

Disciple Me  
II Tim. 2:2-7 Matt. 28:19 Luke 14:26  
and  
Tithe your time to God

**Introduction/ Overview**

**8 BIBLE MANDATES FOR EACH CHRISTIAN**

DO ALL THINGS FOR JESUS (GREAT SHEPHERD) BECAUSE YOU LOVE HIM  
SO MUCH!

HOW DO WE  
GROW CLOSER TO GOD?



- Being a Christian is having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- No set of religious rules to follow will ever make you a Christian
- Those who know Christ do need to understand that Jesus taught us to do 8 things that would bring us closer to Him
- Many true Christians slowly drift away from the closeness to Jesus that they once had
- It happened so slowly that they didn't see it happening
- Both new Christians and old soldiers of the cross need to stay committed to doing these 8 basic things
- Jesus wants us to stay close to Him
- It is my prayer that this will help you to know how to grow closer to Jesus Christ everyday

## JESUS THE GREAT SHEPHERD SAYS TO YOU:

1) YOU ARE MY SHEEP, BUT OTHERS ARE MISSING. PLEASE GO OUT AND HELP FIND THEM. (SHARING JESUS)

2) YOU ARE MY SHEEP, PLEASE HELP MY NEW LAMBS SHOW OTHERS THAT THEY ARE NOW MINE. (BAPTISM)

3) YOU ARE MY SHEEP, PLEASE TAKE TIME TO LEARN ABOUT ME, TO LEARN MY WAYS, AND TO TALK TO EACH OTHER ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING. (BIBLE USE)

4) YOU ARE MY SHEEP, PLEASE ENJOY BEING WITH EACH OTHER AS YOU ACCOMPLISH MY WILL ON EARTH. (FELLOWSHIP)

5) YOU ARE MY SHEEP, PLEASE REMEMBER THE GREAT PRICE I'VE PAID TO MAKE YOU MY OWN. (COMMUNION)

6) YOU ARE MY SHEEP, PLEASE TELL ME EVERYTHING THAT IS ON YOUR MIND AND IN YOUR HEART. (PRAYER)

7) YOU ARE MY SHEEP, PLEASE TAKE SOME OF WHAT I HAVE BLESSED YOU WITH TO HELP A SHEEP WHO IS IN NEED. (GIVING)

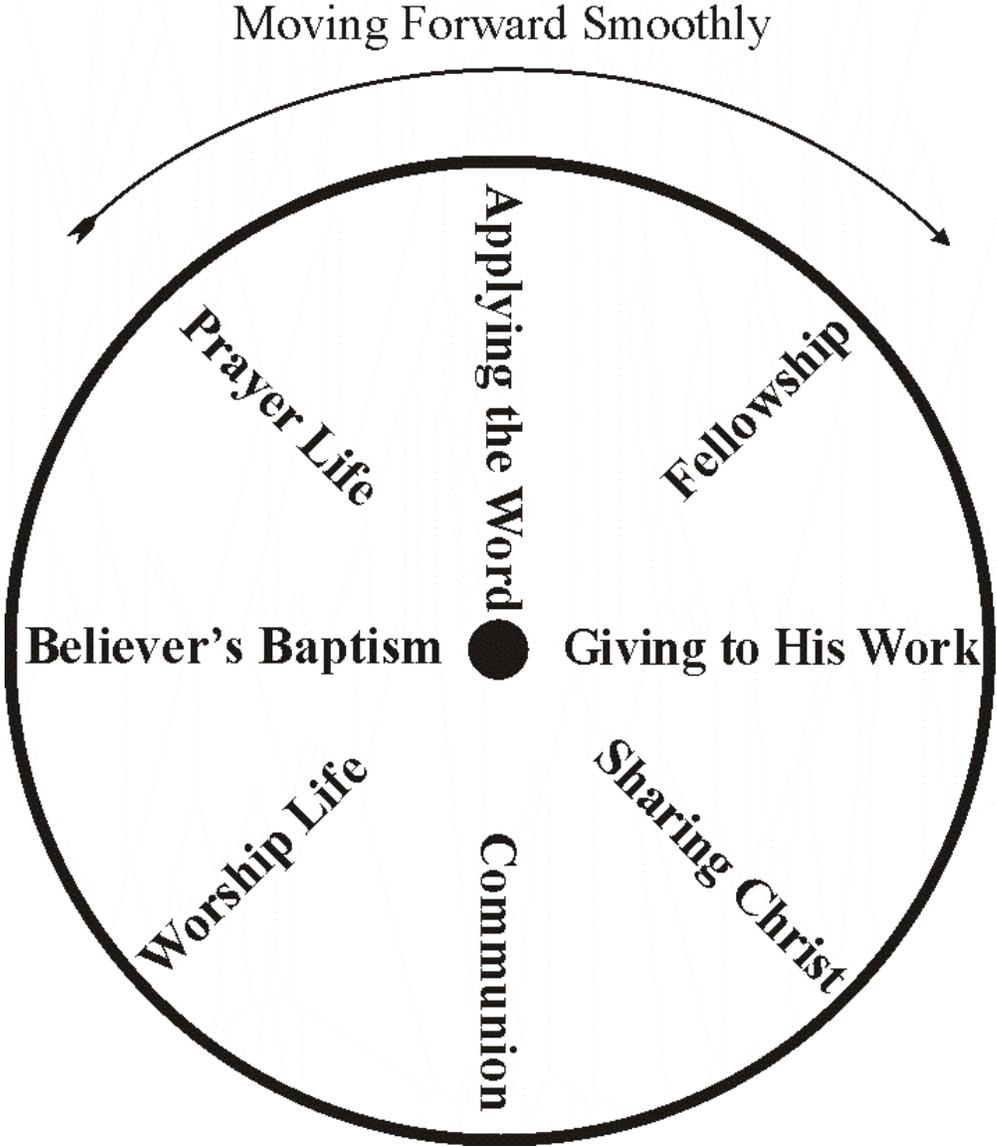
8) YOU ARE MY SHEEP, PLEASE GATHER AROUND ME AND I WILL CAUSE YOU TO REJOICE IN MY PRESENCE AND EXPERIENCE MY PLEASURE. (WORSHIP)

"I Love you Lord Jesus, so I will do these things.

I will do them for you."

TOO MUCH OF ONE & NOT ENOUGH OF THE OTHER

**Balancing the 8 things Christ has called us to do**



# What type of Christian are you?



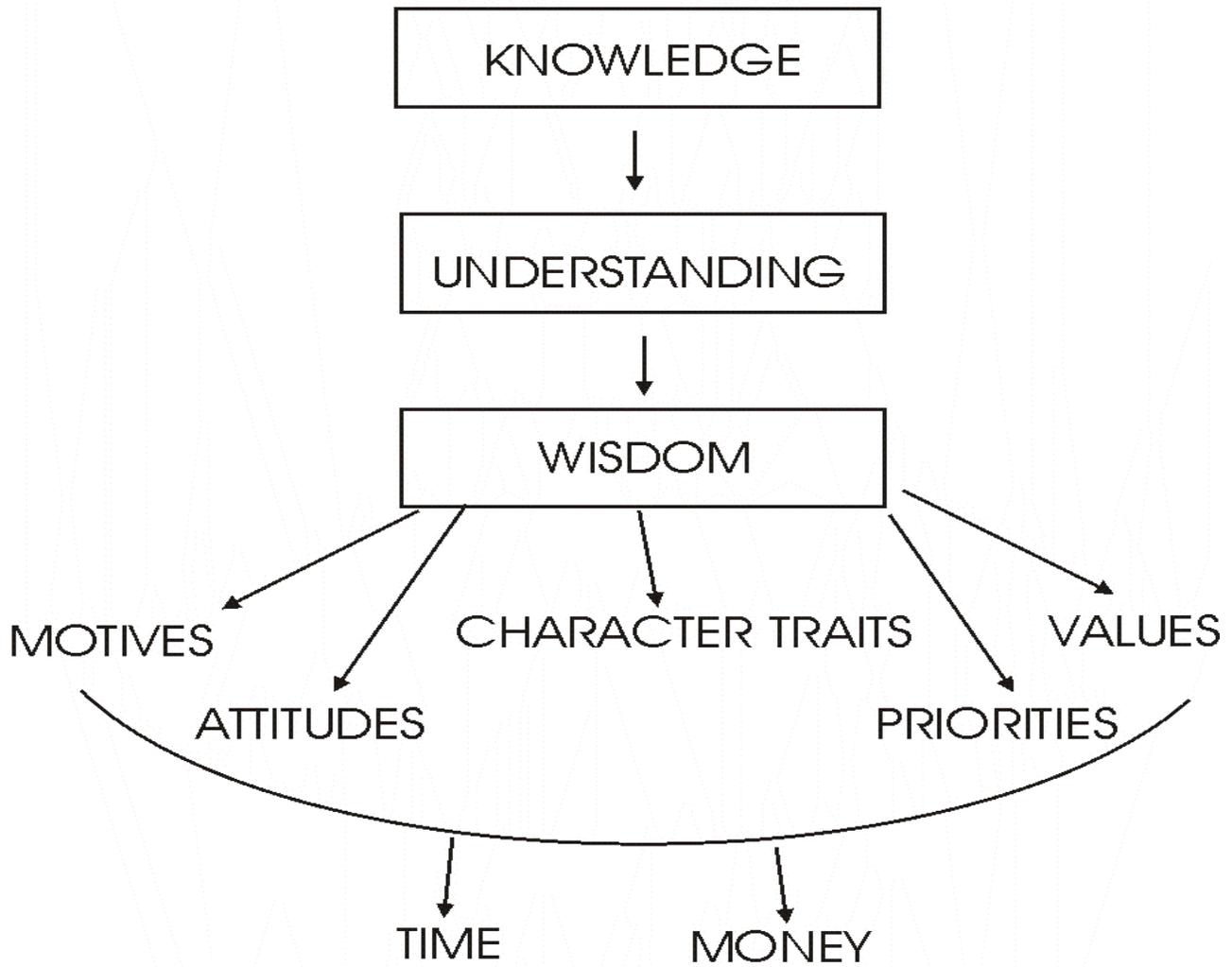
		growing	falling away	immature
↑ H ↓ O ↓ P ↓ E ↓ ?	5%	proactive	know how	↑ ↓ ↑ ↓
	29%	reactive	no think	↑ ↓ ↑ ↓
	75%	inactive	no do	↑ ↓ ↑ ↓
		Indifferent	no show	↑ ↓ ↑ ↓

To move from Knowledge to Wisdom

JOB 32:6-22

PROV. 4:7-9

PS. 1: all

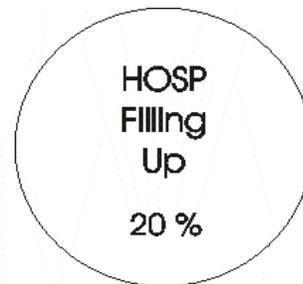


Study types:  
word , book, event, character , topic,



## Phase 1

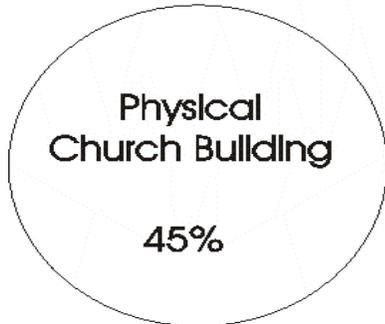
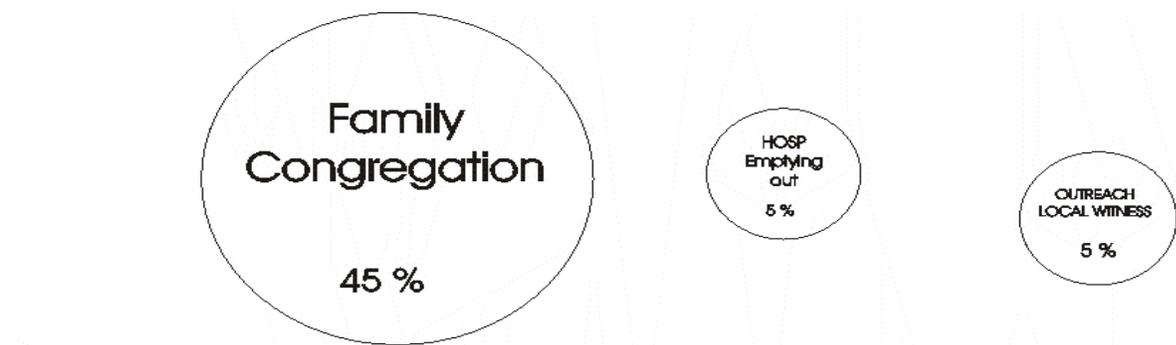
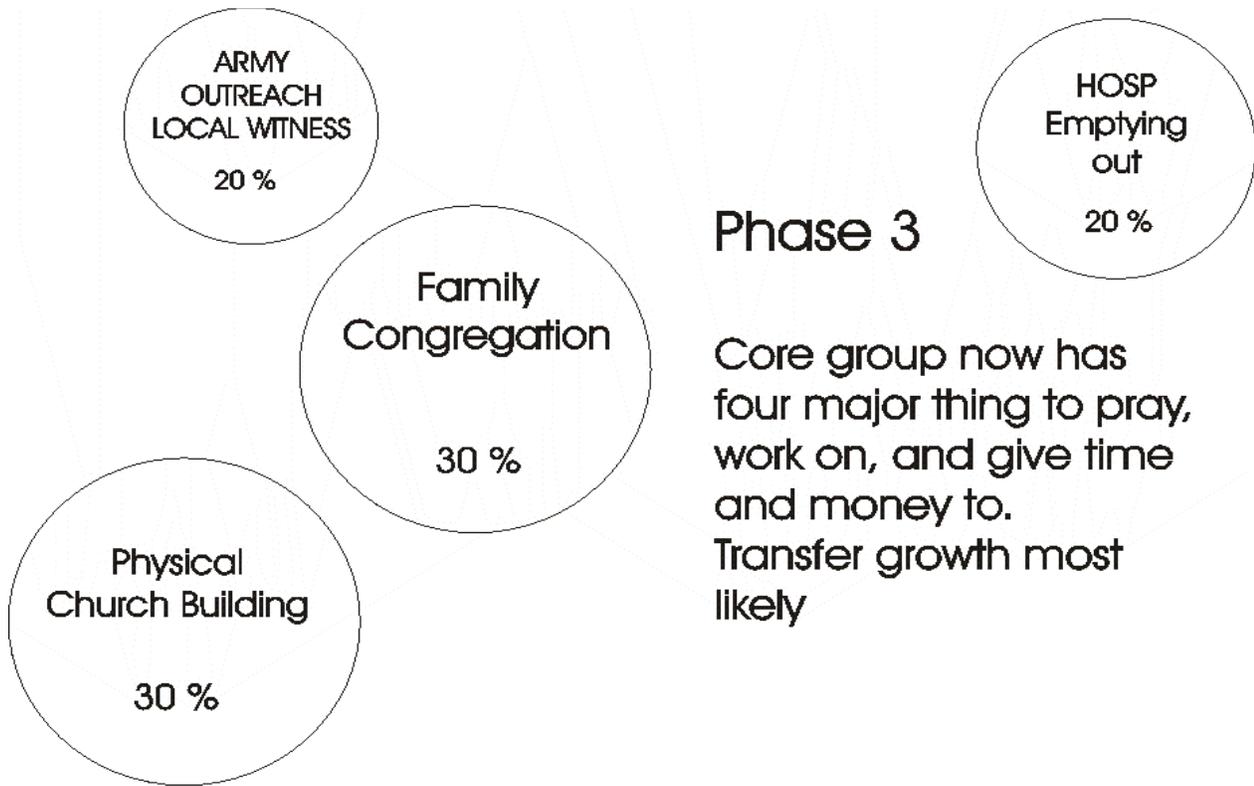
Core group only has one major thing to pray, work on, and give time and money to. Conversion growth most likely



