

**BUILDING A POSITIVE LIFE**  
**Volume 2**

**J.J. Turner**

Published by  
**J.C. CHOATE PUBLICATIONS**  
**Winona/Singapore/New Delhi**

**Copyright 1987 by J.J. Turner**

**First Printing 2,000 Copies**

**Order From:**

**J.C. CHOATE PUBLICATIONS  
Rt. 2, Box 156  
Winona, Mississippi 38967**



**DEDICATION**

**To**

**Burt V.Pauley**

**Thank You For Your Help And Encouragement**

# Introduction

I am happy to be able to publish and present to you Bro. J.J. Turner's book, BUILDING A POSITIVE LIFE, VOL. 2. As with Volume 1, Volume 2 is full of lessons, ideas, and suggestions on how to better our lives. All of us are interested, surely, in doing that.

This is not just a series of philosophical writings based on the premise that we can find within our own selves the strength and means to become what we want to be irrespective of our religious beliefs. Rather, this is a book that is grounded in the scriptures. It is only when we come to know those truths, teachings, principles, and ideas and apply them to our own personal lives that we are going to reap the benefits from such a study.

You and I can have the kind of life we want. The Lord has provided salvation and all of the ingredients that will help us to grow and become a radiant influence for the cause of Christ. The Lord doesn't want us to be miserable but happy. He doesn't want us to be lost but to be saved that we might help save others. This book will help us to come to grips with ourselves and to realize our potential for a happy, positive, fruit-bearing life. Try it, if you will, and then pass on your findings to others.

J.C. Choate

February 1, 1988

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE.....	2
HOW TO USE THIS BOOK .....	3
1. Small But Powerful .....	5
2. A Fast Way To Make an Enemy.....	8
3. It's Okay To Be Real .....	12
4. The Way Up Is Down .....	16
5. The Anchor For The Soul .....	20
6. Limit Your Imitations .....	23
7. Check Out The Reward .....	26
8. Awesome Power of Listening .....	29
9. The Peril of Pride.....	32
10. The Place of The Ordinary.....	35
11. Don't Shoot Yourself Down .....	38
12. How To Become Useless.....	41
13. "O Grave, Where Is Thy Victory?" .....	45
14. Life's Steering Wheel .....	48
15. Be Careful About Advice .....	51
16. Where The Saints Meet .....	54
17. "Rags-To-Riches.....	57
18. Altering Ambitions.....	61
19. Do Something Great.....	64
20. Soaring Above Suffering .....	68
21. Don't Let The Fire Go Out! .....	72
22. The Real Winners .....	76
23. Smile Away Your Troubles .....	81
24. Don't Be A Fool .....	84
25. The Contented Life .....	88
26. Keep On Keeping On .....	92

## PREFACE

Every day the life you are building is inspected by the Creator who knows even the secret desires of the heart (Psalms 139:1-12). What does the Inspector see? What kind of life are you building? Is it strong, positive and secure, or is it weak and faltering?

No one can build your life for you. You are the builder who must work in harmony with the blueprints God has drawn for you. He wants you to build a positive life upon His Son as the foundation of your life (1 Corinthians 3:11,12). The Bible contains these blueprints (2 Peter 1:3).

Building a life is a lot like building a house. You need plans, material, tools, time and work to get the job done. This book which is volume two of a two-volume series, is designed to assist you in these areas. It contains materials for one year's building. These twenty-six lessons may be studied privately, in a class setting, in home devotionals, or any place where people are interested in building a positive life. All you need is your Bible to make this study very beneficial.

To gain the maximum benefits from this material, I suggest that you study very carefully the suggestions in the "How To Use This Book" chapter.

God Bless you as you build a positive life for His glory (1 Corinthians 15:58). I'll see you at the finish line, because the best is yet to be (Revelation 2:10).

J. J. Turner, D. Min.  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087  
January 15, 1988

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book is designed for your reading pleasure and study. It may be studied on a personal basis or in a class. If you plan to use it in a class or group setting, I would suggest the following things to help you get the most out of your efforts.

1. This book is designed to be used with a Bible. There are passages that must be turned to and studied.

2. Encourage each member of the class to read and study a chapter before you cover it in class.

3. The "For Additional Study and Discussion" at the end of the lesson has six response areas. They are the heart of the course. Use them for maximum benefit.

4. As the teacher, find some good illustrations for some of the major points in each lesson. Encourage each member of the class to do likewise.

5. Teach the material in your own words.

6. Prepare your own set of questions over the material.

7. Prepare and use visual aids.

8. Allow the class time to discuss major points or ask questions.

9. Be sure to encourage personal application of the material before you leave class.

10. You may begin each class by asking the members to share how they used the material they studied in the last class.

11. Find additional verses of Scripture for the lessons.

12. If time permits allow group work (e.g., getting into small groups for discussion and application, etc.; "Here is how I can use this point", "Here is what this means to me").

13. Recommend reading in other books on

some of the subjects covered in a lesson. Tapes are good too.

14. Pray for wisdom (cf. James 1:5).

15. Consider inviting a guest to come and share with the class in an area he has special training in (e.g., physician, counselor, minister, etc.)

16. Really **STRESS** the importance of each person doing the "Proof of Positive Actions" sections. This is where real growth is seen and measured.

## CHAPTER 1

### SMALL BUT POWERFUL

When asking the question, "Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?" the Psalmist replied, "He that backbiteth not with his tongue" (Psalms 15:1-5). Concerning the need to restrain the tongue, Quarles wrote: "Give not thy tongue too great a liberty, lest it take thee prisoner. A word unspoken is, like the sword in the scabbard, thine; if vented, thy sword is in another's hand. If thou desire to be held wise, be so wise as to hold thy tongue."

The most indepth discussion of the tongue in the Bible is recorded in James 3:1-12. In verse 5 we read: "So the tongue also is a little member, and boasteth great things..." The power of this little member is awesome. It has broken more hearts, started more wars, "killed" more reputations, and caused more evil than anything else under man's control.

There are many uses of the tongue which are condemned by God's word. Some of these are as follows:

1. Gossiping (Deuteronomy 22:13-19).
2. Talebearing (Leviticus 19:16; Proverbs 11:13).
3. False witnessing (Exodus 20:16; 23:7).
4. Whispering (Romans 1:29).
5. Slandering (1 Timothy 3:11).
6. False accusations (Titus 2:3).
7. Vain talking (Titus 1:10; Ephesians 5:6).
8. Defaming (Jeremiah 20:10).
9. Tattling (1 Timothy 5:13).
10. Lying (Proverbs 6:17; Revelation 21:8; 22:15).
11. Deceiving (Revelation 12:9).
12. Backbiting (Psalms 15:3; Romans 1:30).
13. Idle words (Matthew 12:36).

14. Blasphemy (Matthew 12:31,32).
15. Cursing (James 3:9).

The Christian's life must be marked by gentleness, both in conduct and speech. Richard Baxter wrote: "I cannot forgive myself for rash words or deeds by which I have seemed less tender and kind than I should have been to my near and dear relations..." If we don't say it, we won't live to regret it.

"Angry words! O let them never  
From the tongue unbridled slip;  
May the heart's best impulse ever  
Check them ere they soil the lip."

(H. R. Palmer).

Let's follow the example of the Psalmist and request God's help in controlling our tongues: "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties" (Psalms 141:3,4).

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Matthew 15:18.
2. Romans 3:13.
3. Hebrews 13:15.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: The tongue is easy to control.
2. T F: James calls the tongue "poison".
3. T F: Words have done more harm than actions.

#### **FILL IN THE BLANKS**

1. "The \_\_\_\_\_ of this \_\_\_\_\_ member



is \_\_\_\_\_."

2. "There are many \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ which are \_\_\_\_\_ by God's \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "If we don't \_\_\_\_\_ it, we \_\_\_\_\_ live to \_\_\_\_\_ it."

#### THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Why is the tongue such a challenge to control?
2. Discuss some ways of guarding the tongue.
3. How do you plan to use this lesson in your life?

#### QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

**A FAST WAY TO MAKE AN ENEMY**

How would you like to make an enemy in the shortest amount of time? Sure this question is shocking. No one wants to make an enemy if he can help it. Most people already have about all they can cope with in life without an added burden. Most of us feel like the man who said, "Please spare me from any more enemies."

How would you like to make God your enemy? James tells us how to do it. "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4). These are some very sobering words!

When we obeyed the gospel we left the world of darkness behind (1 John 5:19; Colossians 1:11-13). As "new creatures" in Christ we must walk in the light (1 John 1:7), and strive to have the mind of Christ at all times (Philippians 2:5-8). We are "married to Christ" and must live faithfully unto the end (cf. Romans 7:1-7; Ephesians 5:25-27). God will not tolerate unfaithfulness in His children.

Christians are constantly challenged by the call of the world. "We are in the world but not of the world." There is a lot of teaching in God's word on the stand the child of God must take relative to the world. We must resist its pull and attraction. Let's notice some verses that tell us how we must behave in the world.

1. We must be free from the cares of the world (Matthew 13:22; Luke 21:34-36).

2. We must not gain the world at the expense of our soul (Matthew 16:26).

3. We must not offend others by acting as the world acts (Matthew 18:7).

4. We must not be like the world (John 15:19; 17:14,16).

5. We must not love life in the world (John 12:25).

6. We must live like persons who have been delivered from the world (Galatians 1:4).

7. We must be crucified to the world (Galatians 6:14)

8. We must shine as lights in the world (Philippians 2:15).

9. We must deny the lusts of the world; live godly in it (Titus 2:12).

10. We must remain unspotted from the world (James 1:27).

11. We must not love the things of the world (1 John 2:15-17)

12. We must be like Christ in the world (1 John 4:17).

13. We must not be conformed to the world (Romans 12:2).

14. We must be dead to the ways of the world (Colossians 2:20).

15. We must overcome the world (1 John 5:4,5).

A man threw his gold into the sea, saying, "I will destroy thee, lest thou destroy me!" If men do not put the love of the world to death, the love of the world will put them to death (Jude 11). Venning wrote: "The things of this world, like Absalom's mule, run away and leave us when we have most need of them." Our only security is "in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Genesis 13:10,11.

2. 2 Timothy 4:10.

