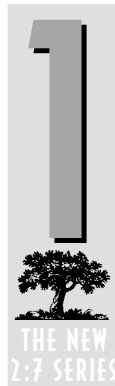


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**A COURSE IN PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP TO STRENGTHEN YOUR WALK WITH GOD**

# **GROWING STRONG IN GOD'S FAMILY**



**NAVPRESS**   
BRINGING TRUTH TO LIFE

P.O. Box 35001, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935

The Navigators is an international Christian organization. Our mission is to reach, disciple, and equip people to know Christ and to make Him known through successive generations. We envision multitudes of diverse people in the United States and every other nation who have a passionate love for Christ, live a lifestyle of sharing Christ's love, and multiply spiritual laborers among those without Christ.

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ISBN 1-57683-191-4

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Printed in the United States of America

19 20 21 22 23 24 25/02 01 00 99

## *Important*

### **1. GROUP LEADERSHIP**

It is important for one person to act as the leader during each group meeting. This may be the same person each time or the responsibility may be shared by two or three group members.

### **2. LEADER TRAINING**

Excellent leader training seminars are available once or twice a year in many areas of the United States, Canada, and in several other countries. Those who invest a few hours in a leader training seminar learn how to maximize the effectiveness of *Growing Strong in God's Family* and the other two books in *The Revised 2:7 Series*.

Information about training seminars may be obtained from Church Discipleship Ministry, The Navigators, P.O. Box 6000, Colorado Springs, CO 80934. Phone: (719) 598-1212. Website: [www.navigators.org/com](http://www.navigators.org/com).

You may contact The Navigators of Canada at 490 Dutton Drive, Unit B-12, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 6H7. Phone/Fax: 1-800-839-4769. Website: [www.navigators.ca](http://www.navigators.ca).

### **3. LEADER'S GUIDE**

A detailed Leader's Guide for *Growing Strong in God's Family* can be found on page 89. The suggestions in the Leader's Guide are clear, specific, and practical. You will want to use the Leader's Guide if you plan to lead one of these groups.

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**ACKNOWLEDGMENT:** We are grateful for the dedicated efforts of Ron Oertli who originated the concept of *The 2:7 Series* and is its principal author.

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**FOLLOWING PAGE 134 YOU WILL FIND THESE WORKSHEETS:**

**BIBLE READING HIGHLIGHTS RECORD, AND MY PERSONAL READING  
RECORD.**

# Completion Record

Ask others in your study group to check you on your completion of the requirements in this course and have them initial and date each section.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY	Initial	Date
<i>Beginning with Christ</i> memory verses:		
"Assurance of Salvation"—1 John 5:11-12		
"Assurance of Answered Prayer"—John 16:24		
"Assurance of Victory"—1 Corinthians 10:13		
"Assurance of Forgiveness"—1 John 1:9		
"Assurance of Guidance"—Proverbs 3:5-6		
Quoted all <i>Beginning with Christ</i> Verses		
Reviewed <i>Beginning with Christ</i> for 7 consecutive days		
Completed the <i>Beginning with Christ</i> Bible Study		

QUIET TIME	Initial	Date
Completed <i>Bible Reading Highlights Record</i> for 7 consecutive days		

BIBLE STUDY— <i>The Wheel Illustration</i>	Initial	Date
Session 2— <i>Beginning with Christ</i> Bible Study		
Session 3—"Christ the Center"		
Session 4—"Obedience"		
Session 6—"The Word"		
Session 8—"Prayer"		
Session 9—"Fellowship"		
Session 10—"Witness"		

BOOKLET STUDIED	Initial	Date
<i>Tyranny of the Urgent</i>		
Completed pages 27-28		

MISCELLANEOUS	Initial	Date
Completed the Evaluation of the Wheel pages 78-79		
Completed Why Memorize Scripture pages 79-80		
Completed the Evangelism Prayer List page 56		

LEADER'S CHECK	Initial	Date
Five entries on the <i>Bible Reading Highlights Record</i>		
Graduated from <i>Growing Strong in God's Family</i>		

## *The New 2:7 Series*

*The New 2:7 Series* consists of three excellent workbooks designed to be completed in sequence. You will enjoy each book's biblical and practical approach to discipleship. As many others have, you may experience positive life changes as you study and apply this essential material. Here is a synopsis of each of the three courses.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Book 1 <i>Growing Strong in God's Family</i>       | Learn how to sharpen your quiet time. Do Bible studies and memorize key verses on the most essential elements to Christian living.                                  |
| Book 2 <i>Deepening Your Roots in God's Family</i> | Memorize several classic Bible verses that you will use for a lifetime. Think through your own spiritual history so you could express it to a pre-Christian person. |
| Book 3 <i>Bearing Fruit in God's Family</i>        | Do Bible studies related to Christian character. Memorize verses you can use for explaining the gospel.   |

## *Where Can You Use The New 2:7 Series?*

Use it with *adults*; use it with *youth* or *collegiates*; use it with *women*; use it with *men*. You will find it effective for *one-to-one* ministry, for *small groups*, or for *mentoring*.

