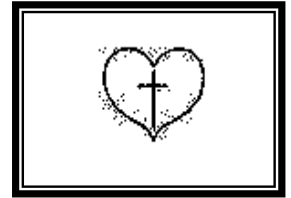


## Leaving the Past (1)



### **LEAVING THE OLD LIFE**

When you asked Jesus into your life, the Bible says that you became a new person on the inside. God's plan for us is that we are changed more and more, so we become like Jesus.

💡 What has changed the most in your life since you came to know Jesus?

This is just the beginning! As you continue to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit will show you other areas in your life that He wants to change. When He does, we need to repent.

✝ How did Zacchaeus, a tax collector, show that his repentance was real?

Luke 19:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Here are some areas that you may need to think about, so you can continue to grow in your relationship with God.

#### **1. THE OCCULT**



✝ What are some things that God does NOT want us to take part in?

Deuteronomy 18:9-12 \_\_\_\_\_

✝ Why do you think God does NOT want us to do these things? What power is really behind them?

Deuteronomy 32:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_

✝ What did the people in Ephesus do when they believed in Jesus?

Acts 19:17-19 \_\_\_\_\_

💡 Make a list of some of the things people do today that are like those mentioned in the Bible.

If you have done any of these things, which we call 'the occult', you have opened the door to Satan in your life, even though you did not know. This gives him permission to attack you. It is important that you repent for doing these things and ask God's forgiveness. Then you need to renounce (or speak against) the things you have done and ask Jesus to set you free. If you have any books or objects like the new believers in Ephesus had, then it is good to burn them. You may like to ask a mature Christian to help you.

#### **2. IDOLATRY**

✝ What else does God's Word warn us about?

Exodus 20:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_

✝ Why does the Bible say it is foolish to worship idols?

Isaiah 44:9-10, 19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

In many countries people worship idols. How sad! These idols cannot help them. Idolatry (worshipping idols) is not just bowing down to a piece of wood or stone, but making anything more important than God.

✝ What else does God call idolatry in these verses?

Colossians 3:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_

💡 What are some of the 'good things of this life' that people have made 'idols'? Discuss

Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you. Is there anything you are making more important than Jesus in your life?



### 3. BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

Another thing that can hinder our walk with Jesus is a broken relationship with another person.

✝ What do we need to do if we know **we have hurt** someone else?

Matthew 5:23-24 \_\_\_\_\_

Before you became a Christian perhaps you did something wrong to another person. God wants to restore our relationships, but we may need to say sorry to that person, or give back what we owe them.

✝ What do we need to do if **we have been hurt** by someone else?

Matthew 6:12 \_\_\_\_\_

Another problem many of us have is that we have been hurt by others. We may feel angry, bitter and not willing to forgive that person. We want to 'pay them back' for what they have done!

✝ How does God want us to respond when we are hurt? Why?

Romans 12:17-21 \_\_\_\_\_

Forgiveness is so important. If we don't forgive we become like prisoners! God wants us to be free and know His power and love in our lives.

In English we sometimes say: "Don't leave any stone unturned." This means we are not to leave anything hidden in darkness! If there is anything in our lives that is not right, allow the Holy Spirit to show you and ask God to work in your life. God loves us so much and wants the very best for our lives – don't allow anything to stay in your life that will hinder your relationship with Him.



What has God spoken to you about in this study?

Share and pray for one another.

#### Memory Verse

"For we are God's master piece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

*Ephesians 2:10*