

The New You

Leaders Manual

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By

Good Hope Christian Centre

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The New You

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Welcome to The New You

Intro

Welcome to being a child of God. The decision to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour means that you are His son or daughter. The Bible tells us in Galatians 3:26, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus." The question that every child of God must discover is what does it mean to be a son or daughter of God?

The greatest key to understanding The New You, is looking at Jesus as our example in how to live our life. We are to follow Jesus' footsteps. 1 Peter 2:21 says, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"

We follow His steps because we are His disciples. As we follow Him, we become more like Him in the way we think and act. This can seem overwhelming, but Jesus has not left us without instruction found in the Word of God and the voice of the Holy Spirit. Allow your time in this class and God's Word to direct you. "This is the way, walk in it..." Isaiah 30:21.

This course is 7 weeks following the example of Jesus Christ and will help you to live the life that God wants you to; filled with wisdom, victory, love, power and a sound mind.

Our prayer for you is that God will touch and transform your life as you find that "...your faith and hope are in God." 1 Peter 1:21.

The Lordship of Jesus

Key Theme: We need to understand who He is, why He died for us, and what our response to Him should be.

Key Verse: Romans 10: 9-10 "...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Intro

This week we will focus on the Lordship of Jesus. Jesus is Lord over everything because He is God. This means He has the rightful power and authority of God. His willing sacrifice on the cross paid our debt of sin, providing Hope to our lives on earth, Hope for our eternity with Him, brought healing to our relationship with Him, healed our rebellious hearts and bodies. He came to the earth in order to Give Hope and Heal People.

It is time to see that He deserves to be called "Lord" in our lives. The Lordship of Jesus means Jesus rules supreme over every area of your life. We must acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God. In this lesson we will discover who Jesus is, why He died for us and that our response should be as a surrender to Him as Lord.

"If you were to die today, are you sure that you have eternal life?" Coming to church does not automatically mean Jesus is your Lord and Saviour. Your relationship with Jesus as your Lord and Saviour comes from a place making a decision to surrender your life to Jesus and this comes from knowing who Jesus is and why He alone is your salvation.

God Loves You

In order to understand the Lordship of Christ, we must first understand that God loves you. That is why Jesus died for you. Jesus' love for you was worth the pain and torment of dying on the cross. That is how important you are to God!

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

1. What is sin?

Sin can be defined as "purposely disobeying the rules of God."¹ or "missing the mark."

God is holy (perfect) and those who want to be around Him need to be holy (perfect) as well. He cannot allow anything unclean (or full of sin) around Him. It's like oil and water trying to combine - they never will combine as they are inherently different.

Romans 3:23, "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

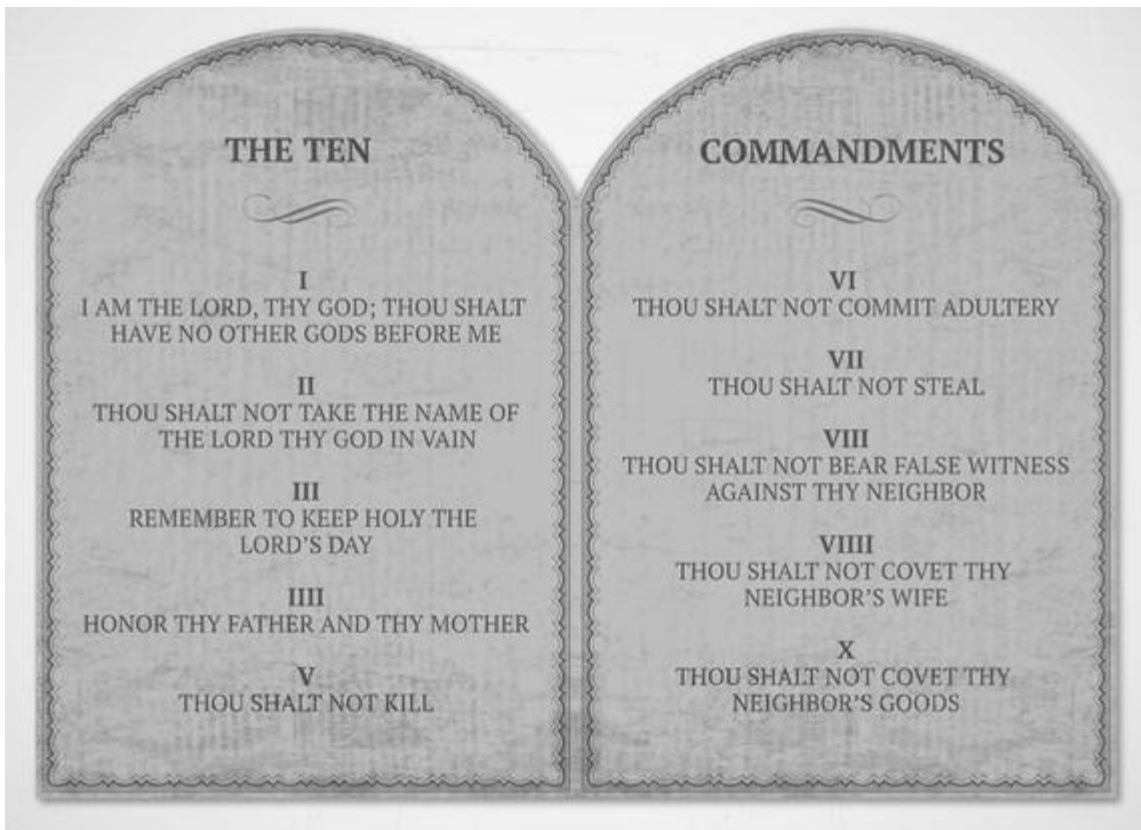
1 Peter 1:16, "...but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."



Leader's Note: Object lesson option: Fill a clear bottle of water and add some oil and try to get them to combine. (or use water and dirt to show how the dirt pollutes the water)

¹ <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/what-is-sin-5-things-that-may-surprise-you.html>

These rules of God are given throughout the Bible. Especially in the 10 Commandments found in Exodus 20 and Jesus taught them in the New Testament in Matthew 22:37-39.



The truth is that no one except Jesus could live the perfect sinless life commanded in the 10 Commandments. This is why we need Jesus - we cannot be sinless except through Him taking the penalty of our sin upon Himself.

2. Why Jesus Died

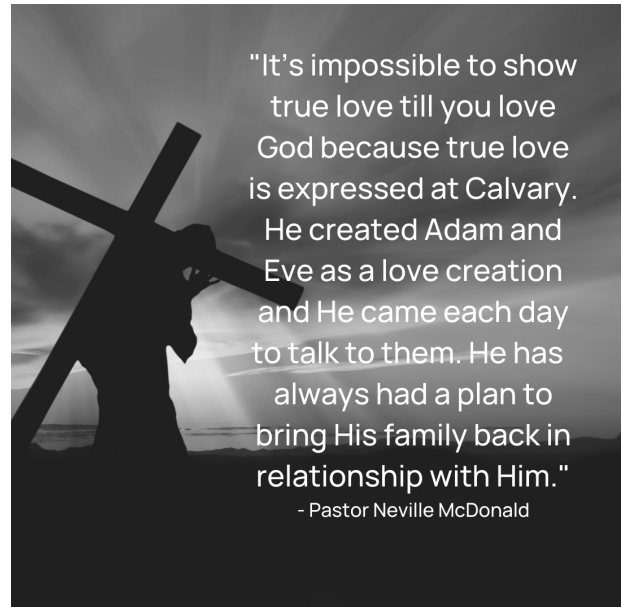
Why Jesus Had to Die for our Sin: The Fall of Humanity.

Adam and Eve were created in the image of God.

Genesis 1:26, "Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Adam and Eve sinned against God in the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:6-8, "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave it to her husband, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden."



Their sin was rebellion against God.

Genesis 6:5, "Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."
Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

Romans 5:12, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—"

This sin and rebellion produced spiritual death throughout the whole human race.

Romans 6:23; "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

God promised to send a Saviour for all who would repent and trust Him.

Genesis 3:15; "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Jesus Christ has BROKEN the power of sin over all those who place their trust in Him for salvation.

1 Peter 3:18, “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”

Humanity must see sin as GOD sees it.

1 John 3:4-6, “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.”

3. Who JESUS is

Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

- Begotten: “The word traditionally translated “only-begotten” does not carry the idea of birth at all. Literally it means “only one of its kind,” “unique.”²

He is also God, the Son.

John 10:30, “I and My Father are one.”

Hebrews 1:8, “But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.’”

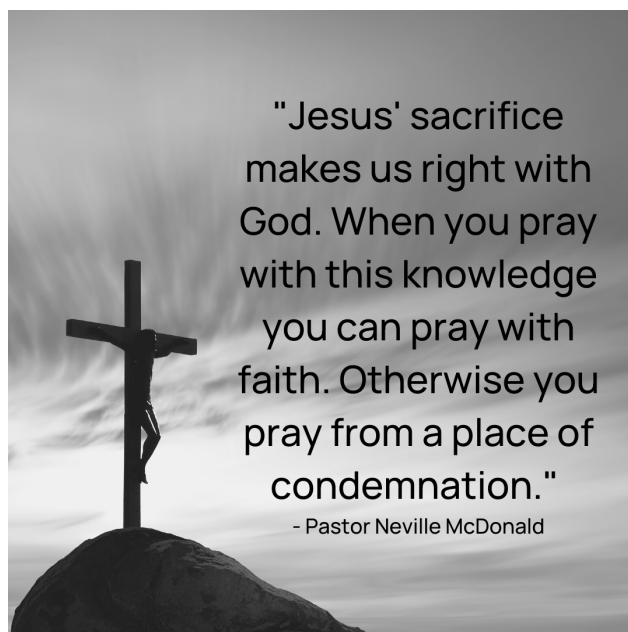
² Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). [Only Begotten](#). In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 2, p. 1590). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

Matthew 1:18, "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit."

He lived a perfect and sinless life.

Hebrews 7:26, "For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens..."



His death provided a full payment for all our sins.

1 Corinthians 15:3, "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures..."

He physically rose from the dead.

Mark 16:6, "But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him."

He ascended into heaven.

Mark 16:19, "So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God."

He is currently engaged in a ministry of prayer on your behalf.

Hebrews 7:25, "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

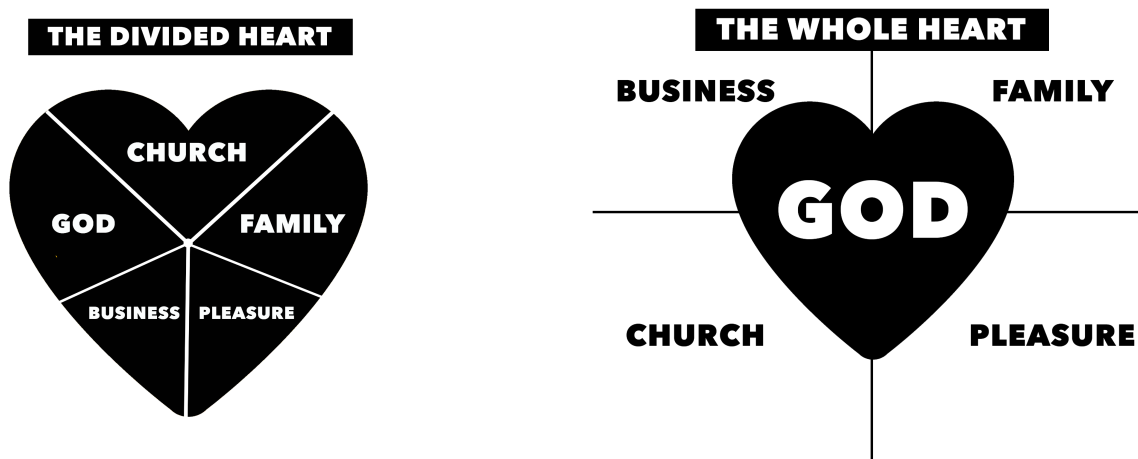
He will one day return to the earth as Lord and Judge.