## Phase 2

Core group now has three major thing to pray, work on, and give time and money to. Both conversion & transfer growth possible

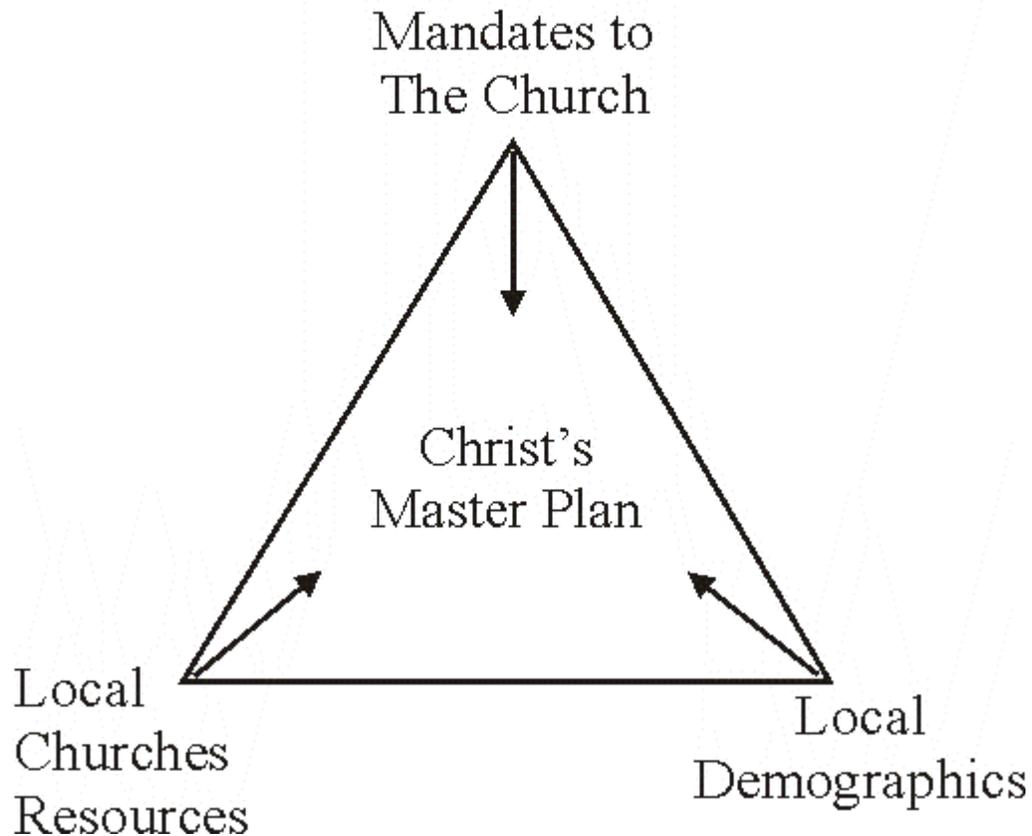




Over time the Core group gives in to the tyranny of the urgent, needs of a diverse congregation & an ever-changing building and budget too many things to pray, work on, and give time and money to. Outreach get squeezed out! Transfer growth may continue for a long time, but keep an eye on the mean age of the church family. Once the primary dept. Empties out serious decline has taken over.

## Christ's Master Plan

# Here We are Send Us!



This diagram shows the process that each local church should go through at least every two years:

- 1) Christ's mandates from the Holy Bible never change. We as His people must often remind ourselves and recommit ourselves to the joyful privilege and duty of performing them.
- 2) The community around each local church does change rapidly. Each local church must therefore keep careful watch because the local community is the harvest field. A good harvester works the field as the conditions require.
- 3) The resources of that local church change as God works in the hearts and minds of people. Christ gives gifts. Christ will build His church and empower His people to: 1) Meet the needs of the harvest 2) Care for His sheep in that fold.
- 4) Christ's master plan for each local church is unique. As each body of leaders from each local church bring together these three elements, a fresh vision and plan for his church will emerge. All four gospels were divinely inspired, but each are different. Through the power of God's Holy Spirit He is able to direct each of His local churches to the next step in His plan for them.

5) This process is not only necessary to keep a local church “fresh”, it is also a necessary step for the revitalizing of a church. After the leadership of the local church has a fresh vision from the Lord, then it must be widely communicated to all the local membership so that they can have ownership and gladly participate in the working out of God’s plan.

## **5 types of Church Meetings**

Plan church activities with forethought

- This diagram shows the five levels of commitment and the five different types of activities
- Growing, balanced churches should prayerfully consider offering all five to the community
- List all existing ministries in these five boxes to find where your church might be off-balance
- When a church is interested in revitalizing itself, it will make the tough choices necessary
- Ingrown and declining churches usually find most of their work is being done in level four (grow) than in any other level

FUN

LISTEN

DECIDE

GROW

LEAD

**Spiritual Army Verses**

I Cor. 9:4 Don't we have the right to food and drink? 5 Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? 6 Or is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living? 7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense?

Phil. 2:25 But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. 26 For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. 28 Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. 29 Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, 30 because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

II Tim 2 You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. 3 Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. 4 No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer.

Philemon 1:1 To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker, 2 to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier and to the church that meets in your home:

II Cor. 10:3 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. 4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

## **Spiritual Family Verses**

Mark 10: 28 Peter said to him, “We have left everything to follow you!”  
29 “I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

I Tim. 5:1 Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

Gal. 6:9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Eph. 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household

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### **Physical Building and other Physical Ministry Needs Verses**

Acts 6:3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

THE HEART OF A SHEPHERD

by

MARK W. HAFNER

(©1988)

Why does the shepherd gaze so long, gazing at the sheep?

Why does the shepherd sit so long, sitting at their side?

What do the sheep really need, needs hidden deep inside?

He sees the ones he loves, the ones he's called to serve.

He sees the ones that need him so, and prays he can preserve.

New sheep are often added, added to the fold.

"The shepherd - he is kind," the new ones are told.

The sheep gather around him. For his touch they gather near.

He wonders where to lead them; so while the flock does rest

he looks ahead to find the way, and then he gets his rest.

Often we have seen him kneeling, kneeling with a lamb.

With arms stretched out to God he prays holding up that lamb.

He looks away at the city - many comforts he could have had there.

But he turns back to us and says, "I have greater treasures here!"

The shepherd's life is hard. The shepherd's days are long.

His own concerns he puts aside. For the sheep he must be strong.

The shepherd - he is not alone, for he calls the flock his own.

To be a shepherd the cost is steep;

he pays it gladly for the sheep, for the sheep, for the sheep.

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## Chapter One

### Bible use

#### BIBLE VERSES on BIBLE USE

WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE BIBLE?

Nehemiah 9:3

And they stood up in their place and read from the book of the law of the LORD their God for a fourth of the day; for another fourth of it they made confession and worshiped the LORD their God.

MATT5:39

39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think in them that by them you possess eternal life, these are the Scriptures that testify about me

2 TIM 2:15

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth

PS. 119:10-11

10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.. 11 I have hidden your word in my heart t that I might not sin against you.

JOSHUA 1:7-8

7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful

## **Becoming an Eagle in God's Holy Word** **Your personal use of God's Word**

“Transforming for you and transferable by you to others”

Week One II Tim. 2:2

You will be given in five weeks a simple guide to jump-start your personal use of God's Word. This course is set up as if you are a brand new believer in Jesus. You can then take this course that you are now doing and teach it to others if that is Christ's will for you. (The wisdom story)

\*Old/ New Testament (legal written testimony)

\*chapters and verses are not in original texts Example, John 3:16

\*Which books of the Bible should you start with? What age are we in?

\*Our current age books of the Bible need fewer rules of interpretation than books written in, or for other ages.

\*Which books are written for our age?

\*Which gospel is easy for us to study first, why?

\*Some Psalms and all Proverbs

\*New Testament books are not ordered by date written but by size, largest first.

Important Bible book facts to start your study:

\*When written/ written to who/ by whom/ why was it written

\*Epistles were written from a small-group and city-wide perspective

\*Which version to start with? Why?

### 4 THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR BIBLE

READ IT (your eyes on page/ listen to it read by someone else/ from a recording)

Nehemiah 9:3 And they stood up in their place and read from the book of the law of the LORD their God for a fourth of the day; for another fourth of it they made confession and worshiped the LORD their God.

I Tim.4:13 Until I come, give attention to the {public} reading {of Scripture,} to exhortation and teaching.

STUDY IT (this course, for starters)

Matthew 5:39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think in them that by them you possess eternal life, these are the Scriptures that testify about me

2 TIM 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth

MEMORIZE IT (by design/ from natural usage/ write key verses on postcards/ post on wall)

PS. 119:10-11 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. 11) I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

MEDITATE on IT (pray and think about what you have read and studied for life application)

JOSHUA 1:7-8 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8) Do

not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful

PSALM 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

In each verse look for:

Positive commands

Negative commands

Significant facts

Promises

Conditional Promises

Continued thought or new thought

What do we do with commands?

What do we do with significant facts?

What do we do with promises?

What do we do with conditional promises?

Why is this important?

To move from knowledge to understanding to wisdom through meditation  
(Bicycle story example) Wisdom is applied truth into your life (very useful)

Pray first and ask Jesus through His Spirit to teach you.

Many people keep a journal on what they read and study or make notes in Bible margins.

Read it through several times, then study verse by verse looking for items in list above.

Psalm 1 NIV

<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the one  
who does not walk in step with the wicked  
or stand in the way that sinners take  
or sit in the company of mockers,

<sup>2</sup>but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and who meditates on his law day and night.

<sup>3</sup>That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither—  
whatever they do prospers.

<sup>4</sup>Not so the wicked!

They are like chaff  
that the wind blows away.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

Let's pray about what we just studied.

#### Week One Homework

1) Watch Lee Strobel: "Case for Christ" video, <http://vimeo.com/17960119> , come prepared to share how it impacted you.

2) Using what you learned in week one, study the Lord's Prayer listed below and come ready to share how it impacted you. PLEASE COME BACK EVEN IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO DO ALL THE HOMEWORK!

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

9 "This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

10 your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours

is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## Week Two

### Bible Study Aids and Study Types

Review week one homework

Bible Study Aids

\*Use Bible commentaries and study guides last for two reasons. 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
2) \_\_\_\_\_

With internet or smart phone apps

\*KJV with Greek and Hebrew word definitions (MySword app)

\*Use Internet to search for any Bible facts Dictionary & Strongs searchable PDF free to you just ask

\*Oxford Cyclopedic Concordance, published 1902 searchable PDF free to you just ask

<p><b>Col. 3. 8, put on it, wrath, malice.</b>  <b>Anger, nature and effects of.</b> Gen. 27. 45; 44. 18; 49. 7;          Ex. 32. 19; Ps. 37. 8; 69. 24; Prov. 15. 18; 16. 32; 19.          11; 21. 19; 29. 22; Eccl. 7. 9; Isa. 13. 9; 30. 27; Jer.          44. 6; Mat. 5. 22; Tit. 1. 7. <i>See WRATH.</i>          remedy for. Prov. 15. 1; 21. 14.          to be put away. Eph. 4. 26, 31; Col. 3. 8.  <b>Anger (DIVINE).</b> Gen. 3. 14; 4; 18. 30; Deu. 29. 20; 32. 19;          Jos. 23. 16; 2 Kn. 22. 13; Ez. 8. 22; Job 9. 13; Ps.          7. 11; 21. 8; 78. 21, 58; 89. 30; 90. 7; 99. 8; 103. 9;          106. 40; Prov. 1. 30; Isa. 1. 3; 8. 9; 9. 13; 13. 9; 47. 6;          Jer. 2. 35; 3. 5; 7. 19; 44. 3; Nah. 1. 2; Mk. 3. 5; 10.          14; John 3. 36; Rom. 1. 18; 3. 5; 1 Cor. 10. 22; Eph.          5. 6; Col. 3. 6; 1 Thes. 2. 16; Heb. 3. 18; 10. 26; Rev.          21. 8; 22.</p>	<p><b>anger</b><sup>A</sup> See also ANGERED.          Ge 27:45 Until thy brother's <i>a'</i> turn away 639          30: 2 Jacob's <i>a'</i> was kindled against "          44:18 thine <i>a'</i> burn against thy servant: "          49: 6 in their <i>a'</i> they slew a man. "          7 Cursed be their <i>a'</i>, for it was fierce: "          Ex 4:14 the <i>a'</i> of the Lord was kindled: "          11: 8 out from Pharaoh in a great <i>a'</i>. "          32:19 Moses' <i>a'</i> waxed hot, and he cast "          22 Let not the <i>a'</i> of my lord wax hot; "          Nu 11: 1 heard it; and his <i>a'</i> was kindled; "          10 the <i>a'</i> of the Lord was kindled "          12: 9 <i>a'</i> of the Lord was kindled against "          22:22 God's <i>a'</i> was kindled because he "          27 Balaam's <i>a'</i> was kindled, and he "          24:10 Balak's <i>a'</i> was kindled against "          25: 3 the <i>a'</i> of the Lord was kindled "          4 that the fierce <i>a'</i> of the Lord may "          32:10, 13 the Lord's <i>a'</i> was kindled "          14 to augment yet the fierce <i>a'</i> of the "          De 4:25 Lord thy God, to provoke him to <i>a'</i>:3707          6:15 lest the <i>a'</i> of the Lord thy God be 639          7: 4 will the <i>a'</i> of the Lord be kindled "          9:18 the Lord, to provoke him to <i>a'</i>. 3707          19 I was afraid of the <i>a'</i> and hot 639          13:17 turn from the fierceness of his <i>a'</i> "</p>
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By Candle Light

A. Using a parallel Bible

\*New American Standard/ Amplified/ King James/ New International Version

B. Using an English concordance:

To locate passages:

You can use an English concordance to find the location of a passage for which you remember only a few leading words. For example, you could use the concordance to find out the location in the New Testament of the story of the woman caught in the act of adultery if you remember that the words "stone" and "throw" were used.