3. John 15:18,19.

## TRUE OR FALSE

1. T F: We can't afford to have God as an enemy.
2. T F: Worldliness is a sin.
3. T F: A little conformity to the world is okay.

## FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. "No one \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ an \_\_\_\_\_ if he can \_\_\_\_\_ it."
2. "Whosoever therefore \_\_\_\_\_ be a \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "\_\_\_\_\_ and constantly \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_."

## THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Why is the world a challenge?
2. How can we overcome the world?
3. How do you plan to use this lesson in your life?

## QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:

5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

IT'S OKAY TO BE REAL

A young man sat in a minister's office discussing church membership. "I'll tell you one thing, preacher," said the young man, "I'm looking for a place where people are real. I'm tired of phonies and hypocrisy."

I believe, as a whole, the world is looking for a place where people aren't putting up fronts or wearing masks, "Be real" is a common expression in our day, and is some very good advice for all of us.

Contrary to the thinking of some, hypocrisy is not confined to religion; it is everywhere. I've heard people reject religion because, to use their words, "There are too many hypocrites in the church." Yet, these same people are not influenced by them (i.e., hypocrites) in other areas of life. Society is crowded with them, and yet they never think of becoming hermits. There are hypocrites on the job, but they won't quit. Hell is full of them, and yet they don't do a thing to keep from going there.

During His ministry Jesus had a lot to say about the traits and destiny of hypocrites. Before we notice some specific examples of this, let's define the word hypocrite. In general, the Greek word **hupokrisis** means to play a part, act, false, deceptive, deceived; formally and outwardly religious and good, but inwardly insincere and unrighteous; the play actor may deceive himself as well as others. This is why "the way of the hypocrite's hope shall perish" (Job 8:13). On no other class did our Lord pronounce such severe condemnation as on the "play actors" of His day.

Matthew, chapter twenty-three, contains the Lord's rebuke and description of the hypocrisy of the Scribes and Pharisees. Let's notice verses

2 through 33 and study carefully some characteristics of these religious people.

1. They taught one thing, but practiced something else (v. 3).

2. They demanded service, but wouldn't give it (v. 4).

3. They worked only for human praise (v. 5).

4. Their religion was extreme show (v. 5).

5. They sought the chief places (vv. 6,7).

6. They prevented people from entering the kingdom (v. 13).

7. They took advantage of widows (v. 14).

8. They were zealous to win people to their sect, but not to God (v. 15).

9. They professed to be the only guides in religion, but were blind (vv. 16,22).

10. They strained at gnats and swallowed camels; stressed minor details and omitted the heart of religion (vv. 23,24).

11. They gloried in bodily cleanliness, but lived in moral filth (vv. 25, 26).

12. They put on an outward show, but ignored inward holiness in life and conduct (vv. 27,28).

13. They pretended to be more righteous than their forefathers (vv. 19-33).

14. Thus, according to Jesus, their fate was hell (v. 33).

Only God knows who is real and who is merely playing a part. John Milton, in **Paradise Lost, Book III**, wrote: "For neither man nor angel can discern hypocrisy, the only evil that walks invisible, except to God alone." If hypocrisy is part of your lifestyle, let me encourage you to lay it aside before it is too late (1 Peter 2:1). It's okay to be real.

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Mark 12:15.
2. Luke 12:1.
3. 1 Timothy 4:2.

#### TRUE OR FALSE

1. T F: You can always spot a hypocrite.
2. T F: There are some hypocrites in the church.
3. T F: It's hard for people to take off their "masks."

#### FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. "I believe, as a \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ for a place where \_\_\_\_\_ aren't \_\_\_\_\_ up \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ masks."
2. "There are \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ won't \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "During His \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus had a lot to \_\_\_\_\_ about the \_\_\_\_\_ and destiny of \_\_\_\_\_."

#### THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Why is it difficult to know if a person is a hypocrite?
2. How can a person overcome hypocrisy?
3. How do you plan to use this lesson in your life?

#### QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:



2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

**THE WAY UP IS DOWN**

Constantine the Great was one day looking at some statues of noted persons, who were represented **standing**. "I shall have mine **kneeling**," said he; "for that is how I have risen to eminence."

This is the way it should be with the Christian. If he desires to obtain any "real eminence" in the Christian life, he must be often kneeling in prayer to God. James wrote, "...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:17).

Origen, being seized by persecutors, and allowed a choice between punishment and bowing to idols, in an hour of weakness chose the latter. He afterward repented, and said that the cause of his fall was his neglect of morning prayer on the fatal day.

We must develop a daily prayer life. We must heed the admonition given to the Thessalonians: "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The key to receiving is asking: "...ye have not, because ye ask not" (James 4:2). The way up from problems is down on your knees in prayer.

When a person prays he is doing several things:

1. He is talking to his heavenly Father (Matthew 6:9).
2. He is exercising his faith in God's ability to answer (James 1:5,6).
3. He is following the example of Jesus Christ (Matthew 26:29).
4. He is allowing Christ, as his mediator, to act on his behalf (1 Timothy 2:5).
5. He is exercising a blessing reserved for the righteous (Psalms 66:18).

6. He is showing his concern for others (James 5:16).
7. He is demonstrating the right attitude (1 Corinthians 14:15).
8. He delights God when he prays (Proverbs 15:8).
9. He gives God a chance to help. We must "ask."
10. It is following the example of all the faithful people of God (e.g., Abraham, Moses, Paul, etc.).

There are no real secrets to prayer. A Christian must go to God in faith. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). A man once said: "There was a time in my life, when I prayed in the presence of others, I prayed to **them**; when I prayed in secret, I prayed to **myself**: but now I pray to God." Directness is the correct approach in prayer.

Have you set aside some specific time(s) during the day to be alone with God in prayer. It's vital to building a positive life. **THE WAY UP IS DOWN!**

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject:

1. Romans 8:26.
2. Luke 22:44.
3. Genesis 32:24-30.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: Prayer is optional to the Christian life.
2. T F: Righteous men always pray.
3. T F: If we don't ask we won't have.

**FILL IN THE BLANKS** (Only one word per

blank).

1. "We must \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ prayer \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "The way \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ on your \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "There are \_\_\_\_\_ real \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_."

#### THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. What role does prayer play in building a positive life?
2. How does God answer prayer? (i.e., ways, etc.).
3. How do you plan to use this lesson in your life?

#### QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:

## CHAPTER 5

### AN ANCHOR FOR THE SOUL

It is recorded of Alexander the Great, that when distributing the spoil of one of his victories, he gave all away, keeping nothing for himself. One of his soldiers asked him what he reserved for himself. The monarch answered, "Hope!"

A person may have everything of a material nature, but if he doesn't have HOPE he is spiritually bankrupt. Concerning three things that last, Paul wrote, "And now abideth faith, hope and love, these three..." (1 Corinthians 13:13).

Hope, which is essential to building a positive life, involves three factors. First, it centers in a **desire** (Hebrews 7:19). Second, it demands **expectancy** (Romans 8:24,25). And third, it means **trust** (1 Corinthians 1:10). Hope is assurance because of God's promises. Thus, it is not a mere "Christmas" wish: i.e., "I hope, I hope, I hope, I hope, I get a..."

Hope, like faith, doesn't just come into a person's heart out of the blue, or overnight. Real, lasting hope comes through these sources:

1. Hope is produced by the Scriptures (Romans 15:4).
2. Hope is produced by the Gospel (Col. 1:23).
3. Hope is the result of Christ's work (Ephesians 2:5-8; Hebrew 9:28-10:8).
4. Hope is the product of experience (Romans 5:3-5).
5. Hope is based upon the promises of God (Acts 26:6,7).
6. Hope is the result of God's calling (2 Thessalonians 2:14; Ephesians 1:18).
7. All hope centers in God (Psalms 38:15; 43:5).

As an anchor thrown to the bottom of the sea holds a ship fast in storms and tempests; so the Christian's hope penetrates the waves of his troublesome world, and reaches the eternal shore, holding fast his soul amid the waves of temptation and sin. The Hebrew writer reminds us of our hope: "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil" (Hebrews 6:18,19).

The myth of Pandora's Box is very interesting. It is an account of how Pandora was sent to bless man; she was furnished a box into which every god had put a blessing. She opened the box carelessly, and all the blessings escaped, except HOPE. Never lose your hope. You must have it to build a positive life.

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Psalms 16:9.
2. Psalms 31:24.
3. Titus 2:13.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: Hope is no more than a wish?
2. T F: Hope as a virtue must be developed.
3. T F: We are saved by hope (Romans 8:24).

#### **FILL IN THE BLANKS (Only one word per blank)**

1. "\_\_\_\_\_, which is \_\_\_\_\_ to building a \_\_\_\_\_ life, involves \_\_\_\_\_ factors."
2. "\_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 5:3-5)."
3. "Never \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_."

## THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Why is hope so essential to the Christian life?
2. How do you develop hope?
3. How do you plan to use this lesson in your life?

## QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

## LIMIT YOUR IMITATIONS

Some Brazilian hunters are reported to have captured a number of monkeys by having small boots made for them, which they filled with pitch. The hunters sat down in sight of the monkeys, and pulled off and on their boots; then retired, leaving small boots. As soon as they were out of sight, the monkeys descended from the trees, and began doing as they had seen the hunters do. The hunters sprang upon them. The boots stuck to their feet, they could not climb, and were easily caught.

Many people are caught in the same way. They practice the "monkey-see, monkey-do" approach to life; they want to be like everybody else. The Bible warns us about following the examples of others.

1. **Proverbs 4:14:** "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men."

2. **1 Corinthians 15:33:** "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."

3. **1 Corinthians 5:6:** "Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?"

There are some positive injunctions in the Bible relative to imitating and following:

1. We should follow Jesus' example (1 Peter 2:21).

2. We should follow the example of the Apostles (1 Thessalonians 3:7; 1 Corinthians 4:16).

3. We should imitate children (Matthew 18:4).

4. We should follow God (Ephesians 5:1,2).

It is reported that Plato's students admired



him so much, that they arranged their garments in a fashion so as to appear to have a crooked shoulder like their master. It was probably easier to imitate Plato's shoulder than his philosophy.

Our imitations are many; some have been with us for years. Our goal is to imitate Christ in ALL things.