Revelation 22:12, “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”

As the living Lord of heaven and earth, He demands your worship and obedience.

Phillippians 2:9-11, “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Jesus is Lord of our life and obedience is our automatic response.



Jesus Christ is the Only Saviour.

Jesus came with a purpose.

Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.

1 John 3:8, “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

Jesus died so that we might live.

Romans 14:9, "For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living."

Jesus came so that we can become a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

4. **My Surrender to Him.**

The first step in surrender is repentance.

Repentance means a change of mind, a change of heart, a change of attitude
It means to be sorry for sin.

How do we repent?

- Confess our sin to God.

- Those who confess their sin and forsake that which is wrong find mercy.

Romans 10:9-10, "...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. "

1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

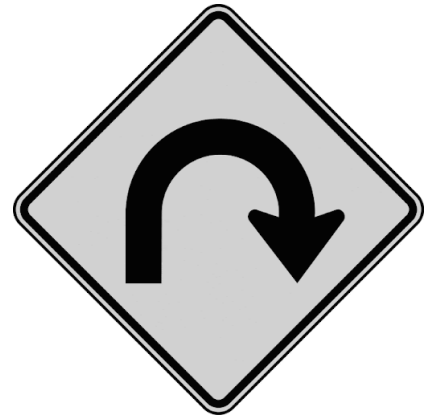
- Accept God's forgiveness and make Jesus Lord.

John 1:12, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name..."

SMALL GROUP

True & False Repentance

There is a Godly sorrow that leads to Godly repentance and there is a worldly sorrow that leads to worldly repentance. We need to have a 180 degree turn.



Response to Truth:

Leaders Note: Please have the people write the answers in their own book. It is important for them to have time to put in their own words what they have learned. When they are done, you can ask them to share their answers with the group.

1. What does the Lordship of Jesus mean?

Answer: The Lordship of Jesus means Jesus rules supreme over every area of your life.

2. Who is Jesus?

Answer: Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God. He is also God, the Son. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a perfect and sinless life. His death provided a full payment for all our sins. He physically rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven. He is currently engaged in a ministry of prayer on your behalf. He will one day return to the earth as Lord and Judge. As the living Lord of heaven and earth, He demands your worship and obedience.

3. What are 2 of the reasons Jesus came?

Answer: Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. Jesus died so that we might live. Jesus came so that we can become a new creation.

4. How do we repent?

Answer: Confess our sin to God. Accept God's forgiveness and make Jesus Lord.

Conclusion

Now that you understand who Jesus is, why He died for us and that our response should be to surrender to Him as Lord, what is your answer to the question, "If you were to die today, are you sure that you have eternal life?"

Boldly declare: "I am absolutely sure I have eternal life through my Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son. If I were to die today, I know I will be in heaven with God"

Now that you are saved you can boldly declare:

- Christ died on the cross for me.
- God will receive me in heaven when I die because He promised He would.
- I have eternal life because I have Christ.

The Authority of Scripture

Key Theme: The Word of God is perfect, our Faith is in God and in His Prophetic Word, and applying His Word is how we grow.

Key Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Intro

God gave us the Bible to reveal who He is and His plan of redemption for humanity. From the opening pages of Genesis through to the last sentence in Revelation, there is a clear story of the need for a saviour and how that saviour is Jesus Christ. This Word of God is perfect and our Faith is in God and in His Word and applying His Word is how we grow. Within its pages we will find Hope and Healing.

1. The Perfect Word

The Bible is God's inerrant Word.

Biblical inerrancy is the belief that the Bible "is without error or fault in all its teaching"³

As God's children we must have a proper view of the Scriptures.

All scripture is God created and is profitable.

The Bible & Science

The Bible is not a scientific textbook but where it touches on science it is accurate.

There are two ways of arriving at a proof:

1. Scientific Method: proof is based upon demonstration of a fact by repeating an event under a controlled environment.

³ Geisler, N.L. and Roach, B., *Defending Inerrancy: Affirming the Accuracy of Scripture for a New Generation*, Baker Books, 2012.

2. Legal historical method based on:

- Eyewitness reports.
- Oral testimony.
- Written testimony.
- Physical Evidence.

Eyewitness Reports of the Bible.

Noted Historians such as Josephus wrote of Jesus, His life and ministry.

Written testimony:

Here we find a legacy of Bible text not changing:

- The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in the late 1960's and dates back to 100 AD.
- These scrolls endorse the present translation of the Bible.

Physical Evidence:

Archaeological discoveries have proved the existence of cities and historical events that took place in Bible days.

Who wrote the Bible?

God wrote the Bible by inspiring men to write down the revelation that He showed them.

The Bible was written by the inspiration of God.

Inspiration means: Breathed out by God.

- "The writers were Spirit-moved to record their messages. Hence, when viewed as a total process, inspiration is what occurs when Spirit-moved writers record God-breathed writings."⁴
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work"

⁴ Geisler, N. L., & Nix, W. E. (1986). [A General Introduction to the Bible](#) (Rev. and expanded., p. 192). Chicago: Moody Press.

The Spirit of God moved on men prompting them to write the Word.

2 Peter 1:20-21, "...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

- The Bible was written by 42 different authors from different walks of life – David was a shepherd boy and a king, Apostle Paul was a pharisee, Apostle Peter was a fisherman.
- The Bible was written on 3 different continents - Africa, Asia and Europe.
- The Bible was written over 1400 years ago.

OLD TESTAMENT

LAW
GENESIS God's Creation
EXODUS God's rescues His people
LEVITICUS God's instructions for worship
NUMBERS God's people do not obey and are punished
DEUTERONOMY God makes promises to Israel

HISTORY
JOSHUA God keeps His promises
JUDGES God continues to love Israel although they continue to sin
RUTH God blesses Ruth
1 SAMUEL Israel chooses a king rather than judges
2 SAMUEL The reign of King David
1 KINGS History of the kings of Israel and Judah
2 KINGS History of the kings' actions – both right and wrong
1 CHRONICLES The family history of Israel
2 CHRONICLES God continues to keep His promises to Israel
EZRA God's people return home
NEHEMIAH Israel rebuilds itself
ESTHER God shows His power over kings and rulers

POETRY
JOB Trust in God even in times of suffering
PSALMS Praising and worshipping God with songs and poems
PROVERBS God provides wisdom for better living
ECCLESIASTES True happiness comes from God not earthly things
SONG OF SOLOMON A beautiful love story

MAJOR PROPHETS
ISAIAH Judah will be a strong nation, but must resist sin
JEREMIAH Resist sinning and accept God's rules
LAMENTATIONS Jerusalem is destroyed
EZEKIEL God rules over all men and nations
DANIEL God continues to love Israel while punishing them

MINOR PROPHETS
HOSEA Warnings to Israel to obey God's laws
JOEL Warnings about God's judgment
AMOS Israel continues to sin
OBADIAH God remains faithful to Israel
JONAH God is strict, but forgiving
MICAH God cares for us all and wants to forgive our sins
NAHUM God loves and cares for all of us
HABAKKUK God will punish evildoers
ZEPHANIAH God will judge mankind
HAGGAI Israel finally obeys God and the temple is rebuilt
ZECHARIAH God will sweep away sin and rule over the earth
MALACHI We should always do our best for God

NEW TESTAMENT

HISTORY / GOSPELS
MATTHEW The life and teachings of Jesus the Messiah
MARK The life and teachings of Jesus the Savior
LUKE The life and teachings of Jesus the Christ
JOHN The life and teachings of Jesus the Son of God

ACTS The beginning of the Christian church

PAUL'S LETTERS
ROMANS Jesus paid the price for our sins
1 CORINTHIANS Paul advises Christians in Corinth
2 CORINTHIANS Following Jesus is not easy
GALATIANS Paul advises Christians in Galatia
EPHESIANS Paul advises Christians in Ephesus
PHILIPPIANS Paul advises Christians in Philippi
COLOSSIANS Paul advises Christians in Colossae
1 THESSALONIANS Paul advises Christians in Thessalonica
2 THESSALONIANS Christians must remain strong in their faith
1 TIMOTHY Paul advises Timothy about church leadership
2 TIMOTHY Teach the truth gently and carefully
TITUS Paul advises Titus about being a good church leader
PHILEMON Paul instructs Philemon regarding forgiveness

GENERAL LETTERS
HEBREWS Jesus is the Greatest of All
JAMES Demonstrate your faith to others
1 PETER Remain holy even when life gets hard
2 PETER Beware of false teachers
1 JOHN How Christians should live and love
2 JOHN Loving God is obeying God
3 JOHN John's letter to Gaius
JUDE Warnings about false teachers

REVELATION John's vision of future events

History and Geography of the Bible Story

What should our attitude be to God's Word?

1. Obedience

- Once we accept Jesus and His Word we need to obey the Bible.

2. Subject our personal opinions to scriptural authority

- 2 Corinthians 10:5, "...casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ"

The Importance of Studying the Bible

The Bible will keep a person from sin.

Psalm 119:9, "How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word."

Psalm 119:11, "Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You".

The Bible is living and active. It uncovers sin and error.

- Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

The Bible works effectively for believers.

- I Thessalonians 2:13, "For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the Word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe."

The Bible is the Word of God to Humanity.

Matthew 4:4, "But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' "

The Bible cleanses.

John 15:3, "You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you. Ephesians 5:25-26, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word..."

The Bible causes people's lives to be fruitful and prosperous.

Psalm 1:2-3, "But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper..."

The Word gives victory over sin.

Psalm 119:11, "Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You."

The Bible helps you to know how and what to pray.

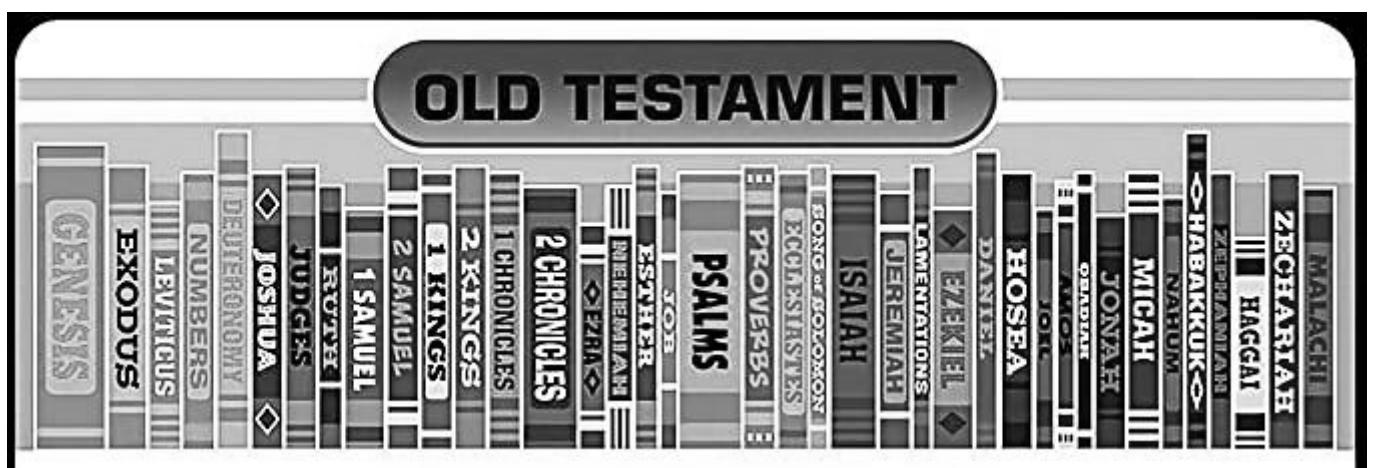
John 15:7, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

The Bible's Layout

The Bible is divided into 2 Testaments: Old & New Testament

- A testament is a statement of belief or gives some kind of direction.