C. Begin with an English translation and get back to the original Hebrew or Greek words

This is important because there is not a one-to-one correspondence between the English words used for translation and the Hebrew or Greek words of the original text. (Example "love")

The concordances that allow you to trace words back to the original text have two main sections:

- the concordance proper is a listing of the English words used in the translation on which the concordance is based, along with citations for the verses in which a given word is found.
- the index-lexicon usually contains Hebrew and Greek sections, which list the original language words, followed by the English words used to translate each.

D. Using a Bible Dictionary

A Bible dictionary is basically a collection of terms used in, and about, the Bible.

You may find some lists of references to where certain words or names are found in the Bible, but these will not be as in-depth as they would be in a concordance.

Some of the things you will find in a Bible dictionary are:

- Definitions of terms
- Introductory information on a book of the Bible

- Short biographies of Bible characters
- Historical background information
- Descriptions and histories of places, such as countries or cities

#### E. Using a Bible Handbook

Bible handbooks provide historical and cultural information, usually with a number of general articles and then comments on particular books and passages.

Using a Bible handbook along with your Bible is like having a Bible with more exhaustive study notes.

Bible handbooks, like study Bibles, will reflect personal beliefs of the editors. Use them carefully.

Zondervan's Handbook to the Bible

Halley's Bible Handbook

#### Study Types

Words studies

Chapter studies

Books studies

Character studies

Doctrine studies

Topic/ Events studies

#### Let's Study High-Tech. and the Old School Ways

#### Week Two Homework

\*Study John 3:1-21

When was this book written?

What type of book is this?

Why was it written?

To whom is this book written?

Who is talking to whom in this passage?

In each verse look for:

Positive commands

Negative commands

Significant facts

Promises

Conditional promises

Continued thought or new thought

Verse 1:

What is a Pharisee? When did they come into leadership in Israel?

Verse 2:

Verse 3:

Verse 4:

Verse 5:

Verse 6:

Verse 7:

Verse 8:

Verse 9:

Verse 10:

Verse 11:

Verse 12:

Verse 13:

Dan. 7:13-14

Who goes up and down? When did He? What does this really mean to Nicodemus?

Verse 14:

Moses, What snake, say what? Who is Son of Man? When was Son of Man lifted up?

Verse 15:

Verse 16:

Verse 17:

Verse 18:

Verse 19:

Verse 20:

Verse 21:

## Week Three

# Rules for Bible Interpretation

Review week two homework

### Rules for Bible Interpretation

#### 1) Interpret the text literally.

The content of the Bible needs to be taken in its literal sense. When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other meaning. Take every word, at its ordinary, usual, literal meaning. We are to take every statement of the Scriptures at its face value, unless there are indications that a figurative or metaphorical meaning.

Exception: In case of figurative language (i.e. "Lamb of God").

#### 2) Interpret the text in light of its context.

Rom 13:8 "Owe no one anything" taken out of context may lead to a prohibition of taking out loans.

#### 3) Consider the History and Culture Behind the Text.

Knowledge of culture and history may provide a deeper understanding of the text (cf. the role of Samaritans in 1<sup>st</sup> century Judaism). A timeless principle may be applied to a certain cultural situation of the first Christians. For us, only the principle is binding, not its cultural application (1Cor 11:2-16; Acts 15:1-35). Discover the author, the people addressed, and the life and times of the people involved in a given case. Discover the times, the seasons, and the occasion of such a communication.

#### 4) The Law of Recurrence

The Law of Recurrence causes us to pay close attention to the words or phrases which are repeated in any text or book. The more often they are repeated, the more important they are to understanding that text. Repetition is a teaching tool used in Scripture to help us learn.

#### 5) The law of first mention

The law of first mention may be said to be the principle that requires one to go to that portion of the Scriptures where a doctrine is mentioned for the first time and to study the meaning of that truth. When we thus see the first appearance, which is usually in the simplest form, we can then examine the truth in other portions of the Word that were given later.

#### 6) The Bible does not endorse everything it reports.

In history books of the Bible, when people lie or do sinful acts they are recorded. They are historically true, but NOT endorsed to us as behavior to do the same in our lives.

#### 7) Interpret with Theological Consistency.

Individual passages have to be put into the context of general Biblical teaching (cf. Lk 18; 1Tim 6:17).

#### 8) Clear passages explain the difficult ones.

### Common sayings about understanding the Bible

1) The New Testament explains the Old Testament (Lk 24:27; Mt 5:17).

2) The Old Testament amplifies the New Testament

3) The epistles shed light on the Gospels (Mt 5:39; John 18:23; Rom 12).

Week Three Homework  
\*Study Eph. 2:1-10

Week Four  
Key Bible Study Lists  
Review week three homework

Old Testament chapters

Genesis 1-3 Creation, the fall, first promise of a Redeemer

Genesis 12 Abraham's call, a giant step toward fulfilling the promise

Exodus 20 Giving the Ten Commandments

Josh. 1 The reassurance chapter

Josh. 14 The faithfulness of God chapter

Joshua 24 The "line in the sand"

Isaiah 53 The "suffering servant" passage that looks to the coming Messiah

Psalms 23 The Shepherd's Psalm

Psalms 51 David's prayer for forgiveness and cleansing

Psalms 103 The praise of God chapter

Psalms 119 The Word of God chapter

Proverbs ALL Make a list of people types. Make a list of positive or negative traits with references

Isa. 40 The majesty of God chapter

Isa. 55 The great invitation chapter

## New Testament chapters

Matthew 5-7 Sermon on the Mount

Matt. 6 The Lord's Prayer chapter

Matt. 13 The sower and seed chapter

Matthew 28 Resurrection of Christ & Great Commission to the Church

John 10 The protection of the sheep chapter

John 14 The comfort chapter

John 15 The abiding chapter

John 17 Jesus' High Priestly prayer

Acts 2 Holy Spirit's coming on Day of Pentecost

Acts 15: Jerusalem Council: Must one become a Jew to be a Christian?

Romans 3 ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God &  
the righteousness of God is a gift received through faith in Christ

Romans 5 The justification chapter

Romans 6 The sanctification chapter

Romans 8 The glorification chapter

1 Cor. 12 The gifts chapter

1 Corinthians 13 The love chapter

1 Corinthians 15 The Gospel; the resurrection of the dead; death through the first Adam vs. life through the last Adam

Gal. 5 The fruit of the Spirit chapter

II Timothy 3 The last days will be perilous & all Scripture is given by inspiration of God

Hebrews 11 Hall of Faith: heroes of the faith

Heb. 12 The chastisement chapter

1 Pet. 4 The reason for suffering chapter

John 1 Incarnation of Christ and His preexistence & John the Baptist: the forerunner of Christ

Revelation 2-3 Letters to the seven churches; Make two lists, what they did that Jesus praised them for, and what they did that Jesus rebuked them for

Revelation 7 The Grand Finale

“Types of Christ” in Old Testament

Life of Joseph/ Passover Lamb/ Noah’s Ark/ the two Adams/ Jonah’s fish/ the rock Moses got water from

Three tenses of Salvation: Past/ Present/ Future

#### Week Four Homework

\*Study one of the listed chapters

\*Come prepared to teach it the other eagles here next week

\*Need 4 volunteers

(10-13 minutes each next week working from worksheet below)

When written?  
What type of book is this?  
Written by whom?  
Written to whom?  
Why written?  
What is your best phrase to sum up the section?

Please explain any new words you learned.

Most important facts & why are they important to you?

Most important commands & why are they important to you?

Most important promises & why are they important to you?

Having prayed about what you have learned, how is all this important for our lives in Christ?

Week five  
The Prophets are Subject to the Prophets  
I Cor. 14:29-32

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**Chapter Two**

**Worship**

**BIBLE VERSES on WORSHIP**

WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES HAVE TO SAY ABOUT WORSHIP?

EX. 7:16

16 Then say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the desert.

EX.23:25-26

25 Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, 26 and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span.

JOHN 4:23

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

ROM. 12:1-2

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God this is your spiritual act of worship.

PS. 29:2

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness.

John 4:23-24

4:23 But a time is coming—and now is here—when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such people to be his worshipers. 4:24 God is spirit, and the people who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

Jonah 2:8

2:8 Those who worship worthless idols forfeit the mercy that could be theirs.

Matthew 6:24

6:24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

1:9 For people everywhere report how you welcomed us and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God 1:10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus our deliverer from the coming wrath.

2 Timothy 1:3

1:3 I am thankful to God, whom I have served with a clear conscience as my ancestors did, when I remember you in my prayers as I do constantly night and day.

Hebrews 10:2

10:2 For otherwise would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshipers would have been purified once for all and so have no further consciousness of sin?

Matthew 15:9

15:8 ‘This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me, 15:9 and they worship me in vain, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’

Revelation 15:4

15:4 Who will not fear you, O Lord, and glorify your name, because you alone are holy? All nations will come and worship before you for your righteous acts have been revealed.

Acts 7:42

7:42 But God turned away from them and gave them over to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets: 'It was not to me that you offered slain animals and sacrifices forty years in the wilderness, was it, house of Israel?'

Acts 17:23

17:22 So Paul stood before the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in all respects. 17:23 For as I went around and observed closely your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: 'To an unknown god.' Therefore what you worship without knowing it, this I proclaim to you.

John 4:23&24 'Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit and His worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth.'

John 14:6 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

Matthew 15:8&9 'All of you praise me with your words, but you never really think about me. It is useless to worship me, when you teach rules made up by humans.'

Amos 5:21-24, 6:5-7 'I, the Lord, hate and despise your religious celebrations and your times of worship. I won't accept your offerings or animal sacrifices - not even your very best. No more of your noisy songs! I won't listen when you play your harps. But let justice and fairness flow like a river that never runs dry.... You sing foolish songs to the music of harps, and you make up new tunes, just as David used to do. You drink all the wine you want and wear expensive perfume, but you don't care about the ruin of your nation. So you will be the first to be dragged off as captives; your good times will end.'

Isaiah 1:11-17 'Your sacrifices mean nothing to me. I am sick of your offerings of rams and choice cattle, I don't like the blood of bulls or lambs or goats. Who asked you to bring all this when you come to worship me? Stay out of my temple! Your sacrifices are worthless, and incense is disgusting. I can't stand the evil you do on your New Moon Festivals or on your Sabbaths and other times of worship. I hate your New Moon Festivals and all others as well. They are a heavy burden I am tired of carrying. No matter how much you pray, I won't listen. You are too violent. Wash yourselves clean! I am disgusted with your filthy deeds. Stop doing wrong and learn to live right. See that justice is done. Defend widows and orphans and help those in need.'

## What is Worship?

### Contemplative Worship is:

- To take time to remember the great price Jesus paid to make us His own
- To consider the awfulness of our sins
- To consider that the suffering of Christ on the cross was for our sins
- To consider what we owe the Lord for all that He has done for us
- To consider what acts of love and devotion He is calling us to do for Him
- To recommit to Christ our absolute surrender to His will for us
- He asks us to present ourselves to Him, as we are, so He can make us into what we were created to be

### Celebrative Worship is:

- Rejoicing because of all that the Lord has done for us
- Rejoicing because of all the promises of God that are ours through Christ
- Rejoicing because we will be with Him forever in a place without sin
- Rejoicing because He is always with us
- Rejoicing because of who God is and that we can know Him
- Declaring to the Lord that thinking about Him thrills our hearts more than any other thoughts

### Personal Worship is:

- Adding time to our daily schedules to both contemplate and celebrate with the Lord all by ourselves
- Worship is not primarily what we do, it encompasses every moment of a believer's life
- Isaiah 6:1-8 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.  
2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.  
3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.

7 He touched my mouth {with it} and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

**Oh, how our worship at church with others is DIMINISHED because of our lack of personal worship all week long!**

### Group Worship is:

- Adding time to our schedules to both contemplate and celebrate with the Lord and with our brothers and sisters in Christ
- 1 Corinthians 14:26 'What should we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.'

## Chapter Three

### Prayer

#### **BIBLE VERSES on PRAYER**

#### WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES HAVE TO SAY ABOUT PRAYER?

ACTS 1:12-14

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. 13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 they all joined Together constantly in prayer, along with the women and mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

ACTS 6:4

We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

ACTS 14:23

23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

Phil. 4:6&7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 7:7-11

7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you. 7:8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks the door will be opened. 7:9 Is there anyone among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 7:10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 7:11 If you then, although you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Ephesians 2:17-18

2:17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, 2:18 so that through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Hebrews 4:15-16

4:15 For we do not have a high priest incapable of sympathizing with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way just as we are, yet without sin. 4:16 Therefore let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace whenever we need help.

Psalms 88:1, 13

88:1 O Lord God who delivers me! By day I cry out and at night I pray before you. 88:13 As for me, I cry out to you, O Lord; in the morning my prayer confronts you.

Luke 18:1

18:1 Then Jesus told them a parable to show them they should always pray and not lose heart.

Matthew 6:9-15

6:9 So pray this way: Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored, 6:10 may your kingdom come, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 6:11 Give us today our daily bread, 6:12 and forgive us our debts, as we ourselves have forgiven our debtors. 6:13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. 6:14 "For if you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 6:15 But if you do not forgive others, your Father will not forgive you your sins.

