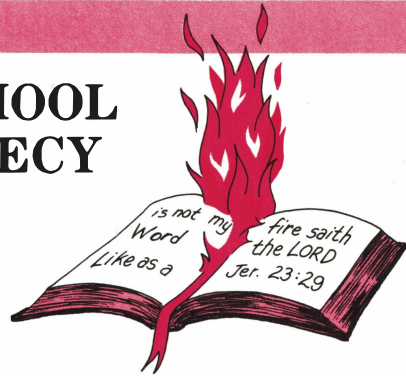


BIBLE STUDY COURSE
LESSON NO. 1
— FROM —

**BIBLE SCHOOL
OF PROPHECY**



“SCHOOL OF THE PROPHETS”

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

SUNSET

*“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day:
the night cometh, when no man can work.” John 9:4*



PREPARATION TO SERVE

BIBLE SCHOOL OF PROPHECY

Lesson No. 1

PREPARATION TO SERVE

DECLARATION:

Preparation is the most vital and valuable phase in the life of a true Christian or minister of Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTORY SCRIPTURES:

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” II Tim. 2:15. Of the mighty prophet of God, John The Baptist, the Holy Scriptures reveal: “And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, **and was in the deserts** till the day of his showing unto Israel.” PREPARATION! Luke 1:80. After his conversion, the mighty Apostle Paul wrote: “Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; **but I went into Arabia.**” Gal. 1:17. This was preparation also — This is what counts! Jesus said, “Follow me, and I will make you [His Disciples] fishers of men.” Matt. 4:19. Some four years later this was literally fulfilled in Christ’s first disciples.

Supplementary Scriptures for Study:

II Pet. 1:5	II Tim. 2:1-2	Matt. 28:19-20	Rom. 15:4
Acts 19:9-10	I Sam. 3:19-21	Isa. 50:4-10	Dan. 1:8-21

LESSON EXPOSITION:

The learning and training process for effective service has no shortcuts for the learner or diligent seeker in time, patience, energy, and mind that must be spent freely. You must not permit carnality or spiritual pride to rob you of this God-given opportunity to learn God’s Word and to find the knowledge of God. Read Prov. 2:1-6. “My people are destroyed **for lack of knowledge:** because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee...” Hosea 4:6. Also, God further warns: “For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and **the knowledge of God** more than burnt offerings.” Hosea 6:6. And again God warned: “**Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.**” Isaiah 5:13. God’s method of preparation to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in the body of Christ wisely, efficiently, and effectively is: Teaching! Learning! Experience! And in this order, by the way.

SELF-RELIANCE is an essential virtue in preparation to serve the Lord effectively and efficiently! Self-confidence, without self-reliance, is as useless as a menu without food. Self-confidence sees the possibilities for the individual; self-reliance realizes them. Too many preachers and teachers are self-confident, but not self-reliant. The man who is self-reliant says, "No one can realize my possibilities for me, but me; **no one can make me good or evil but myself.**" He works out his own salvation, morally, physically, and financially as God's Word exhorts. Phil 2:12. **All that others can do for us is to give us opportunity.** Life is but a succession of opportunities. They are for good or evil as we make them. In the opportunity to prepare to serve God effectively, the individual is ever thrown back on self-reliance. He should accept all helps, but he must live his own life. Rom. 14:12; Gal. 6:5; Phil. 4:13.

The person who is self-reliant seeks to discover and conquer the weakness within him that keeps him from doing his best — to defeat all outside influences by an inner power he seeks and acquires. There are many Christians about us with rare mental gifts and delicate spiritual discernment who fail utterly in life because **they lack the one essential element of success, self-reliance.** This would unite all their energies and focus them into spiritual strength and power. Heb. 12:1-2.

