



**What Lack I Yet?**  
**Matthew 19:16-22**

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Many years ago, a young man asked, “What am I still lacking?” We may all lack some basic spiritual convictions or skills that we need to \_\_\_\_\_. The inspired Word of God is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. God is able to take a man where He \_\_\_\_\_ him and then transform his life into the likeness of Jesus Christ. The Bible provides us with everything we \_\_\_\_\_ to know about life and godliness. It helps us make the \_\_\_\_\_ of this life and then opens the door to eternal life. There simply is no greater \_\_\_\_\_ than the Word of God.

We are all in a state of \_\_\_\_\_. We didn’t enter this world full-grown, and we enter the \_\_\_\_\_ also as babes in Christ. It takes \_\_\_\_\_ to mature, and we all lack some things. We all have \_\_\_\_\_ for improvement; God is not finished with us yet. Paul said, “For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will \_\_\_\_\_ it until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6). God has been \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives through His Word, answering prayers, providing our needs, and working in ways beyond our understanding.

**Read what Paul said in Philippians 3:12-14.** Paul hadn’t stopped \_\_\_\_\_; he wanted to keep developing as a Christian.

**Our reading today comes from The Gospel According to Matthew 19:16-22.** This must have broken Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_ for this young man to walk away. The rich young ruler seemed to have everything going his way. He had youth and money and power. He had connections and respect. Mark 10:21 says that Jesus looking on this young man \_\_\_\_\_ him. When the young man asked what he still lacked spiritually to have eternal life, the Lord Jesus told him, “If you would be perfect, (or complete) go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, \_\_\_\_\_ me” (Matthew 19:21). The young man went away sorrowful. He counted his possessions as more important than following the Lord. Let’s consider what some are lacking today.

First, some lack \_\_\_\_\_ of God. I’m shocked at the number of people who have \_\_\_\_\_ read the Bible from start to finish. I hear many quote a \_\_\_\_\_ here or there but have little idea what the specific book they quote is all about. Many want to speak out about this or that, but few want to \_\_\_\_\_ to God. Hebrews 2:1-3 says, “For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not \_\_\_\_\_ away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we \_\_\_\_\_ so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the \_\_\_\_\_, it was confirmed to us by those who heard”

Even many churchgoers have stunted their \_\_\_\_\_ when it comes to the Bible. Going to church and knowing God’s Word is not the same thing. Many know much about \_\_\_\_\_

May be reproduced in its entirety for purposes of classroom material or personal study.

PO Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 1-800-321-8633

This study sheet is prepared by Jerry Campbell – [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org); [jerry@searchtv.org](mailto:jerry@searchtv.org)

religion but little about the theology found in God's Word. The Hebrew writer said, "Concerning him (Melchizedek) we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become \_\_\_\_\_ of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to \_\_\_\_\_ you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of \_\_\_\_\_ have their senses trained to discern good and evil" (Hebrews 5:11-14).

Second, because some don't know the Word of God, they lack \_\_\_\_\_ in God. If you wish to \_\_\_\_\_ your faith, the single most important thing you can do is to read your Bible. Romans 10:17 says, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ." Because people have not heard what God says, they cannot \_\_\_\_\_ the strong faith in God and in Christ that they need. The Bible gives us many reasons to follow Jesus Christ and to put Him first in our lives.

John tells us specifically what he hoped to accomplish by writing The Gospel According to John. John 20:30-31 says, "Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have \_\_\_\_\_ in His name." The Lord Jesus said, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life" (John 6:63). That's why we must read, study, and take to \_\_\_\_\_ the Words of Jesus found in the New Testament!

Some folks lose their faith by falling away from God and then they become hardened by sin. Hebrews 3:12-13 warns us, "Take \_\_\_\_\_, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today,' so that none of you will be \_\_\_\_\_ by the deceitfulness of sin." When our minds and our hearts \_\_\_\_\_ studying the Word of God and they \_\_\_\_\_ listening to the worldly pleasures, then we lose sight of God and we begin to follow the world.

Paul warned, "And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—if indeed you \_\_\_\_\_ in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister" (Colossians 1:21-23). We must hold fast to our faith!

Third, because some have little faith, they also lack \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ. Paul reminds us of our lives \_\_\_\_\_ we became a Christian. He said, "remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without \_\_\_\_\_ in the world" (Ephesians 2:12). Outside of Christ, there simply is no \_\_\_\_\_ of eternal life or an inheritance in the eternal kingdom.

