INTRODUCTION:

1. This is a needed lesson because many things that people think are needed are not necessary.

2. Some of the things people think are needed, which are not necessary:
   
   (1) Eloquence -- Moses -- Ex. 4:10 "slow of speech and slow of tongue"

   (2) Education -- Acts 4:13

   (3) Riches -- Acts 3:6

   (4) Fine clothes -- Matt. 3:4

   (5) Perfect physical health

   (6) Years of experience

   (7) Everything convenient and opportune

3. Let us look at things we MUST have to be of VALUE

I. A FAITH STRONG ENOUGH TO PRODUCE SELF-DENIAL

1. The New Testament speaks of "little", "weak" and "dead" faith -- Matt. 6:30; Rom. 4:19; James 2:17

2. The New Testament speaks of "strong", "rich" and "perfect" faith -- Rom. 4:20; James 2:5; James 2:22

3. Jesus said we are to DENY ourself -- Luke 8:23

4. Paul said the grace of God teaches self-denial -- Tit. 2: 11 - 12; I Cor. 9:27

5. Moses had this kind of faith -- Heb. 11: 24 - 26

6. We must DENY ourselves many things to put the KINGDOM FIRST -- Matt. 6:33

II. A MANNER OF LIFE THAT REVEALS THAT WE HAVE BEEN WITH JESUS

1. Peter and John -- Acts 4:13

2. Paul said, "Christ liveth in me" -- Gal. 2:20

3. Paul said, "For me, to live is Christ" -- Phil. 1:21

4. Christ is our EXAMPLE -- I Pet. 2:21
5. **Courage** and **conviction** is learned from Jesus -- Jude 3; Matt. 23: 1 - 12

6. **Purity of heart** is learned from Jesus -- Matt. 5:8; Mark 7: 20 - 23

7. **Forgiveness** is learned from Jesus -- Matt. 6:12, 14 - 15; Luke 17: 3 - 4

8. The Spirit of **Sacrifice** and **Unselfishness** is learned from Jesus -- Rom. 12:1 - 2; Phil. 2: 1 - 8

9. Concern for the **Lost** -- Luke 19:10; Mk. 16: 15 - 16

III. **LIBERALITY**

1. We do not have to be rich to be liberal in giving
   
   (1) The poor widow -- Mark 12: 41 - 44
   
   (2) The churches of Macedonia -- II Cor. 8:12
   
   (3) The Lord wants a willing mind -- II Cor. 8:12


3. Paul taught Liberality -- II Cor. 9: 6 - 10

4. Poor people can do much with the Lord's help -- I Cor. 1:26

IV. **WE MUST HAVE AN UNCOMPROMISING SPIRIT**

1. John the Baptist was uncompromising -- Matt. 14: 3 - 12

2. Paul was uncompromising -- Gal. 2:5; Phil. 1:17

3. Jude said we are to be uncompromising -- Jude 3

4. We cannot compromise with ERROR or with those living in sin -- Eph. 5:11

V. **WE NEED GOOD SPIRITUAL HEALTH**

1. Gaius' soul prospered -- III John 1 - 2

2. For one's soul to prosper he must feed on the "**sincere milk of the word**" -- I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5: 12 - 14; II Tim. 2:15

3. He must abide in the doctrine of Christ -- II John 9

4. He must speak "**sound doctrine**" -- Titus 2:1

5. One must exercise himself in godliness -- I Tim. 4: 8; Heb. 5: 12 - 14

6. One must abstain from fleshly lusts -- I Pet. 2:11; Gal. 5: 19 - 21

7. He must keep himself unspotted from the world -- James 1:27
8. He must keep his heart sound -- Phil. 4:8

VI. ONE MUST HAVE A CONSCIOUSNESS OF BEING IN DEBT TO ALL MEN

1. Rom. 1: 14 - 17
2. Mark 16: 15 - 16

VII. A LOVE FOR SOULS

1. God -- John 3:16
3. Paul -- I Cor. 9:22, 16
4. Members at Jerusalem -- Acts 8:4
5. We TODAY are to love souls.

CONCLUSION

Donald Townsley

(Underwood Heights 1982; Hebron Lane 1989; River Bend 1998)