A Christian to be great must be self-reliant. This self-reliance is not the self-sufficiency of conceit. It is daring to stand alone. As we depend on others to do those things we should do for ourselves, our self-reliance weakens, and our spiritual power lessens. We must be an oak, not a vine. We must be prepared to give support, but not to be dependent on it. I Sam. 17:45-47; Dan. 6:10; II Tim. 4:16. **We can develop our self-reliance by constantly striving to surpass ourselves — not others!** The individual Christian must look upon himself as an investment of untold possibilities **if rightly developed**, a gold mine whose resources can never be known but by going down into it, and bringing out what has been hidden from view. The more a true Christian develops his self-reliance, the stronger will he become, and the more able will he be to help others in the hour of their need.

This present and near future now is yours to use in obedience to God's laws in preparation to do His will. All these golden moments are loaned to you by God to prepare you for your "Finest Hour" ahead!

Who Needs To Prepare, i.e., to be Taught and Trained to Dedicate and Serve? Answer — A laborer, a housewife, a manager, an entrepreneur, a corporate board chairman, a doctor, a lawyer, a prince, a pauper, a military man — the young and old — every preacher and every Christian — the educated and uneducated! \$1.00 worth of scrap iron in the junk pile is worth \$1.00. The same \$1.00 worth of iron made into horseshoe nails is worth \$1,000.00; but the same \$1.00 worth of scrap iron refined into watch springs is worth \$10,000.00. So it is with you and me! **Study Jer. 18:1-5; II Tim. 2:20-21.** Ponder these scriptures: "Wisdom is the principal thing:

therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee." Prov. 4:7-9.

There is no substitute for the knowledge of God's Word and experience in serving God! The scripture exhorts: "Add to your faith virtue; and to virtue (i.e., purity) knowledge: And to knowledge temperance (i.e., self-control); and to temperance patience." II Pet. 1:5. **Patience** is a most valuable assistant in preparation to serve: **Patience worketh experience!** Rom. 5:4. **Haste is a virtue** to be employed in your learning and training experience for service to the Lord. **Hurry is a counterfeit of haste** and must be rejected in our pursuit for knowledge and experience in spiritual matters. **Haste has an ideal**, a distinct aim to be realized by the quickest direct methods. Haste has a single compass upon which it relies for direction and in harmony with which its course is determined. Hurry always implies lack of definite method, confusion, and impatience of slow growth. Hurry says, "I will use three compasses; I must move faster. One of them will probably be right." Hurry never realizes that slow, careful foundation work is the quickest in the end. Hurry-up methods have ruined more well-meaning preachers and would-be Christian workers than any other word in the vocabulary of Christian life.

Haste says with Jesus: "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4. Preparation to work and serve is so vital we must take all the direct methods we can employ in haste to beat the Gathering Storm to the end-time harvest. That is why this course of Bible study is intensified and accelerated. This is preparation to work, serve, labor! Jesus said: "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, **that he will send forth laborers into his harvest**" (Matt. 9:37-38) — not lily-handed preachers, but laborers — those who have diligently prepared to serve. Read Acts 20:28-35.

DON'T FORGET THIS VITAL EXHORTATION!

"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to **faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.**" II Tim. 2:1-2. To do this, study God's Word very much, hungrily and untiringly.

TEACH OTHERS!

The knowledge and experience received from this 18-month Bible course, intensified and accelerated, should prepare you to serve as a teacher of others, especially your own loved ones. This is God's way to

reach this rebellious generation, quickly, and God has committed to us His Word and ministry of Reconciliation. II Cor. 5:18-20. You have now embarked on the most important part of your Christian experience — **preparation!**

PART A. THE TEACHING MINISTRY.

I. Teachers Sent From God.

a. **John 7:14-15.** “Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned (i.e., not educated formally)?” Jesus, his first apostles, and the prophets who taught God’s Word and revealed God’s true nature were not “learned” men with a degree in theology — but, they knew God and his Word intimately. “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.” Acts 4:13. These church leaders and ministers were taught and trained informally in the Word of God and ministering just like we’re attempting to do in this Bible School of Prophecy. “And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church (i.e., Barnabas and Saul), and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.” Acts 11:26. Also: “Now there were in the church that was at Antioch **certain prophets and teachers:** as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.” Acts 13:1. The only apostle of Christ with a “seminary” education expressed his contempt for what he learned there thusly: “**I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. . . That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.**” I Cor. 2:2, 5. Also I Cor. 8:2, Phil. 3:7-8. These early church ministers had been with Jesus and were taught the Word of God — a powerfully effective education that needs to be duplicated in our age.

