

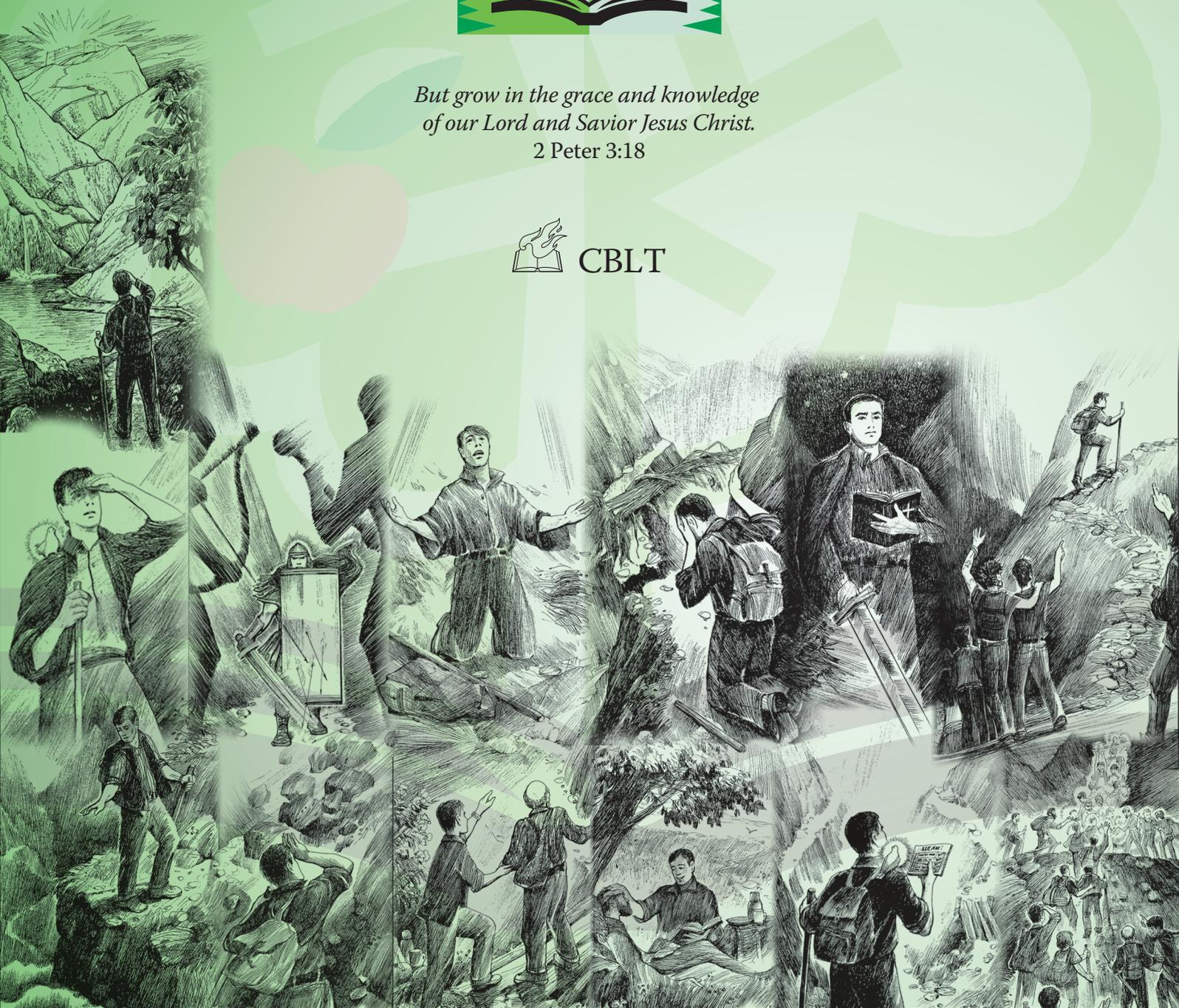
# Introduction to Committed Christian Life



*But grow in the grace and knowledge  
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
2 Peter 3:18*



CBLT



This booklet has been prepared for those who are planning on taking the complete course of *The Committed Christian Life*. The lessons have been divided into individual booklets instead of being published as a whole course book and text book so that they can be used independently of each other. However we highly recommend working through the whole course as it was originally laid out and following the projects and assignments as you see them in this introduction, especially if you are a church leader.

