

## Week 1:

### The Wheel Diagram:

The wheel illustrates the Christ-centered life. Through the study you will be



looking at the different parts of this wheel and discovering both areas of weakness and strength in your Christian life. As we each mature spiritually, these different areas of our lives will grow and conform us more to the likeness of Christ. **As you study, be open to what areas of your walk with Christ that need to be dealt with in order to be all that God wants you to be.**

**The key to living a victorious, Spirit-filled Christian life is Jesus Christ as Center and Lord of all we do. With Christ in control, life is balanced and effective. The Wheel illustrates this Christ-centered life.**

**CHRIST THE CENTER:** Gal. 2:20; John 15:4; Col. 1:27

**OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST:** John 14:21; Rom. 12:1-2; Luke 6:46

**THE WORD:** I Peter 2:2,11 Tim. 3:16-17; Joshua 1:8

**PRAYER:** Matt. 7:7; Phil. 4:6-7; John 15:7

**FELLOWSHIP:** Matt. 18:20; Heb. 10:24; I John 1:3

**WITNESSING:** Matt. 4:19; Rom. 1:16; I Peter 3:15

Just as the driving force in a wheel comes from the hub, so the power to live the Christian life comes from Jesus Christ the Center. He lives in us in the Person of the Holy Spirit, whose expressed purpose is to glorify Christ. The rim represents the Christian responding to Christ's Lordship through wholehearted, day-by-day obedience to Him.

The spokes show the means by which Christ's power becomes operative in our lives. We maintain personal contact with God through the vertical spokes—the Word and prayer.

**The Word** is our spiritual food as well as our sword for spiritual battle. It is the foundational spoke for effective Christian living.

Opposite this is the spoke representing **Prayer**. Through prayer we have direct communication with our heavenly Father and receive provision for our needs. As we pray, we show our dependence upon and trust in Him.

The horizontal spokes concern our relationship to people—believers through Christian fellowship and unbelievers through witnessing. **Fellowship** centered around the Lord Jesus

Christ provides the mutual encouragement, admonition, and stimulation we all need. The first three spokes prepare us for passing on to others all that we have received from the Lord. This is accomplished through **Witnessing**, sharing our own experience of Christ and declaring and explaining the Gospel, God's power to save.

### Group Discussion Questions:

- What are you hoping to gain from this study?
- Which spoke(s) of the wheel diagram are you most excited about? Which spoke(s) do you foresee being more of a challenge?
- What are some areas of your life you feel God wants to work in, through this study?

### Conclusion:

- Pray for God to work in your hearts as individuals and a group in the coming weeks.
- Pray for God to move in this group as you go through this study together.

## Week 2

### Christ's Presence in your life

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. – *Galatians 2:20*

Christ's atoning work through his death on the cross has led to new life for those who surrender their hearts and lives to Him. An incredible privilege has been given to us who choose Him and that is the presence of Christ in our daily lives. One of the most striking characteristics of the Christians in the New Testament was the element of certainty in their relationship with Christ. We need that same element of certainty in our lives today.

#### How can we be sure of Christ's presence in our lives today?

1. His written word confirms it.

Assurance is based on the authority of God's Word. His Word stands the test of time and we can be confident in what He says regarding the presence of His Son in our lives. Numbers 23:19 tells us that God keeps His word to us. In Revelation 3:20 Christ himself says that to those who respond to His invitation, He will have fellowship with them and they with Him.

2. The Presence of the Holy Spirit in your life confirms it.

The Holy Spirit is the internal witness of our assurance. He is called the Helper(or Counselor, Advocate) in John 14:16. Christ promises the Holy Spirit will be with us when He goes to be with God in heaven. Ephesians 1:13-14 calls Him the guarantee or down payment for our inheritance in Christ. He convicts our hearts in all matters (which is everything) pertaining to Christ and

His place in our hearts. Romans 8:26-27 tells us that He intercedes on our behalf before God when we cannot find the words to pray.

3. Your changed life confirms it.

The proof that we have experienced a new birth and have become children of God will be demonstrated by our changed lives. We were made to worship and we will either worship God or His creation; Romans 1 makes this abundantly clear. For those who worship God, the changed life is a key trademark. 1 John 2:3 says that those who know God will keep his commandments. A comparison of John 14:15, 21 make it clear that if you love God, you will obey Him; if you do not love God, you will not obey Him.

