

New Bethel Complete In Christ Church

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Complete In Christ Study Course

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Statement Of Purpose

To Provide Spiritual Development For Ministry,
To Accomplish Unity In The Faith And Enlightenment
Of The Son Of God, until Every Believer Reaches
Maturity In Christ.

Name: _____

Date Started: _____

Date Ended: _____

Why Our Name?

Complete In Christ World Ministries

(PIEROO) (CHRISTOS) (DIAKONIA)

Colossians 2:10, says, "ye are complete in Him (Christ) who is the head of all principality and power."

The Greek word for COMPLETE is *Pieroo*, meaning: *to fill, to be made full; full to the brim with.*

Christ in the sept. translates *Christos* in the Old Testament Messiah, a term applied to the Priests who were anointed with the Holy oil, particularly the High Priest, Lev. 4:3,5,16. The Prophets are called *hoi Christoi*. Theo., "the anointed of God." Psalm 105:15

The *ho Christos*, "the Christ" is not used of Christ in the sept. version of the Inspired Books of the Old Testament

In the New Testament the word is frequently used with the article, "of the Lord Jesus", as an appellative rather than a title
Matthew 2:4; Acts 2:31; without the article, Luke 23:2,

It is added as an appellative to the proper name "Jesus", John 17:3
The only time when the Lord so spoke of Himself.

The single title *Christos* is sometimes used without the article to...
signify the one who by *His Holy Spirit* and power indwells believers, and molds their character in conformity to *His likeness*. *Romans 8:10; Galatians 2:20; 4:19; Ephesians 3:17.*

As to the use or absence of the article, the title with the article specifies the Lord Jesus as "the Christ",

The title without the article stresses *His character* and *His relationship* with believers.

(Vine Unger & White Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)

We are full to the brim with His Spirit and Power to mold our Character into His likeness.

We Are Complete In Christ Ministries, taking this message around the world!

Complete In Christ

Course #1

— God's Plan Of Salvation —

SALVATION

How would you answer this question? You're standing before God and He asks you why should I let you into my heaven? What would you say?

GOD'S PURPOSE

God loves us and has a purpose for our lives.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

God's purpose is that we have eternal life.

- We receive eternal life by Grace through faith, it is a free gift from God. *Ephesians 2:8*
- We have not only eternal life through Jesus Christ but we have it abundantly right now. *John 10:10*
- We can be sure about where we will spend eternity with Jesus. *John 14:3*

OUR NEED

As we search for meaning in life, we discover our sinful nature keeps us from fulfilling God's purpose for our lives.

- We are all sinners by nature and by choice.

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

- We cannot save ourselves. *Ephesians 2:9*
- We deserve death and hell. *Romans 6:23*

GOD'S PROVISION

God is holy and just and must punish sin. Yet He loves us and provides forgiveness for our sin. Jesus said *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6*

- Jesus is God and became man. *John 1:1, 14*
- Jesus died for us on the cross. *1 Peter 3:18*
- Jesus was resurrected from the dead. *Romans 4:25*

OUR RESPONSE

The only way Jesus can affect our lives is for us to receive Him. *"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1:12*

- We must turn (repent) from sin.

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..." Acts 3:19

- We must confess Jesus as Lord over our lives.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9-10

- Confessing with our mouth is more than saying Jesus is Lord. *Matthew 7:21*
- Confessing with our mouth is surrendering to Jesus, put Him on the throne of our lives to have control through His Holy Spirit and His word.

COMMITMENT

As evidence of giving Jesus control we will want to identify with him. The way to identify with Jesus is to confess Jesus publicly and follow Him in baptism and church membership. *Romans 10:13*

- Does this make sense to you?
- Is there any reason why you would not be able to receive God's free gift?
- Will you put your trust in Jesus and make Him Lord over your life right now?

PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus—I believe you are the Son of God..and died to forgive me of my sins..I know I am a sinner..I ask you to forgive me. I turn from sin by faith and receive salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.. And I believe that right now I am saved..Thank you Father for Jesus Christ our Lord..And Thank you for saving me. Amen

Complete In Christ

Course #2

— Assurance Of Salvation —

"Nothing is certain but death and taxes", Benjamin Franklin wrote these words in 1789. Of course other things are also certain. The Christian also know that there are many certainties of Spiritual truth. Christians are not afraid to say, "We know!"

The word '*know*' occurs 39 times in John's letter, 8 times in his closing chapter. Man has a deep desire for certainty, and he will even dabble occasionally in his effort to find out something for sure.

JESUS IS GOD

1 John 5:6-10

But how do we know that Jesus Christ is God? Some of his contemporaries called him a liar and deceiver. (*Matthew 27:63*) Others suggested He was a religious fanatic, a madman. False teachings of that day said that "Jesus was merely a man, on whom 'the Christ' had come when baptized, and on the Cross, 'the Christ' left Jesus (my God, my God). John's epistle refutes this false teaching. Three infallible witnesses to prove that Jesus is God.