School of the Prophets! In the days of Israel’s declension from God’s Word, God’s true prophets such as Elijah and Elisha established schools for prospective young ministers to whom they taught the true God and his Word. This was by divine design to perpetuate the true worship of God in the midst of the abominable idolatry practiced by backslidden Israel, her kings, and her ministers. These schools of the prophets were not a part of the religious system in Israel but an enclave of a holy remnant for God to use to revive true faith in Israel following close upon the severe chastening of the Lord through divine judgements. The Word of Prophecy Fellowship has also been raised up of the Lord by divine design for the preservation of a holy remnant to restore Holiness to God’s end-time, idolatrous, world-conforming church.

Supplementary Scriptures for Study

I Kings 18:4	II Kings 2:1-25	Rom. 11:2-6	Luke 18:7-8
Joel 2:32	I Cor. 12:28	Eph. 4:11-12	Titus 2:1-7
I Tim. 6:3-5	Isa. 29:9-14	II Chron. 15:3	II Kings 9:1-10

b. **II Tim. 2:23-26:** “But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, **apt to teach**, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.” What are the qualifications of a teacher sent from God? A bishop or elder is God’s Ordained Teacher with sobering spiritual qualifications demanded, and accompanying responsibilities after diligent preparation for service to Christ’s body, the church. “A bishop then must be **blameless, the husband of one wife**, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, **apt to teach**, Not given to wine, no striker, **not greedy of filthy lucre**; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) **Not a novice** (i.e., he must know the Word of God and be experienced), lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. . . **Even so must their wives be grave**, not slanderers, sober, **faithful in all things.**” I Tim. 3:2-6, 11. Also “**Holding the faithful word as he hath been taught**, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.” Titus 1:9.

WARNING:

II Pet. 2:1-3: “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as **there shall be false teachers among you**, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies. . . **And many shall follow their pernicious ways**; by reason of whom the way of truth (i.e., holiness) shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you (i.e., preach to get your money.)”

Supplementary Scriptures for Study:

cf. II Tim. 4:3-4 (Women Teachers)	Titus 2:3-5	I Tim. 2:11-15
I Cor. 14:34-35	I Pet. 3:1-6	Deut. 6:5-9
Teaching as a service —	Rom. 12:4-8	Acts 18:9-11
Titus 2:1-2,15	Acts 18:24-26	I Pet. 4:10

II. Holy Ghost as a Teacher.

a. **He anoints to teach.** “But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.” I John 2:27.

How does the Holy Ghost teach? By the Holy Ghost anointing upon Holy men of God who are prepared, called, and sent of God to teach God's Word and Ways. Jesus, speaking to His chosen, anointed teachers, the 12 apostles, said: "But the Comforter, which is the holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**" John 14:26. These men were anointed, Holy Ghost-filled teachers. As our mentor, the Holy Ghost by Himself will ever convict or "reprove of sin, and righteousness, and judgment; **(and) He will guide (us) into all truth.**" John 16:8, 13. Even Jesus was taught by His heavenly Father. John 8:28. By the Holy Ghost, an honest-hearted person knows the truth when they hear it taught.

b. God's Spirit teaches God-appointed and not self-appointed teachers. God chooses and sends teachers! Barnabas was such a teacher: "He taught much people in the church at Antioch." Acts 11:26. Paul the apostle was also such a teacher. II Tim. 1:11. These taught other Christians and ministers so they in turn could teach the same things they had been taught. "Are all teachers?" the scripture asks (I Cor. 12:29). No! But some are! God would not have sent teachers if the Holy Ghost alone would be our teacher. Rebels use I John 2:27 to hide behind in rejection and ignorance of God and His Word. **The Holy Ghost teaches teachers that God has called and chosen to teach His people** — the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Supplementary Scriptures for Study:

I Cor. 12:28-29	Eph. 4:11-16	Psa. 119:97-100	Prov. 1:7; 5:11-13
Heb. 5:12-14	Gal. 6:6	I Cor. 2:12-13	Esp. John 15:16
Titus 2:11-12	Acts 5:21	I Tim. 5:17	Ezek. 44:23

Warning: Most people of our generation, even those claiming to be taught by the Holy Ghost are, "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." II Tim. 3:7.