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Proverbs 22:24,25.
2. Matthew 23:1-3.
3. 1 Timothy 4:12.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: All of us, at one time or another, imitate.
2. T F: It is okay to imitate a good example.
3. T F: Christians must imitate Christ.

#### **FILL IN THE BLANKS**

1. "The \_\_\_\_\_ warns us about \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "Our \_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_ Christ in all \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "We should \_\_\_\_\_ children" (Matthew 18:4).

#### **THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION**

1. Why is the tendency to imitate common among men?
2. How can we imitate Jesus?
3. How can we break negative habits relative to imitating?
4. How do you plan to use this lesson?

QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

**CHECK OUT THE REWARD**

There is an interesting story about an old Roman soldier who retired after forty years of service in the causes of his country: ten as a private, and thirty as an officer. He had been involved in 123 battles, and had been wounded 45 times. He had obtained 14 civic crowns for having saved the life of a Roman citizen; 3 mural crowns for having been the first to climb the breach; and 8 golden crowns for having retrieved the standard of a Roman legion from the hands of the enemy. He had in his house 83 gold chains, 60 bracelets, 18 golden spears, and 23 horse trappings, the spoils of war.

Faithfulness is always rewarded. As a Christian, if you are faithful to your Lord, as the Roman soldier, your rewards shall exceed his. His were temporal, yours are eternal. Notice what the Bible says about your reward.

1. **It is a crown of righteousness:** "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:8).

2. **It is a crown of life:** "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (James 1:12; cf. Revelation 2:10).

3. **It is a crown of joy:** "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming" (1 Thessalonians 2:19).

4. **It is an incorruptible crown:** "And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible"

(1 Corinthians 9:25).

5. **It is a crown no man can take away:**  
"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown" (Revelation 3:11).

6. **It is given according to our works:**  
"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Revelation 22:12).

7. **It is an enduring substance:** "For ye had compassion on me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and enduring substance" (Hebrews 10:34).

God's reward is the best. It is an eternal incentive for building a positive life (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:58).

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Mark 10:21.
2. Hebrews 11:26.
3. Acts 26:18.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: Reward is not a good incentive.
2. T F: God gives the best rewards.
3. T F: People are interested in rewards.

#### **FILL IN THE BLANKS (Only one word per blank)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is always \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "\_\_\_\_\_ reward \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_."
3. It is an \_\_\_\_\_ incentive for \_\_\_\_\_ a positive \_\_\_\_\_."

#### **THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION**

1. What are some of the rewards God gives?
2. How can a person lose his reward?
3. How do you plan to use this lesson?

QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

## AWESOME POWER OF LISTENING

Have you ever noticed how much you like people who will listen to you? It's a trait we appreciate in others, and one we need to develop in our lives. It's a real plus for building a positive life.

An excited boy was trying to tell his father about an event at school. The father interrupted by saying: "Slow down, son, you're talking too fast."

"No, dad, you're listening too slow," replied the boy.

Listening is one of the greatest skills a person can exercise. It is important in every relationship (i.e., home, church, job, friends, etc.). No person ever listened himself out of a job. Benjamin Franklin said: "A pair of good ears will drink dry 100 tongues." A poor listener seldom hears anything good. Someone remarked: "Since God gave us two ears and only one tongue, He evidently wants us to listen twice as much as we talk."

The Bible gives us some good advice on how to listen.

1. You must have the proper **disposition**: "Wherefore, my brethren, let every man be swift to hear..." (James 1:19).

2. You must be careful **how** you listen: "Take heed therefore how ye hear..." (Luke 8:18).

3. You must be careful about **what** you listen to: "And he said unto them, take heed what ye hear..." (Mark 4:24).

4. You **exemplify wisdom** as a good listener: "A wise man will hear, and will increase learning..." (Proverbs 1:5).

5. You must be **careful** in listening: "He

that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him" (Proverbs 18:13).

6. We are **commanded** to give heed to hearing: "...who hath ears to hear, let him hear" (Matthew 13:9).

7. We must listen with **attentiveness**: "...and the ears of all the people were attentive unto the book of the law" (Nehemiah 8:3).

8. You must be **willing** to hear: "The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts they shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears..." (2 Timothy 4:3).

Being a good listener requires self-discipline and hard work. It is worth the price, and will increase your effectiveness as a servant. Are you listening?

### For Additional Study and Discussion

#### RELATED VERSES

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Matthew 7:24-27.
2. Romans 2:13.
3. Matthew 13:14-23.

#### TRUE OR FALSE

1. T F: Being a good listener is easy.
2. T F: It takes training to be a good listener.
3. T F: Most people prefer to talk.

#### FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank)

1. "It's a \_\_\_\_\_ plus for \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ life."
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ listener \_\_\_\_\_ hears \_\_\_\_\_ good."
3. "The \_\_\_\_\_ gives us \_\_\_\_\_ good \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_"

\_\_\_\_\_."

### THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. It is essential that we be good listeners.  
How can we do this?
2. What are the qualities of a good listener?
3. How do you plan to use this lesson?

### QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:



**THE PERIL OF PRIDE**

The nation of Edom thought it was secure from the destructive possibilities of invading armies because it dwelt high on a mountain. Obadiah, God's prophet, made this pronouncement against their false trust: "The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee...thence will I bring thee down, saith the Lord" (Obadiah 1:3,4).

Pride is an enemy of Christian growth. So much so that God's word condemns it many times. "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look..." (Proverbs 6:16,17). "Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him" (Proverbs 26:12). This is why God's blessings go to the "Poor in spirit" (cf. Matthew 5:3). God said, "Pride, and arrogancy...do I hate" (Proverbs 8:13).

Pride is deadly because of its nature and consequences. Let's take a moment and examine some biblical points about the perils of pride.

1. Pride causes people to do cruel things (Esther 3:5,6).
2. Pride brings destruction (Esther 6:11; Proverbs 16:18).
3. Pride produces contention (Proverbs 13:10).
4. Pride leads to false evaluation about one's success (Deuteronomy 8:11,14, 18).
5. Pride leads to boasting about one's accomplishments (Daniel 4:30).
6. Pride leads to revenge (Exodus 14:5).
7. Pride leads to presumption (2 Chronicles 26:16).
8. Pride leads to worldliness (1 Samuel 8:19,20).

9. Pride leads to trust in riches (Ezekiel 28:4,5).
10. Pride leads to religious hypocrisy (Luke 8:11).
11. Pride moves God to resist us (James 4:6).
12. Pride causes a person to fall into condemnation (1 Timothy 3:6).

The apostle Paul was prevented from becoming proud about his accomplishments. He wrote: "Lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelation, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me" (2 Corinthians 12:7).

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. 2 Samuel 17:23.
2. Revelation 3:17,18.
3. Daniel 4:37.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: No one is exempt from the temptation of pride.
2. T F: Pride is loved by God.
3. T F: It is easy to overcome pride.

#### **FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank)**

1. "\_\_\_\_\_ is an \_\_\_\_\_ of Christian \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "Pride is \_\_\_\_\_ because of its \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "\_\_\_\_\_ moves \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ us" (James 4:6).

## THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. What is your definition of pride?
2. How can a person win over pride?
3. Is there a good usage of pride?  
Discuss.
4. How do you plan to use this lesson in your life?

## QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

## THE PLACE OF THE ORDINARY

I meet and counsel with a lot of people who think they are useless, or have no place in God's service. This just isn't true! God has accomplished mighty things through the "ordinary person." In fact, most of our Bible heroes are "average people." Notice a few biblical examples of this fact.

1. **Sarah:** She laughed at God's promise (Genesis 18:9-15).
2. **Joseph:** A slave who became a ruler (Genesis 43-50).
3. **Moses:** A murderer who became a great leader (Exodus 2:11-22).
4. **Deborah:** A housewife who became a Judge (Judges 4:4-10).
5. **Rahab:** A harlot who found honor (Joshua 6:22-25; Hebrews 11:31).
6. **Jacob:** A cheater who became a Jewish leader (Genesis 25:27-34).
7. **Elijah:** Was a man prone to depression but God used him (1 Kings 18,19).
8. **John:** The "son of thunder" became the apostle of love.
9. **Matthew:** A tax collector became an apostle and writer.
10. **Amos:** A herdsman who became a prophet (Amos 7:14-16),
11. **Paul:** A tentmaker who "upset the world."
12. **Timothy:** A young man who became an evangelist.
13. **John the Baptist:** A social outcast was herald for the King.
14. **Mary:** A carpenter's wife chosen to be the mother of the Messiah.
15. **Peter:** A fisherman who became an apostle and elder.

This list doesn't look very impressive when measured by the world's standard. But according to God, they are real winners. They became great because of their faith in God. They yielded themselves to His control and purposes for their lives. They were committed to His cause.

God hasn't changed! He is still interested in what a person is WITHIN, more than what he has accomplished WITHOUT. He has called us to (1) obey Him, and (2) to walk by faith. When we do this we move from the ranks of the losers to the winners' circle, where the crown of life is bestowed (cf. Revelation 2:10). It is always the "ordinary" person who builds a positive life.

### For Additional Study and Discussion

#### RELATED VERSES

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Luke 22:27.
2. John 13:16.
3. 1 Kings 11:26.

#### TRUE OR FALSE

1. T F: God can only use certain people who are very talented.
2. T F: God always uses "average" people.
3. T F: Every member of the church is important.

#### FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank).

1. "In fact, \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ heroes are '\_\_\_\_\_ people'."
2. "God has \_\_\_\_\_ mighty \_\_\_\_\_ through the '\_\_\_\_\_ person'."
3. "It is \_\_\_\_\_ the '\_\_\_\_\_ ' person who \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ life."

## THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. How can we help members of the church feel important?
2. How do you overcome the "ordinary" complex?
3. How do you plan to use this lesson in your life?
4. Why do people feel useless?

## QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

## DON'T SHOOT YOURSELF DOWN

Several years ago the news media reported how a new Navy jet shot itself down flying at supersonic speed. It ran into bullets it had fired only seconds before. The plane was traveling too fast.