This booklet includes a course certificate which can be filled out by your leader when you finish the course successfully. It is at the end of this booklet as well as a Project Check List which shows the assigned projects which must be signed by your coach or the indicated person in order to receive your certificate.

Our symbol for this course is a tree planted in the Word of God. You will find it on the front of every one of the lesson booklets.



Jeremiah 17:8 says that a righteous man “will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.” The goal of this course is to “extend” our roots or commitment to continue deeper into maturity and fruitfulness to the glory of God.

So every time you pick up one of the booklets, look again at the symbol and let it remind you of God’s promise to you as you seek a deeper commitment to Him.

The following few pages are planners so that you can be more effective in using your time for your studies. We highly recommend that you use them to help you stay on target.

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## MONTHLY COURSE PLANNER

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_

Days of Month	Academic Goals and Schedule Planning <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"/> (lessons/pages to cover)	Quiet Time and Spiritual Journal		Ministry Goals and Assignments <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"/> (# of assignments to complete)	
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How well did the student fulfill his plans?

From the following 4 options choose the one that most accurately describes the results obtained by the student. Outstanding; Good; Satisfactory; Insufficient.

Coach, evaluate and fill in blanks # 1, #2 and # 3.

Note special instructions for the middle column in the Introduction.

## MONTHLY COURSE PLANNER

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_

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#1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_ #3 \_\_\_\_\_

How well did the student fulfill his plans?

From the following 4 options choose the one that most accurately describes the results obtained by the student. Outstanding; Good; Satisfactory; Insufficient.

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#1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_ #3 \_\_\_\_\_

How well did the student fulfill his plans?

From the following 4 options choose the one that most accurately describes the results obtained by the student. Outstanding; Good; Satisfactory; Insufficient.

Coach, evaluate and fill in blanks # 1, #2 and # 3.

Note special instructions for the middle column in the Introduction.

## MONTHLY COURSE PLANNER

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_

Days of Month	Academic Goals and Schedule Planning <small>(lessons/pages to cover)</small>	Quiet Time and Spiritual Journal		Ministry Goals and Assignments <small>(# of assignments to complete)</small>	
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#1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_ #3 \_\_\_\_\_

How well did the student fulfill his plans?

From the following 4 options choose the one that most accurately describes the results obtained by the student. Outstanding; Good; Satisfactory; Insufficient.

Coach, evaluate and fill in blanks # 1, #2 and # 3.

Note special instructions for the middle column in the Introduction.

## OVERVIEW

This is an outline of the whole course.

### Course Introduction

#### Lesson 1. The Goal and Process of the Christian Life

- I. The Spiritual Life
  - II. The Goal
  - III. The Process of Spiritual Growth
  - IV. The Christian Life: God's Work or Mine?
- Conclusion

#### Lesson 2. The Power for the Spiritual Life

- I. The Holy Spirit Introduced
  - II. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
  - III. Commands about the Spirit
- Conclusion

#### Lesson 3. The War

- I. The Enemy
  - II. Satan's Army
  - III. The Source of Victory
  - IV. Our Spiritual Armor
- Conclusion

#### Lesson 4. Prayer: Worship and Praise

- I. Intimacy with God
  - II. Defining Worship
  - III. Key Elements of worship
  - IV. Expression in Worship
  - V. Benefits of Praise and Worship
- Conclusion

#### Lesson 5. Prayer: Petition and Intercession

- I. Biblical Examples of Prayer
  - II. Principles of Prayer
  - III. Elements of Prayer
  - IV. Hindrances to Prayer
  - V. Practice of Prayer
  - VI. Corporate Prayer
- Conclusion

#### Lesson 6. Alive and Powerful—The Word Of God

- I. The Importance of the Word of God
- II. Reading the Word
- III. Devotional Bible Study

#### IV. Meditation/Memorization

Conclusion

### **Lesson 7 Walking By Faith**

- I. Faith in God
  - II. Challenges to Faith
  - III. Increasing Your Faith
  - IV. Guidance in the Life of a Believer
  - V. Steps to Knowing God's Will
- Conclusion

### **Lesson 8 Spiritual Transformation**

- I. The Meaning of the Term "Godliness"
  - II. Devotion to God
  - III. Godly Character
- Conclusion