*The New 2:7 Series* deals with foundational discipleship issues. God can use it to impact lives in many contexts. It deals with the basics of the Christian life. And for a person's lifetime the basics are indispensable. The basics are basic! We never outgrow them. People get the Christian basics functioning in their lives as they work through the dynamics in *The New 2:7 Series*.

## *Navigator Resources Available to You*

Two Navigator ministries provide practical resources to help you develop disciples and disciplemakers: NavPress and Church Discipleship Ministry (CDM). The two are continuing to develop materials, tools, and training that you can use in your personal or local church ministry. Both may be reached at P.O. Box 6000, Colorado Springs CO 80934 or [www.navigators.org/cdm](http://www.navigators.org/cdm). Phone NavPress at 1-800-366-7788 or CDM at 1-719-594-2495.

# Session 1

## OUTLINE OF THIS SESSION:

1. Get acquainted with other members of the class.
2. Read “The New 2:7 Series” (pages 7-8) and “General Comments” (page 8).
3. Learn how to make your Bible reading exciting:
  - a. Use a contemporary Bible translation or paraphrase.
  - b. Study “How to Mark Your Bible as You Read” (pages 8-10).
  - c. Study “Where to Read in Your Bible” (page 10).
4. Complete the “Reading and Marking Exercise” (pages 10-12).
5. Look over the “Beginning with Christ *Explanation*” and the five short passages you will be memorizing (pages 12-15).
6. Read “How to Memorize a Verse Effectively” (pages 15-16).
7. Read the “Assignment for Session 2” (page 16).
8. Close the session in prayer.

## *The New 2:7 Series*

*“Rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”*

—Colossians 2:7

What is the purpose of *The New 2:7 Series*? What the Holy Spirit expresses through Paul in Colossians 2:7 clearly defines the specific goals of this training:

1. For a Christian to become *built up* in Christ and *established* in his or her faith. This series of courses includes instruction in practical Bible study, Scripture memory skills, how to sharpen your devotional life, and how to be more effective in evangelism. The objective is to become consistent in these disciplines rather than just to accumulate Bible knowledge.
2. For a Christian to learn to *overflow with gratitude* in everyday life. The series will help an individual learn to experience and enjoy a stable and consistent Christian walk.

3. For a Christian to be *instructed*. This implies that training must take place before people develop into the kind of Christian laypeople who can impact their community.

What are some results of *The 2:7 Series*? Many who have been trained through this series have developed qualities enabling them to assume greater responsibilities and become more effective in their local churches. Marriages and families have been helped as individual members have grown spiritually and become firmly established in their walks with God. After graduating from this series of courses, these maturing Christians have acquired additional tools to help others in their growth in Christ and in reaching out to nonChristians.

Each of *The 2:7 Series* courses lasts about three months. They usually require about one hour of homework preparation each week, and the class sessions are from one to two hours long. *The 2:7 Series* is excellent training. You will benefit greatly from it if you are able to schedule time to do the work thoroughly and on time.

### *General Comments*

1. There should be from four to ten students in these discipleship groups. This provides opportunities for each student to talk.
2. No one should join the group after session 2.
3. You must complete certain requirements to graduate from this course. While not difficult, graduation will require purposeful effort. Plan to graduate.
4. Keep in mind that anything truly worthwhile will be costly in some way.
5. Most class sessions will require about one hour of preparation time.
6. If you complete your assigned work on time, you will find the training more enjoyable. You will also derive more permanent benefit from the course.
7. It is best if you do not miss more than two sessions. It becomes difficult to catch up once you get behind.
8. This is not a lecture course. You will have an opportunity to participate in every session.

### *How to Mark Your Bible as You Read*

You should obtain an inexpensive Bible with heavier paper for your reading and marking. Choose a contemporary translation or paraphrase.

You may use a ballpoint pen to mark your Bible with any of the following symbols:

1. Brackets— [ ]
2. Short diagonal lead-in— \
3. Parallel diagonal lines in the margin— //

4. Circles— ○
5. Vertical lines in the margin— |
6. Underlining— \_\_\_\_\_

As another option, you may use a “highlighter” to mark through words, phrases, or sentences. Most Bible bookstores sell dry highlighters that work well for Bible marking. (Regular highlighters can bleed through the thinner paper often found in Bibles.)