1. **The Water** - Jesus came 'by water and blood', refers to His baptism in Jordan. *Matt. 3:13-17*
2. **The Blood** - The father gave further witness as the time drew near for Jesus to die. *John 12:28*. Futhermore, the Father witnessed in miraculous power when Jesus was on the cross; the supernatural darkness, the earthquake, and the renting of the Temple veil. *Matthew 27:45, 50-53*. No wonder the centurion cried out "Truly this was the Son of God" *Matthew 27:54*. Jesus did not receive 'the Christ' at his baptism and lose it at the Cross. On both occasions the Father witnessed to the deity of His Son.
3. **The Spirit** - The spirit was given to bear witness to Christ (*John 15:26; 16:14*). We can trust the Spirits witness because 'the Spirit is truth'. The Holy Spirit is the only person active on earth today who was present when Christ was ministering here. The witness of the Father is past history, but the witness of the Spirit is present experience. The first is external, the second is internal - both agree.

How does the Holy Spirit witness within the heart of a believer? *Romans 8:15-16*. His witness is our inner confidence that we belong to Christ - not a confidence that we 'work up for ourselves', but a confidence that God gives us.

The Spirit also witnesses to us through the word. This is not true of an unsaved man (*1 Corinthians 21:14*), it is true only of a believer. A Christian feels *at home* with God's people because the Spirit dwells in him. The Law required two or three witnesses for a matter to be settled. (*Deut. 19:15*).

The Father at baptism, and the Cross, and the Spirit, witnesses today within the believer. The spirit, the water, and the blood settled the matter.

**"JESUS IS GOD; THIS IS THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CERTAINTY AND IT IS
FOUNDATIONAL TO EVERYTHING ELSE."**

Complete In Christ Course #2

— Believers Have Eternal Life cont. —

Key word in John 5:6-10 is *witness* sometimes translated "record" or "testifieth". God gave *witness* to His Son, but he has also given witness to His Sons - to us believers. We know that we have eternal life! (*John 5:13*). Eternal life is a gift. Not something that we earn (*Eph. 2:8-9; John 10:27-29*). But this gift is a person — Jesus Christ. We receive life not only from Christ, but in Christ. (*John 5:12*) Not just "life" but "**the life**" -the life "**which is life indeed.**" (*1 Tim. 6:19*)

The gift is received by faith. God has gone on record in His Word as offering eternal life to those who will believe on Jesus Christ. Not to believe it is to make God a liar. And if God is a liar, nothing is certain. God wants His children to know that they belong to Him. John wrote (*John 20:31*) that we may be sure that we are the children of God (*1John 5:13*).

CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD'S CHILDREN

"Everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him. (*1John 2:29*)

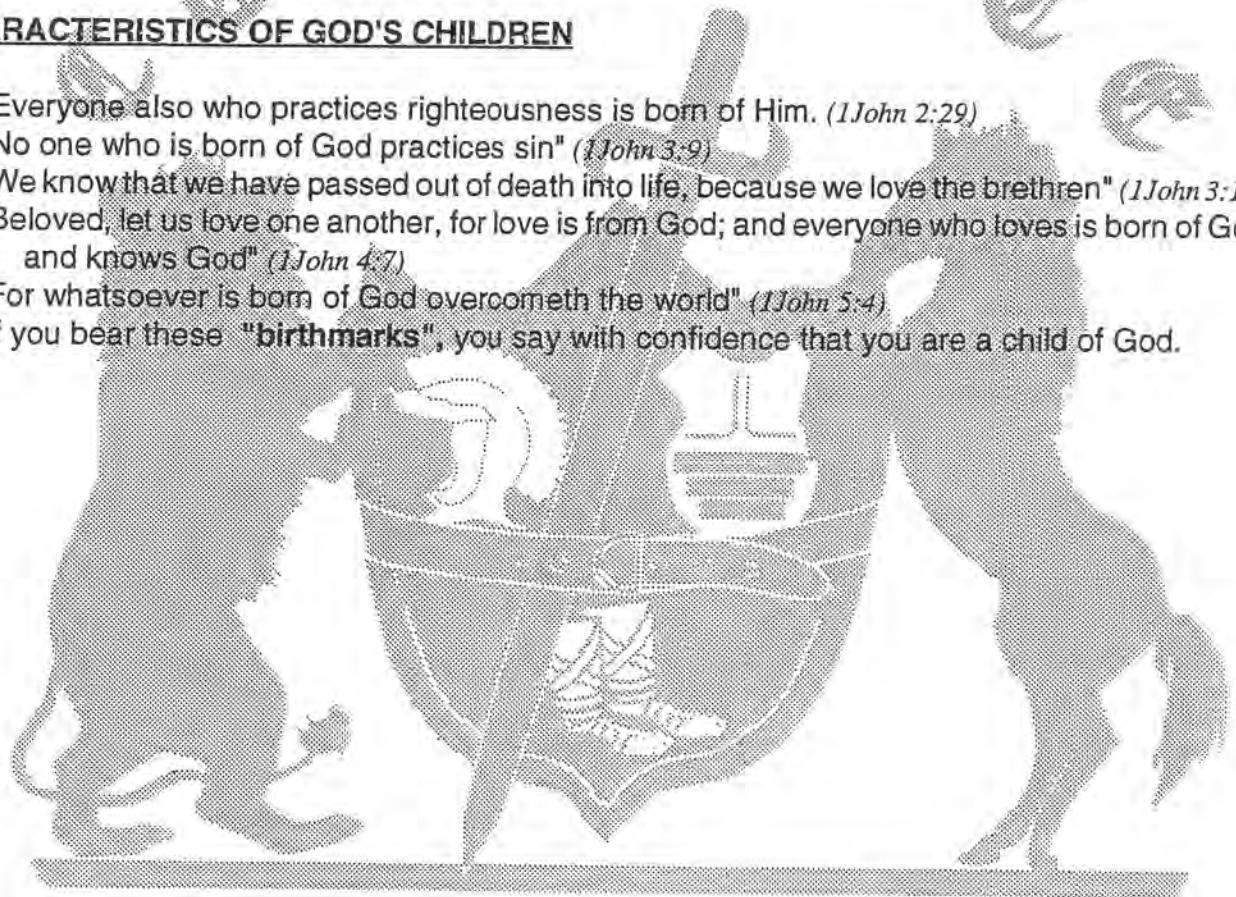
"No one who is born of God practices sin" (*1John 3:9*)