### **Lesson 9 Understanding Suffering**

- I. Biblical Perspectives on Suffering
  - II. Five Purposes of Suffering
  - III. Our Response to Suffering
- Conclusion

### **Lesson 10 Fellowship in the Family**

- I. Fellowship
  - II. The Practice of Fellowship
- Conclusion

### **Lesson 11 Ministering To Your Fellowman**

- I. A Life of Ministry
  - II. Motivation for Ministry
  - III. Equipped for Ministry
  - IV. Ministry in Practice
- Conclusion

### **Lesson 12 Redeeming The Time**

- I. Developing the Right Attitude
  - II. Developing Priorities
  - III. Developing a Strategy for Living
- Conclusion

### **Lesson 13 Preparing for Revival**

- I. What is Revival?
  - II. How Revival Comes
  - III. Personal Preparation
  - IV. The Effects of Revival
- Conclusion

# Course Introduction

Where are you headed on your spiritual journey and how are you going to get there? It is assumed that you have already taken all three parts of *Basic Christian Life* or a similar course and have received the fundamentals of living the Christian life. Some of this may be repeated here, but only because the truths which we have learned can be taken to deeper levels as God teaches us His ways. In this way we have the process of maturing. Our prayer is that this course will help you not only to understand what Christian maturity is, but to continue on your journey of maturing in the Christian life.

All through this course we will be emphasizing the “committed” Christian life. We need men and women who are sold out for God; who have abandoned themselves completely and turned to the Lord whole-heartedly. This is God’s desire for each one of His children. His blessings are so rich that we can never understand them, but so many Christians miss them because they still think they can do a better job with their lives than God can.

This course itself will call for commitment. It will call for faith that the requirements of the course will actually deepen you in your Christian walk, bringing you closer to God, for His glory and your benefit. So open your heart and mind to what God wants to teach you—and be blessed.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Explain the purpose of the Christian life.
2. Explain the place of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life at the moment of salvation and His ongoing ministries to the believer.
3. Describe the six pieces of the believer’s armor, their spiritual significance, and their practical value in our warfare with Satan.
4. Incorporate worship as part of your daily quiet time as a priority.
5. Personalize a plan for daily Bible reading and develop a systematic plan for memorization and meditation of Scripture
6. Identify the key steps for knowing God’s will and apply them to decision making.
7. Develop a strategy for strengthening your Biblical character development.
8. Define the five reasons given for why believers suffer.

9. Identify the two fundamental ministry responsibilities all believers have to one another and the two fundamental ministries that all believers have to non-believers.
10. Create a list of life's goals and develop long-term and short-term goals and a plan of action to reach them.

It is our desire as you diligently work through this course that growth will be evident in at least three dimensions of your life:

1. **Knowledge.** You will become familiar with some of the concepts and disciplines related to spiritual growth. This knowledge will give you clearer insight into what is involved in Christian living and provide a foundation for developing a consistent spiritual walk.
2. **Skill Development.** You will learn how to do several key activities that will contribute to your spiritual growth. By learning and practicing these disciplines, you will be equipped to continue in your progress toward spiritual maturity.
3. **Character Development.** As a direct result of the knowledge and disciplines gained in this course, you will grow in the development of your character. The more you apply these truths, the greater the opportunity for the transforming ministry of the Holy Spirit to be at work in your life.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION: THE JOURNEY**

The Christian life is a journey. From the moment we are born anew into the family of God, we begin the pathway toward maturity in Christ. The pathway is neither easy nor short. It is filled with obstacles erected by a cunning adversary who preys on our weakness. It is not a hopeless struggle, however, for the God of the universe has committed Himself and the resources of heaven to aid His children.

Because the Christian life is a journey, illustrations pictorially representing the different aspects of this journey of the believer have been placed on the cover of each lesson booklet. The following descriptions of these illustrations also serve as a brief description of the course:

### **Lesson 1: The Goal and Process of Our Spiritual Life**

The Believer stands on the continuing road looking up at the GOAL.

### **Lesson 2: The Power for the Spiritual Life**

The Holy Spirit is by the Believer's side on his journey and helps him along the way.

### **Lesson 3: The War**

The Believer, fully armed, fights his enemies.