The Old Testament - 39 Books



The Old Testament records the creation of humanity, the fall of Adam & Eve, introduces Abraham and his children, the giving of the 10 Commandments, records the people of Israel's bondage in slavery to their establishment of the Kingdom of Israel. The building of the Temple, the destruction of the temple and the captivity of the people of Israel, along with great prophetic promises.

Types & Shadows Found in The Old Testament

- A "Type" is an example or illustration of a truth to come.
- **"The New is in the Old contained; The Old is by the New explained."**⁵

⁵ <https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/larkin/dt/28.cfm>

Hebrews 10:1, "For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things."

Leader's Note: "You cannot understand Leviticus without Hebrews, or Daniel without Revelation, or the Passover, or Isaiah 53 without the Gospel account of the Crucifixion. The value of the study of the "Types" and "Antitypes" is the proof they furnish of the Inspiration of the Scriptures. Their study proves beyond question that the Scriptures had but one Author-the Holy Spirit.

The "Typology" of the Old Testament is the "**PICTURE LANGUAGE**" in which the Doctrines of the New Testament, such as the Atonement, are prefigured. For illustration the "Brazen Serpent" and the "Cross." John 3:14-15.

A "Type" then is some person, or event, or ceremony that is recorded to foreshadow some future person, or event, or ceremony.

For illustration-

1. **TYPICAL PERSONS**, like Adam, Cain, Abel, Melchizedek, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, Jonah.
2. **TYPICAL EVENTS**, like the Flood, the Plagues of Egypt, the Passover, the Brazen Serpent, Crossing the Jordan, Cities of Refuge.
3. **TYPICAL CEREMONIES**, like the Offerings, Ceremonial Cleansing, Feasts, Year of Jubilee, Day of Atonement."⁶

Some Examples of Types:

"**AS** in Adam all die, even **SO** in Christ shall all be made alive." 1 Corinthians 15:22.

"**AS** the days of Noah were, **SO** shall also the coming of the Son of Man be." Matthew 24:37.



⁶ <https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/larkin/dt/28.cfm>

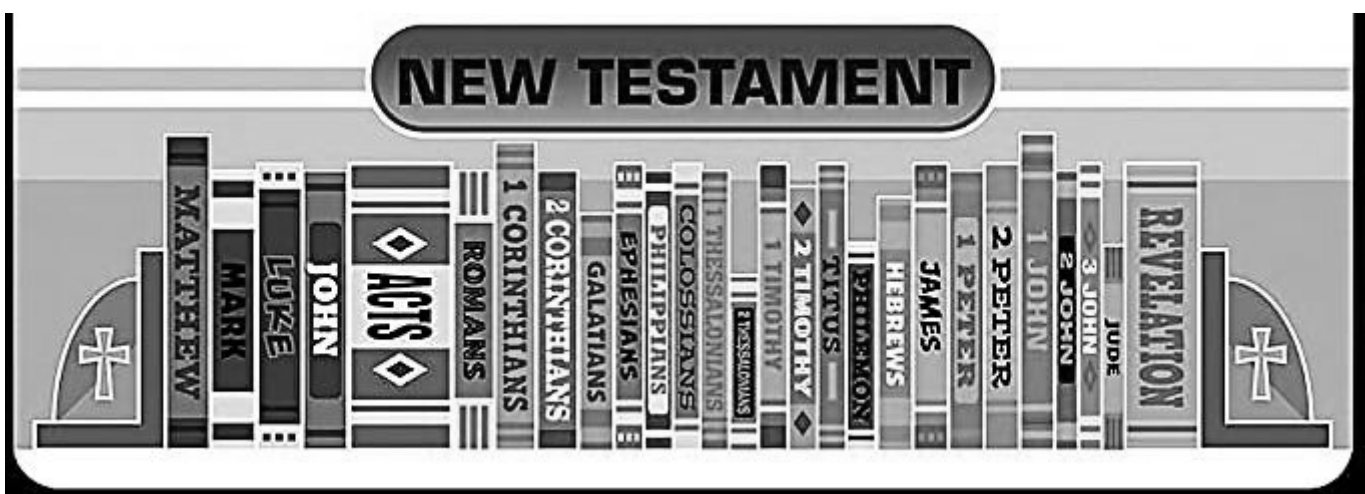
"**AS** Moses lifted up the serpent in the Wilderness, even **SO** must the Son of Man be lifted up." John 3:14.

"**AS** Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; **SO** shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matthew. 12:40."⁷

The Old Testament prepares men and women to receive the New Testament.

- Romans 15:4, "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

The New Testament - 27 Books



The New Testament records the birth of the long promised Messiah Jesus, records His life, death and resurrection, records the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the establishment of the New Testament church, the letters of direction to the church, and the prophetic word of the end of time.

2. Faith in God and His Word

God wants you to have faith in Him and His Word.

- Faith is confidence and trust in God. Faith comes through studying the Bible as you will learn who God is, how He loves you, and what He created you for.

⁷ <https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/larkin/dt/28.cfm>

- The Bible defines faith in Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
 - Faith is always in the now,
 - Faith believes before it sees.
 - Faith has total confidence in God and His ability to keep His Word.
 - Faith requires action.

Romans 10:17, "So, then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."



Your Faith in God pleases God.

Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

3. The Prophetic Word

The Bible is a prophetic book. Prophecy means, "the speaking forth of the mind and counsel of God" *pro*, "forth," *phemi*, "to speak..."⁸

God breathed onto the words and they are living and active.

Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword..."

Though much of Old Testament prophecy was purely predictive, prophecy is not necessarily, nor even primarily, fore-telling. It is the declaration of that which cannot be known by natural means...it is the forth-telling of the will of God, whether with reference to the past, the present, or the future...

⁸ <https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/dictionary/viewtopic.cfm?topic=VT0002236>

Prophecy is revealed by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:19-21, “And so we have the prophetic Word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Amos 3:7, “Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets...”

Bible Prophecy is fulfilled and proved using the legal historical method

- There are eyewitness reports recorded in scripture of prophecy being fulfilled.
- There is oral testimony of scripture prophecy being fulfilled.
- There is written testimony of scripture prophecy being fulfilled.
- There is physical evidence of scripture prophecy being fulfilled

Jesus came to fulfil the Law and the Prophets.

Matthew 5:17, “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfil.”

	Major Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfilment
1	Messiah would be born of a woman.	Genesis 3:15	Matthew 1:20 Galatians 4:4
2	Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1 Luke 2:4-6
3	Messiah would be born of a virgin.	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22-23 Luke 1:26-31
4	Messiah would be called Immanuel.	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
5	A massacre of children would happen at Messiah's birthplace.	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16-18
6	A messenger would prepare the way for Messiah.	Isaiah 40:3-5	Luke 3:3-6

7	Messiah would be rejected by His own people.	Psalms 69:8 Isaiah 53:3	John 1:11 John 7:5
8	Messiah would be a prophet.	Deuteronomy 18:15	Acts 3:20-22
9	Messiah would be preceded by Elijah.	Malachi 4:5-6	Matthew 11:13-14
10	Messiah would be declared the Son of God.	Psalms 2:7	Matthew 3:16-17
11	Messiah would be called a Nazarene.	Isaiah 11:1	Matthew 2:23
12	Messiah would bring light to Galilee.	Isaiah 9:1-2	Matthew 4:13-16
13	Messiah would be sent to heal the brokenhearted.	Isaiah 61:1-2	Luke 4:18-19
14	Messiah would be betrayed.	Psalms 41:9 Zechariah 11:12-13	Luke 22:47-48 Matthew 26:14-16
15	Messiah's price money would be used to buy a potter's field.	Zechariah 11:12-13	Matthew 27:9-10
16	Messiah would be silent before his accusers.	Isaiah 53:7	Mark 15:4-5
17	Messiah would be crucified with criminals.	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38 Mark 15:27-28
18	Messiah would be given vinegar to drink.	Psalms 69:21	Matthew 27:34 John 19:28-30
19	Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced.	Psalms 22:16 Zechariah 12:10	John 20:25-27
20	Messiah would be mocked and ridiculed.	Psalms 22:7-8	Luke 23:35
21	Messiah's bones would not be broken.	Exodus 12:46 Psalms 34:20	John 19:33-36
22	Messiah would be buried with the rich.	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
23	Messiah would resurrect from the dead.	Psalms 16:10 Psalms 49:15	Matthew 28:2-7 Acts 2:22-32
24	Messiah would ascend to heaven.	Psalms 24:7-10	Mark 16:19 Luke 24:51
25	Messiah would be seated at God's right hand.	Psalms 68:18 Psalms 110:1	Mark 16:19 Matthew 22:44
26	Messiah would be a sacrifice for sin.	Isaiah 53:5-12	Romans 5:6-8

Our Response to Prophecy

We read, hear, and respond to the Word of Prophecy.

Revelation 1:3, "Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near."

SMALL GROUP

How to Grow

You were made for so much more.

Bible study is necessary to grow.

You need to eat to grow.

This happens through reading and studying the Word of God.

1 Peter 2:2, "...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,"

Studying the Bible will renew and reprogram your mind to think about things as God thinks.

- It is time to no longer conform to this world but to transform! Just like in the movie Transformers, you are called to transform out of the old sinful person into who God has created you to be. You were made for so much more!
- Romans 12:2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

God gives his approval to those who study His Word.

- 2 Timothy 2:15, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Bible Study Tips

There are several different ways to study the Bible. This is just some easy ways to start.

- Open your Bible reading in prayer.

Psalm 119: 18, "Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law."

- Take brief notes on what you read - A journal is a great thing!
- Read slowly.
- Read aloud slowly.
- Have a reading plan - study a book at a time, or a theme God lays on your heart.
- Ask the "Who, What, Where, Why and How" questions as you read.

For example:

- Who are the people in this passage? Who is speaking? About whom is he or she speaking? Who is acting?
 - What is the main subject of the book?
 - What is the key verse or theme of this passage?
 - What does this passage teach me about Jesus?
 - Where was this verse, passage, and book written?
 - Why was this verse, passage, and book written?
 - How does this passage challenge me? Does it reveal any sin I need to repent from? Does this passage contain any commands for me to obey?
 - How do I apply this verse, passage, and book's promises in my life?
 - How do I apply this verse, passage, and book's instructions in my life?
- Anytime you don't understand a word or a theme - is a great place to stop and ask the Holy Spirit for understanding.
 - Use Bible Study resources such as www.bible.org, www.biblegateway.com, and www.blueletterbible.org.
 - Attend a Life Connect - weekly small group Bible studies.

