The Study

Fill in the blanks after reading each Bible text.

1. What was one secret of John’s Spirit-filled life?
   Luke 3:16 John answered, ... I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose.
   John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.
   NOTE: The Spirit-filled life of John the Baptist was marked by unusual humility.
   There was a direct connection between John’s powerful ministry and the complete surrender he had made to the Lord. It was John’s highest joy to point others to Jesus rather than to himself. All he did was designed to bring glory to God’s name.

2. Did John the Baptist read the Scriptures?
   John 1:23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Isaiah (the Greek word for “Isaiah”).
   NOTE: Yes! John quoted from the Old Testament as evidence that he had a solid grasp of the Scriptures. The Bible also tells us that John taught his disciples to fast and to pray often (Matthew 9:14). This is another testimony of his deep love for the Lord. In the same way, through our personal devotions and Bible study, we can come to know and love God and to receive of His Spirit.

3. Was John the Baptist willing to witness for Jesus?
   John 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming unto him, and said, Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.
   NOTE: By nature, John was a solitary soul (Luke 1:80). Yet he was willing to risk his popularity and his simple diet?
   Luke 1:15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost from the womb to the day of his death.
   Luke 1:16 The key to John’s ministry was that he would have the same power of the Holy Spirit as did Elijah to cause a revival among God’s people. His special work was to preach repentance for sin and prepare people for Jesus’ first coming.
   The Bible says there will be an entire army of Elders and John the Baptists in the last days to do a similar work in preparing the world for Jesus’ second coming. “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.” Malachi 4:5. (See also Joel 2:30-31)

4. Was the straight preaching of John popular among the political and religious leaders?
   Luke 3:7 The Pharisees and lawyers of the temple sought the counsel of God against themselves, being baptized of him.
   Luke 3:19, 20 But Herod the tetrarch, being troubled by him ... for all the evils which Herod had done, ... shut up John in prison.
   NOTE: John boldly spoke out against the popular sins of the day that were indulged even by the religious leaders. God’s last-day message of repentance and holiness will also be unpopular among most of the respected political and church leaders, but it will be biblical.

5. Does the Bible discourage the wearing of jewelry and fancy clothing?
   1 Timothy 2:9 In like manner also, that women (and, of course, men) adorn themselves in modest apparel, ... not with broidered hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.
   1 Peter 3:3 Whose adorning let it not be that which is outward, ... but let it be the hidden man of the heart, ... with a meek and quiet spirit, which shall not be of great price.
   Isaiah 1:18-21 In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their lances, ... The chariots, and the horses, ... and the muzzles of the mules, ... and the adornments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets [perfume boxes], and the bracelets, and the bangles, and the nose jewels.
   NOTE: Yes! John the Baptist wore simple, modest clothing—a good pattern for Christians to follow. The popular, sexually suggestive fads and fashions of today encourage a great deal of temptation and debt. God does not intend for us to dress in burlap; however, unduly expensive, flamboyant, or ostentatious clothing should not be part of a Christian’s wardrobe. Although the wearing of jewelry is widely accepted in the world, it has a negative image in the Scriptures. You may not recognize all of the items mentioned in Isaiah 1:21, but people in other parts of the world do. Many of these pagan ornaments are now appearing in Western culture, as well.

6. Was there a connection between John’s Spirit-filled life and his simple diet?
   Luke 1:15 For he ... shall drink neither strong drink, nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Spirit.
   NOTE: Christians should completely abstain from all fermented beverages in order to keep their minds clear and to hear God’s Spirit (Proverbs 23:31, 32; Habakkuk 2:15; 1 Peter 5:8).

7. Why is God concerned about what we eat and drink?
   Judges 13:7 Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink; neither eat any ... for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death.
   1 Corinthians 6:19 Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God?
   NOTE: There is a direct connection between what we eat or drink and our mental clarity, ability to resist temptation, and capacity to distinguish between right and wrong. Everything a Christian does—including what he eats and drinks—should be done to God’s glory (1 Corinthians 10:31).

- 2 - SP21

- 3 -
8. What does the Bible say about worldly behavior?

James 4:4 Whenever therefore will be a ______________ of the world is the ______________ of God.

2 Corinthians 6:17 Come out from among them, and be ye ______________, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

1 John 2:15 If any man love the ______________, the love of the Father is ______________ in him.

Romans 12:2 Be not conformed to this ______________; but be ye transformed by the ______________ of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

NOTE: The Lord has called His people today to live exemplary lives as they help others prepare for Jesus’ second coming.

9. What should a Christian choose to think about?

Philippians 4:8 Whatever things are ______________, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are ______________, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there be any ______________, and if there be any ______________, think on these things.

Psalm 101:3 I will set ______________ wicked thing before mine ______________.

NOTE: John the Baptist commanded the people to abstain from all violence (Luke 3:14). For us, this would include watching violence as a form of entertainment. Jesus taught that sins of sex and violence originate in the thoughts and attitudes (Matthew 5:22, 28). Therefore, a Christian should avoid any TV programs, videos, or reading material that would encourage impure thoughts.

10. What type of music will a true Christian enjoy?

Psalm 40:3 He hath put a ______________ in my mouth, even praise unto our God.

1 Samuel 16:23 And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was departed from him.

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NOTE: It is obvious that a great majority of the popular music in the world does not help us spiritually. Instead, it destroys our desire for heavenly things and often strengthens the lower nature. However, music can be a tremendous power for good. When King Saul was tormented by an evil spirit, the soothing music from David’s harp refreshed him and drove away the evil influence.

11. Is dancing good recreation for a Christian?

1 John 2:6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to to ______________, even as he walked.

Titus 2:12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and ______________ lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and ______________, in this present world.

NOTE: Most of the popular contemporary dancing is associated with worldly music and has a very strong sexual emphasis. In almost any situation we should ask, “What would Jesus do?” I think we all agree that our Saviour would not abandon His reason to swing body and limb to the beat of some syncopated rhythm.

12. Will a Christian play the lottery or gamble?

1 Timothy 6:10 For the ______________ of ______________ is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many troubles.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 This we commanded you, that if any would not ______________, neither should he eat.

Proverbs 28:20 He that maketh ______________ to be ______________ shall not be innocent.

NOTE: Gambling can be just as addictive as many drugs. Some have squandered entire family savings at casinos or on state lottery tickets. Most “get rich quick” schemes are associated with undue risk, unfair prices, and questionable ethics.

13. What should be the aim of God’s people today?

1 John 3:22 We ______________ his commandments, and do those things that are ______________ in his sight.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole ______________ of man.

NOTE: A person cannot live any way he wishes and finally be saved in God’s kingdom. This is one reason Jesus came to earth—to give us an example of holy living (1 Peter 2:21).

14. What makes it easy to obey God in the matters of lifestyle discussed in this lesson?

John 14:15 If ye ______________ me, keep my commandments.

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his ______________ are not.

Psalm 40:8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy ______________ is within my ______________.

15. Why is the Christian life such a high calling?

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a ______________ generation, a royal priesthood, an ______________ nation, a peculiar people; that ye should ______________ forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

NOTE: As ambassadors for Jesus, Christians do indeed have a high calling! John the Baptist helped prepare people for Jesus’ first coming, and God has called His people today to live holy lives as they help others prepare for Jesus’ second coming.