III. What must be taught? "Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you: **but I will teach you the good and the right way:** Only fear the Lord and serve him in truth with all your heart." I Sam. 12:23. Also: "and they (i.e., 12 apostles) went out, **and preached that men should repent.** And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them." Mark 6:12-13. And: "these things teach and exhort. If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, **and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing (remember this profound revelation),** but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, **Perverse**

disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain (i.e., popularity and money) is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.” I Tim. 6:2-5.

PREPARATION TO SERVE!

You must be taught the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth!

a. Repentance must be taught! Luke 13:3, 5; Acts 3:19; II Pet. 3:9; Matt. 4:17; Acts 2:38-39; Luke 24:47; Luke 16:30-31; Luke 5:32.

b. Sanctification and Holiness of life-style must be taught! I Thess. 5:23-24; Jude 1; John 17:17; I Thess. 4:3-8; II Cor. 7:1; Heb. 12:14; Ezek. 44:23; Mal. 2:11-12; I John 3:3; I Pet. 3:1-7; Rom. 12:1-2.

c. The Fear of God must be taught! Acts 10:34-35; 9:31; Matt. 10:28; Phil. 2:12; Heb. 12:28-29; Prov. 8:13; 16:6; Mal. 3:16-18; Psa. 34:11-14.

d. Victory Over The World, the Flesh, Sin, and the Devil must be taught! I John 2:14-17; I Cor. 15:34; I John 3:6-10; Gal. 2:20; I Cor. 6:19-20; II Cor. 6:14-18; James 1:26-27; I Pet. 1:13-16; II Pet. 1:3-10.

PART B. DEDICATION FOR SERVICE.

I. Knowing God's Will for Your Life — Do you know it?

a. **“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”** Eph. 5:15-17. Also: **“Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.”** I Cor. 7:20. Read Col. 4:17; Phil. 2:19-30.

b. **“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he may give it you.”** John 15:16. **A complete dedication to serve the Lord requires self-denial and sacrifice.** It requires hardness as a soldier. II Tim. 2:3-4. The prophet Jeremiah advised: **“It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.”** Lam. 3:27. The Apostle Peter exclaimed: **“Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.”** What is the reward? Read Mark 10:28-31. This degree of dedication also requires purity in body, soul, spirit, and mind. **“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.”** Read II Tim. 2:20-22. Prophets and teachers sent from God are called, chosen, prepared, and sent well in advance of the crises for which they are prepared. You are now on the royal road to the knowledge of God's good and perfect will as you continue this Bible course. Rom. 12:2.

c. “**Look not every man on his own things**, but every man also on the things of others. **Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:** Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, **and took upon him the form of a servant**, and was made in the likeness of men.” Phil. 2:4-7. Our dedication in great part must be manifested in compassion and desire to serve others, even as bond servants. “We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. . . For even Christ pleased not himself.” Rom. 15:1-3. We must have the mind of Christ in sharing all we have to be his servant as Jesus exhorted: “Freely ye have received, freely give.” Matt. 10:8. The sharing of our lives must be **a continuous dedication** we exemplify in our diligent preparation for effective service. Further, Jesus warned: “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. . . He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.” Matt. 10:16, 39. This is the self-denial Christ has commanded of every true disciple — not a request. Luke 14:25-27, 33.