Mark 11:24-25

11:24 For this reason I tell you, whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 11:25 Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your sins."

James 4:1-3

4:1 Where do the conflicts and where do the quarrels among you come from? Is it not from this, from your passions that battle inside you? 4:2 You desire and you do not have; you murder and envy and you cannot obtain; you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask; 4:3 you ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, so you can spend it on your passions.

1 John 5:14-15

5:14 And this is the confidence that we have before him: that whenever we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 5:15 And if we know that he hears us in regard to whatever we ask, then we know that we have the requests that we have asked from him.

2 Chronicles 7:13-14

7:13 When I close up the sky so that it doesn't rain, or command locusts to devour the land's vegetation, or send a plague among my people, 7:14 if my people, who belong to me, humble themselves, pray, seek to please me, and repudiate their sinful practices, then I will respond from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.

James 5:14-16

5:14 Is anyone among you ill? He should summon the elders of the church, and they should pray for him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 5:15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick and the Lord will raise him up—and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 5:16 So confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great effectiveness.

Mark 1:35

1:35 Then Jesus got up early in the morning when it was still very dark, departed, and went out to a deserted place, and there he spent time in prayer.

Luke 6:12

6:12 Now it was during this time that he went out to the mountain to pray, and he spent all night in prayer to God.

Acts 1:14

1:14 All these continued together in prayer with one mind, together with the women, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

Romans 12:12

12:12 Rejoice in hope, endure in suffering, persist in prayer.

Colossians 4:2-3

4:2 Be devoted to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. 4:3 At the same time pray for us too,

that God may open a door for the message so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.

Colossians 4:12

4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a slave of Christ, greets you. He is always struggling in prayer on your behalf, so that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

5:16 Always rejoice, 5:17 constantly pray, 5:18 in everything give thanks. For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Jeremiah 33:3

33:3 'Call on me in prayer and I will answer you. I will show you great and mysterious things which you still do not know about.'

Matthew 9:37-38

9:37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. 9:38 Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest."

Luke 6:28

6:28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

John 14:13-14

14:13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14:14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Philippians 4:6-7

4:6 Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, tell your requests to God in your every prayer and petition—with thanksgiving. 4:7 And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

2:1 First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanks be offered on behalf of all people, 2:2 even for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 2:3 Such prayer for all is good and welcomed before God our Savior, 2:4 since he wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

James 1:5-8

1:5 But if anyone is deficient in wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without reprimand, and it will be given to him. 1:6 But he must ask in faith without doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed around by the wind. 1:7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord, 1:8 since he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Mark 14:38

14:38 Stay awake and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Luke 20:45-47

20:45 As all the people were listening, Jesus said to his disciples, 20:46 “Beware of the experts in the law. They like walking around in long robes, and they love elaborate greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. 20:47 They devour widows’ property, and as a show make long prayers. They will receive a more severe punishment.”

## Prayer: What is it?

- Telling God everything that is on your mind and in your heart
- We live like Jesus did when we pray. Mark 1:35 Then Jesus got up early in the morning when it was still very dark, departed, and went out to a deserted place, and there he spent time in prayer. • We should live with a constant awareness of God being with us as we share our lives with Him. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Always rejoice, 5:17 constantly pray, 5:18 in everything give thanks. For this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. • Prayer is the best way to get rid of unwanted emotions. Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, tell your requests to God in your every prayer and petition—with thanksgiving. 4:7 And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. • Made possible through our mediator Jesus Christ 1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, {and} one mediator also between God and men, {the} man Christ Jesus • Hebrews 4:15-16 For we do not have a high priest incapable of sympathizing with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way just as we are, yet without sin. 4:16 Therefore let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and find grace whenever we need help. • Should be done with a clear conscience Mark 11:24-25 11:24 For this reason I tell you, whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 11:25 Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your sins.” • We must learn to pray for things that we already know are His will. 1 John 5:14-15 And this is the confidence that we have before him: that whenever we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 5:15 And if we know that he hears us in regard to whatever we ask, then we know that we have the requests that we have asked from him. • There are times in our lives when we need to call upon the leaders of our church to pray for us and with us. James 5:14-16 Is anyone among you ill? He should summon the elders of the church, and they should pray for him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 5:15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick and the Lord will raise him up—and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 5:16 So confess your sins to one another and pray for one another

so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great effectiveness.

## **TYPES OF PRAYERS**

- Adoration and Worship - Dan. 4:34-35 Confession - I John 1:9
- Thanksgiving - Phil. 4:6 ● Supplication - I Tim. 2:1
- Intercession - James 5:1 ● Secret - Matt. 6:6
- Family - Acts 10:2, 30 ● Public - Acts 12:12
- Group - Matt 18:19 ● Standing - Neh. 9:5
- Kneeling - Ezra 9:5 ● Sitting - 1 Chron. 17:16-27
- Bowing - Exodus 34:8 ● Hands Uplifted - I Tim 2:8

## **Chapter Four**

### **Fellowship**

#### **BIBLE VERSES on FELLOWSHIP**

#### **WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES HAVE TO SAY ABOUT FELLOWSHIP?**

Acts 2:42

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

1 COR 1:9

9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

1 JOHN 1:3-4

3 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship

is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. 4 We write this to make our joy complete.

1 COR 1:9

9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

PHILIPPIANS 2:4.

4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

## What is Fellowship?

Fellowship is a relationship of inner unity among believers that expresses itself in outer co-participation with Christ and one another to accomplish God's will on earth

- The Greek word "*koinonia*," the root meaning of the word "fellowship," is "to hold something in common." From the usage of the word, we can conclude that fellowship is a word denoting a relationship that is dependent on more than one individual. It is an interdependent relationship.
- *Koinonia* is used nineteen times in the New Testament. In addition to being translated as "fellowship," it is also translated by the words "contribution," "sharing," and "participation."
- 1 Corinthians 1:9: "God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." Here fellowship primarily focuses on our spiritual unity with Christ, an inner relationship.
- Philemon 6, 2 Corinthians 13:14 and Philippians 2:1 also emphasize the inner relationship which is at the root of fellowship.
- In Acts 2:42 we read that one of the four things the early church devoted itself to was "fellowship." Fellowship was a very important part of their reason for meeting together. It was one of their objectives.
- Fellowship in the early church was not gathering to have fun as the goal. Fellowship is a partnership that involves working together and caring for one another like a company of soldiers or members of a family.
- Often people do not take part in a church because they see no clear purpose. When leadership sends a clear message of the goals & direction, people join in taking an proactive part where they can best help by using their spiritual gifts and natural abilities ("Your Ministry Uniqueness").
- As you work with others, your gifts will become obvious.
- With the Holy Spirit's leading and the divine purpose for the local church, we work and fellowship together until God's plan is complete (Christ's Master Plan).

- Modern ideas of fellowship are so watered down that the word "fellowship" no longer carries the same meaning it did in the 1st century church.
- Balanced fellowship includes:
  - 1) Support and encouragement to others
  - 2) Doing ministry work together to accomplish Christ's purposes on earth
  - 1) Fishers of men = bringing people to Christ
  - 2) Feeders of sheep = strengthening people in Christ

## **Chapter Five**

### **Giving**

#### **BIBLE VERSES on GIVING**

#### **WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES HAVE TO SAY ABOUT GIVING?**

PROV.11:24 & 25

One man gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. 25A liberal man will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered

MATT. 6:2-4

2 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 3 But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you

1 Chronicles 29:11-12

29:10 David praised the Lord before the entire assembly: "O Lord God of our father Israel, you deserve praise forevermore! 29:11 O Lord, you are great, mighty, majestic, magnificent, glorious, and sovereign over all the sky and earth! You have dominion and exalt yourself as the ruler of all. 29:12 You are the source of wealth and honor; you rule over all. You possess strength and might to magnify and give strength to all. 29:13 Now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your majestic name. 29:14 "But who am I and who are my people, that we should be in a position to contribute this much? Indeed, everything comes from you, and we have simply given back to you what is yours.

Matthew 7:7-12

7:7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you.  
7:8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks the door will be opened. 7:9 Is there anyone among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?  
7:10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 7:11 If you then, although you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! 7:12 In everything, treat others as you would want them to treat you, for this fulfills the law and the prophets.

Luke 11:13

11:13 If you then, although you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

John 1:16

1:14 Now the Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We saw his glory—the glory of the one and only, full of grace and truth, who came from the Father. 1:15 John testified about him and cried out, “This one was the one about whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is greater than I am, because he existed before me.’” 1:16 For we have all received from his fullness one gracious gift after another. 1:17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came about through Jesus Christ. 1:18 No one has ever seen God. The only one, himself God, who is in the presence of the Father, has made God known.

1 Corinthians 4:7 (Matthew 10:8)

4:6 I have applied these things to myself and Apollos because of you, brothers and sisters, so that through us you may learn “not to go beyond what is written,” so that none of you will be puffed up in favor of the one against the other. 4:7 For who concedes you any superiority? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as though you did not? 4:8 Already you are satisfied! Already you are rich! You have become kings without us! I wish you had become kings so that we could reign with you!

2 Corinthians 9:8

9:8 And God is able to make all grace overflow to you so that because you have enough of everything in every way at all times, you will overflow in every good work.2B. The Blessing of Giving

Malachi 3:6-12

3:6 “Since, I, the Lord, do not go back on my promises, you, sons of Jacob, have not perished. 3:7 From the days of your ancestors you have ignored my commandments and have not kept them! Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the sovereign Lord. “But you say, ‘How should we return?’ 3:8 Can a person rob God? You indeed are robbing me, but you say, ‘How are we robbing you?’ In tithes and contributions! 3:9 You are bound for judgment because you are robbing me—this whole nation is guilty. 3:10 “Bring the entire tithe into the storehouse so that there may be food in my temple. Test me in this matter,” says the sovereign Lord, “to see if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until there is no room for it all. 3:11 Then I will stop the plague from

ruining your crops; the vine will not lose its fruit before harvest,” says the sovereign Lord. 3:12 “All nations will call you happy, for you indeed will live in a delightful land,” says the sovereign Lord.

Galatians 6:9-10

So we must not grow weary in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not give up. 6:10 So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who belong to the family of faith.

2 Corinthians 9:10-15

9:10 Now God who provides seed for the sower and bread for food will provide and multiply your supply of seed and will cause the harvest of your righteousness to grow. 9:11 You will be enriched in every way so that you may be generous on every occasion, which is producing through us thanksgiving to God, 9:12 because the service of this ministry is not only providing for the needs of the saints but is also overflowing with many thanks to God. 9:13 Through the evidence of this service they will glorify God because of your obedience to your confession in the gospel of Christ and the generosity of your sharing with them and with everyone. 9:14 And in their prayers on your behalf they long for you because of the extraordinary grace God has shown to you. 9:15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.

Proverbs 3:9-10

3:9 Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first fruits of all your crops; 3:10 then your barns will be filled completely, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

Proverbs 11:24-25

11:24 One person is generous and yet grows more wealthy, but another withholds more than he ought and comes to poverty. 11:25 A generous person will be enriched, and the one who provides water for others will himself be satisfied.

3C. Matthew 6:2-4

6:2 Thus whenever you do charitable giving, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in synagogues and on streets so that people will praise them. I tell you the truth, they have their reward. 6:3 But when you do your giving, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 6:4 so that your gift may be in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you.

Mark 12:41-44

12:41 Then he sat down opposite the offering box, and watched the crowd putting coins into it. Many rich people were throwing in large amounts. 12:42 And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, worth less than a penny. 12:43 He called his disciples and said to them, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the offering box than all the others. 12:44 For they all gave out of their wealth. But she, out of her poverty, put in what she had to live on, everything she had.”

Luke 6:32-38

6:32 “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love

them. 6:33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 6:34 And if you lend to those from whom you hope to be repaid, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, so that they may be repaid in full. 6:35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to ungrateful and evil people. 6:36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 6:37 “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be poured into your lap. For the measure you use will be the measure you receive.”

Acts 2:42-47

2:42 They were devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 2:43 Reverential awe came on everyone, and many wonders and miraculous signs came about by the apostles. 2:44 All who believed were together and held everything in common, 2:45 and they began selling their property and possessions and distributing the proceeds to everyone, as anyone had need. 2:46 Every day they continued to gather together by common consent in the temple courts, breaking bread from house to house, sharing their food with glad and humble hearts, 2:47 praising God and having the good will of all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number every day those who were being saved.

2 Corinthians 8:5

8:5 And they did this not just as we had hoped, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

2 Corinthians 8:1-4; 9:6-7

8:1 Now we make known to you, brothers and sisters, the grace of God given to the churches of Macedonia, 8:2 that during a severe ordeal of suffering, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in the wealth of their generosity. 8:3 For I testify, they gave according to their means and beyond their means. They did so voluntarily, 8:4 begging us with great earnestness for the blessing and fellowship of helping the saints...9:6 My point is this: the person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously. 9:7 Each one of you should give just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, because God loves a cheerful giver.

Proverbs 19:6

19:6 Many people entreat the favor of a generous person, and everyone is the friend of the one who gives gifts.

Proverbs 27:23-24

27:23 Pay careful attention to the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds, 27:24 for riches do not last forever, nor does a crown last from generation to generation.

Matthew 6:24

6:24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Luke 14:33

14:33 In the same way therefore not one of you can be my disciple if he does not renounce all his own possessions.

James 4:1-4

4:1 Where do the conflicts and where do the quarrels among you come from? Is it not from this, from your passions that battle inside you? 4:2 You desire and you do not have; you murder and envy and you cannot obtain; you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask; 4:3 you ask and do not receive because you ask wrongly, so you can spend it on your passions. 4:4 Adulterers, do you not know that friendship with the world means hostility towards God? So whoever decides to be the world's friend makes himself God's enemy.

1 John 2:15-17

2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him, 2:16 because all that is in the world (the desire of the flesh and the desire of the eyes and the arrogance produced by material possessions) is not from the Father, but is from the world. 2:17 And the world is passing away with all its desires, but the person who does the will of God remains forever.

Acts 20:35

35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

ROM. 12:11-13

11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Giving: What is it?