### **Lesson 4: Prayer: Worship and Praise**

The Believer is kneeling down and surrounded by the glory of God as he worships.

### **Lesson 5: Prayer: Petition and Intercession**

Prayer enables the Believer to deal with unsurpassable areas and obstacles along his road.

### **Lesson 6: Alive and Powerful—the Word of God**

The Believer looks to the Bible as a critical part of his journey

### **Lesson 7: Walking by Faith**

The Believer must exercise faith as he leaves the easy path and his companions there and continues on a more difficult and less traveled path.

### **Lesson 8: Spiritual Transformation**

The Believer has turned his back on the well-traveled road and looks to the narrow path which leads to the GOAL.

### **Lesson 9: Understanding Suffering**

The Believer faces suffering in different forms along the journey. Here his suffering is represented by a landslide that comes down on his head and also makes his path ahead more difficult and dangerous.

### **Lesson 10: Fellowshiping with Believers**

Believers help and encourage each other along the way.

### **Lesson 11: Ministering to Your Fellow Man**

The Believer meets the need of someone on the wayside.

### **Lesson 12: Redeeming the Time**

The Believer seeks to make good use of his time by focusing on goals and planning wisely.

### **Lesson 13: Preparing for Revival**

The Believer passes his flaming passion for Jesus Christ on to the world around him.

You will be studying several issues related to Christian maturity and commitment. We know it is God's desire that we be victorious and lead a full life for Him, but how to do that takes a lifetime to learn. The Christian life is an adventure; it is a journey. Often we get bogged down along the way and it is easy to lose fervency, to become discouraged and even apathetic. But God's plan is for us to continue growing and learning.

# Student Instructions

This course has thirteen lessons which include questions, exercises, and projects to help you understand and apply what you learn. You will be excited to see your relationship with God deepen as you gain a deeper understanding of His desires for you. Simply stated, the goal of this course is to challenge you to grow spiritually and to show you how to realize this growth in your life. By the end of Lesson 13 you should be further along on your journey to spiritual maturity and committed to continue.

You should allow yourself a minimum of six hours of study time to complete each lesson. This would include completing the required reading, questions, exercises, and most of the projects. However, projects that involve preaching or teaching are considered to be beyond the six hours of study because one of the requirements of every course is that you be involved in ministry and usually these will be ministry related. You will also have two projects which are to be carried out during the entire course. Since they are related to your quiet time they are not included in the six hours.

## **COURSE COMPLETION CERTIFICATE**

The Course Completion Certificate which is at the back of this introductory booklet will be filled out by your course coach and signed by your local pastor. This is a permanent record for you, the student.

## **PROJECT CHECKLIST**

This immediately precedes the certificate and contains the projects you need to complete for this course that must be done as ministry. This does not include every project (you will be directly responsible to the course coach for Projects 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 13). Projects 2, 3, 4, 11, and 12 must be initialed by a leader in your church. Preferably, this is to be done by the one person whose name you will write in at the top of that page. The exception will be Project 2. It requires memorizing Hebrews 11 which will be done four verses at a time and may be signed each time by a fellow student, family member, or whoever you quote them to. When you have received signatures for all verses, THEN the leader may sign for the total project.

Additionally, Project 1 and 2 start immediately. The instructions for these assignments can be found at the end of the "Student Instructions".

## **MONTHLY PLANNERS**

These are in the front of your book. They will be used to plan your schedule so that you stay on target with the course. We recommend that your course coach evaluate how well you have used your planner and accomplished your goals every month. It helps us to be accountable to others

and he may be able to encourage you as you seek to use your time wisely and even pray with you if you are having time with your priorities. In this course the center column will be used for Project 1 which involves having a quiet time every day for one hour and writing in a spiritual journal. Therefore, you will need to DAILY make the appropriate marks for what you have done. If you spend a whole hour or more in quiet time write in three pluses (+++); if you have half to one hour quiet time write in two pluses (++); if you have a quiet time for less than a half hour write in one plus (+). If you write in your journal on that day write in a “j”.