Supplementary Scriptures for Further Study:

Acts 20:24	Luke 6:40	Rom. 8:36	Phil. 4:8
Col. 3:12-17	Col. 4:17	I Tim. 1:18-19	Acts 13:2

d. **Prayer and Fasting** — This combination forms a powerful spiritual exercise for an untiring laborer in the Lord’s service. Prayer alone is not enough to develop great faith in God and a delicate sensitivity to the direction of the Holy Ghost. Jesus said: “This kind (i.e., great faith) goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.” Matt. 17:21. Real prayer is vital, daily — fasting is important to practice very often. This will prepare you to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. II Tim. 2:3-4.

Supplementary Scriptures for Further Study:

Matt. 6:16-18	Acts 10:30; 14:22-23; 13:2-3; 9:9	Esther 4:16
Ezra 8:21; 10:6	Psa. 35:13; 69:10; 109:22-25	Matt. 9:14-15
Isa. 58:6-12	II Cor. 11:27	Joel 2:11-12
		II Cor. 6:4-5

Other source of study: Word of Prophecy magazine, June 1978, “Practical Fasting and Prayer.”

II. Choosing a Dedicated Teacher.

a. **Knowing your teacher.** “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake.” I Thess. 5:12-13. To his young protegee, Timothy, the Apostle Paul wrote these wise words: “But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Perse-

cutions, afflictions. . . But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, **knowing of whom thou hast learned them.**" II Tim. 3:10-14. **DON'T FORGET THIS** — Know that your teacher meets God's requirements to be "**Your Anointed Teacher.**" A Real Anointed Bible Teacher, sent from God, will always say what God says: "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God." John 3:34. Also: "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God." I Pet. 4:11. The prophet of God exclaimed for the Lord: "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." Jer. 3:15. Don't listen to a teacher who doesn't teach the whole truth — Repentance, Holiness, The Fear of God, the Judgments of God, and all about the Ruin of Sin.

What God Delights In! Read and memorize Jer. 9:23-24. "I am the Lord which exercise (1) **lovingkindness**, (2) **judgment**, and (3) **righteousness**, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord."

b. **Respecting Your Instructor in Christ.** "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine." I Tim. 5:17. Also: "Let him that is taught in the word **communicate (i.e., share) unto him that teacheth in all good things.**" Gal. 6:6. The Apostle Paul, a Holy Ghost-anointed and appointed teacher (II Tim. 1:11) besought the holy saints: "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." I Cor. 11:1. Also: "Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. For many walk of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ. . . **who mind earthly things.**" Phil. 3:17-19.

Supplementary Scriptures for Study: I Cor. 4:14-17; II Thess. 3:6-9; I Cor. 9:7-10; Heb. 13:7, 17; I Pet. 5:5; Eph. 5:21; II Cor. 11:6.

III. Examples in Dedication to Serve God.

a. **Moses** — God's great prophet was tested and prepared for 40 years in a crucible of fiery desert sands and wilderness before service to God's people.

For further study: Ex. 2 & 3; Acts 7:20-37; Heb. 11:24-27.

b. **Joseph** — God led him into severe testing for 13 years, until at 30 years of age (Gen. 41:46) He exalted him to great honor and authority in service to God's people.

For further study: Gen. 37, 39, 40; Psalms 105:12-22.

c. **David** — God's mighty warrior was a fugitive from the backslidden King Saul for 13 years though he was anointed to be Israel's king — God thoroughly tested him before his exaltation as a leader of God's people.

For further study: I Sam. 16, 18, 19; 22:1-2; Psa. 59; Acts 13:22.

d. Elisha — God's prophet who inherited the mantle, and a double portion of Elijah's spirit, was first tested by being servant to the mighty Elijah.

For further study: II Kings 3:11-12; II Kings 2:1-18.

e. John the Baptist — This greatest prophet ever born of a woman (Luke 7:28) used 30 years of his short life in dedication and preparation for about 6 months of effective ministry.

For further study: Luke 1:13-17, 39-45; Matt. 11:1-14; 14:1-2; Isa. 40:3-5; Mal. 3:1.

f. Jesus Christ — Jesus was a prophet, Messiah, and God's messenger. His preparation for the world's greatest and most prolific ministry was 30 years — the length of his ministry, 3 years! (Luke 3:23).