### **Group Discussion Questions:**

- From the assurances listed above, how have you seen God confirm your own salvation? Which of these assurances stand out to you and why?
- How can these assurances give you confidence in your Christian life as you continue to seek God, know Him and make Him known?
- After reading and discussing these three assurances, refer back to the wheel diagram and consider the placement of Christ in your own heart and life. Can you confidently say that Christ is at the center of your life based on God's Word, the presence of the Holy Spirit and the trend your life is taking?

### **Application to take home:**

- How does this week's lesson impact the way you think about God(head), love and relate to God(heart) and the way you proclaim or serve God(hands)?
- Pray that God would assure you of your own salvation and convict you through His Spirit concerning sin and distractions that keep you from keeping Christ at the center on a daily basis.

## Week 3

### The Lordship of Christ

For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in exchange for his soul? - *Mark 8:36-37*

#### Acknowledging His Lordship

Jesus Christ, Lord of lords, has always existed and always will. Not all people presently acknowledge Him as their Lord, but that does not alter the fact of His Lordship. All will someday acknowledge Christ as Lord, but the privilege of acknowledging and obeying His Lordship is possible now. Allow for Christ to be the Lord of your life.

If any man would come after me, he must take up his cross and die. -Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- Titles reveal important information about the person to whom they refer. Jesus Christ's titles given to Him from scripture show us who He

is. Among these titles, we see Him called Teacher (John 13:13), Lord and Christ (Acts 2: 36), King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev.19: 16).

- Jesus Christ is Lord of all things. Colossians 1:16-18 say He is Lord of all things created in heaven and on earth; the church. He is even Lord of the living and the dead (Rom.14: 9).

## **The Practice of Lordship**

Once you have decided to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ in your life, you will prove that He is Lord by submitting to Him hour by hour and obeying Him in the daily affairs of life.

- Romans 12:1 tells those who have said Christ is Lord to present themselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.
- We see Jesus in Luke 9, in a conversation with His disciples telling them how to practice the Lordship Peter just declared to Him. Read Luke 9:18-27 aloud in the group and discuss what you see highlighted as the way they are to practice Lordship.

## **Evaluating His Lordship in your life**

We are all faced with the decision of lordship in our lives. The ultimate question is not "will I bow down to anything?" but "what will I bow down to?" We were created with a God-shaped vacuum in our hearts and it will be filled with something or someone. In Luke 6:46-49 Jesus confronts those who call him Lord, but do not practice true Lordship. From this passage we see that the person or thing we have made Lord in our lives is the foundation upon which everything is built. Any foundation other than Christ is likened to the man who built his house on the sand, the unstable ground.

He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose. *-Jim Elliot*

## **Group Discussion Questions:**

- What do the titles we looked at earlier reveal about Jesus Christ?
- From the passages mentioned above concerning His Lordship, share your own definition of the word "Lord" as you feel it applies to Jesus Christ.

- What three things, is the person who follows Christ called to do? What do these three things mean for you in your own words?
- What does the Lordship of Christ mean to you?
- Discuss the difference between acknowledging Christ as Lord and practicing that acknowledgement.

### **Application to take home:**

- How does this week's lesson impact the way you think about God(head), love and relate to God(heart) and the way you proclaim or serve God(hands)?
- Take a few moments to evaluate your practice of the lordship of Jesus Christ. A good way to determine if Christ is in control of an area of your life is to ask, "Am I willing to do whatever Christ desires in this area?" or "Will I be able to thank God for whatever may happen in this area?" Pray that God would help you to practice true Lordship daily. He alone is able.