## LESSON DESIGN

There are several standard components built into each lesson to assist your study. They are explained below so that you may recognize and use them to full advantage:

1. *Lesson Outlines* provide an overview of the sections of each lesson. In this way you can anticipate the flow and sequence of the various topics to be covered before you begin your study.
2. *Lesson Objectives* are provided to help you identify the most crucial parts of each lesson and thus give you guidance as to the best use of your study time. Once you have finished a lesson, you can evaluate how well you have mastered the material by checking to see if you can fulfill the Lesson Objectives. Your course coach will choose items from these lists for discussion in class, so be prepared!
3. *Questions* are posed from time to time to help you interact with the material being covered. Questions call for an immediate response. Whenever you see the heading “Question”, stop and write the answer. You may then check your answers with those provided under the heading “Answers to Questions” at the end of each lesson.
4. *Exercises* are limited study activities or personal application. They involve you in the study of the lesson material. In the answer section at the end of the lesson there is a special part for “Answers to Exercises”. When an answer is appropriate, it will be given. You should be prepared to discuss and evaluate these assignments when you meet with your group.
5. *Projects* are extensive application studies or activities designed to help you internalize lesson concepts. They are the most important part of the course. It is in the projects that you have the opportunity to see how the concepts studied in the lesson can be worked out in your life. No answers are provided for the projects, but each one will be carefully evaluated and discussed during the seminar times.
6. *Appendices* include both resources needed for lesson completion and useful reference materials that may be of benefit to you outside of the study requirements of this course. They are located in the accompanying each lesson. Refer to them as directed in the lesson material.
7. *Examinations* are also important components of this course. There are three in all. Each exam covers the main points of those lessons. The results of all three exams will contribute to your final course grade.

## NECESSARY MATERIALS

In order to work through this course, you will need a Bible, 13 lesson booklets and two personal notebooks. One of these notebooks should be titled “Exercises and Projects” and will be used for all written assignments. Every time you see the heading “Exercise”, you will know that you should respond by writing an answer in your personal notebook. In some of the “Projects” you will also be directed to write in your notebook. The second notebook will be titled “My Spiritual Journey”. You will be given full instructions on how to use this under the section “Projects”.

## GRADING SCALE

Grade	Exams	Workbook	Attendance	Projects
5	3 of 3 90% average	100% complete	13 of 13 seminars	13 of 13
4	3 of 3 80% average	90% complete	12 of 13 seminars	12 of 13
3	3 of 3 80% average	80% complete	11 of 13 seminars	11 of 13
2	3 of 3 75% average	75% complete	11 of 13 seminars	10 of 13
1	Insufficient attendance or work			

## MEANING OF THE FINAL GRADE

- 5 -- Excellent academically, very faithful in attendance, completed all projects and all exams successfully. Overall excellent performance.
- 4 -- Good academically, faithful in attendance, completed more than 90% of the projects and all exams successfully. Overall above average performance.
- 3 — Good academically, reasonably faithful in attendance, completed a minimum of 11 projects and all exams. Overall average performance.
- 2 -- Good academically, reasonably faithful in participation, completed a minimum of 10 projects and all exams. Below average performance, but still acceptable as credit.
- 1 -- Faithfulness in participation is a major concern; further participation is brought into question. Not sufficient to receive credit for the course.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The following is a complete list of all projects that you will be doing throughout the course. This list has been placed here to help you better understand and plan your work for this course so that you can finish well and in a timely manner.

The first two projects are to be continued throughout the entire course so at the beginning of each lesson you will be reminded of this requirement, and your course coach will be checking to see that it is being maintained.

Lesson	Project
Introduction	1 <b>A Spiritual Journal</b> Keep a spiritual journal for the entire course and a quiet time of one hour a day.
Introduction	2 <b>Memorization</b> Memorize Hebrews 11, the Chapter of Faith. Minimum requirement of 10 minutes a day.
2	3 <b>Preaching/Teaching</b> Preach or teach about the Holy Spirit from Lesson 2.
3	4 <b>Preaching/Teaching</b> Preach or teach on the topic "How to Defeat Satan's Schemes".
5	5 <b>Spend a Day in Prayer</b> Plan and carry out an 8-hour day of prayer and write an evaluation.