For further study: Luke 2:41-52; Luke 4:1-15; Heb. 5:5-11.

g. Samson, Jeremiah, Paul — These men of God were foreordained and called before their birth as were David, John the Baptist, Moses, and the other holy prophets and apostles. All prophets and apostles are prepared well in advance of the ministry and crisis to which they identify — their dedication and preparation also are shared by their parents.

For further study: Judges 13:1-8; Psa. 139:13-16; Jer. 1:4-5; Ex. 2:1-10; Luke 1:5-17; Gal. 1:15; II Tim. 1:5.

h. You and I — Jesus warned: "For many are called, but few are chosen." Matt. 22:14. We must count the cost — and be willing to pay the price in dedication and self-denial for preparation and effective service. Jesus explained this in Luke 14:28-33. Study this!

For further study:

I Cor. 9:24-27	Matt. 23:12	John 12:26	Luke 14:25-27
Mal. 3:16-18	Josh. 24:14-15	I Cor. 1:26-29	II Cor. 1:14-18
II Tim. 2:5	Luke 9:57-62	Mark 10:28-30	Jer. 15:15-21

Lesson Summary

Knowing God's will for your life, and making total dedication to His will with patience, are the most formidable virtues to use in preparation to serve Christ and His Church! Your perseverance and morale must survive every stumblingblock you encounter. You've counted the cost — now you're in the race! Run it with patience, with your eyes on Jesus. Heb. 12:2. "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery (i.e., your strivings to master the task of knowing God's Word and living victoriously) is temperate (i.e., has self-control) in all things. . . But I keep under my body (i.e., fleshly appetites and lusts), and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." I Cor. 9:24-27. You must prepare carefully and diligently or as Jesus warned, "Many are called, but **few are chosen**" will be you — rejected! Matt. 20:16.

We must seek and strive for the mastery in the knowledge of God and His Word. Hear this carefully: "My Son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee: So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding: **Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures: Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.**" Prov. 2:1-6.

REMEMBER: The quest for the knowledge of God and His Word requires diligent search and dedication. In spiritual matters, the values of our Sick Society are warped and twisted. Everywhere we see the knowledge of God at a discount, ignorance at a premium. We see spiritual perversion in velvet, virtue in rags. You cannot permit this to disturb you, or to deter your chartered course into God's will for your life — to **PREPARE** to serve Christ and His church effectively.

Supplementary Scriptures for Study:

I Tim. 4:13-15 Jer. 15:16 Job 23:11-12 I Cor. 2:12-14

Other Source of Study:

Word of Prophecy magazines: Jan. 1978, "Curse of Being Neutral"; Apr. 1984 "There Were Giants In the Land".

PART C. LEARNING TO BE A HELPER!

I. God sends “Helps” as a gift to The Church.

a. “And God set some in the church, first apostles, **secondarily prophets**, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, **helps.**” I Cor. 12:28. Wonderful! **Helps are associated with apostles, prophets, teachers, miracle workers!**

b. “Greet Priscilla and Aquila my **helpers in Christ Jesus; who have for my life laid down their own necks:** unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.” Romans 16:3-4. These “helps” were teachers of what the Apostle Paul had taught them, for they instructed the eloquent evangelist, Apollos, “in the way of God more perfectly.” Acts 18:24-28.

“Helps” need preparation to serve — in the teaching of God’s Word and training to be a helper, to be an efficient and effective worker for the Lord. All who serve the Lord should be prepared to “Speak as oracles of God.” I Pet. 4:11. The work of God requires more than just preachers. God needs “helps.”

Supplementary Scriptures for Study

Luke 8:1-3	Phil. 4:14-16	Ex. 17:10-13	I Tim. 3:8-13
Col. 4:11	II Kings 4:8-17	Phil. 2:19-30	Col. 4:7-12

c. “**And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone;** I will make him an **help meet** for him.” Gen. 2:18. The woman was created and given by God to be a man’s helper. Our Sick Society has perverted this divine order.