- Giving money or other tangibles that have been entrusted to you back to God
- Giving money or other tangibles to God as an act of worship
- 1 Chronicles 29:13-14 Now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your majestic name. <sup>14</sup> “But who am I and who are my people, that we should be in a position to contribute this much? Indeed, everything comes from you, and we have simply given back to you what is yours.
- 1 Corinthians 4:7 For who concedes you any superiority? What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as though you did not?
- Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first fruits of all your crops; <sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled completely, and your vats will overflow with new wine.
- Giving money or other tangibles for accomplishing God's will in peoples lives
- Acts 2:45 and they began selling their property and possessions and distributing the proceeds to everyone, as anyone had need.
- Giving money or other tangibles to individuals or groups in need
- Galatians 6:9-10 So we must not grow weary in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who belong to the family of faith.
- When giving do your best to limit the number of others who know about the gift
- Matthew 6:2-4 Thus whenever you do charitable giving, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in synagogues and on streets so that people will praise them. I tell you the truth, they have their reward. <sup>3</sup> But when you do your giving, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your gift may be in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you.
- What you give is less important than what is in your heart when you give
- New Testament giving for the church is not based on a tithe or any set percentage
- Mark 12:41-44 Then he sat down opposite the offering box, and watched the crowd putting coins into it. Many rich people were throwing in large amounts. <sup>42</sup> And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, worth less than a penny. <sup>43</sup> He called his disciples and said to them, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the offering box than all the others. <sup>44</sup> For they all gave out of their wealth. But she, out of her poverty, put in what she had to live on, everything she had.”

- What God wants to see is our love for Him showing through our joyful giving
- 2Cor. 9:7 Each one {must do} just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

## **Chapter Six**

### **Communion**

#### **BIBLE VERSES on COMMUNION**

WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE LORD'S SUPPER?

LK. 22:14-20

14 When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. 15 And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16 For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." 17 After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, "take this and divide it among you. 18 For I tell you I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. " 20 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

Act 2:42

They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

I COR.. 11:26-28

." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's

#### **What is Communion/ The Lord's Supper?**

- The Lord's Supper/Communion is not a necessary step toward salvation. We are saved because of what Christ did on the Cross
- The term "communion" means "a shared or mutual participation." It is not a word that we find in the Bible
- There is a shared or a mutual participation of the redeemed community; therefore, it is called

communion by most churches

- The Bible has a word that it uses for this celebration, and the term is “the Lord’s Supper” in 1 Corinthians 11:20
- This celebration is the clearest symbolic expression of our redemption in Jesus Christ: the body of Christ that was broken for us, and the blood of Christ that was shed for us, giving us the remission of sins
- We are to devote ourselves to this symbolic representation of all Christ did in redeeming us, Acts 2: 42
- Communion represents the best time that Christians can have together. Celebrating the Lord’s Table is our finest hour as Christians
- In Acts 2:42 we are told that the early Christians devoted themselves to 4 things:
  - 1) the apostles’ teaching. (The Word of God)
  - 2) fellowshiping with one another
  - 3) prayer
  - 4) the breaking of bread (the Lord’s Supper)

### **The 2 Purposes of Communion:**

1) A time of Memorial

Luke 22, starting at verse 17: “Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, ‘Take this and divide it among yourselves. For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.’ Then he took bread, and after giving thanks he broke it and gave it to them saying, ‘This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ And in the same way he took the cup after they had eaten, saying, ‘This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.’” In Luke 22:17-20 and 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 the memorial view of the Lord’s Supper is stated, “Do this in remembrance of me.”

We are reflecting upon our redemption. We are reflecting upon his body and his blood that purchased for us our salvation. Some churches believe this remembrance a big part of their worship. This is the first purpose in our practice of communion.

It is as a redeemed community that we reflect upon our redemption that we have in Jesus Christ. What

a beautiful picture! The bread and the wine (or grape juice) act as symbols -- tokens -- that represent the body of Jesus Christ that was broken for us, the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed for us, for the forgiveness of sins.

What a beautiful tangible picture the Lords Supper is. It is because of the statement, "Do this in remembrance of me," that we know how much this supper means to Christ. He wants us to never forget how great a price He paid to make us His own!

## 2) A time of Fellowship

The second purpose in our celebration of communion (the Lord's Supper) is a time of special fellowship with other believers.

In 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, Paul highlights the unity of the body during the communion celebration.

Paul writes this: "Is not the cup of blessing that we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread that we break a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread."

The practice of communion two thousand years ago seems like they were sharing a meal together around tables, so that they were looking at other redeemed individuals in the eyes as they remembered what Christ did for each person sitting there.

The way most Christians take communion today is with all facing the same direction. You do not get to look other redeemed individuals in the eyes, rejoicing in their salvation in addition to your own.

When we celebrate communion we shouldn't be thinking about the first purpose of communion only. We should be very grateful for our redemption.

We rejoice in the common bond and the unity that we share in Jesus Christ. This is the second purpose of communion

## The Practice of Communion

- We see in 1 Corinthians 11 that the early church seemed to celebrate communion every Sunday as they joined together
- The New Testament is clear that you must practice the Lords Supper repeatedly
- Acts 20:7 says, “On the first day of the week, when we met to break bread ....”
- They did not meet on Saturday (the Sabbath). They wanted to distinguish themselves from Jewish assemblies, so they met on the first day of the week in celebration of Jesus’ resurrection
- They probably ate it after a full meal, like Jesus and the disciples did after the Passover, which was a full meal
- Church history tells us that soon after the turn of the second century, churches began to do token communion services when they gathered together. They would eat their dinners at home and then they would drink just a little bit of wine and eat just a little bit of bread for communion
- the early church also practiced it with one loaf of bread, and with one cup
- In the New Testament the method of how we are to do it is not explicitly laid out or demanded
- The reasons or purposes for which they did in the first century are explicitly laid out and should not change

## Who is allowed to participate in communion?

1 Corinthians 11, from verse 27-29: “For this reason, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself first, and in this way let him eat the bread and drink of the cup. For the one who eats and drinks without careful regard for the body eats and drinks judgment against himself...”

- Clearly, the Lords Supper is for born again believers, however Judas was there when the first supper took place as a nonbeliever.
- The Lords Supper is a powerful witness to nonbelievers.
- Believers should examine themselves for unrepented sin in their lives before taking the bread and the cup. We are to look deeply into our own lives, our own behavior, our own attitudes, our own beliefs, before we come to the table. However conviction from sin that has been confessed and repented of

Should Not stop participation.

- Baptism is NOT a prerequisite to celebrating communion together
- The most spiritually mature person present at the time is the best person to administer the emblems of communion. Believing heads of households are able to lead communion in their homes. The person who gives out the communion does not really do anything to the elements
- There is no place in the Bible that says that you have to be a member of a particular assembly in order to take communion

### **The Emblems of Communion**

- It says that these elements are merely tokens, only symbolically representing the body and the blood of Jesus Christ
- Jesus was killed, he rose again, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. That is where his body and blood are.
- Use bread and wine/grape juice unless you have a good reason to substitute them or other things,
- A good reason for using grape juice instead of wine is because alcohol in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries in the United States is a stumbling block for a lot of people
- Eskimos could use water and fish for communion if that's all they have, or island residents could use coconut meat and milk

## **Chapter Seven**

### **Baptism**

#### **BIBLE VERSES on BAPTISM**

WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES HAVE TO SAY ABOUT BAPTISM?

MATT. 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you and surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."

ACTS 8:36-39

36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip

ACTS 2:40-41

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

## **What is Baptism for the church today?**

### 3 types of Baptism in the New Testament:

1. The baptism (anointing, filling) to do a specific thing for God

- The word "baptism" does not always imply "water" in the New Testament. Two examples are:

1) Mark 10:37-38, James and John come to Jesus and say, "'Permit one of us to sit at your right hand and the other on your left in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You don't know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I experience?'" Jesus is talking about his own destruction, his own death. A ministry He was called to fulfill.

2) Luke 12:50: Jesus says, "'I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is finished!'" Again, water baptism is not in view here. Something else is in view and the context would demand that he is talking about ( His ministry on the cross) his death.

2) Spirit Baptism

- We believe in Spirit baptism.

- Mark 1:8, John the Baptist says, "'I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'"

- Acts 1:5, right before the Spirit of God comes on Pentecost and the saints there, the community of believers, are baptized by the Spirit.

- 1 Corinthians 12:13 draws the doctrine for Spirit baptism. "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Whether Jews or Greeks or slaves or free, we were all made to drink of the one Spirit." God does this to us, without our asking or understanding. All means all, not some.

- We believe that at conversion a person is baptized by the Holy Spirit at the exact point of salvation. According to Ephesians 1:13 The Spirit of God comes to dwell in the believer when they believe The Holy Spirit is “the seal, ... the down payment of our inheritance.”

- There is no relationship between being baptized in water and being baptized by the Holy Spirit.

### 3) Water Baptism

- Matthew 3:16 says, “After Jesus was baptized, just as he was coming up out of the water....”

- Acts 8:36: “And the eunuch said to Philip, ‘Look, there is water! What is to stop me from being baptized?’ So, he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water.”

- The proper mode of baptism in the New Testament that is modeled for us to follow today is that of immersion

- John 3:23 is an interesting passage about John the Baptist. “John was also baptizing at Aenon near Salim because water was plentiful there ....” Why would he need plenty of water? If he were sprinkling or pouring, why would he need plenty of water? If a river is flowing and it is only six inches deep, that is plenty of water to baptize thousands of people by pouring it on them or by sprinkling. Probably, what is in view here is deep water. There was plenty of water for the person to be immersed. Immersion is the only thing that would require plentiful water.

- Romans 6:3. Paul writes this: “Or do you not know that as many as were baptized into Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we, too, may live a new life.” Some of your translations may say, “...so, we, too, may walk in newness of life.” Do you get the picture here? The imagery? There are a couple of images that baptism tries to evoke for us. One of them is the cleansing of sins, but another of them is that we are united with Christ in his death. We were buried with Him and raised again. It is a good symbol if you immerse someone, but if you pour or sprinkle onto someone, the symbolism breaks down.

- Colossians 2:12: “Having been buried with him in baptism, you also have been raised with him through your faith in the power of God who raised him from the dead.” Again we see the symbolism of being buried with Christ and raised with Him.

- Galatians 3:27: “For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.” Again, there is immersion imagery there. You are completely clothed with Christ.

- We encourage immersion baptism, but we also understand that there are extenuating circumstances where a person might have to be baptized in a different way (pouring, sprinkling).

- The earliest church teachings outside the New Testament were the *Didache* and Tertullian. Both of them were written within one hundred years after the close of the New Testament. They both talk about

immersion. The *Didache* says that it is also permissible to pour on the new believer. Both of them, incidentally, talk about immersing three times -- in the name of Father, the name of the Son, the name of the Holy Spirit. We encourage immersion baptism, and baptism should always involve water.

### **When Should a person get baptized?**

- Baptism is not part of salvation. Baptism is an act of obedience to Christ's commands by someone who is saved by faith
- Acts 18:8: “Crispus, the president of the synagogue, believed in the Lord together with his entire household, and many of the Corinthians who heard about it believed and were baptized.” After a person believes and is saved through that belief, they were baptized
- A person must be old enough to understand the gospel and to exercise will through belief to be saved. Then to qualify for baptism that person must be able to understand the meaning and symbolism of baptism
- In 1 Corinthians 1:17 we read: “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel ....” Isn’t that an awesome passage, the way he divorces those two? If baptism were necessary for salvation, that would be part of the gospel. Paul says, “... Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel ....” Wait a second, Paul. Don’t you have to be baptized to be saved? He’s saying no; they are different animals entirely. The gospel stands alone. It’s by faith alone, by grace alone, that we are saved. That is why I’ve been sent; not to baptize.
- Matthew 28:19: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Did you see it? Go and make disciples -- believers, converts, followers of Jesus Christ. And then do what? Baptize them.
- John 1:12: “As many received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name.
- Romans 10:9: “... If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”
- Believers baptism is a public display of someone's faith in Christ
- Baptism therefore it is a powerful witness to the unsaved who view it
- When possible we prefer to baptize new Christians in a way that the most non-believers will see it.
- Public swimming pools are the most common source of getting water and non-believers together

## Chapter Eight

### Sharing Christ

#### Four Levels of outreach competency

- 1) Praying, acts of love, personal testimony, invite
- 2) Praying, acts of love, personal testimony, witnessing, invite
- 3) Praying, acts of love, personal testimony, witnessing, discipleship, invite
- 4) Praying, acts of love, personal testimony, witnessing, discipleship, win their friends, invite

**If the people at the local church are only trained to level 1), most all the conversion growth will come through events at church and by leadership.**

#### BIBLE VERSES about BEING A WITNESS

WHAT DO THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES HAVE TO SAY ABOUT WITNESSING?

MATT. 16:15

18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

MATT. 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "ALL AUTHORITY ON HEAVEN AND ON EARTH HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME."19 therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matt. 9:36-38

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask to Lord of the harvest to sent out workers into the harvest."

Philemon 6

6 I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

### 3 REASONS TO GO INTO SERVICE

Everything here is ok. Life is good. We are safe, warm, and well cared for.

Why leave the warmth and safety of the family and community?

Why spend the resources of the family on helping others you have never met?

Why put a greater workload on those who stay behind?

Why take such risk?

#### REASON 1)

We love our King. We see how passionate He is about this war. We see that He is going into it and asking us to join Him. We believe that following Him, we will win this war and be on the side of right.

Phil 2:25 But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.

Matt. 9:35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

II Cor. 5:16 So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: 19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 20 We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. 21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Matt. 28:17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

## REASON 2)

We have come to feel great compassion for the victims of this war. We have come to a place of feeling the urgency to save them (P. O. W.) before it is too late (Death).

II Tim. 2:26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

Eph. 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath

## REASON 3)

We have come to hate the evil that the enemy is. We have come to hate the evil that **the** enemy does. We want to see him defeated.

I Pet. 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour

Rev. 12:9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.

Rev. 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Eph. 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

## Summation

Is there any King worth following greater than our Jesus?

Is Jesus passionate about this fight?

Is there any greater side of Right that we could join?

Is there anyone we owe our service to, for all He has given us, more than Jesus?  
Have we forgotten how our king saved us, that we were once (P.O.W.) ourselves?  
Can there be any worse victims than the lives and families destroyed by sin?  
Is there any greater enemy than Satan, who's ways spread destruction and  
damnation throughout the whole Earth?  
Isn't it worth sacrificing the time and the money of the Church family?  
Isn't the effort, and other comforts we give up, a small price to pay?

