

## **Di122 Essentials of Christianity**

### ***Lesson Di122-6 Hiding God's Word in Your Heart***

A newborn baby that is not fed will not live very long. Perhaps you have even seen this happen. A child needs milk to grow and solid food to develop more. You have learned how men and women are born again, as God's children. They believe in Jesus, repent of sin, submit their wills to God's will, and grow their faith. These were presented as the first four essentials of Christianity. Lesson Five was the first of three lessons on obedience to God's Word. It taught that new believers should follow the Lord in being baptized in water.

This lesson will discuss another part of a Christian's obedience. To continue to grow and develop spiritually, a newborn Christian must have spiritual food. The stories and precepts of God's word are that food. God has provided the Oral Learners Bible Institute and other oral resources to help believers grow and mature. By listening and watching these lessons you are obeying Paul's instruction to Timothy, "Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2Tim 2:15). This 'studying' includes hearing and memorizing the words of the Bible.

Jesus was born to the virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. As a child, he had to be fed, learn to walk, and be taught how to talk. The Bible tells us that Jesus "grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52). As a Jewish boy, he studied and memorized some of the writings of Moses, the psalms of David, and the words of the prophets. How do we know that? First, we know it because every Jewish boy went to school and studied the Scriptures. Secondly, we know that Jesus had memorized many verses of these Old Testament passages. We can see this by the way that he used them in his teachings and everyday life.

The Gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus was baptized in water and began his ministry when he was about 30 years of age. Immediately after his baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert. For 40 days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." The devil did not doubt that Jesus was the Son of God or that he possessed the ability to create bread. He was tempting Christ to use his power to avoid the personal suffering of his extreme hunger.

But human beings need more than physical bread. In fact, they have a greater need for spiritual food which comes from God. Jesus quickly said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'" (Matt 4:4). He did not compose his own answer for the tempter. Instead, he took his reply from the revelation of God's Word that he had hidden in his heart. Just as the Psalmist David sang to God, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psa 119:11).

The tempter, however, tried again to get Jesus to do things his way. He took Christ to the highest point of the temple in Jerusalem. This story shows us that even Satan knows the words of Scripture, though he left out an important part of the verses in Psalm 91. The devil was

challenging Jesus to jump off the high place and land unharmed among the crowds in the courtyard below. The angels would protect him. This would prove to the Jewish people that he was the Messiah.

Jesus, however, knew this was not God's plan. He answered, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test'" (Deut 6:16). The words, "It is also written," point to the fact that we must use the whole of God's Word as our guide for conduct and basis for faith. Yes, God will protect his children, but only when they are walking in God's ways, not when they act foolishly. This is the part of the passage the devil left out.

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me" (Matt 4:9). Jesus had come to claim the world as his kingdom and the devil was offering him an easier way than dying on a cross. The Bible tells us that Satan is the "god of this world" (2Cor 4:4) and the "prince of the power of the air" (Eph 2:2). He offered this control to Jesus in exchange for worship.

Jesus knew his destiny—that the kingdom of the world would become his—so he ordered, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only'" (Matt 4:10). Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy chapter 6, verse 13. Then the devil left him, and angels came and attend him. Jesus resisted the strongest temptations of Satan, not with a thunderbolt, but with the Word of God. In the same way, the Holy Spirit will help every believer. He gives us wisdom to use the words God has given us, in order to resist Satan's attacks.

This is one of the ministries of the Holy Spirit, which is promised to every Christian. Jesus said, "The Holy Spirit will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26). The Spirit will help you and me to remember the words of Scripture we have committed to memory and hidden in our hearts. Let us say with the Psalmist David, "I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word" (Psa 119:10-11, 15-16).

If Christ himself needed to study and hide God's Word in his heart, how much more essential is it for us to do so! Jesus used the words of scripture to combat the temptations of Satan. Paul refers to the word of God as "the sword of the Spirit" (Eph 6:17). As you pray, the Spirit will help you to remember the words of scripture you have heard and hidden in your heart. Memorizing scripture is an essential part of the obedience of a Christian.

This lesson is **important** because it uses Christ's example to teach how essential it is for Christians to have God's Word in their hearts and minds. The scriptures are the weapon used by the Spirit to combat tests and trials in our lives.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that to grow and develop spiritually, Christians must obey God by hiding his word in their hearts. The Holy Spirit will bring to mind just the right passage to be used in the face of temptation or need.

Let's **review** this lesson:

1. How do we know it was important to Christ to learn the words of scripture?  
A. [Pause] If you said, "He used the words of Moses to resist the temptations of the devil in the wilderness," you answered correctly.
2. What did King David say about memorizing the words of scripture?  
A. [Pause] If you said that he hid God's Word in his heart so that he would not sin against God, you are right.
3. What did the apostle Paul call the Word of God?  
A. [Pause] If you said, "The sword of the Spirit," you are correct.

Your **assignment** is to listen to this lesson three or four more times until you can explain to another person how essential it was to King David, Jesus, and the apostle Paul to learn the words of the Scriptures. Memorize the following three verses:

David said, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" Psalm 119, verse 11.

Jesus said: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" Matthew 4, verse 4.

Paul said, "Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" Ephesians 6, verse 17.

Ask God to renew your mind and help you to hide in your heart the lessons you hear and the scriptures you learn. Take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way to share them with others in your community.