"We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren" (*1John 3:14*)

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God" (*1John 4:7*)

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world" (*1John 5:4*)

If you bear these "**birthmarks**", you say with confidence that you are a child of God.



Complete In Christ

Course #3

— Prayer Life —

Could You Not Tarry One Hour?

I. OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME

- A. Picture Calvary and Thank God you can call Him "Father" by virtue of the blood of Jesus.
- B. Hallow the Names of God corresponding with the five benefits in the new covenant, and make your faith declarations.

BENEFIT	NAME	MEANING
SIN	Jehovah-Tsidkenu	<i>Jehovah our righteousness</i>
	Jehovah-M'Kaddesh	<i>Jehovah who sanctifies</i>
SPIRIT	Jehovah-Shalom	<i>Jehovah is peace</i>
	Jehovah-Shammah	<i>Jehovah is there</i>
SOUNDNESS	Jehovah-Rophe	<i>Jehovah heals</i>
SUCCESS	Jehovah-Jireh	<i>Jehovah's provision shall be seen</i>
SECURITY	Jehovah-Nissi	<i>Jehovah my banner</i>
	Jehovah-Rohi	<i>Jehovah my shepherd</i>

II. THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE

- A. Yourself
- B. Your family (*mate, children, other family members*)
- C. Your Church (*Pastor, Leadership, Faithfulness of People, Harvest*)
- D. Nation (*City, State, National, Political and Spiritual Leaders, Harvest*)

III. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

- A. Be in the will of God (*Prayer life, Church, Work Habits, Obedience in Giving*)
- B. Believe it is God's will to prosper you
- C. Be Specific
- D. Be Tenacious

IV. AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS

- A. Ask God to forgive you
- B. Forgive and Release Others
- C. Set your will to forgive those who sin against you

V. AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

- A. Put on the Whole Armor of God (*Put On The Lord Jesus Christ*)
 1. Loins girted about with **TRUTH**
 2. Breastplate of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**
 3. Feet shod with the **PREPARATION (READINESS)** of the Gospel of Peace
 4. Shield of **FAITH**
 5. Helmet of **SALVATION**
 6. Sword of the Spirit which is the **WORD OF GOD**
- B. Pray a 'Hedge of Protection' (*You are my refuge, my fortress, my God.*)

VI. FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY FOR EVER.

- A. Make your Faith Declarations
- B. Return To Praise

Complete In Christ

Course #3

Complete In Christ Ministry

— Prayer Life —

5 Steps To Victory In Prayer (Luke 11:1-4)

STEP 1: PRAISE - The Tuning -In Step

"Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be your name."

- A. Who He Is.
- B. What He has done in scripture and in our lives. (James 1:17)

STEP 2: COOPERATION - The Connecting Step

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

- A. Pray for God's kingdom to come in your city, in your church and family—every part of your life.
- B. Submit and fit into God's will and leadership in your life. (Romans 12:1)

STEP 3: PETITION - The Receiving Step

"Give us this day our daily bread,"

- A. Concerns (Phil. 4:4)
- B. Intercession
- C. Asking for wisdom (James 1:5)
- D. Praying for and receiving prosperity. (III John 2)
- E. Be specific. Detail in steps what you are asking for.

STEP 4: FORGIVENESS - The Healing Step

"And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sinned against us."

- A. Confession and cleansing (I John 1:9)
- B. Forgiving and blessing those who have wronged you. (Hebrews 12:15; James 3)

STEP 5: VICTORY - The Can Do Step

"Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory— forever."

