

THE SCHOOL OF DIVINE INSTRUCTION

- A. All of us need training; John 16:13; Galatians 4:2; Ephesians 4:11
- B. All of us must “run the race”; Heb. 12:1 and “fight the good fight of faith”; 1 Tim. 6:12
- C. All of us must learn to “count the cost”; 2 Samuel 24:24-25; Luke 14:27-33

All Of Us Will Have Opportunities To Pass Our TESTS IN THE LESSONS OF LIFE:

1. The Lesson Of Forgiveness

- a. We are forgiven when we believe that Jesus died in our place; we repent; Acts 2:38, confess our sins; 1 John 1:9, and trust in the finished work of the Cross of Jesus Christ; Col. 1:14
- b. We must put the failures of our past behind us and forgive ourselves; 2 Cor. 5:17
- c. We must learn to forgive others continually and completely; Matthew 6:14-15; 18:21-22

2. The Lesson of Disappointment

- a. We must accept the challenges of our own limitations and shortcomings of others; we all have weaknesses; Ps. 103:14, and fall short of the glory of God; Romans 3:23
- b. We must learn to accept God’s “delays”; John 11:6-32 and His methods; 2 Kings 5:11-12
- c. We must accept God’s claims upon the life of a disciple; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 14:26

3. The Lesson of Submission

- a. We learn to submit ourselves one to another in the fear of the Lord; Ephesians 5:21
- b. We must be accountable and subject to one another, being clothed with humility; 1 Pet. 5:5
- c. We submit to ordinances, governing authorities, showing respect to all men; Rom. 13:1-2

4. The Lesson of Patience

- a. We learn to be patient in tribulation, enduring trials, with longsuffering; Romans 12:12
- b. Patience is rewarded; Romans 2:7; in our patience, we “possess our souls”; Luke 21:19
- c. Patience grows within us; Gal. 5:22; it must have its “perfect” (complete) work; James 1:4

5. The Lesson of Conflict

- a. We do not wrestle with flesh and blood; our weapons and warfare are spiritual; Eph. 6:10-17
- b. The spiritual battle we are engaged in is against the devil; 1 Peter 5:8, against the world; James 4:1-4, and against the flesh; 1 Peter 4:1-4
- c. When facing opposition, we trust in God’s might and justice; He will intervene; Jer. 11:19-20

6. The Lesson of Persecution

- a. We will suffer persecution in this world; persecution arises for the word’s sake; Mark 4:17
- b. We are told to rejoice when we are reviled, persecuted and spoken evil of; Matt. 5:11-12
- c. We are told to bless and pray for those who curse and persecute us; Rom. 12:14; 1 Cor. 4:12

7. The Lesson of Flexibility

- a. We accept God’s will, not insisting upon our own will and our own ways; James 4:13-15
- b. We must be pliable in the Master’s hand; Jer. 18:2-6, and not harden our hearts; Ps. 95:7-8
- c. We must learn to allow the Lord to change our plans, as He understands the full scope of divine timing, conditions and readiness; He knows what is best for all; Acts 16:6-10

8. The Lesson of Need

- a. God will supply our needs, but He does so in the way that He chooses; Philippians 4:19
- b. Supernatural provision (manna) was supplied every day for God's people; Exodus 16:4
- c. This includes the material; Matt. 6:25-34, spiritual; Ps. 42:1-2 and occupational; Acts 18:3

9. The Lesson of Prosperity

- a. God leads us into abundance to teach us gratitude and to help others in need; 2 Cor. 9:12
- b. God grants us material and spiritual prosperity (riches) so that we may learn to abound for the glory of God, not the glory of man; 1 Timothy 6:17-18 (compare Rev. 2:9 with Rev. 3:17-18)
- c. To whom much is given, much will be required; Luke 12:48

10. The Lesson of Restraint

- a. We place a guard over the words of our mouth, accepting the bit and the bridle; James 3:2-3
- b. We must accept His harness (restriction) which keeps us under His "yoke"; Matt. 11:29-30
- c. We must bring every "impulse" and thought captive to the obedience of Christ; 2 Cor. 10:5

11. The Lesson of Pressure

- a. Increasing responsibility teaches us right priorities: how to release, how to delegate; Tit. 1:5
- b. Do we yield to God's wisdom or to the demands and opinions of the people? Ex. 18:17-24
- c. Pressure causes us to reach for a goal; Phil. 3:14 and to set our "house in order"; Is. 38:1

12. The Lesson of Contentment

- a. We must learn to be content in the midst of various situations, circumstances; Phil. 4:11-14
- b. We learn to be content with wherever we are, with whatever God provides; 1 Tim. 6:6-8
- c. We learn not to grumble; 1 Cor. 10:10, but to embrace His promises for us; Heb. 11:13-16

13. The Lesson of Perseverance

- a. We become fruitful as we abide in Him and persevere in our faith; John 15:4-8; Eph. 6:18
- b. God is able to guard that which we have entrusted to Him as we persevere; 2 Tim. 1:12
- c. There is a reward for those who persevere, Gal. 6:9, who do not "draw back"; Heb. 10:38-39

14. The Lesson of Trust

- a. God watches over His word to perform it; Is. 55:11; we trust in His Word; Ps. 119:42
- b. Our God is absolutely faithful; our hearts rejoice as we trust in His holy name; Ps. 33:21
- c. Jesus Christ is the One person we can trust explicitly; Matthew 12:17-21; John 8:28-30

15. The Lesson of Compassion

- a. God shows compassion to the ignorant and to those who are misguided; Heb. 5:2; Jonah 4:11
- b. It is God's compassion that causes Him to heal the sick and call to sinners; Matt. 9:12-13
- c. Those who are chosen of God must "put on" a heart of compassion; Colossians 3:12

16. The Lesson of Rest

- a. We must learn to cease from our own self-directed, self-appointed labors; Matt. 11:28-29
- b. The true Sabbath is not just a day, but a lifestyle of entering into God's rest; Heb. 4:9-11
- c. Resting, listening, waiting upon Him, leads to consecrated service unto Him; Lk. 10:38-42

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