

which had become my "heaven" but which was in fact my "hell."

One night I was in the home of a victim of my sin, overpoweringly tempted to seek "ultimate" acceptance and pleasure. Feeling led by God, I walked out in the dark from the teenager's room into the family room and fell to my knees and my face. "Save me, Oh Lord! Deliver this youngster from my hands. I don't care any longer what it takes. Get me out of this evil and save me – even if you must take my life – even if it be a violent death in prison, I don't care. Never let me lay my hands on another with evil intent ever again. Save me, Lord Jesus. I can't do it without You."

Almost seven years have passed since that dreadful but holy night, and God, such as He is, has been magnificently faithful. Life-changing treatments, the structured life of prison, humility and freedom have each found me. My wife has accepted Jesus as her Savior and Lord, and now together we walk in the unity of the Spirit and His bond of peace. My mom and sister have also turned to seek the Lord. All my crushing shame has been searched out and revealed. Satan's last tools of spiritual captivity in my life--secretiveness, along with pride--now give way to trust in Jesus.

Finally, that great old demon, self-will, has himself had the door of my soul slam him in the back-side on the way out of my life! I love to patiently seek and wait on God as I make His will my own. He delights my soul with new mercies every morning.

My hope is sealed. There are no more leaks. I find that even persecution is acceptable and profitable for my continually growing strength and maturity. God be blessed forever! Jesus is Lord...now He's **my** Lord!

## Discipleship Questions

Answer the following by reading the corresponding discipleship lesson and using your Bible.

**Definition:** To acknowledge Jesus as Lord is to acknowledge Him as deity, owner, master, boss, emperor and king. The meaning of Lordship is to recognize God's right to rule our lives. 1 Corinthians 6:20 states it this way, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1. Read Luke 6:46. "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Write your own definition of Lordship based upon this verse.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:20. "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Write your own definition of Lordship based upon this verse.
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:15. "And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." Write your own definition of Lordship based upon this verse.
4. Read Luke 9:23. "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." According to Luke 9:23 is submitting to Christ's Lordship just a one-time experience?
5. Read Matthew 6:9-13. "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. [10]

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. [11] Give us this day our daily bread. [12] And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. [13] And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

Which phrase or phrases in this passage refers to submission to Christ's Lordship?

6. Read Philippians 2:8. "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Jesus did God's will. What did this involve?
7. Read Matthew 6:24. "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Why can't you serve two masters?
8. Read Romans 14:9. "For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living." For what purpose did Christ die and rise again?
9. Read Romans 14:3-4. "Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. [4] Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand." Who is the Christian's master?

10. Read Acts 26:18. "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me," and 1Thessalonians 1:9 "For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God." Jesus' Lordship does not mean perfection, but it means we have turned in a new direction (toward God and His ways). The word "conversion" also means "to turn or return to God." It implies a turning from Satan and a turning toward God. How does 1 Thessalonians 1:9 describe this?

11. Read Romans 10:9. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Have you made the decision to invite Jesus Christ to be your Lord?

### Discipleship Answer Key

Do not look at the answer key until you have completed the questions. Check your answers with the following answers.

**Definition:** To acknowledge Jesus as Lord is to acknowledge Him as deity, owner, master, boss, emperor and king. The meaning of Lordship is to recognize God's right to rule our lives. I Corinthians 6:20 states it this way, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

1. One that is to rule and be obeyed.
2. By right of redemption Christ purchased us completely. We are to glorify Him in body and spirit. He is Lord (the One who has the right to rule and reign our lives).
3. Christ paid the price for complete ownership of my life to do whatever He wants, living no longer to please myself, but to please Him.
4. No, it is daily. When I bowed my knees before Christ I gave up my rights to control my life.
5. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Mt. 6:10.
6. Obedience even to the point of death.
7. You will hate one and love the other.
8. So that He could be our Master across the entire range of life and death (The Message Bible).
9. God.
10. As turning to God from idols to serve the living and true God.
11. Read Romans 10:9. Have you made the decision to invite Jesus Christ to be your Lord?

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## Christ's Lordship The Steven Bath Story (Discipleship Lesson)

••••• Read the entire lesson and then answer  
the questions that follow.

At the age of thirty-two I was a babe in the faith, but my god was really self-will. I'm in prison because I wanted my own way all the time. I didn't want the rules of society or the laws of men to control me, but then there were God's laws which I could not so easily dismiss. All the justifications and all the mental and emotional whoop-de-doo I did were to make myself believe I was a "true" son of God. This delusion was bound to collapse in the face of the truth.

For various reasons, deviant sexual desire had found a stronghold in me from early childhood. Now, here I was an adult, feeling helplessly enslaved to a demon of hell, while at the same time trying to hang on to my identity as a saved child of the Most High and disciple of Jesus Christ. But I didn't experience the spiritual freedom of a saved son of God and, deep down, I knew I was not a disciple of Christ. The fact is, I was a crippled and disturbed babe in the faith...vulnerable and grossly deceived about matters of relationship and sex. I was stuck in a jelly of conceit and confusion, living from emotional fix to emotional fix, sexual high to sexual high,