Supplementary Scriptures for Study:

Gen. 2:21-24	Eph. 5:22-23	I Tim. 2:11-15	Esp. Isa. 3:12.
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d. “I am appointed . . . a teacher of the Gentiles.” II Tim. 1:11. God sets or appoints teachers in the church or body of Christ, I Cor. 12:28. Most self-proclaimed teachers among the body of Christ are also self-appointed teachers, “Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, **teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s (i.e., for money’s) sake.**” Titus 1:11. God does not appoint men to be teachers, a gifted ministry to the church, who do not fully know the Word of God and meet all the other qualifications set forth in His Word as listed in I Tim. 3 and Titus 1. **God-appointed teachers are for the perfecting of the saints,** to bring God’s people into the unity of the faith (of God’s Word), to warn God’s people of deceitful teachers who will mislead them by cunning craftiness!

Supplementary Scriptures for Study:

Eph. 4:7-16	Rom. 2:19-23	Acts 20:29-33	Matt. 7:15-23
Isa. 56:10-11	Ezek. 13:10	Matt. 28:19-20	II Chron. 15:3
Rom. 16:17-19	I Cor. 4:14-17	I Tim. 1:3-7	II Tim. 4:3-4

e. “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether **prophecy**, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or **ministry**, let us wait on our ministering; or he that **teacheth**, on teaching; Or he that **exhorteth**, on exhortation. . .” Rom. 12:6-8. Here are four gifts or enablements (gifts for service) given to Holy Ghost-filled Christians who otherwise qualify: (1) Prophecy, (2) Ministering, (3) Teaching, (4) Exhortation. Those in the body of Christ who have the spiritual and natural endowment to prophesy are not prophets — He who ministers is not always a preacher — Most teachers are not very often God-appointed teachers. These are enablements of the Holy Ghost to give “helps” to the church — thus the note of caution: “According to the proportion of faith, and wait (i.e., for the anointing of the Holy Ghost).” Prophecy and teaching are “spiritual gifts” as service for helps or helpers, not as a minister or preacher, as set forth here.

Supplementary Scriptures for Study:

Rom. 12:4-5	I Cor. 12:12-25	Phil. 4:1-3	Luke 8:1-3
I Cor. 14:1-6	II Kings 9:1-10	Acts 2:15-18	Acts 21:8-9

Other Source of Study: Word of Prophecy Magazine: Apr. 1987, “Help(s)! — What the Church Needs Most”.

PART D. MEMORIZATION.

Memorize these scriptures used in lesson No. 1:

II Tim. 2:1-5	II Tim. 2:15	Rom. 12:1-2	Prov. 2:1-6
I Cor. 2:1-5	I Cor. 12:28	II Tim. 3:10-17	Hos. 4:6
Titus 2:1-6	II Pet. 2:1-3	Eph. 2:19-20	Isa. 3:12
I John 2:14	Jer. 15:16	Rom. 16:17-19	II Pet. 1:3-10

PART E. DAILY BIBLE READINGS. (18 months)

- I. Proverbs Chapters 1 — 9 (5 times).
- II. I Timothy
- III. II Timothy
- IV. Psalms
- V. John
- VI. I, II, III John, Jude
- VII. Acts & Joel
- VIII. Genesis
- IX. Romans & James
- X. Other Books (3 chapters daily)

Lesson No. 1

Bible Study Course

“PREPARATION TO SERVE”

CONDITIONS FOR LEARNING

- Most Christians have to be unlearned and de-programmed, first.
 - Your attitude is more important than facts. Have a good spirit.
 - A Christian is a product of his own experience - a learning experience.
 - A formal training experience is not necessary or desirable.
 - Memorize Key Scriptures on every subject and Bible Doctrine.
 - Laziness must be overcome - mental, spiritual, and physical.
 - Your teacher must be anointed by the Holy Ghost and Respected by you.
 - Study no Bible but the King James Version.
 - Be Patient! The True Learning Process is slow and methodical.
- Every true prophet of God had a long period of his early life in the learning experience - The Silent Years - as recorded in the Bible.
- Preparation!**

This Lesson Prepared For
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