- The problem is that this war is not only in a far-away land
- It is being fought on the block where you live and in the building where you work
- Tell King Jesus you will join Him in the battle
- Ask Him to equip you for the battle. Show up and train hard
- Join Jesus and the others around you and fight hard on your knees
- Fight hard with the words of Christ on your lips
- War with acts of sacrificial love to those who are victims of the enemy
- This battle is real and it is all around us
- This battle belongs to each of us
- We can no longer say the battle is far away so our financial support is all we can do

Jesus really cares about the lost

Christians often fall into "Fortress Mentality" or "Isolationism" rather than going out into the world and becoming friends with non believers, like Jesus did when He was here. Christians have created their own "Christian sub-culture," including music, television, books, clothing, cartoons, diets, education,

etc. The original intentions were good: create "Christian" versions of the culture around us as an "OUTREACH". The problem started when Christians liked our Christian versions so much that we just kept them for ourselves and forgot that they were supposed to be "witnessing tools."

## **Preparing Your Personal Testimony**

You may use one of two types of personal testimonies:

- A *salvation testimony* is the story of how you became a Christian.
- A *recovery testimony* is the story of how Jesus helped you at a point of need in your life.

Successful, powerful salvation and recovery testimonies have several elements that you'll want to incorporate:

### My Salvation Testimony

1. My life before receiving Christ
2. How I received Jesus Christ
3. How Jesus Christ makes my life meaningful

### My Recovery Testimony

1. My life seemed fairly normal until . . .
2. I discovered hope and help in Jesus when . . .
3. I am glad I have a personal relationship with Jesus today because . . .

Once you've shared your testimony, you can ask, "May I share with you how something like this can happen to you?"

Give adequate and precise details showing how Christ became Savior and Lord of your life. Tell about yourself. Humor and human interest are keys. Most of us find that human interest is easier to achieve than humor. The average unbeliever thinks a Christian comes from another world or is strange and unusual. Be sure *not* to leave the impression that walking down an aisle, joining a church, or being baptized is what made you a Christian! Turning from your sins to Christ and placing your faith in Him is what did it. As important as these acts of obedience to Christ are, they did not provide forgiveness and eternal life and will not do so for anyone else!

Be sure that in your testimony you clearly show the person how to receive the gift of salvation.

Use language that the non-Christian can understand (1 Cor. 14:9). Avoid churchy, religious, theological terms. You understand them, but the other person may not. Such terms as "walked the aisle," "took the preacher's hand," "justified," "convicted," and "redeemed" may be meaningless or even misleading.

When useful, relate your testimony to Bible verses. Your experience will illustrate the Bible truth.

Bring your testimony up-to-date by sharing what Jesus means to you today.

Make your testimony brief—no longer than a minute and a half.

In Ian Fleming's *From Russia with Love*, James Bond's friend captures the enemy. He ties the villain up in a chair to hold him for a few hours while Bond rescues the leading lady. Bond's friend settles in for a bit of mischievous "torture" by saying, "I have led a fascinating life. Let me tell you *all* about it."

It is not realistic to assume that the person you are witnessing to will want to hear everything about your life. It may be that they need to tell you their own story. Prepare your testimony so that you can share it in about a minute and a half. Get to the point quickly, realizing that the attention span of the listener may be brief.

## **FIVE Sharing Christ Tools**

### **1) The Four Spiritual Laws**

*Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe, so are there spiritual laws which govern your relationship with God.*

**First Law - God LOVES you and offers a wonderful PLAN for your life.**

#### **God's Love**

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16 NIV).

#### **God's Plan**

[Christ speaking] "**I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly**" [that it might be full and meaningful] (John 10:10).

*Why is it that most people are not experiencing the abundant life?*

*Because...*

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**Second Law - Man is SINFUL and SEPARATED from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.**

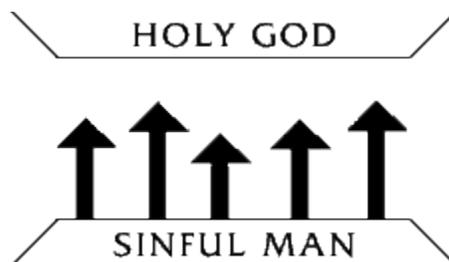
### **Man Is Sinful**

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Man was created to have fellowship with God; but, because of his stubborn self-will, he chose to go his own independent way, and fellowship with God was broken. This self-will, characterized by an attitude of active rebellion or passive indifference, is an evidence of what the Bible calls sin.

### **Man Is Separated**

"The wages of sin is death" [spiritual separation from God] (Romans 6:23).



This diagram illustrates that God is holy and man is sinful. A great gulf separates the two. The arrows illustrate that man is continually trying to reach God and the abundant life through his own efforts, such as a good life, philosophy, or religion - but he inevitably fails.

*The third law explains the only way to bridge this gulf...*

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**Third Law - Jesus Christ is God's ONLY provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.**

### **He Died in Our Place**

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

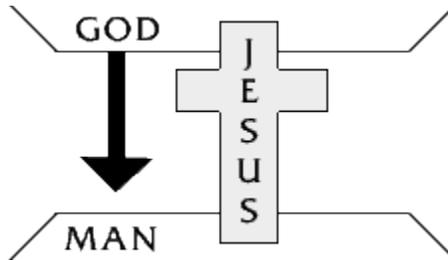
### **He Rose From the Dead**

"Christ died for our sins...He was buried...He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures...He appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more

than five hundred..." (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).

### **He Is the Only Way to God**

"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me'" (John 14:6).



This diagram illustrates that God has bridged the gulf which separates us from Him by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.

*It is not enough just to know these three laws...*

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**Fourth Law - We must individually RECEIVE Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.**

### **We Must Receive Christ**

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

### **We Receive Christ Through Faith**

"By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9).

### **When We Receive Christ, We Experience a New Birth**

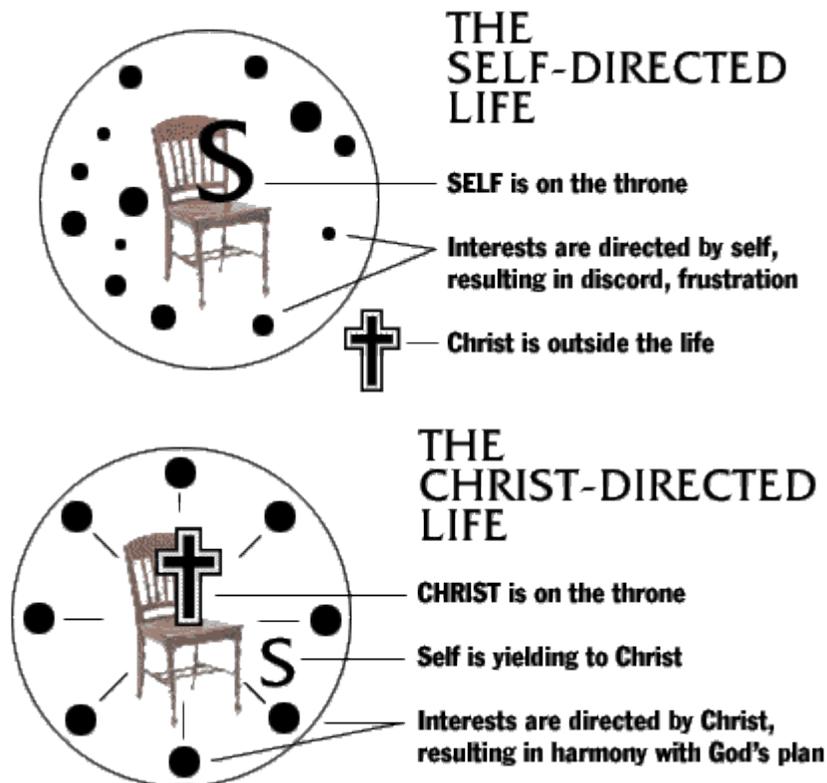
(Read John 3:1-8.)

### **We Receive Christ by Personal Invitation**

[Christ speaking] "**Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him**" (Revelation 3:20).

Receiving Christ involves turning to God from self (repentance) and trusting Christ to come into our lives to forgive our sins and to make us what He wants us to be. Just to agree intellectually that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins is not enough. Nor is it enough to have an emotional experience. We receive Jesus Christ by faith, as an act of the will.

These two circles represent two kinds of lives:



Which circle best describes your life?

Which circle would you like to have represent your life?

*The following explains how you can receive Christ:*

---

## **You Can Receive Christ Right Now by Faith Through Prayer**

(Prayer is talking to God)

God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude

of your heart. The following is a suggested prayer:

*"Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be."*

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?

If it does, I invite you to pray this prayer right now, and Christ will come into your life, as He promised.

## **2) THE ROMAN ROAD**

**ROM. 3:10-11** 10 As it is written: "There is **no one righteous, not even one**; 11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.

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

**ROM. 5:12** 12 Therefore, just as **sin entered the world through one man**, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, **because all sinned**

**ROM.5:8** 8 But God demonstrates **his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

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

**ROM. 10:13** 13 for, "**Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**"

**ROM. 10:9-10** That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," **and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** 10 For it is with your heart that you believe **and are justified**, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved

### 3) THE WORDLESS BOOK

**BLACK**- ALL OUR HEARTS ARE BLACK WITH SIN (DIRTY).  
PEOPLE LOVE DARKNESS SO OTHERS WON'T SEE THE  
BAD THINGS WE DO.

**RED**- BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS WAS SHED TO PAY FOR OUR  
SINS. HE DIED FOR US.

**WHITE** - NOW OUR HEARTS CAN BE MADE CLEAN LIKE NEW  
WHITE SNOW. OUR SINS ARE WASHED CLEAN BY THE  
BLOOD OF JESUS.

**GREEN** IS FOR GROWING. JESUS WANTS ME TO GROW INTO  
BEING MORE LIKE HIM. IF WE TELL OTHERS, READ  
THE BIBLE, PRAY, AND GO TO CHURCH WE WILL  
GROW.

**GOLD** - IS FOR SOMEDAY JESUS WILL COME AND TAKE US TO  
HEAVEN. HEAVEN IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE WHERE EVEN  
THE STREETS ARE MADE OF GOLD.

## **4) SHARING CHRIST WITHOUT FEAR**

**1) DO YOU HAVE ANY KIND OF SPIRITUAL BELIEF?**

**2) WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?**

**3) DO YOU THINK THERE IS A HEAVEN AND A HELL?**

**4) IF YOU DIED RIGHT NOW, WHERE WOULD YOU GO? WHY?**

**5) IF THE LORD WANTED TO SHOW YOU MORE ABOUT HIMSELF AND KNEW THAT PART OF WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT HIM WERE NOT TRUE, WOULD YOU WANT HIM TO REVEAL IT TO YOU?**

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS?**

### *The Ten Commandments*

Ex 20 And God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup> “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. <sup>3</sup> “You shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> “You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I,

the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup> “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

<sup>12</sup> “Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup> “You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup> “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

How do you think we all do in keeping God's Law?

James 2:8 <sup>8</sup> If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. <sup>9</sup> But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. <sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. <sup>11</sup> For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

How much of the law do we have to break to fall from God's holy standards?

ROMANS 3:23

"for all have sinned and  
fall short of the glory of God."

WHAT DOES THIS VERSE SAY TO YOU?

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**ROMANS 6:23**

**For the wages of sin is death,  
but the gift of God is eternal life  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**WHAT DOES THIS SAY THAT SIN  
DOES TO US? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Hebrews 9:27 Just as man is destined to die  
once, and after that to face judgment,  
WHEN WILL WE ALL BE JUDGED?**

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**I KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO WALKED  
UP TO JESUS AND WANTED TO KNOW  
HOW TO GET INTO HEAVEN, THIS IS  
HOW JESUS ANSWERED HIM.**

**JOHN 3:3 in reply Jesus declared, “I tell you  
the truth, no one can see the  
kingdom of God unless he is born again.”**

**WHAT DOES JESUS SAY MUST HAPPEN  
TO US TO BE ABLE TO GO TO HEAVEN?**

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**DO YOU KNOW HOW THIS HAPPENS?**

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**DO YOU KNOW WHY JESUS CAME TO DIE?**

**ROMANS 5:8&9**

**8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!**

**DOES THIS VERSE TELL US WHY JESUS DIED?**

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**JOHN 11:25**

**25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies"**

**WHAT DO YOU THINK JESUS IS TALKING ABOUT?**

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**JOHN 14:6**

**6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes**

to the Father except through me."

**WHAT IS JESUS SAYING ABOUT GOING TO HEAVEN?**

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**MATTHEW 11:28-30**

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

**WHAT IS JESUS INVITING YOU TO DO?**

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**ROMANS 10:9-11**

9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."

**ACCORDING TO THESE VERSES WHO CAN BE SAVED?**

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**DOES THIS INCLUDE YOU?**

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**According to what you have learned in these Bible verses may I ask you several Questions?**

**1) ARE YOU A SINNER?**

**2) DO YOU WANT FORGIVENESS FOR  
YOUR SINS?**

**3) DO YOU BELIEVE JESUS DIED ON THE  
CROSS FOR YOU AND ROSE AGAIN?**

**4) ARE YOU WILLING TO SURRENDER  
YOURSELF TO CHRIST?**

**5) ARE YOU READY TO INVITE JESUS INTO YOUR LIFE  
TO SAVE YOU, AND ASK HIM TO SAVE YOU BECAUSE  
HE DIED FOR YOU ON THE CROSS?**

## **5) Ambassador Prayer Evangelism**

### **Pray, Care, Share**

You don't need specialized skill and training to begin an Ambassadors Prayer Houses. The only requirement is a passionate commitment to a threefold mission—pray for, care for, and share with five neighbors on each side of your house and ten neighbors across the street.

## Pray

Prayer makes a difference. United, specific, biblically-based prayer for individual believers and unbelievers will result in open hearts and golden opportunities for evangelistic witness. A strong prayer foundation is vital to your effectiveness (see 1 Tim. 2:1-4). Praying through lists, taking Prayer Journeys, and asking neighbors to share prayer requests are ways to maximize your prayer effectiveness.