Like many students, you may prefer dry highlighters. But if you do use a ball-point pen, choose whichever markings you like—or make up your own. Note the various examples of highlighting and marking in the following four passages of Scripture.

#### ISAIAH 11:1-7

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—[the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.]<sup>3</sup>—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. <sup>6</sup>The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

#### LUKE 5:15-17

<sup>15</sup>Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sick-

ness. <sup>16</sup>But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

<sup>17</sup>One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.

#### 1 KINGS 12:3-9, (BERK)

<sup>3</sup>When Jeroboam and the whole assembly of Israel arrived, they addressed Rehoboam, saying, <sup>4</sup>“Your father made our yoke unbearable. [Now lighten the unbearable service of your father and the heavy yoke he laid upon us, and we will serve you.]”<sup>5</sup>He responded, “Give me three more days; then return to me.”

When the people left, <sup>6</sup>Rehoboam conferred with the elders who had stood by Solomon when he was still alive, saying, “How would you advise me to reply to the people?” <sup>7</sup>They advised him, [“If you will be a servant to this people now and serve them and reply to them with kind words, they will always be your servants.”]

<sup>8</sup>But he rejected the advice which the elders gave him. Then he conferred with the young men who grew up with him and stood by him. <sup>9</sup>“What do you advise

us to say to this people who petitioned me, 'Make lighter the yoke your father laid upon us?'

### 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-7 (AMP)

Paul, Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy to the assembly (church) of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah: [Grace (spiritual blessing and divine favor) to you and heart peace.]

<sup>2</sup>We are ever giving thanks to God for all of you, continually mentioning [you when engaged] in our prayers, <sup>3</sup>recalling unceasingly before our God and Father your work energized by faith and service motivated by love, and unwavering hope in (the return of) our Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah. <sup>4</sup>[O] brethren beloved by

God, we recognize and know that He has selected (chosen) you; <sup>5</sup>for our [preaching of the] glad tidings (the Gospel) came to you not only in word, but also [in (its own inherent) power] and in the Holy Spirit, and with great conviction *and* absolute certainty (on our part). You know what kind of men we proved [ourselves] to be among you for your good. <sup>6</sup>And you [set yourselves to] become imitators of us and [through us] of the Lord Himself, for you welcomed our message in [spite of the] much persecution, with joy [inspired] of the Holy Spirit; <sup>7</sup>so that you [thus] became a pattern to all the believers—those who adhere to, trust in and rely on Christ Jesus—in Macedonia and Achaia [most of Greece].

## *Where to Read in Your Bible*

1. If reading the Bible is fairly new to you, you should start with books in the New Testament. (Some find the Gospel of Matthew to be difficult reading.)
2. Finish reading all of one book before starting another.
3. Perhaps the two most difficult books in the Bible are Leviticus and Revelation. Put off reading these two books until after *Growing Strong in God's Family*.
4. Instead of reading the Gospels consecutively, intersperse them with other books for variety.
5. When you are ready to begin reading in the Old Testament, you might pick one of the following books: Joshua, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, Genesis, Daniel.
6. Some Old Testament books have difficult passages, so just skim through those sections.

## *Reading and Marking Exercise*

For your reading and marking exercise, you will now work on Romans 12. As you do this exercise, you will want to:

1. Pray that God will speak to you from His Word.
2. Think through the passage.
3. Mark the thoughts that stand out or impress you.

After you have read this passage, you will have an opportunity to share one or two things that you marked.

### ROMANS 12

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. <sup>4</sup>Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup>If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach, <sup>8</sup>if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

<sup>9</sup>Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup>Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

<sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup>Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. <sup>20</sup>On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

### *Five Key Scripture Memory Passages*

During this course you memorize five important passages of Scripture. For years to come, you will find them helpful in your own life and for helping others. As you memorize each passage, you will also memorize the topic and the Bible reference. The verses are taken from the Navigator Scripture memory packet called *Beginning with Christ*. Here are the topics and references.

Assurance of Salvation	1 John 5:11-12
Assurance of Answered Prayer	John 16:24
Assurance of Victory	1 Corinthians 10:13
Assurance of Forgiveness	1 John 1:9
Assurance of Guidance	Proverbs 3:5-6

### *Choose a Translation*

Sometimes a paraphrase or expanded version of the Bible presents a particular verse or passage in a dynamic way. Many people have memorized 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 in the Phillips paraphrase for that reason. Numbers of women have been affected by memorizing Proverbs 31 in The Amplified Bible. Yet the usual guideline is to do your memory work in a translation of the Bible rather than a paraphrase.