- Enrol in International Christian Bible College to grow even more in the Word.

Response to Truth:

Leaders Note: Please have the people write the answers in their own book. It is important for them to have time to put in their own words what they have learned. When they are done, you can ask them to share their answers with the group.

1. What should a person's opinion of God's Word be?

Answer: The Bible is God's perfect Word. It is without fault or error. All Scripture is God created and profitable. We should be obedient to the Word and subject our opinions to scriptural authority.

2. What does the Old Testament reveal about the New Testament?

Answer: The New is in the Old contained; the Old is in the New explained. The Old Testament has types and shadows of things found in the New Testament. Such as the sacrifice of the lamb in the Old Testament and the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross in the New Testament.

3. Why is it important to study God's Word? Please give 4 reasons.

Answer: The Bible keeps people from sin. The Bible is living and active. It uncovers sin and error. The Bible works effectively for believers. The Bible is the Word of God for Humanity. The Bible cleanses. The Bible causes people's lives to be fruitful and prosperous. The Word gives victory over sin. The Bible helps you to know how and what to pray.

Conclusion

Now that you understand the power and authority found in the Bible, it's time to begin to read and study the Word of God with great expectation for God to speak to you through His word. Remember, the Word of God is perfect, our Faith is in God and in His Prophetic Word, and applying His Word is how we grow.

The Power of Prayer & Fasting

Key Theme: There is power, connection and direction found in prayer and fasting.

Key Verses:

Matthew 6:9-13, "Jesus said: In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

Isaiah 58:6-7, "Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own flesh?"

Intro

In order to stay connected with a friend, you must speak with them. It is the same with God. He wants to speak to you and He wants to hear your voice too! There is power found in your prayer and fasting time. When you fast and pray you will find Hope and Healing.

TEST: Take three deep breaths and hold the last one.

How long are you able to last without breathing? A few minutes most likely. The longest humans can go without breath is a few minutes. Prayer is like that. Prayer is to our spiritual lives as air is to our physical. Prayer is the one activity that brings us into an encounter with the Living God.

1. There is Power, Connection and Direction Found in Prayer.

Prayer is talking to God.

Psalm 17:6, "I have called upon You, for You will hear me, O God; Incline Your ear to me, and hear my speech."

Prayer is not doing something, but being with someone.

Prayer connects us to God and brings a continuous awareness of the presence of God.

Prayer is about Fellowship with God.

It is fellowshiping with the Father. Fellowship speaks of a special unity or communion with God that comes through spending time together.

Prayer is NOT a ritual.

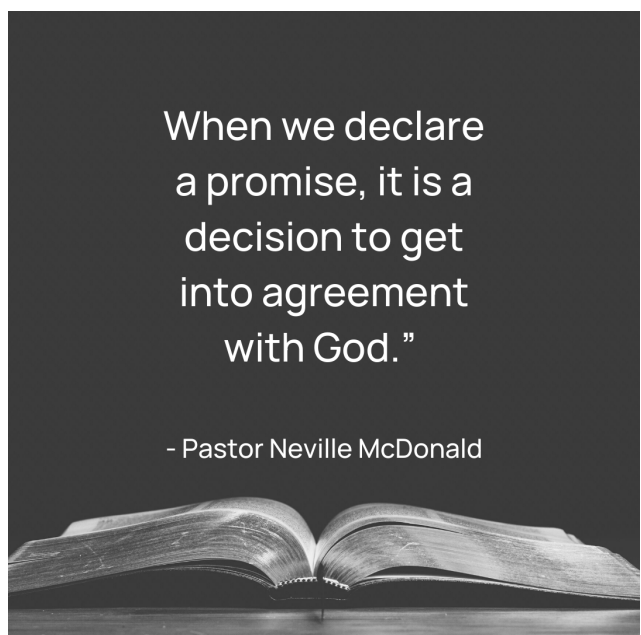
Prayer is an expression of our personal relationship with God.

We Have Powerful Weapons.

1. The Word of God:

Hebrews 4:12, "For the Word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

- We should use the Word of God during our prayer time.
- This will remind God of His



promises to us and builds our faith as we hear His promises from His Word. It also pleases God for us to pray His Word because it is an expression of our confidence in His Word and His integrity.

- 1 Timothy 1:18, "This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare..."
- For example you can pray, "Father, in Psalm 34:10 you say, '...that those who seek you will not lack any good thing.' I thank you that I will not lack _____. Thank you for this in the name of Jesus. Amen."

2. The Blood of Jesus.

Revelation 12:11, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; and they did not love their lives to the death."

3. The Name of Jesus.

There is power in the name. When we declare the name of Jesus over a situation we are declaring God's power and promises over that situation. It is not just a word but represents who He is and what He has done and is willing to do.

Mark 16:17-18, "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons, they shall speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover."

4. Praise.

When Paul and Silas were in jail in Acts 16:25-26 they began to praise, "But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying, and singing hymns to God; and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains were loosed."

5. Prayer in the Spirit

Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at

liberty those who are oppressed."

When you pray, expect God to answer your prayers.

God speaks through:

- His Word.
- God can send ministering angels as an answer to prayer.
- He also speaks to us through visions and dreams.
- God can speak to us through an audible voice.
- Most times God speaks to our hearts.

This inner voice of His Spirit will never contradict His Word.

Jesus Teaches Us How to Pray.

Jesus prayed a lot. He separated himself from the crowds to go and pray. Luke 5:16 says "So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed." Don't let distractions stop you from praying. Matthew 6: 6 says, "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

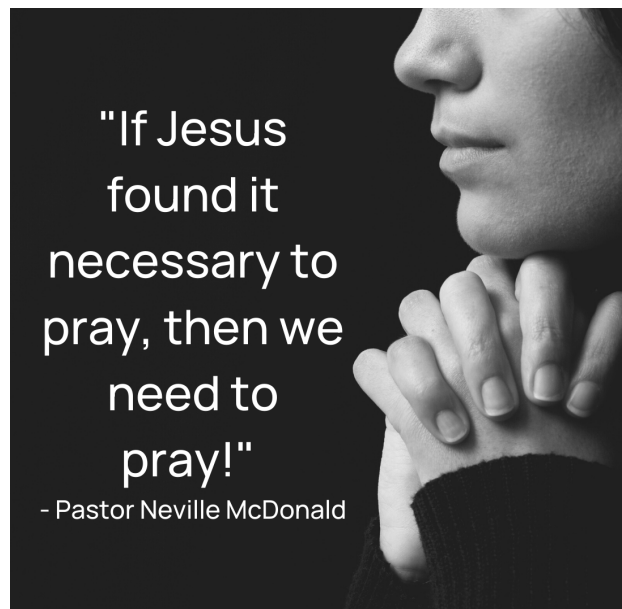
As the Disciples watched Jesus' ministry and prayer time, they didn't ask Jesus, teach us to heal, teach us to fast, teach us to pray. The Disciples instead asked, "Teach us to pray"

Teach Us to Pray.

In Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus said,

In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done



On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

This prayer is an 8 step template of how to pray.

1. “Hallowed be your name”

- Hallowed means to praise, adore and worship
What is Praise?
 - Praise is the words of our lips in adoration of God
 - Praise is always vocal.
 - Praise is a continual attitude and expression of our love for God.

Hebrews 13:15, “Therefore, by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

2. “Your Kingdom come”

- In prayer we must have kingdom vision.
- Kingdom vision see’s things as God sees them.
- God’s view point is eternal.
 - Kingdom vision believes God for His peace, joy and righteousness.
Romans 14:17, “...for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”
 - J. - Jesus
 - O. - Others
 - Y. - You

Jesus didn’t just limit His vision to His present circumstance. He prayed for the Church of the future in the book of John.

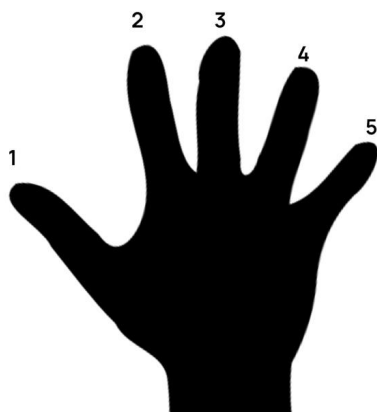
We must believe God to show you things to come and to pray accordingly.

"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, **but those things which are revealed belong to us** and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law." Deuteronomy 29:29.

3. "Your will be done"

God's will needs to be done in the following areas:

Five Finger Prayer



1. Thumb - Praying for your HUSBAND/WIFE and FAMILY/CHILDREN
2. Index Finger - Praying for the Pastors and LEADERSHIP of the Church.
3. Middle Finger - Praying for those in positions of authority such as your boss, government, parliament, President, etc.
4. Ring Finger - Pray for widows, single parents, orphans, addicts, etc.
5. Pinky Finger - Praying for your own personal life.

Pray using your hand as a memory guide. Each finger represents whom you should pray for:

- **Thumb** - Praying for your husband/wife and family/children
1 Peter 3:7, "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honour to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered."
- **Index Finger** - Praying for the Pastors and leadership of the Church.
Hebrews 13:7, "Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the Word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct."
- **Middle Finger** - Praying for those in positions of authority such as your boss, government, parliament, President, etc.
 - During this time, pray for the
1 Timothy 2:1-2, "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are

in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.”

- Supplication means, “Asking for our own need.”
- Intercession means, “Praying for other who cannot or do not pray or on behalf of another Christian.”

- Now pray for other lands around the world.

Psalm 2:8, “Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.”

- **Ring Finger** - Pray for widows, single parents, orphans, addicts, etc.

Deuteronomy 10:18, “He helps orphans and widows, and He loves foreigners and gives them food and clothes.” NCV.

- **Pinky Finger** - Praying for your own personal life.

- Notice it’s the smallest finger?

Proverbs 16:3, “Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.”

4. “Give us this day our daily bread”

God is aware of your physical, material and financial need and He desires to meet them.

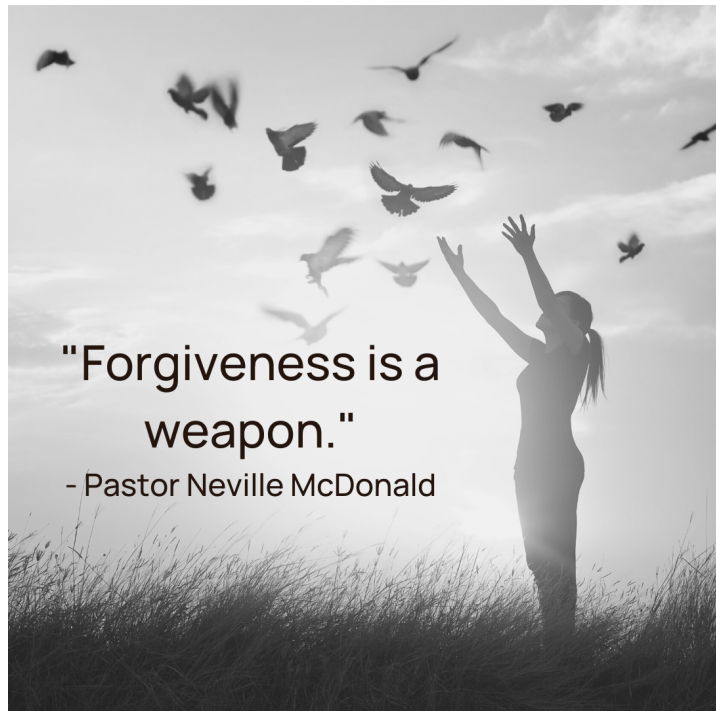
Matthew 6:30, “Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”

- Pray for the needs of your local church.
- Pray for your own personal needs.

