

# Study Guide

## INTRODUCTION:

Before you begin, perhaps you would like to check you spiritual mirror.

### Where Am I?

1. What is your conception of an *ideal* Christian? (Write it out in your own words.)

2. How do you think you measure up to such a benchmark?

3. Below is a line that we will consider represents that hypothetical *ideal* person. Put an "X" on the line to represent where you think you measure up in comparison to him.

----- *Ideal*

4. Where would you have placed the "X" one year ago? Five years ago? Place X's on the line along with the dates.

*It seems that when God's children have shown the Lord they are serious about getting to know Him through memorizing His holy Word in its full context, He has been quick to bless in very special ways. Proceed and enjoy!*

# Lesson I

## Chapter 1 - *Life in Fast Forward*

Read Chapter I and then apply it to your life as you work through these questions.

1. Consider carefully the section *A Slower Pace*. What is the purpose of the story about the poustinik? What did he have that would enrich our daily walk with the Lord?

2. The poustinik was not encumbered with an appetite for this world's goods. His natural desires for what this world has to offer were abandoned in favor of a quest for eternal worth. Whatever he had in his meager existence was open for the world to share.

*In our culture, such actions would be considered unnecessary, unwise and irrational. One thing, however, is very clear: the poustinik put his money where his mouth was. What he had of this world's goods he held loosely. He kept nothing back. He was ready at any time to relinquish anything and everything if he perceived this to be the Lord's will for him.*

*(Page 19, Par 1)*

To abandon life as we know it and pursue a course of complete self abandonment as the poustinik is not something that many of us could relate to. Many of us live in a secure little world. Yet when you think of it, this is what the Lord asked his disciples to do, isn't it?

Fantasizing for just a moment, how would you react if you were rushing around about your daily duties, as were the disciples, then suddenly the Lord appeared out of nowhere and asked you to follow Him. If He asked you to walk away from all your attachments in this life, your security, your wealth, your possessions, your family, your social life, your whole way of life, to just walk away and leave it behind what would be your reaction? (For just this moment eliminate your commitment to your family.)

Which of these would best describe your reaction?

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) Sheer panic. I don't think I could handle it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) It wouldn't be easy, but I think I could do it if I was sure it was what the Lord wanted me to do.
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) I would do it gladly. It would be a relief to leave it behind.
- \_\_\_\_\_ d) (other) \_\_\_\_\_

**3. In many ways we are like computers. We constantly feed data into the computer of our heart and mind. Nor is our biological computer ever turned off. Everything we see, everything we hear, everything we read, or say – basically everything we feed into our mind – goes into a memory bank to form our own personal database. And just as an electronic computer performs on the basis of what is fed into it, the database we have accumulated in our heart and mind predictably determines our attitude and actions. (Pg 20, Par 2)**

**Satan is very aware of this. This is why he systematically works to control what we see, hear, read, and think about, any communication that exposes us to his deception and perversion. He knows that if he can control the input of our computer, he can control our life. (Pg 20 Par 4 - Pg 21 Par 1)**

**a) To help alert you to the planned strategy that is being applied against your mind, try listing the ways you see the enemy subtly but progressively attacking your mind. List the things that you see and/or hear every day that draw your thinking away from purity and godliness. Include both things over which you have no control as well as those you have knowingly or inadvertently accepted as part of your life.**

**b) In view of your answers, what tactics do you see the devil using to influence your thinking and what do you think he aims to accomplish through them?**

**4. Solomon said: . . . as (a man) *thinks in his heart, so is he . . . (Proverbs 23:7, NKJV)*. If you are what you think, and you are aware that your mind is consciously and deliberately being targeted, do you consider it important for you to take conscious and deliberate steps to combat this aggression? As Joyce Meyers says, "Where his mind leads man will follow." What tips do the psalmists give that would be helpful for us in our constant struggle against evil?**

**5. Many people rely on what I call "external input" They find it much easier to rely on outside sources to sustain their inner strength, rather than nourishing the inner man and letting the Holy Spirit work it out in their life. Without looking at your Bible, notes or any other helps . . .**

**a. what specifically do you remember from the sermon you heard last Sunday?**

**b. what specifically do you remember from the last time you read your Bible**

**c. what recent teaching or new thoughts has the Lord used to make a lasting impact on your life? (Specify whether it was from reading a book; hearing a sermon, participating in a Bible study, during personal devotional time or through other means.)**

**6. How much time do you estimate you have actually spent thinking about things you listed above? Write your "guesstimate" alongside each answer.**

***7. When you hear teaching about God's Word presented by others you may experience a challenge, encouragement, inspiration, blessings, lots of warm "fuzzies". But if you want to permanently change the direction of your life, it must grow from deeper roots. (Pg 22, Par 3)***

**So says the author. What has been your own personal experience? What vehicle has the Lord used to make the greatest impact on your life?**

**8. You are about to begin an awesome adventure as you start to experience the blessing of memorizing God's holy Word in its full context. Spend a few moments in prayer asking the Lord to give you His mind as you proceed in this course and begin your journey of branding His Holy Word on your heart and soul.**