6	6 <b>Memorization and Meditation</b> Develop your personal plan for memorization and meditation using what you have learned in Lesson 6 as the basis.
7	7 <b>Study of Faith</b> Study the examples of faith found in Hebrews 11:4-40, and choose one of them for an in-depth study.
7	8 <b>Seeking God's Will</b> Analyze and evaluate the decision-making process as you use it for a major decision you are facing.
8	9 <b>The Traits of Godly Character</b> Survey seven different character traits, and do an in-depth application study of one of them.
9	10 <b>Reaction to Suffering</b> Determine how the bitterness of suffering can be turned into joy in your own life and share what you have learned.
10	11 <b>Accountability</b> Develop an accountability relationship with another believer, meet with this person to discuss issues related to your spiritual growth, and then evaluate this discussion.
11	12 <b>Application</b> Perform three acts of ministry, and write an evaluation of each.
12	13 <b>Use of Time</b> Evaluate and plan your use of time through a seven-step exercise.

## READING ASSIGNMENTS

The reading assignments are all included in appendices in each lesson. The majority of them are based on three books:

*Absolute Surrender* by Andrew Murray

*The Deeper Life* by Andrew Murray

*The Christians' Secret of a Happy Life* by Hannah Whithall Smith

You may find it helpful to purchase these books so that you can read them in whole. They are classics from the 19<sup>th</sup> century that have stood the test of time.

## PROJECTS

For this course we are going to introduce two of the Projects now. These are projects which you will need to do regularly, that is to say daily, during the entire course. They are not mentioned throughout the course now as specific projects to complete but show up as options. However, if you wish to have the full benefit, then follow these recommendations. And they are required for official completion of the course.



### Project 1 — Your Spiritual Journal

During the completion of this course you will be required to maintain a quiet time of one hour a day and to keep a spiritual journal. You will have a lot of freedom in what you choose to record in this notebook, but some things will be mandatory. In addition to a notebook you will need to have at least two colors of pen. The titles, quotes, and helps should be written in green. What you fill out day-by-day can be written in pencil or with blue or black pens. What you want to stand out to attract your notice as you use your notebook should be written in red. This would include special Bible verses that God has given to you specifically for a personal need or for someone you are praying for, urgent prayer requests, or wonderful answers to prayer. Details of how to set up your journal and how to use it are included in Appendix A of Lesson 1.

Please take careful note of the instructions for recording your faithfulness in this project. You will find them under the section on the “Monthly Planner”. If you have questions, ask your course coach to explain further.

In your Spiritual Journal is a place to write down which verses you are memorizing. The following are the instructions for the memorization and meditation project to be carried out during the course.



### **Project 2 — Memorization/Meditation**

During this course you will be required to memorize Hebrews 11, the famous chapter on faith. In a later lesson we will deal more specifically with memorizing and meditation but because of the length of this chapter and the value of it in our Christian lives you need to start memorizing it now. You should learn at least four verses a week. You will NOT be required to quote the whole chapter from memory at one time. You WILL need to commit to at least ten minutes a day to memorizing. This can be included in your quiet time. Every seminar you need to say the verses you have memorized to a fellow student. Then you can proceed to the next verses and continue memorizing. You do not have to say all verses from the beginning every time. If you have that ability—excellent. Do it. But the value of this exercise is spending in-depth time with important Scriptures in meditating on what it means, what you can learn from it, and how you can use it in your own life.

It is our prayer that this course will not just give you knowledge, but renew your Christian life, whatever stage you are at, and help you to draw closer to our Lord and Savior. The Christian life is an exciting journey—demanding but exciting. To God be all the glory!

# Committed Christian Life Project Check List

Student's Main Church/Ministry: \_\_\_\_\_

Person Responsible For Assignment Approval:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Pastor or other church/ministry leader)

	Assignments	Date completed	Approved
<b>2</b>	Memorization of Hebrews 11		
	Memorized vss 1-4		
	Memorized vss 5-8		
	Memorized vss 9-12		
	Memorized vss 13-16		
	Memorized vss 17-20		
	Memorized vss 21-23		
	Memorized vss 24-28		
	Memorized vss 29-31		
	Memorized vss 32-36		
Memorized vss 37-40			
<b>3</b>	Preaching or teaching on the Holy Spirit		
<b>4</b>	Preaching or teaching on the topic of "How to Defeat Satan's Schemes"		
<b>11</b>	Develop an accountability relationship with another believer (he may sign for this)		
<b>12</b>	Perform three acts of ministry as instructed in Lesson 11		
<b>13</b>	Part 7—Follow a one- week plan (To be shared with accountability partner, so he may sign)		