So you want to decide which Bible translation to use for your memory work. People often choose the translation used by the pastoral staff of their church. Think about it. Talk to others and decide.

### *Write the Verses on 3x5 Cards*

During this course you will put your memory verses on 3-by-5-inch cards. *Write out the Scripture passage on one side. On the other side write the topic and reference.* For the next class you will be memorizing “Assurance of Salvation,” 1 John 5:11-12. The next section, “Beginning with Christ *Explanation*,” describes the purpose for memorizing these five passages—first for your own assurance and then for giving assurance to others.

## **Beginning with Christ *Explanation***

The Bible says, “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from

the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved” (Romans 10:9-10). Coupled with this wonderful truth is the statement in His Word that “as many as received him, to them gave

he power to become the sons of God” (John 1:12).

If you have to the best of your knowledge received Jesus Christ—trusted Him as your own Savior, according to the Scriptures quoted above—you have become a child of God in whom Jesus Christ dwells.

Altogether too many people make the mistake of measuring the certainty of their salvation by their feelings. Don't make this tragic mistake. Believe God. Take Him at His word: “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life” (1 John 5:13).

It is impossible in these few pages to go into all the wonderful results of the transaction that took place when you received Christ. Children may be born into a wealthy home and become the possessor of good parents, brothers and sisters, houses and lands, but at the time of their birth it is not necessary that they be informed of all these wonderful things. There are more important matters to take care of first. They must be protected, for they have been born into a world of many enemies. In the hospital room they are handled with sterilized gloves and kept from outsiders that they might not fall victim to the myriad germs waiting to attack. It is the awareness of such enemies which enables the doctors and nurses to take measures to protect the precious new lives.

You have become a child of God; you have been born into His family as a spiritual babe. This is a strategic moment in your life. The following basic truths will strengthen you for the battle ahead and keep you safe from the onslaughts of Satan.

In 1 Peter 2:2 you read, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word,

that ye may grow thereby.” In Acts 20:32 you read, “And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace which is able to build you up.” The Bible serves as your spiritual food and will build you up in the faith. In this course, you are given suggestions for how to read your Bible. It is important that you have time set aside, preferably in the morning, to read the Word of God and pray.

Now let's be more specific with regard to your intake of the Word of God. In Psalm 119 it says, “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to Thy word” (verse 9, KJV), and then the psalmist speaks to the Lord saying, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (verse 11). So hide His Word in your heart; memorize it. In this course we have included five key passages with which you may begin.

Let us consider for a moment the spiritual enemy you face. Before you trusted Christ, Satan may not have bothered you particularly, but now he has seen you make the step which angers him more than any one thing in all the world. You have left his crowd and joined the ranks of those who believe and trust in the Son of God. You are no longer in Satan's domain; you now belong to the One who has bought and paid for you with a price, the price of His own blood shed on the cross. You may be sure that Satan will attempt to trouble you. His attacks assume many forms. These verses will help you deal with some of the most common ones and give you help on how to resist him successfully.

You can overcome him only as you use the weapons which God has provided. Paul said, “And take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

(Ephesians 6:17). The Bible then is the primary weapon against these attacks.

Consider that Jesus Christ was tempted by Satan in three specific ways, and He defeated him each time with Scripture, saying, "It is written . . ." (see Matthew 4). If Christ deemed it necessary to meet Satan this way, how much more do you need this mighty weapon, the Word of God. How much more you need to be prepared to say to Satan, "It is written . . ." or "Thus said the Lord . . ."

### 1. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

The memory verses of Scripture in this course have been chosen to equip you for your first few encounters with the enemy and to encourage you to trust God daily. Satan's first approach is often to cast doubt upon the work which God has done in your heart. You may find yourself thinking, "How can I be saved and my sins forgiven just by believing and receiving Christ? Surely that is not enough!"

Your only hope to withstand such an attack is to resort to God's Word. What does God say about the matter? That is the important thing. And so the first memory passage, 1 John 5:11-12 says: "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

When this passage has been written on the tablet of your heart you will be able to use it every time a doubt arises. On the basis of God's written Word, you will have overcome one of the first tests. This attack may recur, but now you have the Word of God in your heart with which to meet it.

### 2. ASSURANCE OF ANSWERED PRAYER

Another attack of Satan may be to cause

you to doubt the effectiveness of prayer. You may catch yourself thinking, "How can God be really personally interested in me? He seems far away and is probably concerned about more important things. Does He hear me when I pray—much less answer my prayers?"

