

TEMPLE OF YAHSHUA CHURCH BY LAWS

Church Bylaws

MANUAL

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Revised 2012

TEMPLE OF YAHSHUA CHURCH BYLAWS

PREAMBLE

This Constitution and Bylaws are made to:

1. Preserve and secure the principles of our faith.
2. Preserve the liberties of each individual member of the church.
3. Provide for orderly conduct of internal affairs, in dealing with others, and of governing church members.

I. The name of this church shall be Temple of Yahshua. It shall be affiliated with the International Apostolic Ministries, Jonesboro Georgia.

II. Business Location

The address of the principal office of this church shall be:
248 Toms Creek Road, Hopkins, SC

III. Purpose

The purposes of Temple Yahshua are:

1. To worship and serve God and to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ as set forth in Matthew 28:19-20.
2. To minister to the needs of the members and others as the church is able to do so.
3. To do any and all things related to and in connection with the carrying out of the objective and purpose herein above set forth.

ARTICLE I - APOSTOLIC DOCTRINE

Section 1

1. The Temple of Yahshua believes in preaching and teaching the apostle's doctrine. They continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine in fellowship, breaking of bread and in prayer. (Acts 2:42)
2. The doctrine (teachings of the apostle's) consisted of the death, burial and resurrection of Yahshua Ha'Mashiach (Jesus Christ). He seeing this before spoke of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. (Acts 2:31)
3. Apostolic doctrine is the doctrine of Christ. The doctrine of Christ is the teaching that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. (Matt 16:16) Whoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, he hath not the spirit of God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. (2 John 9)
4. Apostolic doctrine includes the principle doctrine of Hebrews 6. Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection, not laying the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. (Hebrews 6:1-2)
5. The first doctrine is repentance from dead works. Repentance is the foundation of the gospel. To repent mean to change the mind, attitude, your heart, desire, your will and direction. The gospel of the Kingdom cannot be received without repentance. The apostle's commission involves repentance-which they should repent and turn to God, and do works of repentance. (Acts 26:20)
6. The second doctrine is faith toward God. Faith is necessary to receive the gospel. Salvation comes through faith. The apostle's operated in the spirit of faith, we having the same, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken, we also believe, and therefore speaks. (2 Cor 4:13; Romans 10:17)
7. The third doctrine is baptism. This Apostolic Commission involves water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38). Then Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name Yahshua (Jesus Christ) for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Matt 28:19; Acts 8:18)
8. The fourth doctrine is laying on of hands. Laying on of hands is for healing and deliverance (Luke 4:40-41; Mark 16:18), separating and releasing ministries (Acts 13:2-4), gifting and equipping believers (I Tim 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6) promotion and exaltation (Num 27:18-20).
9. The fifth doctrine is the resurrection from the dead. The apostles preached the resurrection of Yahshua (Jesus Christ) (Acts 2:32; 3:26; 4:2, 36). The resurrection of Yahshua (Jesus Christ) is the foundation and hope of the resurrection of all believers. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures and that he was buried and he rose again the third day according to the scriptures. (I Corinthians 15:3-4).

10. The Sixth doctrine is eternal judgment. Because he hath appointed a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him for the dead. (Acts 17:31) All believers should be taught and established in these principles (Foundational) doctrines.
11. The Apostolic doctrine is not a dead, dry, or religious teaching. The Apostolic doctrine has power to impact the Spirit of people and impact the Spirit realm. Much teaching today lacks power and authority, thus we need the restoration of the Apostolic doctrine (Mark 1:22)
12. The Apostolic doctrine is like rain. It brings refreshing and blessing and it has a watering affect (Deut 32:2)
13. The Apostolic doctrine will bring correction and adjustment to traditional teaching. The Sermon on the Mount is an example of correcting the errors of tradition. (Matt 5:7)

ARTICLE 2 - OUR MISSION AND VISION

Section 1

Our mission is to be led by the Word of God. The Temple of YAHSHUA worships and glorifies God while promoting love, unity, and being non-judgmental. Through preaching and teaching the gospel throughout the world, demonstrating the message of the Kingdom of God for the purpose of developing the family and individuals; to bring them to maturity in Christian experience. Thus we become an example of believers in words, conversation, charity, spirit, faith and purity. (Matthews 28:18-20; I Timothy 4:12)

