom can we confess our sins, to God or others?

Psalm 32:6 – *For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him.*

- ◆ NOTE: We confess the sin to God first, because only God can forgive sin.

James 5:16 – *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

- ◆ NOTE: Respectively, there can be healing if we confess to each other, if they take time to pray for you to support you and give you encouragement as you are restored. It is also important to confess our sins to those who we hurt.

2. Does God really forgive our sins when we confess them to Him?

Psalm 32:5 – *I acknowledge my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah*

1 John 1:9 – *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

- ◆ With sin also comes the feeling of guilt. This is part of the burden imposed by sin. Confession is an act of acknowledging those sins before God so that He can forgive us.

3. At the end, everyone shall confess Christ as Lord; but will it be too late for some to receive His forgiveness?

Philippians 2:10-11 – *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Revelation 20:15 – *And everyone not found in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

- ◆ NOTE: One day everyone will bow down and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, but how sad will it be to make this confession when we finally acknowledge the unavoidable truth the Jesus Christ is truly Lord and we never accepted Him for what He is.

GOD'S PROMISE:

Romans 10:9 - *...That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*