## Care

Beginning a Ambassadors Prayer Houses means caring for your neighbors. Offering "a cup of cold water" in Jesus' name (see Matt. 10:42) can take many forms. Taking a meal to a sick coworker or offering to take a short walk with an elderly neighbor will show that you care. Look for creative and intentional ways to care for others. Caring involves being present and connecting with people in their daily lives. God's love shown through acts of kindness and compassion opens the door for forming genuine, accepting, and wholesome relationships.

## Share

All believers have a mandate to preach Christ to a lost and dying world (Matt. 28:18-20). It is not enough for Ambassadors participants to only pray and care for their neighbors. The intentional sharing of Jesus Christ is essential if Ambassadors Prayer Houses are to provide true light in a dark world. As you intentionally share the gospel, do so with a sensitivity to the person and context. Use different methods or approaches to share the gospel (*Training will be provided*). Share your faith at their invitation (Without Fear Training), use a gospel tract, give a marked New Testament, or invite your neighbor to an evangelistic event. As you witness, remember to leave the results to God.

## Phase 1(first 60 days)

No. 1 Commit to praying to be included in Christ's harvest daily

No. 2 Find a committed prayer partner who will commit to pray with you at least one time a week by name for the people on your list

No. 3 Set a time and place to meet, pray, and for refreshments(in a home, office, etc.). Don't exchange requests, just start praying

No. 4 Get a list of the names and/or addresses you're going to pray for.

No. 5 Pray like this: God's protection and blessing for their family, for the evil forces around them to be restrained, for God to show them their need for Him, safety at home, at work, and while driving. Pray that they will turn to God for His help with their struggles. Pray that your heart will be turned towards them and that you will have the love of Christ for them. Pray for a natural opportunity to meet them. Pray that by observation you'll be shown what to specifically pray and what acts of love you could do for them.

No. 6 Start doing prayer walks with your prayer partner. Take turns praying out loud with your eyes open as you walk and look around. People will think you're talking to each other but you will be praying for them.

### Phase 2 (second 60 days)

No. 1 Continue to pray for relationships to open naturally

No. 2 Hand write a note to each household on your list that will contain the following items in this order:

Your name, address, and phone number

Say that we all have seen how fast problems can happen to our nation or our family so you have committed yourself to praying for your neighbors.

Tell them when and where your praying each week and invite them to contact you with any prayer requests they are aware of for their neighbors or for their own family.

Tell them you would love to meet them or at least know their first names(if you don't know them already).

*Put the note on their door. Don't try to meet them. Just drop off the note.*

No. 3 Start a journal notebook for each address so you can write down everything that he shared with you for that household.

No. 4 If they contact you and it goes well, ask them for permission to call them from time to time for any new prayer requests and invite them over for dessert.

### Phase 3(third 60 days)

No. 1 Make small gifts with appropriate notes and take one of each by each address, knocking on the door in an effort to meet them. Introduce yourself, give them the gift, ask them if you caught them at a good time, explain how you're praying for the neighborhood, thank them for the opportunity to meet them, ask if they have any requests for the neighborhood or their family, and invite them to call you at any time if they have any requests.

No. 2 After several positive conversations, if you feel like you have developed a new friendship ask them if they have ever seen the Jesus video. Tell them that you have found that hearing the things that Jesus said to be very comforting. Ask if they would be interested in either borrowing it from you or coming over to your house for popcorn and watching it together. When you offer your neighbor the video, if they respond with spiritual questions attempt to answer their questions and ask permission for you to share with them why the words of Christ mean so much to you. If they agree, share your 5 minute testimony. Then offer the video again.

No3 Update your journal after each visit or contact with those you're praying for.

#### Phase 4(fourth 60 days)

No. 1 Continue to call and visit with your neighbors, performing acts of kindness towards them on a regular basis.

No. 2 Consider having a Five-Day Backyard Club for kids at your home

No. 3 Invite them to special events that you plan to attend where they will hear the Gospel. Try to include food..

(NOT your regular church service unless they bring it up first.)

No. 3 Consider putting together a phone directory for your neighborhood free of charge. Consider an open

house. Consider, if you can get three other families on your block to help, organizing a block

party/barbecue for next summer.

Preparing Your Personal Testimony

You may use one of two types of personal testimonies:

- A *salvation testimony* is the story of how you became a Christian.
- A *recovery testimony* is the story of how Jesus helped you at a point of need in your life.

Successful, powerful salvation and recovery testimonies have several elements that you'll want to incorporate:

#### My Salvation Testimony

1. My life before receiving Christ
2. How I received Jesus Christ
3. How Jesus Christ makes my life meaningful

#### My Recovery Testimony

1. My life seemed fairly normal until . . .
2. I discovered hope and help in Jesus when . . .
3. I am glad I have a personal relationship with Jesus today because . . .

Once you've shared your testimony, you can ask, "May I share with you how something like this can happen to you?"

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Over 14,000 lay people have been asked the question: "what or who was responsible for you coming to Christ and your church?" One of eight responses were given, but the key issue is what percentage of people came to Christ and the church through each category listed. Here are the results.

Special Need 1-2% /// Walk-in 2-3% /// Pastor 5-6% /// Visitation 1-2%

Sunday School 4-5% /// Evangelistic Crusade 1/2 of 1% /// Church Program 2-3%

Friend/Relative 75-90%

**The conclusion is clear. The great majority of people in these studies can**

trace their "spiritual roots" directly to a friend or a relative as the major reason they are in Christ and their church. Let me ask you a question. Do you have unsaved friends?

## **Understanding your Personal ministry uniqueness**

Your Personal ministry uniqueness is a blending together of 4 aspects of how you are made and where you are at this time:

1) Personality type.

Psalms 139:13 For you created my inmost being;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
your works are wonderful,  
I know that full well.

15 My frame was not hidden from you  
when I was made in the secret place.

When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,  
16 your eyes saw my unformed body.

All the days ordained for me  
were written in your book  
before one of them came to be.

2) Spiritual gift given at conversion.

Romans 12:3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. 4 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. 7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; 8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

## The Importance of Knowing Your Spiritual Gift

For various reasons, many have played down the importance of knowing your spiritual gift. Let's begin our study of spiritual gifts by suggesting several reasons why it is imperative for every Christian to know his gift.

1. The prominence of spiritual gifts in Scripture. One of the ways we can measure the importance of a principle or a doctrine is to determine the amount of space devoted to it in the Bible. Subjects or doctrines which are merely implied are surely of less significance than those clearly stated. Matters mentioned infrequently should not be regarded as crucial as those frequently dealt with. Using this standard of measurement, the subject of spiritual gifts is a vital one, for we find gifts addressed specifically in four major portions of Scripture: 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14; Romans chapter 12; Ephesians chapter 4; and 1 Peter chapter 4. In addition to these central passages, spiritual gifts are mentioned elsewhere in the Bible. Spiritual gifts must be important to the Spirit of God Who inspired the writing of the Word of God and thus they should be important to us.

2. The elementary nature of spiritual gifts. When the book of First Corinthians was written, it was addressed to those who were obviously not very mature in the faith. There were many forms of carnality cited by Paul in this epistle. The things of which Paul wrote in this book were not matters of the 'deeper life,' but rather the elemental truths of the Christian life. Due to the emphasis on spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians, we conclude that the doctrine of spiritual gifts is important and that it is foundational and fundamental to the Christian life.

3. Spiritual gifts are a matter of individual stewardship. When Peter spoke of spiritual gifts in his first epistle, he considered them a matter of personal stewardship:

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10).

Peter meant that just as we must give account of our use of the material things God has placed under our control, and just as we must give account of the use of our time, so we must also be accountable for the use of our spiritual gifts.

Now it is very hard to be a good steward of something we know nothing about, and of something which we do not even know we possess. If you were given the responsibility of

managing the assets of someone else, the first thing you would do is to take inventory of what resources were at your disposal. You would demand to know what assets you were to use wisely. So, also, the Christian cannot be a good steward in the matter of spiritual gifts without knowing what his gifts are:

\* Spiritual gifts are of great practical value and benefit to the believer.

\* Spiritual gifts are of such great practical value to the Christian he simply cannot afford to be ignorant in this matter. Let me suggest some areas of practical benefit.

Knowing your spiritual gift(s) will enable you to find your place of ministry in the local church. Since every Christian has a particular function in the body of Christ, and since your spiritual gifts equip you to carry out this function, knowing your gifts help you to plug in to the ministry of a local church.

Knowing your spiritual gift(s) will enable you to determine your priorities. One of the most common problems we all face is having more things to do than we have time to do them. Paul indicates in Romans chapter twelve, verses six through eight, that we should make the use of our spiritual gifts a priority in our lives. In simple terms, when we have too many things to do we must choose to function in the area of our spiritual gifts. You must know your spiritual gifts to set these priorities.

Knowing your spiritual gift(s) will be of great help in discerning God's will. To extend our last point just a little bit further, knowing your spiritual gift(s) can be of great help in discerning the will of God. The choice of your occupation, whether 'secular' or 'religious,' should take into account whether or not it will help or hinder the exercise and development of your spiritual gift. If you are not gifted to teach, you have a valuable insight into God's will when you are offered a teaching position. There is a very distinct relationship between knowing the will of God (Romans 12:1-2) and understanding your spiritual gift (Romans 12:3-8).

3) Your personal background, i.e. how you choose to use your background.

II Cor. 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God

To turn the events in your past into positive

ministry potential instead of a negative hindrance\_

#### 4) Your preparation to serve Christ.

Heb. 5:11 We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. 12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! 13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

If you were applying for a job at the church, what could you put in your resume to show your preparedness and experience?

Books you've read?

Training classes you've taken?

Prior ministry involvement?

The amount of personal time spent on study and researching the subject?

To Get started in a NEW ministry area try this four step approach. Find someone who can do what you would like to learn to do. Ask them if they would be willing to do the following three steps with you:

1) They do, you watch.

2) They do, you help.

3) You do, they help you.

4) (Step four you do on your own) You do, and someone new watches you!

One of my personal mottos is" When you know something well enough to teach it, you know it well enough!

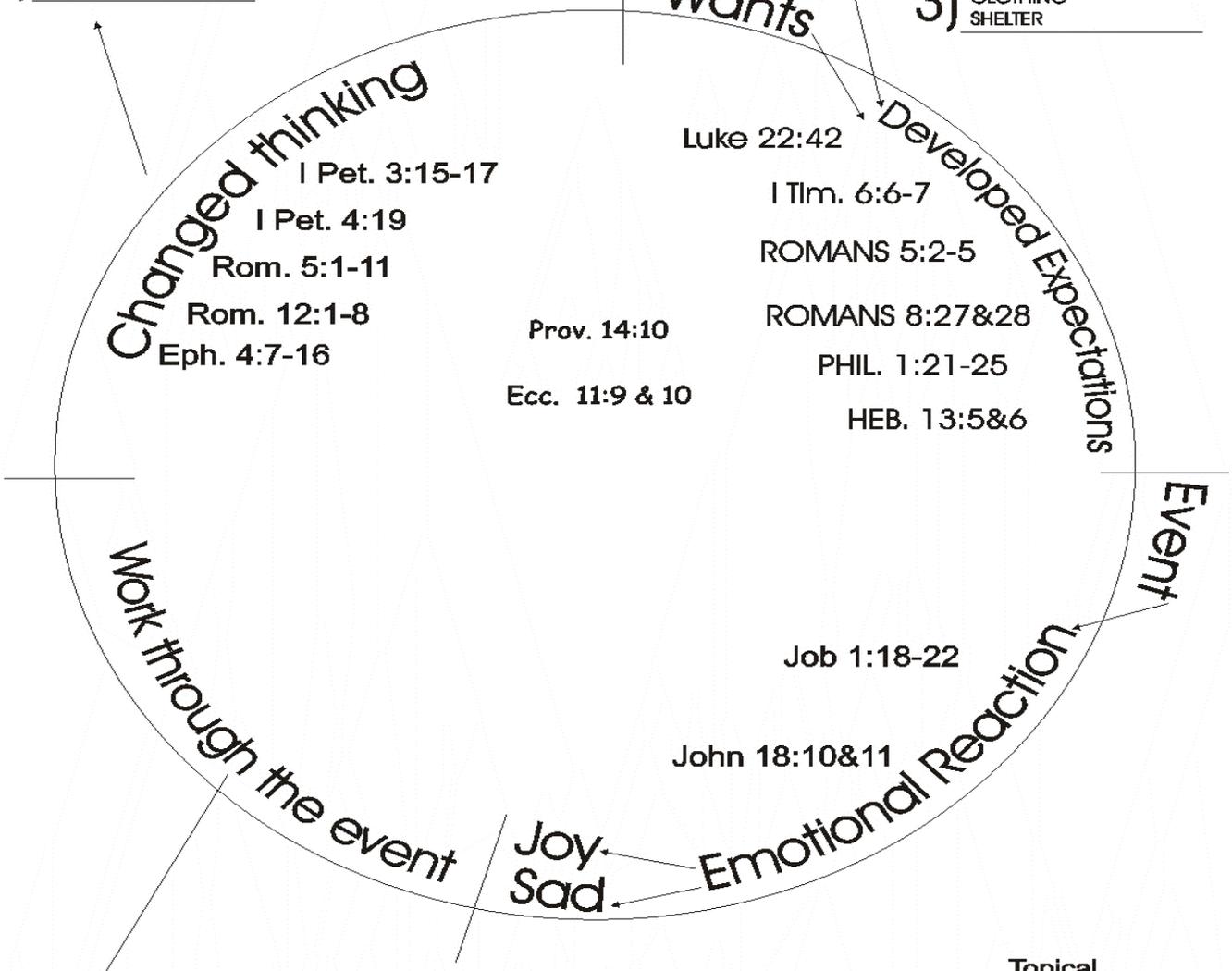
# Will Life Make You Better or Bitter?

- 1) GOD
- 2) OTHERS
- 3) SELF

- 1) TO KNOW GOD  
TO KNOW HIS WILL  
TO KNOW HIS PLEASURE
- 2) LOVED  
SAFE  
NEEDED  
FOOD  
CLOTHING  
SHELTER
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT MAKES A  
BABY CRY?

