

# **Growing in Grace and Knowledge of the Lord**

by

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# Growing in Grace and Knowledge of the Lord

We welcome you to this series of Bible studies. These lessons are designed to help Christians grow and be strong in the Lord. They are based on the Bible as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission by, “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you” (Mt. 28:20).

After one has obeyed the gospel, he is added to the Lord’s church (Acts 2:47). As a member of the church, one is a babe in Christ and must learn what his responsibilities to Christ are. Peter said, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Pet. 2:2). One must really want to learn and grow!

Please take your Bible, look up the Scriptures listed, fill in the blanks where called for, and answer any questions. Remember that when you first obeyed the gospel your past sins were forgiven, but, if one is to be saved eternally, he must, as Peter said:

**“Grow in the grace, and in the knowledge  
of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:18).**

As you study these lessons, if you have any questions or comments, write them down so you can remember to mention them at the right time. Write your name on your material as you will want to keep it for further study.

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Name

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Date and Place of Study

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# Growing in Grace and Knowledge of the Lord

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### **A Suggestion As To The Use Of This Material:**

1. One teacher for each lesson would be helpful to the new Christian as he is exposed to thirteen teachers soon after his conversion. The class could be conducted in the home of the new Christian, the teacher's home, or at the church building.
2. A class study on Sunday or Wednesday at the church building where there is a group to study the material.
3. This material is also designed for **seasoned** Christians to study, to help prepare them to conduct the class for others.

## First Things First

### Introduction

1. After a person has obeyed the gospel, he is then called upon to put first things first.
  - a. Jesus said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Mt. 6:33).
  - b. Every Christian needs to memorize this passage and seek to understand it. Read the context of this passage and realize that Jesus wants us to put first things first (Mt. 6:25-34).
2. Let’s study and see if we can learn just what it means to put first things first.

### Discussion

#### I. **One First Gives Himself To The Lord**

- A. When you obey the gospel, you are no longer your own.
  1. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_. For ye are \_\_\_\_\_ with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”
  2. Remember that you were purchased with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 1:18-19).
- B. The Corinthians were told how the churches of Macedonia put first things first.
  1. 2 Corinthians 8:5 “And this they did, not as we hoped, but \_\_\_\_\_ gave their own \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.”
  2. These Christians went beyond what Paul had hoped for. They realized the importance of first giving their own selves to the Lord.
- C. Other things will come easier, if we will first of all give ourselves to the Lord.

#### II. **A Willing Mind Is Required**

- A. 2 Corinthians 8:12 “For if there be \_\_\_\_\_ a willing \_\_\_\_\_, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.”
- B. God has always required that His people have a willing mind.
  1. Look what God required of His people when He wanted them to give for the building of the tabernacle in the Old Testament. “Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a \_\_\_\_\_ heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold, and silver, and brass” (Ex. 35:5).
  2. As David charged his son, Solomon, in regards to the building of the temple, he said, “And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a \_\_\_\_\_: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts:

if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever” (1 Chr. 28:9).

C. Whatever we do in serving God, God wants us to do it with a willing mind!

### III. **Cleanse First The Inside**

A. In obeying the gospel, one purifies his soul (1 Pet. 1:22).

B. The inside must be kept clean.

1. In rebuking the Pharisees, Jesus said, “Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse \_\_\_\_\_ that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also” (Mt. 23:26).

2. Read the context of this passage and you can understand what the Pharisees were doing.

C. Paul told Timothy, “keep thyself pure” (1 Tim. 5:22), and he told the Philippians to \_\_\_\_\_ on pure things (Phil. 4:8).

### IV. **First Cast Out The Beam Out Of Thine Own Eye**

A. Many see everyone’s faults but their own!

B. Read Matthew 7:3-5.

1. What is a beam? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is a mote? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Jesus say do first and why? \_\_\_\_\_

### V. **First Be Reconciled To Thy Brother**

A. From time to time brethren disagree. Each of us must strive, “as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men” (Rom. 12:18).

B. Open your Bible to Matthew 5:21-26. As you read this passage, you can see what must first be done when your brother has aught against you. Jesus said, “Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; \_\_\_\_\_ be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift” (Mt. 5:24).

C. God will not accept our worship when we are at odds with our brother.

### VI. **That First Of All Prayers Be Made For All Men**

A. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, \_\_\_\_\_, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in \_\_\_\_\_; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”

B. Perhaps, if more prayers were offered for those in high places, and less criticism, this would be a better place to live.

### VII. **He First Findeth His Own Brother**

A. After learning the truth of the gospel, we need to find others and share the truth with

them. We are saved to save.

1. 2 Timothy 2:2 “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to \_\_\_\_\_ others also.”
  2. 1 Timothy 4:16 “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both \_\_\_\_\_ thyself, and them that hear thee.”
- B. Each of us needs to be an Andrew. Read John 1:40-42. After Andrew heard of Jesus and followed Him, what was the first thing that he did? \_\_\_\_\_

### VIII. Seeking First The Kingdom Of God And His Righteousness

- A. Read Matthew 6:25-34.
- B. What is the kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_
- C. What is God’s righteousness? \_\_\_\_\_
- D. What it means to seek first the kingdom.
  1. Attending regularly.
    - a. The Lord expects His people to attend the services of the church faithfully.
    - b. Hebrews 10:25
    - c. We need to work things out so we can attend every service.
  2. Giving purposely and liberally.
    - a. God demands that His people give with purpose and as one is prospered.
    - b. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Acts 20:35; Luke 6:38
  3. Studying often.
    - a. God expects us to know and to know requires study.
    - b. 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11; Revelation 1:3
  4. Being zealous in church work.
    - a. Jesus gave Himself to purchase a zealous people (Ti. 2:14).
    - b. First Christians were stedfast and zealous.
    - c. Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Corinthians 9:2
  5. Taking time for God.
    - a. It takes time to be holy.
    - b. Psalm 90:12; Ephesians 5:16
    - c. It is easy to let time slip away - even an entire life - doing things which do not contribute to our spiritual welfare.

### Conclusion

1. There is no finer time to begin putting first things first than when you first obey the gospel.
2. By putting first things first, one will grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.