Mankind has been practicing the art of shooting himself down for hundreds of years. Are you shooting yourself down? Do you engage in negative self-talk that shoots you down as a person? Do you rob yourself of peace of mind by constantly reminding yourself of how terrible you are? Do you fire remarks at yourself like these?:

- \* "I'm stupid."
- \* "I have two left hands."
- \* "I can't do anything right."
- \* "I'm not very pretty."
- \* "I'm a born loser."
- \* "I will fail if I try."
- \* "I don't fit in."
- \* "I will make a fool out of myself."
- \* "I always put my foot in my mouth."
- \* "I'm dumb."
- \* "I'm just not a lucky person."

As a rule, a man is his own worst enemy. He beats himself with the ammunition of thoughts fired in his mind. Through negative thinking he keeps himself feeling inferior, and living in a state of fear. It doesn't matter that others think he is an alright person. He must constantly shoot himself down. This habit of a lifetime is hard to break. But it is possible to break with God's help.

Don't shoot yourself down. WHY? Here are some good reasons:

1. God believes in you. He sent His Son

- to die for you (John 3:16).
2. You are created in God's image (Genesis 1:26,27).
  3. You have power to help you win life's struggles (1 John 4:4).
  4. You are an okay person. Jesus died for you (Romans 5:7-9).
  5. Your talents and possibilities are unique (1 Corinthians 12:13-27).
  6. Feelings aren't facts. Trust God's word!
  7. You can choose to build a positive life.
  8. God is on your side (Ephesians 3:20,21).

There are too many people in the world who enjoy shooting you down. You don't have to join their ranks. Today, your goal is to lay a positive block in your spiritual house.

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSE**

How do these verses relate to the subject:

1. Hebrews 4:16.
2. 1 John 4:17.
3. Proverbs 14:26.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: Self-talk is a normal thing.
2. T F: Man is his own worst enemy.
3. T F: God considers every member of the church important.

#### **FILL IN THE BLANKS (one word per blank)**

1. "As a \_\_\_\_\_, man is his own \_\_\_\_\_ enemy."
2. "This \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_ is hard to \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "Don't \_\_\_\_\_ yourself \_\_\_\_\_."

#### **THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION**



1. Why do people shoot themselves down?
2. How does self-image relate to this subject?
3. How can a person improve his self-talk?
4. How do you plan to use this lesson?

QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

## HOW TO BECOME USELESS

I guess you are surprised at the title of this lesson. Most people feel useless already without being told how to reach such a state. These remarks are intended for persons who have positions and responsibilities, but for various reasons do nominal jobs in carrying them out.

Dr. J. Richard Jones, associate professor of marketing at the University of Georgia, in an article in **Nation's Business**, May 1973, P. 37, entitled "How to Become Useless" lays down nine guidelines toward planned personal obsolescence:

- (1) "Never establish goals."
- (2) "Don't try to understand the company's goals."
- (3) "Avoid developing a managerial philosophy."
- (4) "Don't attempt to improve."
- (5) "Develop an abhorrence toward newness."
- (6) "Avoid job change."
- (7) "Never hire anyone better than yourself."
- (8) "Never attend professional meetings, conferences, or seminars."
- (9) "Avoid reading."

Even though Dr. Jones was writing for a business-oriented audience, his points are applicable to other areas of life. Take a few minutes and examine each point and see how many applications you can make to your life and the church.

No one, to my knowledge, wants to become useless or ineffective in his vocation, home, church, etc. The key is to do the opposite of what Dr. Jones mentioned in his nine points.

How would you apply them?

In Second Peter we are challenged to supply out of our faith a number of qualities: virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly love, and love. Why should I work on developing these qualities in my life? Peter gives us the reason: "For if these things be in you and abound, they make you to be not idle nor unfruitful unto the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:8). Thus, they guarantee that we will not become useless.

You may not have very much in your own sight to use for the Lord. All God is asking is that you be the best with what you have. He wants you to be a fruit-bearing branch in His Son, Jesus Christ (cf. John 15:1-9).

God wants us to produce fruits of righteousness:

1. We are blessed in righteousness (Psalms 106:3).
2. Through labor we help others (Acts 20:35).
3. God doesn't want us to be idle (Matthew 20:1-15).
4. Hard work brings sweet sleep (Ecclesiastes 5:12).
5. We all have talents to use for God (Matthew 25:14-30).

Persons who are building positive lives never accept the fact that they are useless in God's service. Life is an exciting adventure.

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. John 10:32; Acts 10:38.
2. Luke 13:6-9.
3. 2 Corinthians 9:8.

**TRUE OR FALSE:**

1. T F: Some people enjoy being useless.
2. T F: It takes a plan to avoid uselessness.
3. T F: Laziness, which is a sin, is a form of uselessness.

FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank)

1. "I \_\_\_\_\_ you are \_\_\_\_\_ at the \_\_\_\_\_ of this \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "All \_\_\_\_\_ is asking is that \_\_\_\_\_ be the \_\_\_\_\_ with what \_\_\_\_\_."
3. God wants us to \_\_\_\_\_ fruits of \_\_\_\_\_."

THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Why do some people feel useless?
2. How do you know if you are useless?
3. How is a good way to overcome uselessness?
4. How do you plan to use this lesson in your life?

QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:

4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

**"O GRAVE, WHERE IS THY VICTORY?"**

Every time we take a trip to the cemetery, or death strikes down a friend or loved one, we feel like the enemy has won again. In one sense, because of the hurt and mental anguish, I guess you could say there is some truth in that statement. But when we examine what God's word teaches, we learn, at least for the Christian, it isn't true. Death can't beat the Christian. The cemetery hasn't won the last round.

The apostle Paul wrote: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?... But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:55,57). Death and the grave are not the victors! Through Christ we have gotten the best of these foes. A positive life is possible because of this great truth.

There are some keys on our part which we must use in our victory over this enemy. **FIRST**, there are some ways we **CANNOT** get the best over this enemy:

- (1) By pretending it isn't real. Death is real!
- (2) By taking it lightly. Some make a joke of it.
- (3) By being afraid of it.
- (4) By pushing it from our minds.
- (5) By avoiding discussions about it.
- (6) By being misinformed about it.
- (7) By hoping it will go away.

**SECOND**, here are some suggestions for getting the victory over the enemy:

- ( 1 ) Don't let it surprise you. It is an appointment (Hebrews 9:27).
- ( 2 ) Be sure you are prepared by being

- "in Christ" (Galatians 3:27).
- ( 3) Trust God and His promises (John 8:32).
  - ( 4) Remember the open tomb of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:22-25).
  - ( 5) The enemy will be destroyed (1 Corinthians 15:26).
  - ( 6) We will be resurrected (1 Corinthians 15:51-54).
  - ( 7) To be with Christ is far better (Philippians 1:20-24).
  - ( 8). Death is precious in the sight of God (Psalms 116:15).
  - ( 9) It is a blessing to die "in the Lord" (Revelation 14:13).
  - (10) We have a building of God (2 Corinthians 5:1-8).

The only way the grave can win is to hold us down. The resurrection guarantees this won't happen. We are more than conquerors in Christ.

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. 2 Timothy 4:6-8.
2. 1 Thessalonians 4:13,14.
3. Acts 7:59.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: Most people fear death.
2. T F: Death is the last enemy to be defeated.
3. T F: The resurrection of Christ is proof of victory over death.

#### **FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank)**

1. " \_\_\_\_\_ can't \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "A \_\_\_\_\_ life is \_\_\_\_\_"

because of this \_\_\_\_\_

3. "The \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ happen." guarantees this

#### THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. How do you view death? Why?
2. How can we develop a better attitude toward death?
3. Why are Christians afraid (some times) of death?
4. How do you plan to use this lesson in your life?

#### QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:



**LIFE'S STEERING WHEEL**

"The Thinker," the great sculpture by Rodin, stands in Paris in front of the Pantheon. The bronze figure is resting his head upon his hand, he appears to be buried in deep thought. The image of "The Thinker" suggests to my mind that there is no achievement without thought. Behind everything man has accomplished, whether good or bad, has been thought. Thoughts are powerful! This is why we must select them very carefully. Your "thought room" is the control center for your life. From here you steer life's course.

Man must control his thoughts. Paul wrote: "Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ..." (2 Corinthians 10:5). In **Paradise Lost** (I 253), John Milton wrote: "The mind is its own place, and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven."

Thought is the steering wheel of life. We go in the direction our thoughts take us. When success occurs, we have been thinking success. Likewise, when we fail or don't do right, we probably haven't been thinking right. The wise man said: "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7).

It's what's inside that really counts.

"I have a house inside me;  
A house that people seldom see;  
It has a door through which none pass  
And windows, but they're not of glass.

'Where do you live?' asks folks I meet;  
And then I say, 'On such a street.'  
But still I know what's really me  
Lives in a house folks never see."

Author unknown

There are several things that will help us develop and maintain good thoughts:

1. We must renew our minds every day (Romans 12:1,2).
2. We must arm ourselves with the mind of Christ (1 Peter 4:1; Philippians 2:5-8).
3. We must program our minds with the word of God (Psalms 119:94-97).
4. We must be sober minded (Titus 2:6).
5. Righteous men think righteous thoughts (Proverbs 12:5).
6. God knows our thoughts (Psalms 139:1-12).
7. Who we are and what we do is determined in the mind (Mark 7:21 ff).

Be careful about how you steer your life. Handle your thoughts carefully. This is a must quality as a wise master builder.

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Isaiah 55:7-9.
2. Psalms 139:17.
3. 1 Corinthians 3:20.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: Thoughts determine actions.
2. T F: You can change your life by changing your thoughts.
3. T F: God's word is a safe guide for thinking.

FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank)

1. "Your \_\_\_\_\_ room is the  
\_\_\_\_\_ center \_\_\_\_\_ your  
\_\_\_\_\_."
2. "\_\_\_\_\_ must \_\_\_\_\_ his  
\_\_\_\_\_."
3. "This is a \_\_\_\_\_ quality as a  
\_\_\_\_\_ master \_\_\_\_\_."

THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. How did Eve's thinking get her into trouble?
2. Discuss Proverbs 23:7.
3. What plan of action do you have for positive thought control?
4. How do you plan to use this lesson in your life?

QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

**BE CAREFUL ABOUT ADVICE**

"Advice," wrote Lord Chesterfield, "is like snow; the softer it falls the longer it dwells upon you, and the deeper it sinks into the mind." Benjamin Franklin said: "Two things in life I've had an ample amount: Good advice and bad example."