- A. Ask for and claim victory over temptation (James 4:7,8)
- B. In Jesus' name claim deliverance and protection from Satan's attacks. (I John 4:4)
- C. Be glorified in my life.
- D. Make positive affirmations. (Phil. 4:13)

FURTHER HELPS FOR EXTENDED PRAYER

- Spend time in fellowship with the Holy Spirit and waiting before the Lord.
- Pray through your appointments for the day, asking for help, guidance and blessing.



Complete In Christ

Course #4

"Spiritual Warfare The Full Armor Of God"



Header
(Colossians 2:10)

Helmet Of Salvation
(Hebrews 5:9)
"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."
Jesus, You are my salvation

Lion Of The Tribe Of Juda
(Revelations 5:5)
"...behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book..."

Shield Of Faith
(Galatians 2:20)
"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."
Jesus, You are my faith

Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace
(Philippians 4:13)
"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."
Jesus, You are my readiness

Footer
(Colossians 2:10)

Sword Of The Spirit - The Word Of God
(John 1:14)
"And the Word was made flesh, and dwell among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth."
Jesus, You are my Living Word

White Horse Of Victory
(Revelations 19:11)
"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war."

Breastplate Of Righteousness
(II Corinthians 5:21)
"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"
Jesus, You are my righteousness

Loins Girted With Truth
(John 14:6)
"...I am the way, the truth, and the life..."
Jesus, You are my truth

NAME	REFERENCE	APPLIED	MEANING
Helmet Of Salvation	Hebrews 5:9	<i>Jesus, You are my salvation</i>	"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him"
Shield Of Faith	Galatians 2:20	<i>Jesus, You are my faith</i>	"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."
Feet Shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace	Philippians 4:13	<i>Jesus, You are my readiness</i>	"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."
Loins Girted with Truth	John 14:6	<i>Jesus, You are my truth</i>	"...I am the way, the truth, and the life..."
Breastplate of Righteousness	II Cor. 5:21	<i>Jesus, You are my righteousness</i>	"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"
Sword of the Spirit~The Word of God	John 1:14	<i>Jesus, You are my Living Word</i>	"And the Word was made flesh, and dwell among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth."
Lion of the Tribe of Juda	Revelations 5:5		"...behold, the Lion of the Tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hat prevailed to open the book..."
White Horse of Victory	Revelations 19:11		"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war."

Complete In Christ

Course #5

— Spiritual Gifts —

YOU ARE A GIFTED CHILD!

A Pastor was reviewing the Church membership rolls with his staff. Scribbled after several names were the initials, **F.B.P.O.** After awhile one of his staff members asked, "Pastor, explain the meaning of those letters." Replied the Pastor, "They mean - **For Burial Purposes Only.**"

You see, these are our inactive members. God would have taken us to heaven immediately at conversion had He no Purpose for us here. Among other purposes, "*we are saved to serve.*" To equip for service, God gives one or more spiritual gifts to every child of His. He does not want "deadwood" in His Church.

NO UNGIFTED BELIEVERS

Every Child of God has a gift or gifts. Our gifts are assigned us when we are born by the Holy Spirit into the family of God. Though gifts may lie dormant for months or years, they are given at our spiritual birthday (*Ephesians 4:7; I Corinthians 12:7*). So, you are a gifted child of God. Since you are also given an outlet for your gift, **You Are A Minister Too.** Three days after meeting Jesus, Paul was told by Ananias that his ministry was to bear the name of Jesus before Gentiles and Kings (*Acts 9:15; 22:15,21; 26:16-18*). For every gift He bestows, the spirit has planned a sphere of service.

Thus, no Child of God should have an inferiority complex. Rather, awareness that he is a gifted Child with an area of ministry should meet every child of Gods psychological need to feel wanted and to process a sense of worth. Though not every believer is exercising his gift, nor even knows what it is, nevertheless, every child of God has received one or more gifts to be used for the up-building of the church for which he will one day render account.

GIFTS ARE VARIED

Just as many notes are needed to make harmony, and many colors to make a painting, so many gifts are essential for the functioning of the body of Christ. (*I Cor. 12:14*) "*For the body is not one member, but many.*"

We are not born equal. Though we share in the same Holy Spirit, who enables all believes to confess Jesus as Lord (*I Cor. 12:3*), who baptized all believers into the body of Christ (v.13) we are given different spiritual gifts for service. Remember the analogy of the human body-eyes, ears, hands, feet - "*ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular*" (v. 27)

No one should boast of his gifts. (*I Cor. 4:7*) Neither should we follow, nor idolize, nor become the devotees of any human leader out of admiration for his gifts. (*I Cor. 3:3-7, 21-23*). Leaders, are only fellow-servants, gifted by the Spirit for a particular ministry. Never envy anyone else's gifts.