5. “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors”

- Choose not to take offence.
- Have an attitude of forgiveness.
- The degree you forgive others is the degree that God forgives you.

Mark 11:25, "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."



6. "Lead us not into temptation"

- Temptation comes against every believer.
- God tempts no man with evil - the Devil tempts man.
- When we give in to the temptation we sin.
- God makes a way of escape with every temptation.

James 1:13-14, "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God;' for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed."

Look for the way out of temptation.

7. "Deliver us from evil"

- Pray and ask God for His protection DAILY.
PSALM 91 is God's Psalm of protection.
- Now put on your Spiritual ARMOUR.
The armour of God is found in Ephesians 6:11 -19.
 - This is God's armour that we put on as we pray. Giving us protection from the enemies attacks and the weapons to win the fight.

The Armour of God:

Belt of Truth

Breastplate of Righteousness
Shoes of the Gospel of peace
Shield of faith
Helmet of Salvation
Sword of the Spirit (Word of God)

8. "For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

Our prayer ends on a note of praise, thanking God for the answer.

2. There is Power, Connection and Direction found in Fasting.

Fasting refers to the denial of sustenance (food and/or water) to the body during a time of spiritual seeking, distress, or celebration. Fasting deals with the root cause of all disobedience because it is a choice for a season to honour our relationship with God above all other passions - the most difficult being the control of our tongue. James writes about the tongue in James 3:9-10, "With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so."

- When we fast, we deny our bodies something we desire in order to receive from God something our souls need.
- The word fast comes from a Hebrew word meaning to cover or shut the mouth.
- In the Bible, fasting is almost always connected with prayer and worship.
- It is a powerful spiritual discipline because God rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

The Purpose of Fasting.

Jesus expected his disciples to fast.

In Matthew 6:16, Jesus said, “when you fast” indicating an expectation that His followers would fast.

Why We Fast:

- To change our relationship with each other, Isaiah 58:6-8.
- To bring the body under control, 1 Corinthians 9:27.
- To receive understanding and insight, Daniel 9, Daniel 10:2-3, Luke 2:37.
- To sorrow over sin, Daniel 9, Acts 9:9, Ezra 10:6, Deuteronomy 9:18.
- To begin a work for God, Exodus 34:27-28, Acts 13:2-3.
- To empower us, Esther 4:15-16, Matthew 9:15-17.
- To humble ourselves before God, Deuteronomy 8:2-3, Ezra 8:21.
- To seek the will of God, Acts 13:2.

Types of Fasts.

Partial Fast - No foods and/or beverages of certain categories.

- **Daniel Fast** - Daniel fasted for 21 days without meat, wine or “desirable” foods in Daniel 10:3.

Normal Fast - No food or beverages except water.

- Ezra fasted without food and water in Ezra 10:6.
- Esther fasted for three days without food and water in Esther 4:16
- Jesus fasted for 40 days without food and water, Matthew 4.

Absolute Fast - No food or beverages at all, not even water.

- Also known as a supernatural fast.
- Moses fasted for 40 days without water and food in Deuteronomy 9:9, 18.

What Every Fast should include.

1. It should include prayer.
2. It should include studying the Bible.
3. Determination above all else to minister to the Lord.
4. An attitude of humility before the Lord.
 - The purpose of a dedicated period of prayer and fasting is to humble ourselves before God, seek His will, and ask Him to empower us to do His will.
 - Matthew 6:16-18, "Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who *is* in the secret *place*; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."
5. Thanksgiving, praise, worship, confession of sins, prayer for yourself and others.
6. Give to those who are needy around you, Isaiah 58:6-9.
7. Separation as much as possible from normal activities and influences of the world.

Run in such a way that you may win: avoid social media, watching TV, streaming videos, reading newspapers/magazines, doing non-critical tasks, having unnecessary conversations, etc.

Spiritual Benefits of Fasting

Isaiah 58:6-9

“Is this not the fast that I have chosen:

To loose the bonds of wickedness,

To undo the heavy burdens,

To let the oppressed go free,

And that you break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
And that you bring to your house the poor who are [d]cast out;
When you see the naked, that you cover him,
And not hide yourself from your own flesh?

Then your light shall break forth like the morning,
Your healing shall spring forth speedily,
And your righteousness shall go before you;
The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I *am*.'

SMALL GROUP

Response to Truth:

Leaders Note: Please have the people write the answers in their own book. It is important for them to have time to put in their own words what they have learned. When they are done, you can ask them to share their answers with the group.

1. Should all Christians Pray?

Answer: YES! Prayer is an expression of our personal relationship with God.

2. When we begin to pray what should we do? Why?

Answer: When you pray, expect God to answer your prayers. Begin prayer with praise, adoration and worship.

3. Can we expect God to meet our daily needs?

Answer: YES! God is aware of your physical, material and financial need and He desires to meet them. Matthew 6:30, "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

4. Do you have a quiet place where you can spend time alone in daily prayer? If not, what can you do to find a quiet place?

5. Are you ready to set aside a special time where you can read your Bible and pray daily?

6. Write some of your prayer requests and record the answers as you receive them.

Prayer Request	Prayer Answered

Conclusion

If you want to grow then you need to pray because there is power, connection and direction found in prayer & fasting. God hears and answers your prayers because your prayers are important to Him. Remember to use the Word of God to help you to pray.

Make a commitment to start and end your day in prayer.

To begin you may only be able to pray for five minutes. Don't be discouraged – just pray. Remember it is not the amount of time that you spend praying that is important but the quality prayer that you pray.

Make a commitment to pray and fast.

God is calling you to pray and fast. You can fast privately as He directs you to do as well as when we as a church fast. Don't miss out on the blessing found in fasting corporately.

Ezra 8:23, "So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer."

Baptism of Water, Holy Spirit & Fire

Key Theme: We need to be baptised in water, the Holy Spirit and in fire.

Key Verse: Luke 3:16, "John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Intro

Once we've repented and accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we should be baptized in water and receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Fire as evidenced by the speaking in tongues.

Doctrine of Baptisms.

The Bible speaks of the Doctrine of Baptisms in Hebrews 6:2.

1. The baptism with water.
2. The baptism with the Holy Spirit.
3. The baptism with fire .

Luke 3:16, "John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

1. Water Baptism

Living for Christ first requires that we die with Him. It is for this reason that Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth, however, He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. Water Baptism is an act of faith and obedience to Jesus as your Lord. It does not make you a believer, but shows that you are already a believer. It is the outward symbol of the love and commitment that you made in your heart.

To be buried with Christ is an experience known as baptism.

- It is a foundation stone for you to grow in Christ.
- The Greek word "baptizo," translated into English as "Baptism," means to dip or immerse, to cover wholly with fluid.
- Baptism is an act of faith and obedience to Jesus as your Lord.

Baptism is synonymous with the salvation experience.

1 Corinthians 12:13, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit."

- Water baptism is far more than a symbolic ritual.
- It is the burial and death of our old sinful life.
- It is the end of a flesh controlled life and the beginning of a spirit controlled life.

Why Get baptised?

Baptism is an act of Obedience.

- Jesus saw the necessity of baptism in His own life.
- John the Baptist baptised Jesus according to the normal historical Jewish baptism which was by immersion.

Matthew 3:13-17, "Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John *tried* to prevent Him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?' But Jesus answered and said to him, 'Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.' "

- Jesus and the Apostles commanded water baptism.

Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The meaning of water baptism.

- Baptism is a Burial service.
- We bury your old past life.
- When we come out of the water it speaks of the beginning of your new life in Christ.
- Baptism can also be understood as a cutting away of the old sinful fleshly self-desire (circumcision).

Romans 6:4, "Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

- God does not intend His children to continue in sin.
- It is the beginning of a transformation experience where the old is left behind and the new begins.

Three important things:

1. Know that your old self has been crucified and buried.

Romans 6:6, "...knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin."

2. You can count on the fact that because you are buried, your sinful desires will never rule over you again.

Romans 6:11, "Likewise, you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

3. Yield – give yourself not to sin but completely to God.

Romans 6:13, "And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.."

Conclusion

Understand that you have been buried with Christ and are now raised in newness of life. Be obedient to God and take the next step and be baptized in water.

Acts 22:16, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

2. Baptism of the Holy Spirit & Fire.

Intro

After Baptism in water, there is another distinct experience called the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a life transforming, empowering, equipping, connection with the Holy Spirit. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit can be received by everyone who has received Jesus Christ as their Saviour. This experience is not a requirement for salvation, rather it is a gift given to all those who have already been saved. The Baptism of the Spirit is for everyone. Acts 2:17 says, "That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh..."

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is given so that we may know God's power. D.L. Moody said, "It is easier for a man to breathe without air than it is for a Christian to live without the Holy Spirit!" Nothing happens between God and man that doesn't happen through the Holy Spirit.

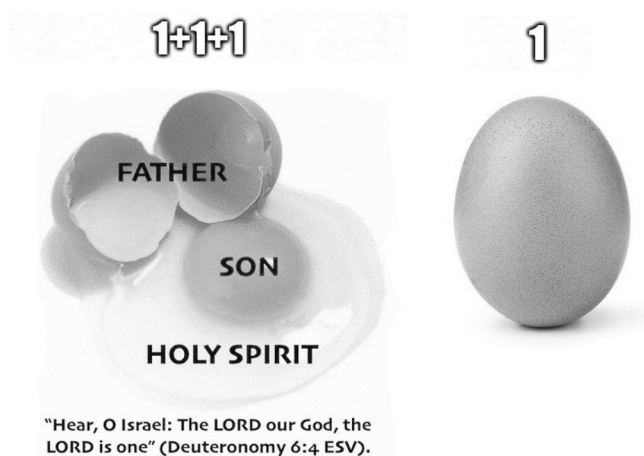
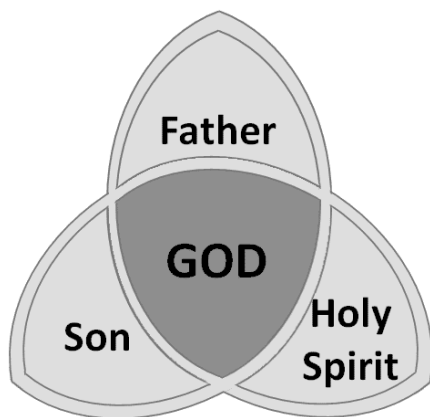
- Jesus promised the Holy Spirit.

John 14:15-18, "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

- The early Church was baptized in the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:38, “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’ ”
- Once you've received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit you receive your prayer language which is speaking in Tongues. It is a sign of yielding to God, even to the point of yielding our most unruly member, the tongue, James 3:1-18.

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is a person. He is the third person of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All the divine attributes ascribed to the Father and the Son are equally ascribed to the Holy Spirit.