I am sure you have noticed how quickly some people are ready to give you advice. Some advice may be good, and some may be bad. Some of the most destructive advice ever given was that given by Mrs. Job to her husband: "...Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die" (Job 2:9). On the other hand, Naaman's servant gave him some good advice relative to obeying God (cf. 2 Kings 5:13,14; read 1 Kings 12).

Advice is everywhere. It is sad that most people put their trust in the advice of people rather than in God and His word. People rush to seminars, workshops, read books, seek out "experts," and a host of other things in their efforts to find answers to life's challenges. They go to everyone but God. Our lives must be built upon advice from our Creator. We must seek Him first and all our problems will be handled. A person is wise when he seeks advice from God (i.e., His word).

1. Through study of the Bible we gain God's approval (2 Timothy 2:15 KJV).
2. God gives us wisdom to meet the challenges of life (James 1:5).
3. Our heavenly Father meets our needs when we put Him first (Matthew 6:33).
4. Jehovah is the one who will exalt us (Proverbs 29:25).
5. The truth is the source of real freedom (John 8:32; 17:17; Proverbs 23:23).

6. Our strength comes from God (Psalms 71:16).
7. God's protection and provision are ours (Psalms 23).

These and many additional reasons, let us know that we must listen to God's advice. Our first desire in life should be to know God and His will (John 17:3), and then to do it (Luke 6:43). His advice is sound. Paul wrote: "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than men; knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward" (Colossians 3:23,24). Whose advice are you following as you build your life?

"To profit from good advice requires more wisdom than to give it" (Churton Collins).

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Proverbs 12:19.
2. John 12:48; Romans 2:16.
3. Ephesians 1:13.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: It is hard for most of us to accept advice.
2. T F: People sometimes give us good advice.
3. T F: We find God's advice in the Bible.

#### **FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank)**

1. "\_\_\_\_\_ is everywhere."
2. "They \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "Our \_\_\_\_\_ must be \_\_\_\_\_ upon \_\_\_\_\_ from our \_\_\_\_\_."

## THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Why do people give advice so freely?
2. Do you like to give advice? Why?
3. Why is God's word the best advice available?
4. How do you you plan to use this lesson?

## QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

**WHERE THE SAINTS MEET**

The following quatrain was written by a fourteen-year-old boy, and quoted in the **Steu-benville (Ohio) Register**:

"Each time I pass a church,  
I stop to make a visit,  
So that when I'm carried in  
Our Lord won't say, 'Who is it?'"

The power that comes from meeting with God's people is unique. The Hebrew writer said: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

The following notice was displayed outside a church building:

C H ? ? C H

What is missing?

God doesn't want us to miss the assembly of the saints. It is essential to our efforts in building a positive life. Here are several reasons why a person should want to attend church services on a regular basis:

1. The Lord is present (Matthew 18:20).
2. You will be encouraged to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24,25).
3. You will feel better after you attend (Psalms 122:1, a principle for us).
4. I bring honor and glory to God (Ephesians 3:21).
5. The word of God is shared in a positive way (2 Timothy 4:1-5; 2:15).
6. It's a chance to imitate Christ (Luke 2:41-50).
7. There is mutual burden bearing oppor-

- tunities (Galatians 6:1,2).
8. It is a positive example for others (1 Timothy 4:15).
  9. Singing and edification occurs (Ephesians 5:19).
  10. It follows the habit of the early church (Acts 2:39-47; 20:7).

"Hand in hand, in Sunday dress  
 Parents with their children go,  
 Asking God their lives to bless,  
 Wanting all His love to know."

(Edgar A. Guest)

Where the saints meet is a positive place of exciting possibilities. God designed it just for us. He knew we needed it. I look forward to it and plan to be prepared to contribute as well as to receive. I know it will help me build a positive lifestyle.

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Matthew 16:13-18.
2. 1 Corinthians 12:18; Acts 2:47.
3. 1 Corinthians 4:1,2.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: Christians should not miss church services.
2. T F: The Lord's Supper is the major reason we come together on Sunday.
3. T F: A person can forsake the assembly.

#### **FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank).**

1. "The \_\_\_\_\_ that comes from \_\_\_\_\_ with God's \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_."



2. " \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't want us to  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of the  
\_\_\_\_\_. "
3. "I \_\_\_\_\_ it will \_\_\_\_\_ me  
\_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle."

### THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Why do some Christians fail to understand the importance of attending Church services?
2. Why do you attend all the services of the church?
3. How can we make church services better?
4. How do you plan to use this lesson?

### QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

## RAGS-TO-RICHES

Most Americans are familiar with the works of Horatio Alger, the 19th Century author who wrote more than 100 works of fiction. Many of these were "rags-to-riches" novels for boys. Each year the Horatio Alger Award is presented to persons who have overcome great odds to become successful. More than 350 Americans have received this award.

Every time I hear the phrase "rags-to--riches" I am reminded of a far greater success story that has nothing to do with financial, business, athletic or any other kind of advancement by man.

The greatest "rags-to-riches" success story occurs when a sinner turns from no hope to a living hope. In his sins man is a loser on his way to eternal destruction (cf. Isaiah 59:1,2; John 8:24-28). Isaiah, a prophet of God, said: "For we are all become as one that is unclean, and all our righteousnesses are as but filthy rags..." (Isaiah 64:6). At his best, without God, man is in "rags." When he obeys the gospel, being born anew of water and Spirit (John 3:1-5), he becomes rich toward God (cf. Luke 12:20,21), and heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ (Romans 11:9). What a success story!

Notice some qualities set forth in God's word which give us more details about man's transfer, spiritually speaking, from "rags-to-riches." Notice what has happened:

1. In Christ we have been given "all spiritual blessings" (Ephesians 1:3).
2. We have been added to the Son's Will, thus the promises and rewards are ours too (Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 13:20).
3. We moved from darkness to light (Colos-

sians 1:11-13; 1 John 5:19), and have become lights of the world.

4. We have been given a power source to help us win over all struggles (1 John 4:4; Ephesians 3:20,21).
5. We moved from being dead in sin to being alive in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:1-5).
6. We are now listed on the only register that matters (Luke 10:20, Names written in heaven).
7. We enjoy and continually appropriate the riches of God's grace (Romans 10:12; Ephesians 2:5-8; James 4:6; 1 Peter 4:10; 5:5).
8. We are promised a "crown of life" if we live faithfully unto death (Revelation 2:10).
9. Our needs are supplied from the riches of God (Philippians 4:19).
10. We share in the riches of His glory (Ephesians 3:16).

It's great to live in a country where a man can still accomplish goals and dream dreams; can literally go from rags-to-riches. But we must never forget that there is no profit if a man gains the whole world and loses his own soul (Mark 8:35-38). May we never forget who is eternally described by the "rags-to-riches" phrase: Lost persons who have become saved. As a "rich" man you can build a positive life!

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

1. 1 Corinthians 4:8.
2. Ephesians 1:7; 2:4.
3. Hebrews 11:26.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: Most people don't understand

- what constitutes real riches.
2. T F: A lost man is not a "total winner."
  3. T F: All Christians are rich.

FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank)

1. "In his \_\_\_\_\_ man is a \_\_\_\_\_ on his \_\_\_\_\_ to eternal \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "At his \_\_\_\_\_, without \_\_\_\_\_, man is in \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "As a \_\_\_\_\_ man you can \_\_\_\_\_ a positive \_\_\_\_\_!"

THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Why is salvation a "rags-to-riches" story?
2. Why do some people elect to be financially rich and spiritually poor?
3. Discuss some of the riches we have in Christ.
4. How do you plan to use this lesson?

QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:

6. My sentence prayer is:

7. With God's help I affirm:

## ALTERING AMBITION

"Fling away ambition. By that sin angels fell. How then can man, the image of his Maker, hope to win by it?" These words of Shakespeare come down rather hard on ambition. I am not sure of the context his remarks were made in, but I do know that ambition is an awesome challenge faced by man as he builds a positive life.

What is ambition? How could it be wrong? Isn't it okay to be ambitious? These questions deserve an answer. I personally believe there is a right ambition as well as ambition which is not in harmony with God's word. Our challenge is to know the difference.

After a junior high school class toured the White House the teacher asked each student to write impressions of the visit. One boy wrote: "I was especially glad to have an opportunity to visit my future home." Proper goals (ambition) for life are not wrong.

Webster gives the following definition of **ambition**: "strong desire for success, fame, power, wealth, etc." The right or wrong of a person's ambition centers in the cause of his ambition. Lord Tennyson was once talking with a friend who made the remark that his greatest ambition in life was to leave the world better than he found it. Tennyson replied that his greatest ambition was to obtain a clearer vision of God. The apostle Paul said, concerning his ambition, "Brethren, my heart's desire and my supplication to God is for them, that they may be saved" (Romans 10:1). Attitude determines which ambition is right and which one is wrong (cf. Proverbs 23:7; Mark 7:20-23).

The Bible gives us some good guidelines to follow relative to ambition. Notice the following verses.

1. Man must be careful about wanting to make a name for himself (cf. Genesis 11:4).
2. A greedy person brings trouble to his house (Proverbs 15:27).
3. God always blesses the humble spirit (Matthew 5:1-2; Proverbs 16:19).
4. There is danger in seeking great things for yourself (Jeremiah 45:5).
5. When we exalt ourselves we are headed for a fall (Obadiah 4).
6. We must labor for things that don't perish (John 6:27).
7. Our affections must be set on things above (Colossians 3:2).

Only wisdom from above can help us keep our ambitions on the right track. If our ambitions are unbiblical we must be quick to alter them. Edmund Burke wrote: "Well it is known that ambition can creep as well as soar." It is not the size that counts but the quality of your ambitions that ensure a positive life.

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Matthew 16:26.
2. Matthew 20:16.
3. Proverbs 23:4,5.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: All ambition is wrong.
2. T F: Paul was an ambitious man.
3. T F: We must constantly examine our ambitions.

#### **FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank)**

1. "I \_\_\_\_\_ believe there is a  
as well as \_\_\_\_\_  
which is \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ with

- God's \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "\_\_\_\_\_ goals (\_\_\_\_\_) for  
\_\_\_\_\_ are not \_\_\_\_\_."
  3. "If our \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ we  
must be \_\_\_\_\_ to alter  
\_\_\_\_\_."

### THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Why is ambition important?
2. Why should we examine our ambitions?
3. In what ways may ambition be good?
4. What is your major ambition in life?  
Why?
5. How do you plan to use this lesson in  
your life?

### QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:



## CHAPTER 19

### DO SOMETHING GREAT

Positive life builders dare to do great things!

When President Kennedy announced to the world that America was going to land a man on the moon, he set the wheels of excitement in motion that caused the dream to become a reality. Great dreams stand a better chance of becoming reality than small ones.

Abraham Lincoln attended church one Sunday and heard a well-known preacher who, many thought, was at the peak of his ability and style because the President of the United States was in the audience. After the service someone asked Mr. Lincoln what he thought of the sermon. The President replied, "Since you asked, I must confess I didn't think much of it."

"Why?" he was asked.

Lincoln replied, "Because he didn't ask us to do anything great!"

The word "great" is very popular in our day. Obviously, it means different things to different people. All seem to agree, however, that it means to rise above the usual or normal.

God's word calls upon us to do many GREAT things. In fact, everything God wants us to do is GREAT. It's great because: (1) God said it, (2) it blesses you, and (3) benefits others. What great things are you doing? Only you know the answer to this question.

"The man," wrote Mulock, "who does his work, any work, conscientiously, must always be in one sense a great man." This is especially true when applied to "doers of the word" (James 1:18-22).

I believe the following list of biblical fundamentals are just a few of the great things God

has called upon us to do. (Remember the three reasons why they are great):

1. Read your Bible. It is great food for the soul (Matthew 4:4; 1 Peter 2:1-3).

2. Forgive those who have wronged you (Luke 17:1-4).

3. In every situation love your enemies (Matthew 5:43,44). Talk about a great challenge! This is one.

4. Go the second mile: do more than is required (Matthew 5:41).

5. Be an example of a believer in every situation of life (1 Timothy 4:12).

6. Stand firm when it isn't popular to do so (1 Corinthians 15:58).

7. Share the Good News with the people you know (Mark 16:15,16).

8. Find someone you can serve (James 1:27).

9. Control your temper when it flares up (2 Peter 1:5-7).

10. Live faithfully unto death (Revelation 2:10).

Be content to let God define what real greatness is all about and what constitutes a great act. You can do something great every day.

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Zechariah 4:6.

2. John 4:24.

3. I Corinthians 13:13.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: Everybody can do something great.

2. T F: God's standard of greatness dif-

fers from man's.

3. T F: God helps us do great things.

**FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank)**

1. " \_\_\_\_\_ life \_\_\_\_\_ dare to do  
\_\_\_\_\_ things!"
2. "God's \_\_\_\_\_ calls upon us \_\_\_\_\_  
do many \_\_\_\_\_ things."
3. " \_\_\_\_\_ can do \_\_\_\_\_ great  
\_\_\_\_\_ day."

**THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION**

1. Why do people misunderstand real greatness?
2. Why should we be interested in doing great things?
3. How can we do a better job in serving God?
4. How do you plan to use this lesson?

**QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS**

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:

6. My sentence prayer is:

7. With God's help I affirm:

## SOARING ABOVE SUFFERING

Here is a challenging verse for you: "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I may learn thy statutes" (Psalms 119:71). Note carefully that the Psalmist did not say that it was **pleasant** for him but, rather, it was for his **GOOD**. Some things (e.g., pleasure of sin) may be pleasant, but unprofitable; and sorrow is profitable, but unpleasant.

The benefit gained from suffering by the Psalmist was: "That I might learn thy statutes." His learning came not from hearing only; but of learning by experience. He had felt the truth and comfort of God's word more effectual and lively in trouble than he could do without trouble; which also made him more godly, wise, and devout when the trouble was gone. Spurgeon wisely wrote: "I am mended by my sickness, enriched by my poverty, and strengthened by my weakness."

The apostle Paul was a man who soared above his troubles. He wrote: "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10; cf. 13:4).

The Bible records the sickness, pain and suffering of several Christians: (1) **Epaphroditus**, (Philippians 2:25-27; (2) **Timothy**, 1 Timothy 5:23; (3) **Paul**, 2 Corinthians 12:6-9; (4) **Dorcus**, Acts 9:36-40; and (5) some were afflicted (James 5:13,14). It is worthy of note that there isn't an account of these, or any others, in the early church asking "Why?" relative to their suffering. They evidently had learned the lesson taught by Peter (cf. 1 Peter 4:12-14).

Understanding the nature (i.e., why and

how) of suffering will help us soar above it. Here are some biblical facts that will help us:

1. Suffering should not be considered strange for the Christian (1 Peter 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:12).

2. The greater the suffering the greater the joy and glory (1 Peter 4:13; Romans 8:17,18).

3. Suffering may be remedial if responded to properly by the Christian (Hebrews 12:6-11).

4. Suffering is not always the result of sin (Matthew 5:10; 13:21; Mark 10:30; John 15:20).

5. Suffering can work for our good (Romans 8:28).

6. God doesn't bring evil upon people to tempt them (James 1:13; Hebrews 6:18).

7. To be in Christ is to suffer (2 Timothy 3:12).

8. In Christ we learn from suffering (Hebrews 12:5-11).

9. In Christ we look beyond suffering (Romans 8:18).

10. The best is yet to be (Revelation 21:4; Hebrews 11:10-12; Philippians 3:20).

A soldier who had been shot through a shoulder and a leg, and had also lost an arm, radiant with joy, exclaimed, "Oh! my wounds are nothing now. I can bear them all: I have peace within." He had learned the key to soaring.

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Matthew 10:21-36.

2. Acts 5:41.

3. 2 Timothy 2:12; 1 Peter 4:16.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: Sooner or later everybody suffers.
2. T F: God helps us soar above suffering.
3. T F: The "Why" of suffering is not important.

#### FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. "The apostle \_\_\_\_\_ was a man who \_\_\_\_\_ about his \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "They \_\_\_\_\_ had \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ taught by \_\_\_\_\_ (cf. 1 Peter 4:12-14)."
3. " \_\_\_\_\_ can work for \_\_\_\_\_ good (Romans 8:28).

#### THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Why do some people think they are suffering because of God's punishment?
2. Why do godly people suffer persecution?
3. How can a person soar above the consequences of suffering?
4. How do you plan to use this lesson?

#### QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:

5. I am an okay person because:

6. My sentence prayer is:

7. With God's help I affirm:



**DON'T LET THE FIRE GO OUT!**

The other day I was visiting with a man who had quit attending the services of the church. One of the reasons he gave was: "I guess I just let my fire go out. I was so on fire for the Lord when I became a Christian." What this man was willing to admit, thousands are suffering silently with: a loss of zeal for God's cause.

Jeremiah is one of my favorite Bible characters. He faced every discouragement a servant of God could experience and remained faithful. Most theologians refer to him as the prophet who "preached for forty years" without a response. He was so human that on one occasion he thought about quitting and going into the "motel business" (cf. Jeremiah 9:1,2). After a season of reflection, however, he knew he couldn't quit his work for God. He said: "...But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay" (Jeremiah 20:9).

As long as a person keeps his enthusiasm on the front burner he won't let his fire for God's cause, or any cause, go out. To the lukewarm Laodiceans, Christ gave some of His strongest remarks (cf. Revelation 3:14-22).

**ZEAL** is a bible word and describes the fire we are talking about. Zeal, zealous and fervent are words translated from the Greek root **ZEO**. **Zeo** is defined as: "To boil with heat, be hot; excitement of mind, burning, seethe, any eager vehement passion for a cause" (Thayer, Vine, Bullinger).

Let's notice some places where the KJV translates **zelos** as zeal or zealous:

1. Jesus was zealous for the House of God

- (John 2:17).
2. Paul was zealous for the wrong cause (Philippians 3:6; Acts 22:3; Galatians 1:14).
  3. False teachers are zealous for their cause (Galatians 4:17,18).
  4. Zeal can be redirected (Acts 21:20).
  5. Our zeal must be according to knowledge (Romans 10:2).
  6. Zeal encourages others (2 Corinthians 9:2).
  7. Zeal is vital for God's work (Epaphras, Colossians 4:13).
  8. We are commanded to be zealous unto good works (Titus 2:14).
  9. Zealousness (for God) is a key to repentance (Revelation 3:19).
  10. Zeal is a state we create within our minds.

Let's now notice a few places where **zeo** is translated fervent(ly):

1. Apollos taught fervently (Acts 18:25). He was "alive on his feet."
2. We are commanded to be "fervent in spirit" (Romans 12:11).
3. Epaphras was an example of a fervent worker (Colossians 4:12).
4. Churches had fervent encouragement for preachers (2 Corinthians 7:7).
5. Fervent prayer availeth much (James 5:16,17).

### **FLAME**

"Are you on fire for God?  
Or does the flame burn low?  
Are the embers burning out  
Till there is no more glow?

Why has the fire burnt down?  
Why is the flame all gone?

Simply because there's no more fuel  
To keep it burning on.

If you would blaze for God,  
Your soul must ever be  
Fed daily from His holy Word,  
Praying continually.

Then will the flame burn bright  
As you live close to Him.  
This is the fuel that feeds the fire.  
The flame won't then grow dim."

--May Gorrie

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it  
with thy might..." (Ecclesiastes 9:10). This  
will ensure that the fire won't go out as you  
build your positive life.

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. 1 Corinthians 15:58.
2. 1 John 5:13.
3. Revelation 2:10.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: Every Christian must be zealous  
for God's work.
2. T F: Zeal must be according to know-  
ledge.
3. T F: Zeal is developed from within.

#### **FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank)**

1. "To the \_\_\_\_\_ Laodiceans,  
\_\_\_\_\_ gave some of His  
\_\_\_\_\_ remarks (cf. Revelation  
3:14-22)."
2. " \_\_\_\_\_ is a Bible \_\_\_\_\_ and

describes the \_\_\_\_\_ we are  
\_\_\_\_\_ about."

3. "After a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, how-  
ever, he \_\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_\_ quit  
his \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_."

### THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Why should we stay excited about God's work?
2. How is zeal developed?
3. How do you keep your fire burning?
4. How do you plan to use this lesson?

### QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

## THE REAL WINNERS

Who are the real winners in life? It all depends upon who you ask. The financier will say those who make and keep a lot of money; the coach will say the team or person that wins the event; the lawyer will say the one who wins the case; the politician will say the one who wins the election; the contestant will say the one who wins the prize. In their context all of these answers would be true. But in the context of God's will and eternal life they don't have much to offer. This doesn't mean, however, that they are wrong **per se**, it merely means that we must look somewhere else for the REAL winners.

In recent months I have read several newspaper articles about the obsession Americans have with winning. It has become a major problem even among the 5 and 6 year-olds, as they are pressured to win in team sports. The pressure not only comes from coaches but parents too.

It is reported that a sign in the University of Minnesota basketball locker room in the 1970s contained this statement: "Defeat is worse than death, because you have to live with defeat." A popular phrase often repeated by advocates of the win-or-else philosophy is: "They don't hold parades for the people who finish second."

Who are the real winners in life? I'll tell you:

1. The real winners in life are those who are more than conquerors in Christ (Romans 8:37).

2. The real winners in life are those who know how and when to turn the other cheek (Matthew 5:39).

3. The real winners are those who walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

4. The real winners in life are those who know how to do without and still rejoice in the Lord (Philippians 4:12).

5. The real winners in life are those who have denied themselves and are following Christ (Matthew 16:24).

6. The real winners in life are those who have the assurance of their salvation (1 John 5:13).

7. The real winners in life are those who know how to give a "cup of water" in the Lord's name (Matthew 25:42-46).

8. The real winners in life are those who love the unloveable (Matthew 5:44).

9. The real winners in life are those who know how and practice forgiveness (Luke 17:1-5).

10. The real winners in life are those who are investing in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21).

11. The real winners in life are those who realize the value of their souls (Mark 8:36-38).

12. The real winners in life are those who will be winners in eternity (Revelation 2:10).

13. The real winners in life do not gauge their success by what they have (Luke 12:15).

14. The real winners in life count all their trials as joy (James 1:2-5).

15. The real winners in life are those who won't quit or give up in the fight of faith (1 Corinthians 15:58; 2 Timothy 4:6-9).

In a word, Christians are the real winners in life. I hope that's YOU. Only REAL winners can build a life that will last.

On one occasion I was talking with a man who was giving me a very impressive "sales pitch" on the qualities of a certain successful millionaire who was his friend and business partner. He kept referring to this man as a "real winner." When I asked if the man was a Christian, the reply was, "No." Then I asked: "How can a man be a REAL winner and be lost?"

He can't! The words of Jesus keep ringing in my ears: "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36). A lost person has a zero profit margin.

A few years ago I wrote this statement in the front of my Bible: "**Winning** is the total release of all that you are toward becoming like Jesus Christ in each situation. **Losing** is not releasing your entire self toward becoming like Christ in each situation."

Relative to maintaining the proper attitude toward winning, we would do well to consider the remarks of San Jose (California) sports psychologist Thomas Tutko: "The benefits of competition are clearly abused when the final score is the only criterion. A true competitor can find a great deal of personal pride in having played his best even when he loses. But many of us have the erroneous belief that if you play your best you will win. Winning isn't getting more points; it's working up to your potential."

Our homes will be better places to live once we put winning in its right place. A godly home will always be a place where REAL winners gather and talk about the fun they had in merely playing the game. They know the real Score is kept in heaven.

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### RELATED VERSES

How do these verses relate to our subject?

1. John 10:10; 14:6.
2. Romans 8:28.
3. 1 John 4:4; Romans 8:1.

#### TRUE OR FALSE

1. T F: Americans have almost gone too far in their demands for winning.

2. T F: The world may never recognize a REAL winner.

3. T F: God makes us REAL winners.

FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank)

1. "The \_\_\_\_\_ not only comes from \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ too."

2. "In a \_\_\_\_\_, Christians are the real \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_."

3. "Only \_\_\_\_\_ winners can \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ that will \_\_\_\_\_."

THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Why does the world misunderstand real winning?

2. Why is God's standard important in determining REAL winners?

3. Do you consider yourself a REAL winner? Why?

4. How do you plan to use this lesson in your life?

QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

1.

2.

3.

PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:

2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:

3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:

4. Here is how I helped someone this week:



5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

## SMILE AWAY YOUR TROUBLES

Have you ever tried to stay mad and smile at the same time? Take a moment and try to act mad and at the same time put a big smile on your face. You can't be mad and smile. Thus, when you find yourself getting angry, stand still for a moment and smile. As a positive life builder, of all the things you wear, your smile is the most important.

"Laughing," wrote Josh Billings, "is the sensation of feeling good all over, and showing it principally in one spot." Sterne said: "I am persuaded that every time a man smiles, but much more when he laughs, it adds something to his fragment of life."

Researchers have discovered just the act of flexing facial muscles into characteristic expressions of joy or other emotions, can produce effects on the nervous system that normally go with those emotions. Facial muscles are tied closely to the autonomic nervous system, which controls heart rate, breathing and other vital involuntary functions.

Raymond A. Moody, Jr., M.D., in his book, **Laugh After Laugh**, writes: "There are reports, both in the professional literature and in the context of anecdote and folk belief, of persons who have cured, or at least eased, in numerous medical and/or psychological conditions, by the use of laughter and humor" (p. 19, Headwater Press, 1978, Jacksonville, Fla.).

Hundreds of years ago a wise man guided by God wrote: "A glad heart maketh a cheerful countenance; but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken" (Proverbs 15:13). "A cheerful heart is a good medicine; but a broken spirit drieth up the bones" (Proverbs 17:22). "...But he that is of a cheerful heart hath a continual

feast" (Proverbs 15:15). "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth..." (Ecclesiastes 11:9).

Try to be a smile ambassador as you travel through life. It will help you and those you come in contact with. As the song says, "Smile, even though your heart is breaking..." "A laugh," wrote Lamb, "is worth a hundred groans in any market." Carlyle wrote: "A laugh, to be joyous, must flow from a joyous heart, for without kindness there can be no true joy." It's okay to smile and laugh. Look around you! Surely there is something that will turn up the corners of your mouth.

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Romans 12:8.
2. John 16:33.
3. Acts 27:22.

#### **TRUE OR FALSE**

1. T F: Some humor can be wrong.
2. T F: God created us with the ability to laugh.
3. T F: A person can smile when he chooses.

**FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank).**

1. " \_\_\_\_\_ can't be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "Try to be a smile \_\_\_\_\_ as you \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_."
3. " \_\_\_\_\_ there is \_\_\_\_\_ that will \_\_\_\_\_ up the \_\_\_\_\_ of your \_\_\_\_\_."

## FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. How important is healthy humor to good health?
2. How do you develop a sense of humor?
3. What kind of humor is wrong?
4. How do you plan to use this lesson in your life?

## QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

**DON'T BE A FOOL**

I have never met a person who likes to be mocked or made fun of regardless of the reason. There is an interesting story in the Old Testament about children mocking a prophet of God:

"And he went up from thence unto Bethel; and as he was going up by the way, there came forth young lads out of the city, and mocked him, and said unto him, Go up, thou baldhead" (2 Kings 2:23).

Surely there isn't anything wrong with making fun of an old baldheaded preacher. After all, kids will be kids. Evidently Elisha didn't feel this way. Notice what happened to the mockers:

"And he looked behind him and saw them, and cursed them in the name of Jehovah. And there came forth two she-bears out of the wood, and tare forty and two lads of them" (2 Kings 2:24).

Paul tells us that there is a Divine law at work in the universe known as the **law of sowing and reaping**: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7). The Greek verb used by Paul means to "writhe the nostrils, to scorn, to sneer at, to deride." Webster defines **mock** as: "To hold up to scorn or contempt; ridicule; imitate, etc."

Not only may a man mock God, which is eternally serious, he may also mock other things which ruin his life before God. One of these things is mentioned in Proverbs 14:9: "Fools

make a mock of sin..." (KJV). When a person takes sin lightly and makes fun of it, he will become its victim. This is why God calls such persons fools.

God gives us some very clear teaching about the state of a fool:

1. We must not give honor to a foolish person (Proverbs 26:8).
2. The foolish shall not stand (Psalms 5:5).
3. Fools hate knowledge (Proverbs 1:22).
4. A fool shall fall (Proverbs 10:10).
5. Only a fool would say there is no God (Psalms 14:1).

There are many ways a fool can make a mock of sin. Some of them are as follows:

1. By failing to understand the nature and consequences of sin (Isaiah 59:1,2; Psalms 5:4,5).
2. By failing to remember (or know that God hates sin (Psalms 11:5; Deuteronomy 31:17,18).
3. By failing to remember that sin is against God (Psalms 8:36; 41:4).
4. By participating in it with the attitude that it will never find them out (Numbers 32:23).
5. Wise men hate sin (Proverbs 8:13; Psalms 101:3; only a fool would take it lightly).
6. By failing to remember God's will and the judgment (Galatians 6:5-8; Job 4:8).
7. By failing to see sin as the enemy of the soul (Ephesians 2:1; Romans 3:23; 6:23).

A positive life builder will never wink at sin or take it lightly. If it occurs in his life, he will quickly confess it (1 John 1:8,9; Psalms 32:5); and accept the cleansing (Matthew 26:28; 1 John 1:7).

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Genesis 21:8-10; Ezekiel 25:3; Isaiah 25:14,15; Job 15:12.
2. 2 Peter 3:3.
3. Job 4:8.

#### TRUE OR FALSE

1. T F: In some situations it is okay to mock people.
2. T F: Most people like to be mocked.
3. T F: God's word is a sure cure for a spirit of mockery.

#### FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank)

1. "This is why \_\_\_\_\_ calls such persons \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "\_\_\_\_\_ gives us \_\_\_\_\_ clear \_\_\_\_\_ about the \_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "A \_\_\_\_\_ life \_\_\_\_\_ will never \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ or take it \_\_\_\_\_."

#### THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. How is mockery possible without speaking insults?
2. Why is it wrong to take sin so lightly?
3. What are some additional characteristics of a fool?
4. How do you plan to use this lesson in your life?

#### QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:



## THE CONTENTED LIFE

Johann Wolfgang Goethe (1749-1832), possessing one of the greatest minds in all time, set forth nine essentials for a full and contented life:

"Health enough to make work a pleasure.