YOUR GIFT IS NOT FOR YOUR SAKE

Complying with the law for compulsory military service in Argentina, a fellow showed up at the induction center objecting, "what good would I be? I have no arms!" They put him in the army anyway. At basic training camp, his commanding officer said, "see that fellow up there on the hill pumping water? Go tell him when the pail is full. He's blind!"

Gifts are for the common good, not individual glory. "*The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal*" (*I Cor. 12:7*)

The spirit gave gifts "*for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*" (*Ephesians 4:12*)

Complete In Christ Course #5

— Spiritual Gifts cont. —

YOUR GIFT IS NOT FOR YOUR SAKE cont.

Restating it, gifts train servants that they may do the master's work, which will then result in the maturing of the church.

Wrong attitude asks, "why should I attend Church and get involved there? What will I get out of it?" By attendance and involvement, you will minister through your gifts to the good of others. And others will contribute to your spiritual welfare.

No one is gifted enough, wise enough, or strong enough to live apart from others. We should not be parasites nor paralyzed members of the body of Christ.

USE YOUR GIFTS - or ELSE

It behooves us to discover and develop our spiritual abilities.

Remember the parable of the talents, teaching us that we shall be held responsible for all our endowments and opportunities.

Romans 12:11, "*we should be feverent in spirit, serving the Lord.*"

Youth are not excused from the exercise of gifts. "*Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example....Neglect not the gift that is in thee*" (1 Tim. 4:12,14)

WHAT IS A GIFT?

The Apostle Paul stressed the importance of understanding the Nature of Gifts. He wrote, "*concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant*" (1 Cor. 12:1). The word for spiritual gifts in that verse is pneumatikon, literally spirituals; referring to the source of gifts as the Holy Spirit, the usual word is Charisma (plural, charismata, as in Rom. 12:6), which means gifts of grace. The two words are used in Romans 1:11. The word for gift (charisma) is derived from the word for grace (charis).

DEFINITION OF GIFTS

"Extraordinary endowments bestowed by the Holy Spirit sovereignly and undeservedly on believers as instruments for Christian service and church edification."

CERTAIN FACTS ABOUT GIFTS:

Source - the special grace of the Holy Spirit;

Nature - Spiritual ability, endowment, power;

Purpose - Service or ministry, to edify Saints.

Simple Definition: A Gift is a Spirit-given ability for Christian Service.

GIFTS ARE NOT SINGULAR

In the "charismatic movement" the idea is given that only the gift of tongues - speaking (perhaps along with miracles and healing) are the only gifts in use. Such limited usage is misleading and unbiblical for the term Charismatic should refer to all gifts (1 Cor. 12:1-4). The gifts are many, not just one.

GIFTS ARE NOT TALENTS

Non - Christians have talents through common grace, present from birth. Talents have to do with techniques and methods; Gifts have to do with spiritual abilities. (1 Peter 4:11)

Complete In Christ

Course #5

— Spiritual Gifts cont. —

GIFTS ARE NOT TALENTS cont.

	<u>TALENT</u>	<u>GIFT</u>
Source:	Common grace of Spirit	Special grace of spirit
Time Given:	Present from natural birth	Present from new birth
Nature:	Natural ability	Spiritual endowment
Purpose:	Instruction, entertainment, inspiration on a natural level	Spiritual growth of saints: Christian service

GIFTS ARE NOT OFFICES

A believer would not hold a divinely - appointed office without possessing the corresponding gift. But it's likely many Christians possess a gift without appointment to that office.

GIFTS ARE NOT MINISTRIES

Gifts must be exercised. The specialty, sphere, or area in which a gift is exercised constitutes a Ministry. Thus, a Ministry is not a gift, but an outlet for employment of a gift.

For example: older wives are to instruct younger women to love their families and live faithfully (*Titus 2:4*). Those areas of service all represent ministries. Talents - music, writing, linguistics - may be regarded in a sense as ministries through which gifts are employed.

GIFTS ARE NOT FRUIT

The gifts of the Spirit differ from the Fruit of the Spirit in many ways:

<u>GIFTS</u>	<u>FRUIT</u>
Have to do with service	Have to do with character <i>(love, joy, peace, etc. Gal. 5:22,23)</i>
Are the means to an end	Is the end (<i>Rom. 1:11-13</i>)
What a man has	What a man is
Given from without	Produced from within
In plural	In singular - "but the fruit"
All gifts not possessed by every believer	Every variety of Fruit should be in every believer
will cease	Permanent (<i>I Cor. 13:8-10, Living Bible</i>)

Possession of gifts does not indicate Godliness of life. (*Luke 10:17; Phil. 4:2,3 I Cor. 1:7*)
It is better to be Godly than Gifted. (*I Cor. 13*)

THE LIST OF GIFTS

A. THE SPEAKING GIFTS

- Apostleship *(missionary)
- Prophecy
- Evangelism
- Pastoring
- Teaching
- Exhorting
- Word of Wisdom
- Word of Knowledge
- Tongues
- Interpretation

B. MINISTERING / SERVING

- Ministration (helps)
- Hospitality
- Giving
- Government (Ruling)
- Showing Mercy
- Faith
- Discernment
- Miracles
- Healing

C. SIGNIFYING

- Miracles
- Healing
- Tongues
- Interpretation

- A. *Rom. 12:3-8*
- B. *I Cor. 12:8-10, 28-30*
- C. *Eph. 4:11*

Complete In Christ

Course #6

— How To Discover Your Gifts —

DELINEATION: LIST THE GIFTS:

The believer must be informed about the many multiformed new testament gifts if he would hope to recognize his own.