Now that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Lord you have the unique privilege of speaking directly with your heavenly Father through Him. He wants you to come confidently into His presence (Hebrews 4:16) and to talk to Him about everything (Philippians 4:6). He is intensely interested in you and your needs. In the second passage, John 16:24, Jesus gives us His Assurance of Answered Prayer: "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name; ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

Jesus did not say His disciples had never asked before. You yourself have probably asked many times, especially when in trouble. But now you can ask in Jesus' name because you belong to Him. To ask in His Name means to ask in His authority and on His merit. Just as the Father answered Jesus' every prayer, so will He answer your call and meet your needs. Memorize this wonderful promise. Apply its truth and experience the joy of answered prayer.

### 3. ASSURANCE OF VICTORY

Still another attack may be along this line. "I have life, all right, but I am a weakling; I have always been a weakling."

You will remember some sin which has gripped you throughout the past years of your life. You will think, "I am weak; I will not be able to stand against this particular temptation. Perhaps I have been able to stand against others, but not this one."

How will you answer this doubt? Will

you rely on what this person or that one says, or will you resort to the invincible Word? The third passage, 1 Corinthians 10:13, is chosen especially to meet this attack of Satan: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

This gives Assurance of Victory. God promises victory over temptation. It belongs to you as a child of His. Believe what God has said and you will see that things impossible with men are possible with God. It will thrill you to see that chains of lifetime habits can be broken by His mighty power. Memorize this verse; write it on the tablet of your heart, then trust the Holy Spirit to help you live victoriously over sin.

#### 4. ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

This brings us to the next attack of Satan. Although victory over temptation is rightfully yours, you may fail. When you sin, you may think, "Now I've done it. I'm supposed to be a Christian but Christians don't do those things, do they?"

Nevertheless, God makes provision in His Word for the failures of His children, and so the fourth passage speaks of the Assurance of Forgiveness, 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

To confess a sin means to uncover it by calling it exactly what God calls it.

Implicit in honest confession is the willingness to forsake the sin (Proverbs 28:13). God promises not only to forgive us, but also to cleanse us. What a gracious provision!

#### 5. ASSURANCE OF GUIDANCE

The four preceding assurances have been given to help you meet the principal attacks of Satan. However, the fifth passage for you to memorize is for a different purpose.

You may have questions about the future, wondering how this new life of yours is all going to work out. "What about God's will for my life? Will He really lead me?" Hence, this verse comes to give you Assurance of Guidance, Proverbs 3:5-6.

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

God promises to lead you and direct your path when you rely on Him completely. Memorize and apply this Scripture as a reminder to trust God for His guidance in your life.

After you have memorized these verses and learned to apply them, you will be aware of the strength and blessing that comes from hiding God's Word in your heart.

## *How to Memorize a Verse Effectively*

### GUIDELINES FOR MEMORIZING A VERSE OF SCRIPTURE

1. Before you start to memorize the verse, read it aloud several times.
2. Learn the topic, reference, and the first phrase as a unit.

3. After you have reviewed the topic, reference, and first phrase a few times, add the second phrase. Gradually add phrases until you know the whole verse.
4. Work on the verses audibly whenever possible.
5. As you memorize and review the verse, think about how it applies to your own life.
6. Always review the verse in this sequence:
  - a. TOPIC: "Assurance of Salvation."
  - b. REFERENCE: "First John five, eleven and twelve."
  - c. VERSE(S): "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."
  - d. REFERENCE: "First John five, eleven and twelve."
7. The most critical element in scripture memory is REVIEW, REVIEW, REVIEW. The most important time to review a verse repeatedly is right after you can quote the whole verse (topic, reference, verse, reference) without making a mistake. Review the verse a minimum of once daily after that, preferably several times a day. The more you review, the greater your retention.
8. An important concept is the principle of OVERLEARNING. A verse should not be considered memorized simply at the point when we can quote it accurately. Only when we have reviewed it frequently enough for it to become *ingrained* in our memory should we consider a verse memorized.

#### ASSIGNMENT FOR SESSION 2:

1. Scripture Memory: Carefully read the "Beginning with Christ *Explanation*" (pages 12-15). Memorize the passage on "Assurance of Salvation," 1 John 5:11-12.
2. Bible Reading: Obtain a contemporary translation or paraphrase of the Bible. Read and mark in it each day.
3. Bible Study: Complete the "*Beginning with Christ Bible Study*" (pages 18-21).