## **Week 4**

### **The Spirit-Controlled Life (Obedience)**

Experiencing the reality of being filled with the Holy Spirit and living constantly moment by moment under His control is the KEY to the abundant and powerful Christian life

### **1. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to me**

- The Holy Spirit is a person-the Spirit of God living in you. Read John 14:16-17, 25-26 and count how many times Jesus refers to the Spirit as a person.
- Jesus talks about the various ministries of the Holy Spirit to us through out the book of John and Acts. The Holy Spirit, by living in you, allows living water to flow from you (John 7:37-39). He convicts the world concerning righteousness and judgment. He guides you in truth; speaks to you from the Father; glorifies Christ; declares what is to come, declares what belongs to Christ (John 16:7-15) He teaches you all things and reminds you of what Jesus said (John 14:25-26). The third member of the Trinity is your helper, with you forever (John 14:16-17). He will bear witness about Jesus (John 15:26) He gives power to those He fills (Acts 1:8)
- The Holy Spirit's work in you, leads to the Holy Spirit's work through you.

### **2. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit through me**

- When the Holy Spirit dwells in you, His fruit is seen in your life; fruit like patience, kindness, gentleness, joy, love, etc. You will be able to put your flesh to death (Gal. 5:22-25). You will have freedom (2 Cor.3:17). You will have victory over sin, death and the law (1 Cor.15:56-57)
- Without the Holy Spirit living in you, you cannot please God or submit to His law (Romans 8:6-8). You cannot bear fruit and you can do nothing without Him (John 15:4-5)
- The normal Christian life is supernatural. Therefore, it takes a supernatural person and power to live the normal Christian life.

### **3. How to make sure the Holy Spirit is living in you.**

- Ephesians 1:13-14 and Romans 8:9 show us a litmus test for the presence of the Holy Spirit in us. Read and discuss what these verses say regarding His presence in you.

We evaluated the Lordship of Christ in our hearts in the previous lesson; let us now evaluate the control the Holy Spirit in our hearts and lives.



Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to control your life? Do you confess your sin as 1 John 1:9 calls us to? Are you offering yourself as a living sacrifice as Paul commands us to do in Romans 12:1-2? Are you walking in the Spirit (Col.2:6)? Take a few moments to take a spiritual inventory and evaluate where you stand in regards to the Holy Spirit's control in your life. Jesus has vetted Him and the Father has vetted Him to us, are we taking His role in our spiritual lives as we should?

### **Group Discussion Questions:**

- As you came into the lesson today, what was your understanding of the Holy Spirit? His Role? His place in your life?
- What have you found most intriguing regarding His ministry to you?
- What have you found most challenging regarding His ministry through you?
- What can you do to make sure the Holy Spirit is in control of your life and that you are listening to Him as He speaks to you from the Father?

### **Application to take home:**

- How does this week's lesson impact the way you think about God(head), love and relate to God(heart) and the way you proclaim or serve God(hands)?

## Week 5

### Personal Devotional Life (The Word)

You become more like people you spend time with, so if you desire to become more like Jesus, why not spend time alone with Him each day?

#### **1. Definition: A devotional life is having fellowship with the living God and developing your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.**

- A personal devotional life is not a legalistic way of earning brownie points with the Living God, or trying to work one's way to God. Look at John 5:39-40 and Matthew 23:27-28, what are some of the errors that Jesus is pointing out to the Pharisees in the way they approached this devotional life?
- Rather the essence/heart behind a personal devotional life can be found in Psalm 63:1-3 and Psalm 46:10. What are some correct heart motivations mentioned here as a believer approaches God in personal devotion?
- What a privilege and gift we have been given to be able to approach our God and spend personal time with Him! The benefits of spending personal time with God regularly everyday are amazing! Worshipping Him in spirit and in truth bringing glory to Him (John 4:23); gaining wisdom from God to live each day according to His will (James 1:5); to receive power from God's Spirit to live the Christian life (Zechariah 4:6); to guard yourself to keep from sin (Galatians 6:4)

#### **2. Barriers to implementing a Personal devotional life**

- ***Distraction:*** *The good is often the enemy of best.* In Luke 10:38-42, Martha let this happen to her. how might the story parallel our own lives today?
- ***Motivation:*** In Mark 1:35 we see the example of Jesus, and how he valued personal intimate time alone with the Father. If the Son of God valued, protected and prioritised time with God how much more should we value, protect and prioritise time with Him. Christ Himself is our ultimate motivation and he modelled it perfectly for us in His example. Seeing our own need for God's Spirit to teach, guide, protect and empower us each day should also be a great motivation to us to drink daily from the Fountain of Life. (Psalm 63:1)
- ***Time:*** The cost to have an effective and deepening devotional life is simple-TIME. It will take time to develop your relationship with Jesus Christ. "Hours for the world, minutes for Christ" May that never be your pattern in life. Take time to be still and know God. He has plenty of time for you. the question is, 'Do you have time for Him?'