We are responsible to discover our gifts. (*1Tim.6:20; 2 Tim.1:14; Col.4:17*).

DOING OF SERVICE: GO TO WORK

Everyone, without possessing the following gifts is enjoined to evangelize, exhort, show mercy and help. As we obey in these or other areas, the Holy Spirit gradually unveils certain gifts. So we should get busy in Christian service.

DESIRE: NOTE YOUR INCLINATIONS

A gift will usually be preceded by desire and followed by opportunity.

What do you feel drawn toward? Desire for a specific gift suggest that an outlet will be provided for the ministry of that gift. To a degree, gifts shape our future. With a God of order desire gift and calling are related. We are commanded to desire the best gifts. (*1 Cor.12:31; 1 Cor.14:1; 1Tim. 3:1*)

DEDICATION - Rom.12:1-2

Perhaps at this point it would be well to dedicate yourself and your potential gifts to the Lord. (*Rom.12:1,2,3-8*)

As one begins to discover a gift or gifts to dedicate them to the Saviour. How fitting to consciously place such gifts in the Lord's service.

DEVELOPMENT

We are to be instruments not ornaments consecrating a gift should lead to its cultivation. Desire for a gift should lead to its dedication then to its development. (*Rom.12:6-8*) The existence of a gift is a call to exercise it. Eyes are purposeless unless they exercise the function of sight. (*1 Tim.4:14*) (*v.15*) (*2 Tim.4:5*) Faithful utilization of a gift brings increased effectiveness in its ministry, but failure to develop a gift curtails one's service. Faithfulness in one area may lead to a wider ministry. Possession of a gift mandates its employment. We are to stir up our dormant gifts.

DELIGHT

The "Eureka" principle when a person discovers his gift and place of ministry for it. "This is it!" (*Col.3:15*)

When a member of Christ's body is rightly related to the Head, that member should enjoy ministering his gift.

DISCERNMENT BY OTHERS

Because delight has subjective elements a person should submit his "eureka" feeling to the scrutiny of loving and discerning brethren. As we are doing Christian service in obedience to the commands of Christ, others may see a gift in us long before we ourselves are aware of it.

Because the gift of encouragement was clearly evident, the apostles gave a disciple named Joseph a new name "Son of Encouragement" or "Barnabas" (*Acts 4:36*)(*Acts 6:3*) their recognized ability of wisdom.

Complete In Christ Course #6

— How To Discover Your Gifts, cont. —

DISCERNMENT BY OTHERS cont.

Paul's gifts and mission to the Gentiles were affirmed by the pillars of the Jerusalem Church. (*Gal. 2:9*) Deacons, before election to that office, are to be "first proved" (*1 Tim. 3:10*).

Others also recognize that we don't possess a gift we think we have. (*Prov. 25:14*). Because self-estimate may be colored by deception, our character and abilities are often best evaluated by others.