- Before you were born again, the Holy Spirit was active in your life drawing you to Christ by convicting you of your sin, John 16:8-11, 14.
- Upon being born again, the Holy Spirit came and sealed you with a guarantee of eternal life and a seal of ownership, Ephesians 1:13,14; 4:30, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22.

5 Occasions of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts.

Each one is evidenced by the speaking in other tongues.

1. Acts 2:4, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."
2. Acts 8:17, "Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."
3. Acts 9:17, "...that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."
4. Acts 10:46, "For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God."
5. Acts 19:6, "And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied."

The Power found in Laying on of Hands

- The laying on of hands is for spiritual impartation.
- It is not magic but an impartation of the Holy Spirit's power.
- Every believer can lay hands on people to receive the Holy Spirit.

New Testament Examples of The Laying on of Hands.

In the book of Acts and throughout the New Testament we see examples of laying hands on people and them receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and tongues, healing, release of spiritual gifts and power. Be expectant when hands are laid on you that you will receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as evidenced by speaking in tongues.

- Healing. Mark 16:18.
- Infilling of the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:17-18, Acts 19:6.
- Impartation of Spiritual Gifts. 2 Timothy 1:6.

What Happened to the early Christians when they were Baptised in the Holy Spirit?

1. Hands were laid on them.
2. They spoke in tongues (foreign languages they could not understand).

Why do we need to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit?

- It is God's will.

Ephesians 5:18, "...but be filled with the Spirit."

- The Holy Spirit empowers us so that we will be able to function in the Body of Christ.

Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- The Holy Spirit helps us to live the Christian life.

Ezekiel 36:26-27, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*."

- The Holy Spirit helps us to pray: When you don't know how to pray, the Holy Spirit will help you pray.

Romans 8:26, "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

- Through speaking in tongues we are built up and strengthened.

1 Corinthians 14:4, "The one speaking in a tongue builds himself up ..."

- Through speaking in tongues your spirit is speaking directly to God's Spirit.

1 Corinthians 14:2, "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands *him*; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries."

- The Holy Spirit helps us in our worship.

John 4:24, "God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

- The Holy Spirit helps us to understand the Word of God and remember the Word of God

1 Corinthians 2:12, "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God."

John 14:26, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

What are the Scriptural reasons why believers speak in tongues?

- It is a sign that Christ is risen, glorified and seated in heaven, Acts 2:33.
- It is a sign of repentance and baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is the initial sign of receiving the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:34, Acts 2:38-39, Acts 10:46-47, Acts 19:6.
- It deals with human pride. We must trust Him with childlike faith, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 18:2-5.
- That God might speak supernaturally to humanity, 1 Corinthians 12:10, 1 Corinthians 14:5, 1 Corinthians 14:13-22.
- To edify ourselves, 1 Corinthians 14:4, 1 Corinthians 14:15-16, Jude 20, Ephesians 6:18.

When may I receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit can take place at the moment you confess faith in Christ, as in the case of the first Gentile convert, Cornelius, Acts 10:44-46; Acts 10:11:15, Acts 10:16; but often it occurs some time after the salvation experience, Acts 8:12-17.

The time is now to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

How can I receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- You must already be born again, Acts 2:38.
- You must ask to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Luke 11:9.
- You must believe when hands are laid on you you will receive,
Galatians 3:2, "Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by hearing with faith?"
 - The answer is - faith. You have to believe that if you ask, you will receive.
- You must expect to receive your prayer language. Know that God wants to give you only good gifts.
Luke 11:13 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

The Church & Giving

Key Theme: In order for me to grow and be blessed I should be part of the local church and a giver!

Key Verses:

Ephesians 1:22-23, "And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

Luke 6:38, "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Intro

The church is God's people who are called out of the world and sin. One of the essential building blocks of spiritual growth is fellowship with other believers at a local church. The local church is not a building. The church consists of a body of men and women who have been saved, baptized and called by God to serve in a specific geographical area. YOU are called to worship in a local church.

1. What is the Church?

The word "CHURCH" comes from the Greek language, "Ekklesia" - Ek (out) Kaleo (to call).

- The Church is a people called out of the world and sin.
- The Church is NOT: a Building or a denomination or any selective group.
- The Church is one universal; many membered, corporated body.
- The Church is called the body of Christ.

Jesus is the Head of the Church.

Ephesians 1:22, "And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church..."

God joins and adds people to the church.

Acts 2:47, "And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

The Church has structure, leadership, discipline and oversight.

Acts 15:4, "And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them."

Every believer should belong to a local church.

The Bible tells us to gather ourselves together with believers.

Hebrews 10:25, "...not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some."

1 Peter 2:5, "...you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

What is the purpose of the local church?

Jerusalem was the first local church that was mentioned in the Bible (Acts 2:41-47). From their example, we are able to see that the purpose of the Church was for:

- Teaching of the Word, Acts 2:42.
- Fellowship with other believers, Acts 2:42.
- Prayer, Acts 2:42.
- The observance of Baptism and the Communion, Acts 2:41-42.



- To be a testimony of God's grace and power, Acts 2:43.
- For mutual assistance and ministry, Acts 2:44-45.
- To reach out to the community, Acts 2:46-47.
- To glorify and praise God, Acts 2:47.

As members of the local Church you are able to experience the following benefits by faithfully attending:

Accountability:

God designed the church as a place where spiritual leaders can watch out for our welfare, as a shepherd guards the sheep. A Christian who answers only to himself can easily rationalise sinful attitudes or actions. Regular contact with other Christians can keep us from this pitfall. 1 Peter 5:1-4, Hebrews 13:17.

Belonging:

A sense of belonging comes when we join a local church and become actively part of the life of the church through serving. Romans 12:5.

Growth:

The church is a place where we can grow and mature in the things of the Lord through the five-fold ministry. Ephesians 4:11-16.

Continued Fire:

Even as coals burn hotter longer when piled together, in the same way Christians who join in fellowship of the local church will remain passionate for God. Acts 2:3-4.

Encouragement:

The local church is a place where we can be encouraged. To encourage, means to, come alongside and walk with another, to stand alongside those who are wavering in their faith. Hebrews 10:25.

Inspiration:

If our goal is to grow spiritually and become a mature Christian, then we need to spend time with Christians who are growing spiritually. 1 Corinthians 15:33, Proverbs 13:20.

Restoration:

A believer who is joined to the local church can phone the church when they are in need. God has provided the believer with a family who will be able to help at all times. Galatians 6:1.

Worship:

The local church is a place where believers can come together and show their love for the Lord.

What is my responsibility in a local Church?

- To attend Church services, prayer meetings, Life Connect Groups.

Hebrews 10:24-25, "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

Acts 2:46, "So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart."

- To pray for the local church that you are a member of.

1 Thessalonians 5:25, "Brethren, pray for us."

- To support the Church with my giving.

1 Corinthians 16:2, "On the first *day* of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper..."

- To be a witness - It's time to tell others about Jesus!

Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- To serve in your church. Use the gifting that God has given you and offer them back to God to be used for His glory.

1 Peter 4:10, "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

- Respect, support, and pray for your pastors.

The Power of a Life Connect Group

YOU can belong to the biggest Church and the smallest Church.

- We are the biggest church when all the people gather to celebrate.
- We are the smallest church when we meet in Life Connect Groups.

Life Connect Groups Purpose

Acts 2:42, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

- To teach and share sound doctrine.
- So that the believers can fellowship (make new friends).
- For there to be communion both with God and man.
- In every home group we pray. Prayer is the power of heaven.

The Power of Giving

Intro

God is a generous God. After He created the heaven and the earth He placed man in the garden and gave him access to all its resources

Genesis 1:29, “ And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.”

Genesis 2:8-9, “The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”

In the garden, there was gold, precious stones and everything a couple could ever want or need. Adam and Eve lost their access to God's resources when they turned their back on God and His provision.

Jesus came to restore God's resource to our lives

2 Corinthians 8:9, “You are familiar with the generosity of our Master, Jesus Christ. Rich as He was, He gave it all away for us in one stroke He became poor and we became rich.” (The Message).

Who Owns the Stuff?

God is the Creator and Owner of all things. We must acknowledge that Jesus is Lord of our lives and expect His prosperity in every area of our lives, and become a good steward of God's Wealth.

Deuteronomy 8:18, “And you shall remember the Lord your God, for *it is* He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as *it is* this day.

What is a Tithe?

- A tithe is one tenth or Ten percent of one's income and it belongs to God. Malachi 3:10-12, “ ‘Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,’ says the Lord of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you *such* blessing that *there will* not *be room* enough *to receive it*. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,’ says the Lord of hosts; ‘And all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,’ says the Lord of hosts.”

When we give our tithe, God will:

- Throw open the floodgates of heaven.
- Pour out so much blessing that you'll not have room enough for it.
- Defend you against marauders.
- Protect your wheat fields and vegetable garden (source of your income) against plunderers.
- All nations will call you blessed.

What is an offering?

An offering is anything given above and beyond the tithe.

Who Will We Serve?

Luke 16:13, “No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

- You cannot serve God and Mammon (Money).
- Mammon is personified.
- Our response to God will either be to serve Him or not.

It's easy to discern who we love:

- When money is talked about do you become agitated?
- Are you resentful of those who have more?

- Can you get excited when someone else prospers?

When we take control of our money, we take control of our future.

Why do we need to tithe?

- The tithe is God's.

Leviticus 27:30 "And all the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land *or* of the fruit of the tree, *is* the Lord's. It *is* holy to the Lord."

- No where in the New Testament are we told anything that changes God's instruction on tithing. Therefore the tithe is holy and still belongs to God.

- Tithing is worship.

- Tithing is recognition and worship of the One Who created and actually owns all.

- Psalm 24:1, "The earth *is* the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein."

- Tithing causes us to be blessed.

Malachi 3:10, "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it."

- Tithing is a continual reminder that God is our source.

- Tithing acknowledges in a tangible way that we believe God will meet all our needs.

- Tithing is God's method of supporting His ministry.

1 Corinthians 9:13-14, "Do you not know that those who minister the holy things eat *of the things* of the temple, and those who serve at the altar

partake of *the offerings of* the altar? Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.”

Where Should We Give Our Tithe?

Malachi 3:10 tells us that we are to bring our tithe into the “storehouse”.

A storehouse in the Old Testament would feed:

1. The tribe of Levi and the priests of Aaron.
2. The prophets.
3. The Hebrew widows and orphans living within the city.
4. The widows and orphans of the Gentiles who were living in and around the Hebrew city.

The equivalent of the Old Testament storehouse is the local church. When we obey Him and pay our tithes to the church, God holds the leaders of the church responsible for the distribution of the tithes (Nehemiah 12:44-45, 13:5,13).

The local church provides for the needs of:

1. The pastor and staff.
2. Missionaries and evangelists.
3. Widows, orphans, single parents, and invalids in the local church.
4. The unsaved who surround the local church.

We therefore should give our tithes and offers to the local church that we have become a member of. However, though you may be physically giving to a local Church, remember that you are giving to God and therefore will be rewarded by Him (Genesis 28:20-22)

How Should I Give?

Joyfully. Our attitude is important

2 Corinthians 9:6, 8, “[Remember] this: he who sows sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows generously that blessings may come to someone] will also reap generously and with blessings. And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing)

come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation]." (Amplified Bible).

2 Corinthians 9:7, "Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, "prompt to do it") giver [whose heart is in his giving]." (Amplified Bible).