Wealth enough to support your needs.

Strength to battle with difficulties and overcome them.

Grace enough to confess your sins and forsake them.

Patience enough to toil until some good is accomplished.

Charity to see some good in your neighbor.

Love enough to move you to be useful and helpful to others.

Faith enough to make real the things of God.

Hope enough to remove all anxious fears concerning the future."

In our fast-moving society **contentment** is a difficult virtue to maintain. The media is constantly bombarding us with reasons why we must switch from brand A to brand B. Satisfaction is a no-no in our day.

How does a person become contented? The apostle Paul stated that it is something you **LEARN**: "I have learned to be content in whatsoever state I am" (Philippians 4:11). He certainly was a man who was in a position to know what he was talking about. In a letter to the Corinthians he shared some of the situations he had found himself in: "...in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness,

in fastings" (2 Corinthians 6:4,5).

Paul learned his lesson well. He was CONTENT to know that regardless of circumstances, he was the possessor of all spiritual blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1:3); and was more than a conqueror (Romans 8:37).

The following points will help us learn the fine art of being content.

1. Being content is not the same as enjoying what is going on in your external world. It means the ability to stay close to God and His promises regardless of what happens.

2. It means the placing of the proper value on everything that happens to you: e.g., trials test and prove your faith (James 1:2-7).

3. Remember, as a rule, things change. There is always sunshine after the clouds move away.

4. Try to live your life one day at a time (Matthew 6:30-35).

5. Pray for wisdom in every situation of life (James 1:5).

6. We have control over the attitude we elect to have relative to life situations (Proverbs 23:7).

7. The Lord is on your side (Psalms 118:6).

8. God has not given us a spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7).

9. Our all-powerful God knows and understands our troubles (Psalms 147:5).

10. Our home is reserved in heaven (1 Peter 1:2-5). Therefore, we can never be fully satisfied in this life.

A poor widow, not having enough blankets to shelter her son from the snow which was blown through the cracks of her cabin, covered him with boards. One night, he said to her smilingly and contentedly, "Ma, what do **poor** folks do these cold nights, that haven't any boards to cover their children with?" There is

a way to view everything that happens to us. The best way is to count your blessings instead of your problems. This is a must quality for positive life builders.

### For Additional Study and Discussion

#### RELATED VERSES

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. 1 Timothy 6:8.
2. Hebrews 13:5.
3. 1 Timothy 6:6.

#### TRUE OR FALSE

1. T F: It is easy to be content in America.
2. T F: We must LEARN how to be content.
3. T F: There are times when it is not good to be content.

#### FILL IN THE VERSES (One word per blank)

1. "In our \_\_\_\_\_ moving society \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_ virtue to \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "\_\_\_\_\_ is a no-no \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_."
3. "\_\_\_\_\_ learned his \_\_\_\_\_ well."

#### FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. How does the world make it difficult for the Christian to learn contentment?
2. What are some signs of discontentment?
3. Why can't a Christian be fully satisfied in this life?
4. How do you plan to use this lesson in your life?

#### QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:
2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:

**KEEP ON KEEPING ON**

It is reported that day after day during his voyage to America, Columbus made the following entry in his diary: "This day we sailed on." There is power in persistency. S. G. Goodrich had this in mind when he wrote: "Perseverance gives power to weakness, and opens to poverty the world's wealth. It spreads fertility over the barren landscape, and bids the choicest fruits and flowers spring up and flourish in the desert abode of thorns and briers."

This is what a positive life builder must do as he sails the seas of life. The winds may blow, the rains fall, and the storms rage, but you must persistently sail on if you hope to reach the portals of heaven. The Captain of our ship specializes in steering us through turbulent times.

Determination and persistency are powerful tools to use in building your life. They are choices at your disposal; without them you won't build very much.

**Y O U**

"All that stands between your goal  
And the deeds you hope to do,  
And the dreams which stir your  
restless soul--

Is you!

The way is rough and the way  
is long,  
And the end is hid from view,  
But the one to say if you shall  
be strong--

Is you!

Someone has said: "Persistent people begin

their success where others end in failure." Don't quit. The last key on the ring may fit the lock. No matter what your goals in life may be, one of the keys to attaining them is tenacity. The person who can stay glued to his objective, and sail on each day, is the person who reaches the top.

Let's notice a few things that will help us keep on keeping on:

1. Stay excited about life and the goals you are working toward.

2. "Whatsoever thy hands find to do, do it with all thy might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

3. It isn't quitting time yet; God will let you know when it is time to quit (Revelation 2:10).

4. Determination and persistency is fueled by faith in God (Hebrews 11:1,6).

5. Steadfastness ensures continual sailing (1 Corinthians 15:58).

6. Don't grow weary in well doing (Galatians 6:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:13).

7. Keep on running because you haven't finished your race (Hebrews 12:1; 1 Corinthians 9:24).

8. Always keep your courage high (Psalms 27:14; 31:24).

9. Lean on God's strength (Proverbs 3:5; Ephesians 3:20).

10. Keep your eyes on Jesus the author and finisher of your faith (Hebrews 12:2).

Most of the great and meaningful things in life result from perseverance. A person must learn to hold on, and in time victory will come. Shakespeare said: "An enterprise, when fairly once begun, should not be left till all that ought is won." Keep on keeping on!

### **For Additional Study and Discussion**

#### **RELATED VERSES**

How do these verses relate to the subject?

1. Isaiah 40:31.
2. 2 Corinthians 13:4.
3. Hebrews 6:19.

#### TRUE OR FALSE

1. T F: Quitting is the easy way out.
2. T F: We must be faithful unto death.
3. T F: God will help us keep on keeping on.

#### FILL IN THE BLANKS (One word per blank)

1. "There is \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_."
2. "The \_\_\_\_\_ of our ship \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ us through \_\_\_\_\_ times."
3. "\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are powerful \_\_\_\_\_ to use in \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_."

#### FOR THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION

1. Why should a Christian keep on keeping on?
2. What are some of the major things that hinder Christians?
3. What keeps you going? Share your daily plan.
4. How do you plan to use this lesson in your life?

#### QUESTIONS YOU HAVE (Write them down)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### PROOF OF POSITIVE ACTIONS

1. Here is my power thought for this week:

2. Here is an improvement I see in myself:
3. I am especially thankful for this blessing:
4. Here is how I helped someone this week:
5. I am an okay person because:
6. My sentence prayer is:
7. With God's help I affirm:



## ***Sermons and Articles***

- Searching the Scriptures**, John Waddey, Second Edition, Cloth, \$6.00.  
**Church of the Bible**, J.C. Choate, Paper, \$1.00.  
**New Delhi Sermonettes**, J.C. Choate, Paper, \$1.00.  
**The Anatomy of Sin and Other Sermons**, John Waddey, Cloth, \$4.00.  
**An Outlined Introduction to the Bible, Vol. 1**, John Waddey, Cloth, \$6.00.  
**An Outlined Introduction to the Bible, Vol. 2**, John Waddey, Paper, \$10.00.  
**Preaching to Preachers About Preaching**, John Waddey, Cloth, \$5.00.  
**What You Always Wanted to Know About Your Preacher, But You Never Cared Enough to Ask**, Steve Williams, Cloth, \$4.00.  
**Fighting the Good Fight of Faith, Lessons on Modern Moral Problems**, John Waddey, Cloth, \$6.00.  
**Sermons on the Ten Commandments**, John Stacy, Cloth, \$5.00.  
**Declaring God's Righteousness**, John Waddey, Cloth, \$6.00.  
**Conversions in Acts**, Basil Overton, Paper, \$3.00.  
**What Is a Christian? and Other Short Sermons Presenting Good News**, Larry A. West, Paper, \$4.00.  
**Liberalism, the Deadly Enemy of the Church**, John Waddey, Cloth, \$5.00.  
**The Gospel of Christ**, J.C. Choate, Paper, \$1.00.  
**New Testament Worship**, J.C. Choate, Paper, \$1.00.  
**Sermons on Heaven and Hell**, John Stacy, Paper, \$5.00.  
**Is There a Universal Code of Ethics?**, Edited by Jim E. Waldron, Paper, \$6.00.  
**Family Living in Christ**, John Waddey, Paper, \$4.00.  
**God's Message for Man Today**, John Stacy, Paper, \$5.00.  
**Preaching the Basics**, John Stacy, Paper, \$5.00.  
**You Can Be Just a Christian!** Jim Massey, Paper, \$1.00.  
**Scriptural Organization of the Churches of Christ**, Jim Massey, Paper, \$2.00.  
**Recipe for Revival**, John Stacy, Paper, \$6.00.  
**Where Will You Be When the Sun Goes Down?** Leslie G. Thomas, Paper, \$2.00.  
**A Thorn in Your Flesh**, Steve Williams, Paper, \$3.00.  
**The Great Inheritance and Other Sermons**, John Waddey, Paper, \$6.00.  
**The Little Red School Book That Was Blue**, Jim Waldron, Paper, \$6.00.  
**Following Jesus**, John Waddey, Paper, \$6.00.  
**The Carolina Lectures and Outlines**, Howard Winters, Cloth, \$6.00, Paper, \$4.00.  
**Bible Themes**, J.C. Choate, Paper, \$3.00.  
**Sermons on the Cross**, Steve Williams, Paper, \$3.00.  
**Let Us Pray!** Leslie G. Thomas, Paper, \$3.00.

## ***Poetry Books***

- Windows of the Soul**, Betty Burton Choate, Cloth, \$6.00, Paper, \$4.00.  
**Still Moments**, Betty Burton Choate, Cloth, \$6.00, Paper, \$4.00.  
**Love Poems**, Betty Burton Choate, Cloth, \$6.95.

## ***Debate Books***

- The Lipe-Lewis Debate (on Pentecostalism)**, Paper, \$8.00.

## ***Class Books***

- Unto You, Young Men**, Bill Nicks, Paper, \$2.00.  
**Seldom Studied Scriptures**, Gary C. Hampton, Paper, \$3.00.  
**Building a Positive Life, Vol. 1**, J.J. Turner, Paper, \$3.00.  
**Building a Positive Life, Vol. 2**, J.J. Turner, Paper, \$3.00.

## ***Questions and Answers***

- What Does the Bible Say?** Jerrie Barber, Paper, \$3.00.