## Group Discussion Questions:

- Read Psalm 73 together
- What is the Psalmist attitude and perspective in verses 1-16?
- What is the Psalmist attitude and perspective in verse 18-28?
- What brought about this radical change (v17)?

## Application to take home:

- How does this week's lesson impact the way you think about God(head), love and relate to God(heart) and the way you proclaim or serve God(hands)?

- Acts 4:13, “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.” People will know that we have been with Jesus!

## Week 6

### Relationship with Christ (Prayer)

“It is impossible for the believer, no matter what his experience, to keep right with God if he will not take the trouble to spend time with God...Spend plenty of time with God; let other things go, but don't neglect Him” - *J. Oswald Sanders*

#### 1. What is Prayer?

- Prayer is the proper response to the character of God.

The basic elements of prayer can be remembered by the word ACTS, which is composed of the first letters of the following words.

**A**doration- Praise is the response to the greatness of God and His many attributes (Ps 145:3).

**C**onfession- Confession is the response to the Holiness of God (Ps 51:1).

**T**hanksgiving- Thanksgiving is the response to the goodness and graciousness of God (Ps 116:12).

Supplication- Intercession and Petition. Intercession is the response to the love of God for all people (Ps 28:9). Petition is the response to the power and wisdom of God (Mt 7:11).

This is merely a helpful guideline, not a rigid sequence that must be followed.

- Prayer is the proper response to the Will of God.

“Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Mt 6:10). Prayer is not getting your way, but rather finding God’s way or His will for your life. As you spend time with God you will gain spiritual understanding and eternal perspective for your life and those around you.

- Prayer is the proper response to God’s invitation.

God has not only commanded us to pray, but has encouraged, exhorted and invited us to pray and to claim the many promises and benefits from fellowship with our God.

## **2. Purpose of Prayer**

- Have fellowship with our God and Father (Isa 1:3)
- To get to know, love, and trust our God and Father (1 John 4:7)
- To discover God’s will for our life (John 10:3-4)
- To gain spiritual nourishment (1 Peter 2:2)
- To obey God’s command (Mt 6:6)

## **3. Result of Prayer**

- You will be refreshed from your fellowship with God and the joy of your salvation will overflow. You will have confidence and peace as you understand who God is and His will for your life. You will be strengthened and will mature spiritually each day as you can spend time with your God. The Lord will use you to bear much fruit for His glory.

## **4. Warnings**

- So often the majority of our time in prayer is given to our requests. Therefore, we spend most of our time looking at the problem rather than the One who can solve the problem. Bring your request before God, but look to Him first! Get His perspective on your situation. If you gaze at the problem, your faith will waiver but if you look through God to your problem your faith and understanding will grow stronger.
- Take the time to pray. It will not just happen! Plan your schedule around your prayer time.
- Pray in the Spirit and by the Spirit. True praying is done under the guidance, wisdom and power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. If you do not walk in the Spirit, your prayer life will be dull and powerless.
- Do not talk the entire time you are praying. Prayer is a dialogue, not a monologue. Listen to what God has to say to you. This is a must in your prayer life. Give God time to speak to you.

- Prayer is hard work as well as spiritual warfare. Do not be discouraged if you do not feel like praying. Claim the promise of God's presence and by faith-pray boldly.

### **Group Discussion Questions:**

- Read Matthew 6:9-13
- How does the prayer begin? How is this important?
- Which requests are vertical (relating to God directly) verses 9-10. Do your prayers typically start here?
- Which requests are horizontal (relating to man directly) verses 11-13
- In what specific ways can this pattern for praying help you pray?