Rather than giving merely because we have to, the New Testament focuses on the manner in which we give.

We are told that when we give our tithes and offerings we must:

- Give willingly, 2 Corinthians 8:3, 12.
- Give generously, 2 Corinthians 8:2; 9:13.
- Give cheerfully and systematically, 2 Corinthians 9:7.
- Give proportionally, 2 Corinthians 8:14-15; 9:6.

- Give regularly, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2.
- Give lovingly, 2 Corinthians 8:24.
- Give thankfully, 2 Corinthians 9:11-12.

A legal giver gives because he has to. A loving giver gives because he wants to.

Questions on Tithing

1. Did tithing exist before the law?
 - Yes. Genesis 14:20; 28:22.
2. Did tithing exist under the law?
 - Yes. Leviticus 27:30-32.
3. Did tithing exist in the New testament?
 - Yes. Romans 3:31 says "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid; yea we establish the law."

The only law which ceased to operate under grace was the body of regulations laid down by Moses concerning the rights and ceremonies of the Levitical system which found their final fulfilment in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

In Matthew 5:17, Jesus said, "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill."

What if We Do Not Tithe?

To withhold the tithe is robbery. Malachi 3:8 reads, "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings."

It is a grave offense to rob one's fellowman. But, it is a greater crime to rob God. Some people come to church riding in stolen cars, because they are paying for their autos with tithes withheld from God. In Malachi 3:9, we find these words for those who do not tithe, "You are cursed with a curse"

What Happens When We Tithe?

God promises blessings to the tither.

Malachi 3:10, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."

See also, Luke 6:38 and Proverbs 3:9-10.

SMALL GROUP

Response to Truth:

Leaders Note: Please have the people write the answers in their own book. It is important for them to have time to put in their own words what they have learned. When they are done, you can ask them to share their answers with the group.

1. What is the Local Church?

Answer: The church is God's people who are called out of the world and sin that meet within a local region.

2. What is the purpose of a Life Connect Group?

Answer: To teach and share sound doctrine, fellowship(make new friends), communion both with God and man and prayer.

3. How do we have God's prosperity in our lives?

Answer: By giving our tithe and offerings to Him.

TEST: TRUE OR FALSE

<u>STATEMENT</u>	T	F
God is not really concerned about unspiritual things like		F

money, or what we do with it.		F
Money is the root of all evil.	T	
Tithing is giving one tenth of our income to God on a regular basis. It belongs to God and we are stealing from Him if we do not pay it.	T	
You only start giving to God when you give offerings over and above your tithe.		F
God is not concerned with our attitude of giving (whether we give willingly or grudgingly) so long as He gets our money.		

Conclusion

We must understand the power that is found within the local church. The Church is the place we worship, fellowship, give our life in service, and give our tithe and offerings. The church is where we learn how to grow in the Lord.

Make a commitment to attend church regularly and to plan your tithe and offering before you come into church. Exercise your faith and you will see the blessings of God.

Proverbs 3:9-10 "Honour the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine."

A Life Changed: Praise & Worship

Key Theme: Praise is acknowledging what God has done, what He is doing and what He will do. Worship is acknowledging God for who He is.

Key Verses:

Psalm 66:2, "Sing out the honour of His name; make His praise glorious."

John 4:23, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him."

Intro

We are worshipping creatures. Whether we realise it or not we all worship something or someone, from money, fame, celebrities, or even our family - there are things vying for our praise and worship. It's time we put God in the proper place of honour He deserves.

1. What is Praise?

Praise – to extol, glorify, magnify, honour, worship by song, hold in esteem.

Praise is an expression of faith which results in declaration of what God has done, what God is doing and what God will do.

- Praise is a lifestyle of thanksgiving to God.
- Praise builds faith, faith creates miracles, and miracles glorify God.
- Praise is a lifestyle of communication with God.
- Praise always makes a difference. It is impossible to praise God daily in every situation and be depressed. Impossible.
- Praise builds an altar. God sits on the throne of praise we build.

Psalm 22:3, "God inhabits the praises of His people."

- Praise invites God to take control of our day and make it more enjoyable.
- We praise God at all times / continually.

Psalm 34:1 , “I will bless the Lord at all times His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

The Sacrifice of Praise.

We need to praise God in all seasons and especially in difficult ones. That's what makes it a sacrifice - you are sacrificing your pain, hurt, brokenness, and offences to God and instead are choosing to react in faith to God working in your circumstance.

Hebrews 13:15, “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His Name”

Praise is a Weapon.

Praise is one of the greatest weapons at our disposal, a two-edged sword in the mouth of the army of God. All spiritual weapons have one launching pad – THE MOUTH. What comes out of our mouth ultimately settles the conflict with the enemy.

Characteristics of Praise

- Praise puts God in First place.
- Praise flows from our friendship with God.
- Praise is a conscious choice – Ps. 42.
- Praise silences the Devil.

Psalm 8:2, “Out of the mouths of babes and nursing infants You have ordained praise, because of Your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.”

Why do We Praise?

- Because He is great, Psalm 48: 1.
- Because He is good, Psalm 106:1.
- It is a command – God has commanded us to praise Him, not because of what it does for Him, but because of the changes it brings in us, Psalm 81:1.

- Because God lives in the praises of His people.
 - Psalm 22:3, "God inhabits the praises of His people.."
- Praise lifts God up, Psalm 50:3.
- Praise affects us.
 - Romans 8:28 , "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God..."
- Praise puts God to work.
 - Ephes. 3:20, "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think..."
- Praise puts flesh to our faith.

How do We Praise?

- Singing, Psalm 47:6.
- Dancing. Psalm 149:3, Let them praise His Name in the dance...
- Loudly/A loud noise. Psalm 98:4, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord."
- With instruments, Psalm 150:3-5.
- Clapping. Psalm 47:1, "Clap your hands all ye people, shout unto God..."
- In other tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:15 , "I will sing with the spirit..."

Praise & Worship are Different.

Praise is acknowledging what God has done, what He is doing, and what He will do. Worship is acknowledging God for who He is.- Psalm 103:1; John 4:23; John 15:6. Praise is expressed through the flesh, and requires a stirring up of the flesh. Worship is more a function of the spirit, and what is needed is not a stirring up of the



flesh, but an unlocking of the spirit.

2.What is Worship?

The Hebrew word for worship in the Old Testament is **shachah** which means to bow down, to do reverence, to prostrate, to beseech humbly. The most commonly used word for worship in the New Testament is **proskuneo**, which means 'to kiss towards.'

- Man is a worshipping creature. It's part of his nature.
- Our nature demands that we worship something.
- Our choice is whether it will be God or something else.
- Worship is conversation between God and man, a dialogue that should go on constantly in the life of a Christian.
- Worship is one's heart expression of love, adoration, and praise to God with an attitude and acknowledgement of His supremacy and Lordship.
- Worship is the ability to magnify God with our whole being – body, soul and spirit.
- Worship is the outcome of the fellowship of love between the Creator and man and is the highest point man can reach in response to the love of God.
- The unashamed pouring out of our inner self on the Lord Jesus Christ in affectionate devotion.
- Relationship is a requirement for worship because worship is a two-way street, involving both giving and receiving.
- True worship is not just an emotional experience of God.
- Worship has the power to move the heart of God.

Conclusion

When you praise God with true intentions, God starts opening doors. He begins confusing our enemies and delivering us from them. When you start worshipping and praising God, the atmosphere changes and the unimaginable will occur. Breakthrough comes in our lives and the hindrances to our blessings will be removed.

A Life Changed: Overcoming Temptation

Key Theme: Jesus has given us the weapons to overcome temptation and sin!

Key Verse: 1 John 3:3, "And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."

Intro

Now that we have been saved, baptized in water and in the Holy Spirit, we need to ensure that we are living righteously (1 John 2:29) by not continuing in sin (1 John 3:9) but being an overcomer in Christ (1 John 5:5). In order to do this we will need to embrace a new way of thinking, a new way of behaving, and a whole new way of living. Change doesn't happen overnight, but the best starting place is a sincere commitment to pursue your relationship with God and become a person who lives by His Word. As you begin to apply God's principles in your daily life, you will see change beginning to take place.

Overcoming Temptation

What is temptation?

James 1:14, "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed."

Temptation in itself is not a sin. Even Jesus was tempted when He was on earth (Matthew 4). It is your response to temptation that counts. Temptation is when you are enticed, or feel drawn to do something that goes against the Word of God, or against your conscience. Anything that would cause your relationship with God to suffer would fall into that category.

How should I deal with temptation?

- Know that God will never tempt you, James 1:13.
- Know that God provides a way of escape for you, 1 Corinthians 10:13.
 - If you find yourself in a situation where you are tempted to sin, remember God knows that with Him, you have the strength to make the right decision.
 - You can do all things through Christ, Philippians 4:13.
 - Keep your eyes open for the way out that He will provide. Oftentimes the way out is to simply remove yourself from the situation.
- Know that Jesus sympathises with us, as He too was tempted, Hebrews 4:15.
- Pray that you won't enter into temptation, Luke 22:40.
- Live a life that is submitted to God and His way, and when you resist the devil, he will flee from you, James 4:7.
- Live your life in the power of the Holy Spirit, who enables you to overcome, Galatians 5:16-17.
- Change your way of thinking.
 - Use the Word of God to repair your mind, where it has been damaged by wrong and sinful thinking patterns.
 - Romans 12:2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is that good and pleasing and perfect will of God."



- Take every thought captive under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, 2 Corinthians 10:5.
- Think on those things that are good, Philippians 4:8.
- Call upon Jesus to help you, Hebrews 2:18.
- Be clothed with the whole armour of God, Ephesians 6:13-18.
- Realise that you have been given powerful weapons
 - The Word of God, Hebrews 4:12.
 - Jesus also used the Word of God when He was tempted by the devil.
 - The blood of Jesus, and the word of your testimony, Revelation 12:11.
 - The name of Jesus, Mark 16:17-18.
 - Praise. Paul and Silas praised God in jail, Acts 16:25,26.
- Exercise your authority over the devil. You have power over him!
 - Luke 10:19, "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

In Christ, you have the power to say, "No!" to every temptation. Satan cannot make you sin against your own free will.

What Should I Do If I've given into temptation?

Repent! Pray and ask God to reveal any sins which you have not confessed to Him. Confess them to God by agreeing that you have sinned and do not make any excuses for your sin. Turn away from your sin and ask God to help you so that you do not commit them again. Claim the promises which God gives us in 1 John 1:9, "to forgive our sins.." and "cleanse us." Thank God for His forgiveness.

Response to Truth:

Leaders Note: Please have the people write the answers in their own book. It is important for them to have time to put in their own words what they have learned. When they are done, you can ask them to share their answers with the group.

1. What is the difference between Praise and Worship?

Answer: Praise is acknowledging what God has done, what He is doing, and what He will do. Worship is acknowledging God for who He is.

2. What should you do when tempted?

Answer: Know that God will never tempt you. Know that God provides a way of escape for you. Pray that you won't enter into temptation. Live a life that is submitted to God and His way, and when you resist the devil, he will flee from you. Live your life in the power of the Holy Spirit, who enables you to overcome. Change your way of thinking. Call upon Jesus to help you. Be clothed with the whole armour of God. Realise that you have been given powerful weapons. Exercise your authority over the devil.