Needs  
Wants



Joy

- + Gratefulness / humility / worship / content / love
- Pride / boasting / wanting more / bragging

Sad

- + Patience / teachable / Thy will be done / forgiveness / love
- Anger / bitterness / revenge / jealousy / detachment

- 1) Topical Bible study
- 2) Prayer (honest)
- 3) Counselors (Godly with Bible verses)

GAL. 5:19-24 PS. 75:6&7 JAMES 3:13-18 ROMANS 13:8-10 I COR. 4:6&7 MATT. CHAR. 5-CHAR. 7 Luke 22:42

## **Will life make you better? Or will it make you bitter?**

- God's will for our experiences is to make us better and more mature
- If we react poorly to the things that happen to us, instead of being better we will end up bitter, angry, and alone
- We have all met people that we would describe as having lost hope. These people are experiencing burnout
- We find that this happens slowly over a period of time, and possibly through one or more significant events in their past
- They have never learned how to work through these past events in a positive way

When talking to people who have become bitter we often find 3 things:

- They don't try anymore because they don't believe in themselves
- They won't reach out to others because they trust no one
- They expect everything to just get worse because they feel that God is just out to get them

### **Steps for revisiting past events with the Lord:**

- 1) Don't do it unless you know it's hurting the quality of your life now.
- 2) Start by praying for the strength to look at it fully.
- 3) What were your original expectations before the event? Phil. 3:13-14 and Psalm 30
- 4) What happened - just the facts?

- 5) What was your initial reaction like?
- 6) What bible verses speak about this event?
- 7) Write out your wrong reaction.
- 8) What is the right way to react?
- 9) Commit yourself to acting out the truth.
- 10) Go to key people in your life and admit that what you did was wrong. Ask them to pray for you now that you are trying to deal with it correctly.
- 11) Consider how this new reaction should change your opinion of God - Others - Others
- 12) What are your new expectations for the future?
- 13) What ministry potential does this now create that will glorify Christ?

Psalm 51:1-13

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. 6 Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

7 Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.

### **How can we prevent our becoming bitter the longer we live?**

I would like to explain the circle diagram that is included here. If we started at the top and go around the circle clockwise, we would end up back the top. But when we get back around to the top of the circle we will have changed, for better or for worst.

Let me try to explain as we travel in life how we are changed. Everyone has things that they hope for. Dreams, we all have them. We have all learned from experience things that we would like to have happen again. We all have learned from experience what things we would like to avoid it at all possible. If we are wise we have learned what things we need a physically, emotionally, and spiritually. If we are wise we will have also learned the difference between things that we want and the bare minimum things that we need. We will call the listed things that we hope for expectations. We all have expectations, they are very unique. No two people have the same expectations in life because we are different and have experienced different things. Ask yourself this question, " are my expectations this same now as they were five years ago?" Why are they different, what has caused them to change? Are my expectations more realistic now than they were? If my expectations were higher or lower when I be happier? Do I have any control over my expectations? How are the expectations of a child different from those of an adult? How or the expectations of the young adult different from an older adult? How are the expectations different for a person who is far from God, and has never learned his principals from the Bible on how to live different from a person who prays and learns how to view life from gods pointed view? Do we have any control on how are expectations will be a year from now?

The next section on the circle is called "first reactions". We go out into life with our expectations and all the sudden an event take place. Someone says something happens. We have a meeting, a phone call, or we receive bad news in the mail. When any event takes place in our life we will have a first reaction to it. Some people would call this first reaction a spontaneous of emotional response. If the event meets or exceeds our expectations are spontaneous emotional response will be joy. If the event of falls short of our expectations our first the emotion will be sadness. We see this all the time with children. They have not large how to hide their spontaneous emotional responses. When something happens that makes them happy they'd jump around, Clap their hands, and shout. We adults have learned to guard our reactions. We have all made fools of ourselves in front of others, so we hide our feelings so that others won't make fun of us. We have also learned to be careful about what we say when we first feel a motion rising up inside of us, because we have all said things that have hurt others or made them angry. It is sad that part of growing up in our society means that we are usually surrounded by people that are not our friends. Surrounded by people that will take advantage of us if they think they understand how we really feel, this is unfortunate. There is one very good thing about adults guarding or limiting their reaction to events. The reason that it is good to some extent is that we have also learned that our initial reaction to events is quite often incorrect. We have all seen ourselves the feel and react quite differently to something later than when it first happens. I have hurt it said and I believe it to be true that are initial reaction is seldom the same asked our final conclusion. One of the marks of a mature person is that from wisdom and experience we are able to have better initial reactions that are more and line with the truth that will be the final conclusion. When we are more mature we will make fewer mistakes based on taking action of any kind during our spontaneous emotional reactions to events.

The next section on our circle I call working through. Everyone works through lives events differently. Some people rethink and spend much time trying to figure out how to react. They spend large amounts of time trying to figure out how to react even to very small events in life. Other people quickly dismiss events that they don't totally understand. They spend almost no time trying to work through their reactions. Both of these could be considered the extremes. Most of the time we need to take some time to work through our reactions so that we can learn and grow. To ponder events too long,

and with too great a detail we will become perfection us and out of touch with reality. To give little thought to our reactions will cause us to become detached and distant from others emotionally. Both extremes need to be avoided. So how should we work through our feelings and reactions to the events in our lives. We must each of us work through lights events based on our world view, or more simply put the principals and believes that we live by and hold to be true. For myself I believe that the best world view, principals, values, absolute truth come from gods word the Bible. So let's say that I am an expert on all the content found in the Bible. Will knowledge alone. Will I react correctly to life's situations? Of course not. I still have a free will. Just because I know what to do doesn't mean that I will do it. If I don't take time to think and praying about what I believe I may never mature and grow. I also will never learned that I have made mistakes, go back and correct them and learn for the future. I will leave the trail of hurt people, damaged relationships, and other repaired damage throughout my life.

Let's breakdown our working through events into two categories. How do we work through an event that brings us joy because it meets or exceeds our expectations? And No. 2 how old do we work through events that make a sad because they fall short of our expectations?

I believe that whether events cause us joy or sadness we can learn how to have put a positive reaction in our lives after we have worked through them. If this is true and it is, then we can also without realizing learn to have very native reactions to life's events over and over again. Many people learned years ago a set of values that don't work. And they are still working through lives events with a very negative outcome in their life. Let me give you a simple example that will help you visualize what I am talking about. Let's say that you have a job, if you want one I hope you have one. Let's say that at the job you are hoping for a raise. You have been working there for while, and your work is good. You have seen others receive a raise recently and you hope that you will be next. So what is your expectations? And wide you have this expectation? Let's say that you're really struggling with your home budget and you haven't figured out that you need a 50 cents an hour raise. Your expectation is based on need, and you feel that 50 cents in a fair. Each day you go to work hoping that the boss will call you into his office, set you

down, and inform you of your new raise. Let's take a look at this example and your reaction to it in several different ways.

No. 1 months go by and your boss never called you into his office. Your expectation is not being met. You have moved from sad too frustrated to a little upset. Finally you go to the boss and asked to speak him. When you two talk, he tells you that there is several areas then needy improvement in your work before you will receive a raise. If you thought you were sad before, now you're really bombed out. At this point you are having your spontaneous promotional response, I would be to. But is it possible to have to quite different and results to this event? One that is positive and will do you good. And one that is negative and will do you harm? A positive response to this said situation would be to respond to the value called humility. This is a positive response to a saddling situation. A humble person will thank the boss for his honesty. On person will tell his boss that he will look for ways to improve. A humble person would ask is boss to let you know if he sees improvement. A humble person will admit to himself that even though he feels good about the job he's doing that he can improve. A negative reaction to this sad event could be to respond in anger. To say things to the boss that would be defensive. To begin to compare himself to the other workers. Reacting negatively at this time could damage your relationship with the boss, postponed the raise even longer, and maybe even cost you your job. So in example one we see that you can positive improve your relationship of the boss, improve your work, gain more respect from your coworkers and receive a raise later. Or you can react native late and have just the opposite happened.

No. 2 after a short period of time the boss does call you into his office. He pays you a short complement and informs you of a 75-cent and our raise. This event causes you joy. It is also possible for you to have a positive or a negative and result to this event. If you respond positively you will express thankfulness. You will express to your boss the enjoyment that you have working for him, and tell him that you have learned things from him and qualified you for this raise. You might also express gratitude to one or more of your coworkers who have helped you along the way. When you respond like this the boss will now you as a person who has a good attitude and is a team player. A

native response to destroy full event could also take place. You could respond with pride. If you respond with pride you might say something like "well it's about time." You might also begin to brag to the boss about all the things that you have done for the company. You might even be so proud as to tell the boss how much easier you have made his job too. When you respond like this the boss will now value you as a jerk. He will trust you less. He will be a lot less likely to ever trust you because he questions your motives. When others in the office find out how you feel about yourself and then your relationship with them will be damaged.

By this example we can see that whether the events in our life meet or fall short of our expectations we can still do well or poorly based on the end result in our hearts and how we've react to events.

The last section on our circle is called changed in thinking and changed motivation. As we experience events and our lives, and we respond either negatively or positively we will be changed. Let's go back to our example of the raise on the job. And let's look at three areas where our thinking and motives will be changed.

Area 1 our confidence in others. Let's say that you started this new job feeling good about your boss and coworkers. You trust them. Whether you receive the raise or not, if you respond negatively with pride if you get the raise or anger if you don't this will affect the way you think about your coworkers and your boss. When you respond negatively you are going to trust them less. You will feel more alone, and you will guard your feelings more than you did before. Your ability to work happily with them will decrease. If we respond negative to life's events we will slowly over time begin distrust all people around us. There is the big difference between knowing who to trust and when to trust, and ending up in life as a person who almost never trusts others.

Area 2 our confidence in ourselves. Let's say that you start this new job feeling good about your ability. You feel competent, and well suited to this new company. You believe that you have the ability to grow, to adapt, and become a valued part of the team. If you

respond negatively with pride, anger or any other negative reaction you will damage the way you feel about yourself. You will begin to say things to yourself like, I can't do this job. I'll never be a promotion, I'm not smart enough. I can't trust myself, I'm always doing or saying the wrong thing. I'm lucky to even have a job. I know that might coworkers just put up with me, but they would all be happy if I quit. If we respond negatively to life's events we will view ourselves as worthless failures. Our hope in our ability to improve and change for the better will be lost. If over a period of years we react negatively we will stop trying and lay down to die.

Area three our confidence in God. Let's say that we start this new job feeling like God has answered our prayers. That God is going to bless us that this new job will help our work to be good. But say that we have asked God to give us good relationships with our coworkers and our boss. Let's say that we have asked God not only for a raise someday but even promotions up through the company. If we react negatively through pride, anger, bitterness, selfishness, revenge, gossip we will not have our prayers answered. But instead of us realizing that the reason our prayers have not been answered is our fault. We will fail to recognize that our own negative reaction to events on the job have brought failure on our own head. Instead of seeing the reality of our situation because we are reacting negatively, we will begin to feel that God has abandoned us. We will say things like, God doesn't really hear my prayers anymore. I thought God had opened doors for this job but now I wonder. I was told that God loves me that now I'm not so sure. If we go through life responding negatively to life's events we will end up not having much faith in God.

We have all met people that we would describe as having been burned out. But what does that mean when we say that about them? What we're probably trying to describe is a person who has lost hope. If we would talk to this burned out person we would find that slowly over a period of time, and possibly through one or more significant events in their past that they never worked through them in a positive way. And we now find ourselves talking to a person who isn't trying anymore because they don't believe in themselves. Who won't reach out to others because they trust no one. And who expects everything to just get worse because they feel that God is just out to get them. They are a

burnout.

In the same way we have all met people who have gone through many of life's events and yet they seem happier, and more optimistic than ever. And they have maturity and a practical wisdom about how to deal with reality. What is made the difference for this person? Upon talking to them we find the same events in their past, the same events that have caused many others to burnout did yet they are better. Why? I believe that the answer for one person's burnout and another once optimism has little to do with events in life. I'm not saying that some people get dealt such a band hand in life that it makes optimism very difficult. What I am saying is that it is far more important for us to deal positively with life's events based on proper values, then it is for person to always have only positive things happened to them.

I have described how when a person responds negatively on the job there confidence in themselves, others, and God diminish. In the same way when we've respond positively to events not only on the job but in all areas of life, our confidence in others, self and God increase. To go the one-way is to burnout. To go the other way is to be happy.

This brings us back up to the top of our circle. Because we have been around the circle once with various events in our life we will now develop different expectations than we had before we started. Whether our new expectations are more mature and realistic than before will be determined by whether we have responded positively or negatively to the events of the past. Whether or not our expectations are based more on our real needs vs. Once will also be determined by how we have learned from the past. I will confess at this time that it my age 42, married for over twenty years, six children, my own business, ministry work in the church, and a whole lot more I had hand lots of time to go around and around this circle many times. I will also confess that I had gone through events and have been changed for the worse. I had had to go back and look at my reactions that were negative. I have had to go back and respond positively and by a doing that I have found my confidence in God, others, and myself partially restored. I will also confess that on many occasions I had gone through lives events and because I am understood the correct biblical principles and values that I have gone through many

of lights events and come out better. I could list for you as many events in my life that have fallen way short of my expectations. I can also list before you many events where I have been blessed. I will also confess that I know no one and I do not every expect to meet anyone who has gone through life very long and not made many mistakes in their re-actions to life events. You also recognize that we all have done wrong to others and them to us. You also recognize that we have all failed to do what we know God expects from us. So the trick in life is not to try to never fail God or others, that's not possible. It's also not trying to find a place to live where others will always do good to us, that's also not possible. The way that we go through life to be better and not bitter is by learning how to react positively to the events of our lives.

So let me try to sum up what this circle is all about. We start out in life not really knowing what we need. We start out in life that really knowing what to expect. Various events begin to happen to us and we begin to feel emotions. When we are young we react to events and make more mistakes because we are too spontaneous. When we are young we don't take the time to go back and work through our first reactions. As we mature we learn the value of going back and looking at our past thinking, motives, and actions. We develop a set of values that help us to test whether we have reacted positively or negatively to life. We are willing to change and learn, or we develop habits that slow our learning life. Our set of principles and values expand and our experience in applying them to our life improves. We recognize that there is the connection between how we feel about life and our reactions to past events. I believe that it is God's will then as we go through life we should look to him and the absolute truth found in the Bible as the values that determine our choices. I also believe that because Sin is in us and all around us, that we will all experience bad things in our lives. I have listed a few Bible vs. That speak to the process in the choices but I have described here.