### **Application to take home:**

- How does this week's lesson impact the way you think about God(head), love and relate to God(heart) and the way you proclaim or serve God(hands)?
- If you do not have a plan to pray, your prayers life will fall prey to your other plans. Do you have a plan for your prayer life? Decide on a plan for your prayer life so that you can first meet with God daily and then bring your requests before Him

## Week 7

### Relationship with Man (Fellowship)

The Church is the only fellowship in the world where the one requirement for membership is the unworthiness of the candidate.

#### 1. What is Fellowship?

- The word 'Fellowship' is derived from the greek word 'Koinonia', which means sharing in common.
- In the first century church in Acts 2:44-47 you can see a truly magnificent expression of true fellowship. You see the early church christians devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. All those that had believed were together and had all things in common (v44) Not only were they sharing all their material possessions but they were partaking together in Christ! This is the essence of true fellowship, sharing together in Christ and having Christ in common.
- The result of this kind of fellowship was simply miraculous. (v45-47) The communities needs were being met and the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. The gospel began to ring out to the nations!

#### Group Discussion Questions:

Read Hebrews 10:24-25

- As Christians what are to take time to 'stir one another toward'?
- How can you do this to Christians around you?
- What is your responsibility to the body of believers at your church?

Examine Hebrews 3:13

- How often should Christians encourage one another?
- Why is that so important?

In Galatians 6:1-2

- What is another purpose for proper fellowship in the church?

According to Ephesians 4:23

- what will preserve the unity of the Spirit in the body of Christ?

#### Application to take home:

- How does this week's lesson impact the way you think about God(head), love and relate to God(heart) and the way you proclaim or serve God(hands)?

## Week 8

### Witnessing (Sharing Christ with others)

Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me. (*Colossians 1:28-29, ESV*)

We, the Christians of the twentieth century, have the privilege of participating with our living Lord in the fulfillment of His great Commission. From the time we awaken each day until our last conscious thought or act at night, we Christians should be involved in this Commission. And we should be involved an expression of our love and gratitude to our Lord for all the benefits and blessings that are ours by His grace, and as an act of obedience to His command.

A witness is someone who has seen an event or person first hand, they in turn tell others of what they witnessed. There are several people in scripture who we clearly see the example of witnessing from. The woman at the well (John 4) runs back to her hometown telling people to come see a man who told her everything she'd ever done. Mary Magdalene runs to the disciples after she has seen Jesus and announces his resurrection (John 20). The first four books of the New Testament are eye-witness accounts of Jesus' life. These people encountered the living God and as a result could not help but tell others about Him and what He had done in their lives.

Jesus says that a true follower of His abides in His Word (John 8:31), has love for one another (John 13:34-35) and bears much fruit (John 15:8). One aspect of bearing fruit is telling others about what you have experienced, or witnessing.

#### 1. What is 'Sharing your Faith'?

- Sharing your faith is simply taking the initiative to share the Gospel of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the results to God.

#### 2. Purpose of Sharing Christ as a way of life

- So others come to know their God through His Son Jesus Christ and to live for eternity to glorify and serve Him.



- To be part of fulfilling the Great Commission right where God has placed you.
- To be obedient to the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### **3. Result of Sharing your faith as a way of life**

- God will be glorified as you lift Him up before others.
- God will draw people through the Holy Spirit to Himself.
- You will live an abundant and joyful life as you live out of God's will for you- to be His witness.

### **4. How to witness**

- Person to Person Evangelism
- Share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit was given for this very reason- to empower us to witness Acts 1:8

## **Group Discussion Questions:**

Read Colossians 4:2-6

- Paul tells us how to be ready to give a verbal witness.
- What attitudes and actions are to be taken?

There are two essential principles to remember about a verbal witness. What are they?

- 1 Thessalonians 2:8
- 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

Read 2 Tim 1:6-8

- Do we have to be fearful in our witness?
- Why not? What Assurance has been given to us through the Holy Spirit?

1 Peter 3:15 gives you both a challenge and an instruction with regard to witnessing.

- Sanctify means 'to set apart' Your heart is to be set apart for whom?
- What should you be ready to do at any time?
- In what way are you to do it?

## **Application to take home:**

- How does this week's lesson impact the way you think about God(head), love and relate to God(heart) and the way you proclaim or serve God(hands)?