3. What are some ways you can change your thinking?

Answer: Use the Word of God to repair your mind, where it has been damaged by wrong and sinful thinking patterns. Romans 12:2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is that good and pleasing and perfect will of God." Take every thought captive under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Think on those things that are good.

Who We Are At

GOOD HOPE CHRISTIAN CENTRE

Key Theme: Discover the history, vision and mission of Good Hope Christian Centre so that you may get involved!

Key Verse: 1 Peter 1:21, "...That your faith and hope are in Him."

Intro

Here at Good Hope Christian Centre, we have a long history of signs, wonders and miracles. When you join the church you become part of the family and legacy of GHCC. Let's discover who we are at GHCC.

Leaders Note: We've included this timeline of Our History for reference. There isn't time to read this whole list in the class.

Our History

Founding Pastors Neville & Wendy McDonald

- **1984** Dr. Fred Roberts, founder of Durban Christian Centre, conducted a healing crusade in a tent erected in Wynberg. This resulted in a new church plant with believers gathering in Scout hall on Sundays. Dr. Fred sent Pastors Neville and Wendy to this new work in Cape Town.
- **1985** First Church to hold Life Connect Groups in Cape Town.
- **1987** First Church to present a Christian production with a multi-ethnic cast at the Artscape.
- **1988** First Church to open an educare in Khayelitsha.
- **1993** We built our first church in Ottery.
- **1992** First Church to host the Jesus conference at the Good Hope Centre, Bellville Stadium, & Athlone Stadium.
- **1993** First Church to open the School of the Spirit: International Christian Bible College.

- **1994** First Church to pray and fast for 21 days on the parade for the end of apartheid.
 - **1995** Multiple Church campuses planted.
 - **2003** First church to present a kids production, KidzQuest, that reached over 750,000 people both in South Africa and Internationally.
 - **2016** First Church to march the streets of Cape Town; March of Hope.
 - **2020** Only Church to appeal to the South African government to Unlock Section 31.
 - **2020** Only Church to march with a Million Seats in the Streets in support of restaurants opening.
-

Our Vision

Our Vision: Giving Hope, Healing People

Our Key Verse: 1 Peter 1:21, “...That your faith and hope are in Him.”

One Church, One Vision

- A Church that believes in an enduring local Church.
- A Church committed to values and a culture of the Kingdom.
- A Church with a world vision that is multi-ethnic & multicultural.
- A Church that recognises both men & women in leadership & Pastoral function in five-fold ministry.
 - Ephesians 4:11, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.”
- A Church that has dynamic corporate services.
- A Church that practices prayer, intercession, & worships Biblically.
- A Church that believes in the Prophetic Ministry and the Gifts of the Spirit contending for miracles, signs & wonders.
- A Church that believes in spiritual freedom, strengthens & restores family principles.
- A Church that holds Children & Youth Ministry in high esteem.
- A Church that values every person at every stage of their life.
- A Church with intentional pastoral care, eldership & leadership team.

- A Church that plants other churches.
- A Church that equips, raises, & releases leaders.
- A Church that mobilises every believer for evangelism.

Our Mission

Our mission is to RT3: Reach, Teach, Train & Touch

Reach

Beyond our comfort zone, compelling others everywhere to believe.

- John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
- John 4:4-26, Woman at the well.

Teach

Discipleship through His Word, ways and the privileges of belonging.

- Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Train

Practically building others through mentorship.

To take up your cross and follow in His footsteps.

- 1 Peter 2:21, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps."
- Matthew 16:24-28, "Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and

then He will reward each according to his works. Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

Touch

Demonstrating His supernatural power and presence to every nation.

- We are called to touch the untouchable.

We are a Church of Signs, Wonders & Miracles.

- Matthew 8:3, “Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.”
- Luke 4:18, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed.”

HOW?

Life Connect Groups

- Life Connect’s are all about friends, encouragement, prayer and study of God’s Word!
- Meeting around Cape Town in person and online.

Discipleship Ladder

- The New You
 - Foundational course that teaches new Christians what you believe in and how to live connected with the church God has planted you in. It is time to grow!
- Foundations to Freedom
 - Discover your identity in Christ, the new creation life, the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, the prevailing Word of God and this new way of living.

2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."
Encounter

- Encounter

- Come and encounter God and be set free from every bondage and limitation.

John 8:36, "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

- Living Free

- Discover how to live an overcoming life and being free in your mind emotions and will.

Galatians 5:1, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

- Formula Hope

- Leadership training course geared to plant leaders so that they can accomplish Luke 4:18-19, "The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to *the* captives and recovery of sight to *the* blind, *to* set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

Additional Courses

- I Chose You
- Divorce Care
- Overcoming Grief

Structure - Cell Based

- At GHCC we believe spiritual growth happens best in community. That is why we encourage every person that is serious about following Christ to get involved in a Life Connect or Ministry Group.

- We have groups that meet in homes, coffee shops, dorm rooms, and company breakrooms. No matter what your age, or your season of life, and interests, we believe these groups will help you to learn to love, lead and learn the Bible. Don't miss it!
- Have a group. Be in a group. Lead a group.

Jesus Chose the 12.

Acts 2:46, "So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

Ephesians 4:11-13, "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ..."

Moses chose leaders of 10, 50, 100 and 1,000.

Deuteronomy 1:15, "So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and knowledgeable men, and made them heads over you, leaders of thousands, leaders of hundreds, leaders of fifties, leaders of tens, and officers for your tribes."

WHY?

To reach our families and neighbours.

Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Luke 14:23, "Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'"

We are called to share the love of God.

- Our great example is Jesus. He witnessed to the lost.

Matthew 4:17-19 "From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

- The early church witnessed.

Acts 2:40-41 "And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation.' Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*."

We are saved and called with a purpose

- Called to be a fragrance.

2 Corinthians 2:15 "For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing."

- Called to disciple others.

The same experience that we have received is to be shared with others
Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.' Amen."

- Called to be the salt of the earth

Matthew 5:13, "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavour, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."

We need to make a difference. The difference we make is the way in which we live before people. We need to "preserve" the values that are given in the Bible and in so doing be an example to those who live among us.

- Called to be the light of the earth.

Matthew 5:14, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden."

Why are we able to be a witness?

- We have been empowered to be a witness, Acts 1:8.
- We have been made sufficient to witness, 2 Corinthians 3:5-6.

The Harvest is Ready!

John 4: 35b-36, "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together."

- Be available: Yield your life to God so that He will be able to use you as His witness.
- Be prayerful: Ask God to present you with opportunities where you can begin to share the Gospel with others.
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit: Only the Spirit of God can truly draw others to God. We need to rely on His drawing.
- Ask for souls: You have not because you ask not! James 4:2.

We want to see Cape Town changed

Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- Our Jerusalem is Cape Town.
- Our Judea is the Western Cape.
- Our Samaria is South Africa.
- Our uttermost parts of the earth is the entire world.

Global ministry is taking your ministry in the local church to another culture and context.

Get Involved

We want YOU to function in YOUR God given purpose!

Get involved at

GOOD HOPE CHRISTIAN CENTRE

We want YOU to function in YOUR God given purpose!

First Name _____ Surname _____

Telephone _____ Cellphone _____

Email _____ Campus: _____

Yes, I'm interested in getting involved!

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Hospital Ministry | ☐ Line-Up Singer |
| ☐ Security Ministry | ☐ Choir |
| ☐ Prison Ministry | ☐ Dance Team (Auditions required) |
| ☐ H.O.P.E. (Help Our People Eat)
(Feeding Scheme Ministry) | ☐ Creative Team |
| ☐ Dream Team (Ushering Ministry) | ☐ Writer |
| ☐ Welcome Ministry | ☐ Artist - any medium |
| ☐ Coffee Shop Ministry | ☐ Animator |
| ☐ Prayer, Prophetic & Miracles Team | ☐ Photography |
| ☐ Creche | ☐ Radio Station |
| ☐ Hope Kids | ☐ Social Media |
| ☐ Infinity Youth (Grade 8 to Grade 12) | ☐ Puppeteer |
| ☐ Infinity XP (19 years old to 25 years old) | ☐ Actor/Actress |
| ☐ Fusion (26 years old to 35 years old) | ☐ Presenter |
| ☐ Primetimers (55 years old and up) | ☐ Video/Audio Editing |
| ☐ MPower (Men's Ministry) | ☐ Graphic Design |
| ☐ Girlfriends & S.H.O.E.S
(Women's Ministry) | ☐ Productions |
| ☐ S.W.A.T. Street Evangelism | ☐ Make-Up |
| ☐ Church Admin Help: Typing, Filing, Data
Capturing, etc. | ☐ Costumes |
| ☐ Life Connect | ☐ Prop & Set Building |
| ☐ Lead a Life Connect | ☐ Media Department |
| ☐ Host a Life Connect in my house. | ☐ Lyrics for Screens |
| ☐ Hospitality Ministry | ☐ Video Camera Operator |
| ☐ Hope Worship Team (Auditions required) | ☐ Video Camera Switching |
| ☐ Band | ☐ Stage Lighting |
| | ☐ Sound Department |
| | ☐ Other _____ |

Affirmations at Home

The Benefits of Salvation

Now that you are born again, you can experience the following benefits:

- You are now a new creature, 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- You have a loving Heavenly Father, John 1:12.
- You are an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ, Romans 8:17.
- You are the righteousness of God, 2 Corinthians 5:21.
- You are God's workmanship, Ephesians 2:10.
- You have redemption, Ephesians 1:7-8.
- You have peace, Romans 5:1.
- You have authority and power, Acts 1:8.
- You are blessed, Ephesians 1:3.
- You have your Heavenly Father's care and protection, Matthew 6:26.
- You have eternal life, John 3:36.
- You have the forgiveness of sin, Ephesians 1:7.
- You have a place in heaven, John 14:2.
- You have God inside you, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

Discover who you are in Christ

- I am alive with Christ, Ephesians 2:5.
- I am free from the law of sin and death, Romans 8:2.
- I am born of God, and the evil one does not touch me, 1 John 5:18.
- I am holy and without blame before Him in love, 1 Peter 1:16, Ephesians 1:4.
- I have the mind of Christ, Philippians 2:5, 1 Corinthians 2:16.
- I have the peace of God that passes all understanding, Philippians 4:7.
- I have the Greater One living in me; greater is He Who is in me than he who is in the world, 1 John 4:4.
- I have no lack for my God supplies all of my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus, Philippians 4:19.
- I can do all things through Christ Jesus, Philippians 4:13.
- I am God's workmanship, created in Christ unto good works, Ephesians 2:10.

- I am more than a conqueror through Him Who loves me, Romans 8:37.
- I am the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:21.
- I am the temple of the Holy Spirit; I am not my own, 1 Corinthians 6:19.
- I am the head and not the tail; I am above only and not beneath, Deuteronomy 28:13.
- I am the light of the world, Matthew 5:14.
- I am forgiven of all my sins and washed in the Blood, Ephesians 1:7.
- I am redeemed from the curse of sin, sickness, and poverty, Galatians 3:13, Deuteronomy 28.
- I am healed by the stripes of Jesus, 1 Peter 2:24, Isaiah 53:5.
- I am greatly loved by God, Colossians 3:12, Romans 1:7, 1 Thessalonians 1:4, Ephesians 2:4.
- It is not I who live, but Christ lives in me, Galatians 2:20.