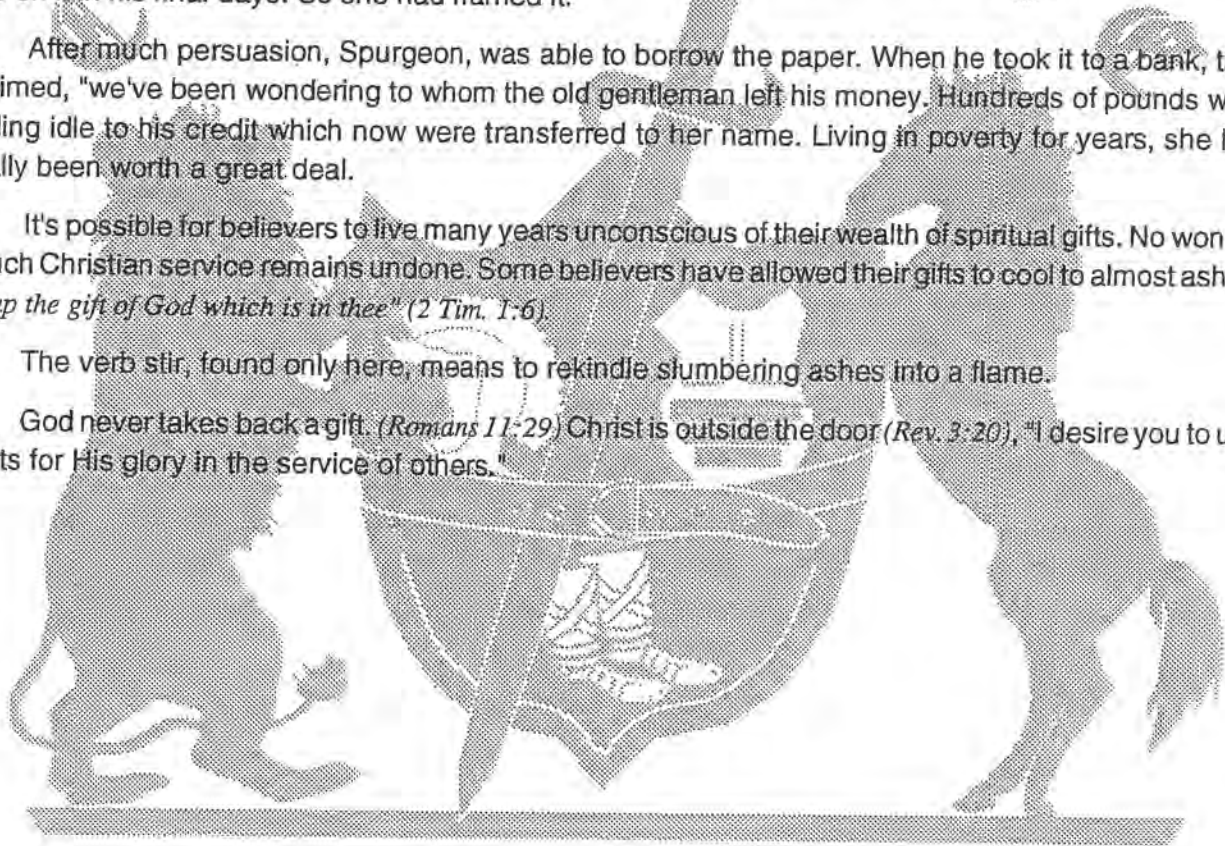
Charles H. Spurgeon, visiting an elderly lady in an almshouse, noticed on the wall a frame encasing a piece of paper with some writing on it, so he asked about it. The lady replied that it reminded her of an aged invalid man she had nursed many years before, who, appreciative of her kind care, had written his name on it in his final days. So she had framed it.

After much persuasion, Spurgeon, was able to borrow the paper. When he took it to a bank, they exclaimed, "we've been wondering to whom the old gentleman left his money. Hundreds of pounds were standing idle to his credit which now were transferred to her name. Living in poverty for years, she had actually been worth a great deal.

It's possible for believers to live many years unconscious of their wealth of spiritual gifts. No wonder so much Christian service remains undone. Some believers have allowed their gifts to cool to almost ashes. "*Stir up the gift of God which is in thee*" (*2 Tim. 1:6*).

The verb stir, found only here, means to rekindle slumbering ashes into a flame.

God never takes back a gift. (*Romans 11:29*) Christ is outside the door (*Rev. 3:20*), "I desire you to use his gifts for His glory in the service of others."



Complete In Christ Course #7

— Two Views Of Wealth —

ADAM'S CHILDREN VIEW OF WEALTH:

The story recorded by *Luke 12:16-19*, introduces the "certain rich man" who reveals Adam's children view, that wealth is controlled by persons. Let's look inside one of his treasure chest to see his values.

- (a.) **security:** "Many goods laid up for many years to come"
- (b.) **luxury:** "Take your ease"
- (c.) **pleasure:** "eat, drink and be merry"
- (d.) **independence:** "as long as his grain lasted, the rich man needed no one else."

His motto was, "In Grain I Trust". Jesus explained that the man had laid up his treasure for himself. (v.21) This man's values controlled him, but he didn't know it! He thought he was in control. In reality he was imprisoned within his treasure chest. His values controlled what he did, what he thought about, and how he viewed others. The rich man's values had isolated him. He could not communicate with his god of grain. He could not experience prayer, worship, or fellowship with grain. Even worse, he was not free to give his grain away, for no god provided more. He had to hoard it!

One's relationship to God shapes relationships with other human beings. When a person experiences no fellowship with God, relationships with others reflect self-centered too. An extremely rich young woman wept as she told her Christian counselor, I have broken off three engagements. I feared each man might be marrying me for my money, rather than for love. Sometimes I wish I did not have it. When it was suggested that the problem could be solved easily by simply giving her money away, she looks shocked, and said, "Just to get a husband?" Her wealth was more important to her than having the love of a husband. She could not recognize that her values were her problem. The more one trusts in wealth the less one trusts the motives of others. Having grain is neither moral or immoral. The value placed on it is the important thing. Never make wealth your god.

With God, Christians experience prayer, worship, fellowship, guidance, affirmation and comfort. Adam's children, persons apart from God, have absolutely no understanding of these intimacies. There is no day of worship for them. No prayer life, no expectation of guidance, no comfort. From the perspective of their value system the things Christians spend their time doing are a waste of time. Adam's children cannot understand the Christians want to give their God to others. Persons apart from God are driven to protect their gods from others. Adam's children view permits wealth to own persons, imprison them, twist every relationship out of shape. Adams children view of wealth, God said, "Thou Fool!" His god of grain could not provide for eternity.