First Thessalonians 4:13 says, "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope." In Christ, people have hope for the \_\_\_\_\_. They know Jesus will one day \_\_\_\_\_ for them. First Thessalonians

4:16-17 says, "For the Lord Himself will \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord." We need hope! Paul prayed, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the glory of His inheritance in the saints" (Ephesians 1:18). We have an inheritance in heaven. Let's never, never lose our hope.

Fourth, some lack \_\_\_\_\_ for God and for other people. Paul prayed, "that Christ may \_\_\_\_\_ in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to \_\_\_\_\_ the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:17-19).

The more we know God, the more we understand how \_\_\_\_\_ His love is. First John 4:7-8 says, "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is \_\_\_\_\_ of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love." Every \_\_\_\_\_ thing we have comes from God (James 1:17); and 1 John 4:19 simply says, "We love, \_\_\_\_\_ He first loved us." I would hate to lack compassion for others, to be ungrateful, to be apathetic to other people's \_\_\_\_\_. First John 3:16-18 says, "We know love by this, that He \_\_\_\_\_ down His life for us; and we ought to \_\_\_\_\_ down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with \_\_\_\_\_ or with tongue, but in \_\_\_\_\_ and truth."

Fifth, some lack the virtue that God desires. **Read 2 Peter 1:5-11.**

Paul reminded Timothy, "Nevertheless, the firm \_\_\_\_\_ of God stands, having this seal, 'The Lord knows those who are His,' and, 'Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness'" (2 Timothy 2:19). Paul recommends, "Now \_\_\_\_\_ from youthful lusts and \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart" (verse 22). Where is your heart? Is it on the fleshly things or on spiritual things?

People find ways to justify what they \_\_\_\_\_ to do. Some people in Paul's day thought they had \_\_\_\_\_ to do anything. They were saying, "All things are lawful for me," but then he answers, "but not all things are \_\_\_\_\_." They would say, "All things are lawful for me," and he would answer, "but I will not be \_\_\_\_\_ by anything. Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do \_\_\_\_\_ with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, (that is, fornication) but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body" (1 Corinthians 6:12-13). Many people lack \_\_\_\_\_ in their hearts because they realize that they lack moral virtue and are guilty of sin. Guilt will cause great anxiety and \_\_\_\_\_ you of your confidence before God.

Sixth, some fail to \_\_\_\_\_ God. Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good \_\_\_\_\_, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." God \_\_\_\_\_ you to serve and to do good works. He gave you talents and skills to

\_\_\_\_\_ for His service. The Bible says, “As each has received a gift, use it to \_\_\_\_\_ one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be \_\_\_\_\_ through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen” (1 Peter 4:10-11).

We need to be like the five-talent and the two-talent \_\_\_\_\_. Because they worked hard and sacrificed, the master said to them, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been \_\_\_\_\_ over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the \_\_\_\_\_ of your master” (Matthew 25:23). We can’t be like the one-talent servant who fearfully \_\_\_\_\_ his money (that’s what a talent is in this story), and he just returned it to his master. The master told him, “You wicked and \_\_\_\_\_ servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have \_\_\_\_\_ my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 25:26-30). God doesn’t expect the \_\_\_\_\_ out of us, but He does expect us to use whatever talents or skills we possess and to do it to His glory. My friend, what do you lack? Each of us needs to take a close \_\_\_\_\_ at ourselves and ask, “What am I still lacking? What areas of my life need improvement?” It could be one of the things we’ve mentioned or perhaps something we’ve not mentioned. Paul urged the Christians at Corinth, “Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you \_\_\_\_\_ the test?” (2 Corinthians 13:5). If you looked at your heart and at your life, would you see \_\_\_\_\_ living there?

Would you be willing to pray what \_\_\_\_\_ prayed, “Search me, O God, and know my \_\_\_\_\_; Try me and know my anxious \_\_\_\_\_; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And \_\_\_\_\_ me in the everlasting way” (Psalm 139:23-24). God already knows our hearts; but wouldn’t it be enlightening to see what God sees? It would be like a spiritual MRI that looks far beneath the \_\_\_\_\_ into our inner being. When God chose David to be king, He looked upon David’s heart to see what \_\_\_\_\_ of man he was.

If you’re lacking \_\_\_\_\_, what should you do? You need to get right with God. For those who are \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, you must become a Christian to get right with God. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ way to the Father; we can never take Him for granted. To be a Christian, place your \_\_\_\_\_ in Him, \_\_\_\_\_ of your sins and turn your heart to the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be \_\_\_\_\_, that is immersed in water, so that your sins will be washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ. It might be that you’re a member of the Lord’s church but not right with God. Why not \_\_\_\_\_ those sins, \_\_\_\_\_ of them, and ask God to forgive you. Do it today!S