MOTH & RUST (*Matt. 6:19-21 with John 3:3.*) In these scriptures Jesus pointed up one of the greatest problems that the children of Adam have to deal with: the erosion, decay, theft, and depreciation of the things they treasure. The children of Adam have only one view of wealth, so they accept the inevitability of these problems.

The trouble with most new Christians (many not so-new ones too) is their blind acceptance of this first view of wealth. Before you became a Christian, you collected your values related to wealth. Like the moth and the rust in the scripture, those values are thieves.

WHERE DOES IT END?

1Thessalonians 5:2-6; 1Peter 3:7-13

Complete In Christ
Course #7

— Two Views Of Wealth cont. —

WHAT LASTS?

John 12:31; 18:33-37; 14:1-6

PROFIT & LOSS

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Why is profit and loss taken so seriously by Adam's children? The main reason is because of their significance syndrome. In their value system personal worth is determined by their ability to make a profit. Loss of wealth means loss of personhood. Another reason is they actually worship their treasures. Do you remember how the Israelites melted down their jewelry so they might have a golden calf to worship? Many persons today do the same thing without bothering to melt down the merchandise!

In the text be sure you understand that only person can transfer from the fire, not treasures!

— The Second View Controlled by God —

WHO OWNS WHAT?

1 Corinthians 10:26; Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:24-33

Why does it make so many people uncomfortable for the Pastor to speak about money? The problem lies within their treasure chests! When one's ego and pride is tied to one's wealth, the personal control of it touches much more than money. Any sermon on the subject becomes a basic threat to what makes people feel significant.

Paul settled who owns what "The earth is the Lord's and all it contains." *1 Corinthians 10:26*

And if the Lord owns all that the earth contains, then he owns the people in it too. Right! And the good news about that is this: If he owns you, **He Is Obligated To Care For You.** *Phil. 4:19.*

We are all servants, which master do you serve God or Riches? Choose today:

I, _____, do hereby proclaim that on the _____ day
of _____, _____, I signed over control (yielded will) of my life to God, through His son Jesus
Christ. Furthermore, He is now rightfully my master in all areas of my life. And I am his servant. I gratefully
acknowledge that He, as my owner, will take care of me.

_____ witness

_____ witness

A certain man said, "I long for the time when I will not have to struggle daily to make a living. One day I will have enough stored away to care for my needs. And I will retire. Then I will be able to enjoy life." In *Matthew 6:24-33*, Jesus is saying you can retire right now from the first view of wealth! The Father owns you, and He is committed to take care of all your needs. Being freed from the first view of wealth frees you from bondage to your vacation. Whatever you do to provide the necessities of life for your self and for others ceases to be a taskmaster that demands more and more of you. Your honest labor becomes a means of serving and honoring God. Throw out the old values from your treasure chest and live by the new ones. Say: **"I am not my own Master. I am owned by God. It is my responsibility to serve Him, and it's His responsibility to care for me. I will live by that principal!"**

Complete In Christ
Course #7

— Two Views Of Wealth cont. —

TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS

I Corinthians 4:1-2; II Corinthians 4:1-7

MY BROTHER'S NEED

Luke 16:19-26; I John 3:16-18

WHO WILL SUPPLY?

Luke 11:11-13; I John 3:22; Mark 6:41-44; 12:41-44

BARRELS THAT NEVER RUN DRY

I King 17:8-16; Luke 4:25-26, 28-30

Living in the kingdom of God means a whole new set of values begin to operate. In the *I King 17:8-16*, a famine had covered the land with death. Those who had wealth migrated to other nations. Only the poorest of the poor had remained behind. The widow and her son of Zarephath. Their strength was nearly gone. She forced herself to search for firewood, then the end would come.

Elijah was commanded by God to ask this woman for water and food. He was to take the precious liquid from her and drink it. He was to ask for bread from a starving point.

God knew this woman's value system and once she heard Elijah's words, "Do not fear," faith expolded in her heart.

Faith always walks by trusting the Father, not by examining reality. She did exactly as she was told!

Deep within her was the awareness that if she kept her eye on the supplier rather than on the supply, all would be well. Remember:

- (1) Even though your natural inclination may be fear or anxiety, you should obey God when he commands you to step out in faith.
- (2) when we trust God for our needs, He will supply them
- (3) keep your eyes on the source rather than on the supply.

Luke 4:25-30. Although they were religious, their treasure chests were filled with the values of the first view of wealth. They knew all about selfishness, greed, fear, and pride. Using the illustration of the widow from Zarephath, he indicated that where faith does not exist, the power of God is not seen. They were so angry they tried to kill him.

If you have never revised your values related to wealth, you are not experiencing the supply God wishes to provide for you.

You cannot afford the luxury of living in the poverty of the first view of wealth. Step totally into the second view: **HE OWNS IT ALL!**