OUR VISION

- Reaching souls for the Kingdom of God
- Building TYC New Sanctuary
- Developing Ridge Road
- Expanding Outreach Programs
- Providing Affordable Housing/Business/Schools and Job Training

ARTICLE 3 - WHAT WE BELIEVE AND TEACH

Section 1

OUR STATEMENT OF BELIEF

The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Bible to be the inspired, infallible, and authoritative source of Christian faith and practice. The Bible is a supreme revelation from God, superior to conscience and reason, though not contrary to reason. (II Timothy 3:16, 17)

God

We believe there is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). He is the creator of heaven and earth, and of all living beings. He has revealed Himself to humanity as the Father (Creator), in the son (Savior), and as the Holy Ghost (indwelling Spirit).

Father

We believe God is a Spirit (John 4:24). He is the Eternal One, the Creator of all things, and the Father of all humanity by creation. He is the First and the Last, and beside Him there is no God (Isaiah 44:6). There was no God formed before Him; neither shall be there any after Him (Isaiah 43:10).

Son

We believe Jesus is the Son of God according to the flesh (Romans 1:3) and the very God Himself according to the Spirit (Matthew 1:23). Jesus is the Christ (Matthew 16:16); the creator of all things (Colossians 1:16-17); God with us (Matthew 1:23); God made flesh (John 1:1-14); God manifested in the flesh (I Timothy 3:16); He which was, which is, and which is to come, the Almighty (Revelation 1:8); the mighty God, everlasting Father, and Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6). Jesus Himself testified of His identity as God when He said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:7-11) and "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30).

It took shedding of blood for the remission of the sins of the world (Hebrews 9:22), but God the Father was a Spirit and had no blood to shed. Thus He prepared a body of flesh and blood (Hebrews 10:5) and came to earth as a man in order to save us, for in Isaiah 43:11 He said, "Beside me there is no Savior." When He came in flesh the angels sang, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

The Nature of God

We believe that there is one God, eternally present in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16, 17; John 1:1-4)

The Sinfulness of Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but as a result of sin is lost and powerless to save himself. (Genesis 1:26; Romans 6:23)

Redemption through Christ

We believe that the only hope for man is to, the virgin-born Son of God, fully God, fully man. Through faith in Christ's life, death and resurrection, mankind is redeemed. (Romans 10:9, 10, 13; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:1-10)

Salvation

We believe that **salvation is** by grace through faith alone. No amount of good works will produce justification before God. We further believe that the manifestation of grace and faith is a holy life expressed through righteous works. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells all believers, and through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, believers are empowered for Christian service and gifted for this service. An evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit gives the utterance. The Holy Spirit also enables believers to

live a Christ-like life exhibiting Godly character. (Luke 11:13; Acts 1:8, 2:1-4, 8:17, 10:44-46, 19:6; Galatians 5:22-23; I Corinthians 12)

Holiness

We believe after we are saved from sin, we are commanded, "Go, and sin no more" (John 8:11). We are commanded to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world (Titus 2:12) and warned that without holiness no one shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). We must present ourselves as holy unto God (Romans 12:1), cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit (II Corinthians 7:1), and separate ourselves from all worldliness (James 4:4). If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? (I Peter 4:18). No one can live a holy life by his own power, but only through the Holy Spirit. "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (Acts 1:8).

Divine Healing

We believe God has made Himself known through the ages by miraculous healings and has made special provisions in the age of grace to heal all who will come to Him in faith and obedience. Divine healing was purchased for us by the blood of Jesus Christ, especially by His stripes (Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16-17; I Peter 2:24). Jesus went everywhere healing those who were sick (Matthew 4:23-24), and He commanded His disciples to do the same (Matthew 10:8). He said concerning those who believe the gospel, "They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:18). Mighty healings and miracles followed the disciples wherever the gospel was preached.

There is no sickness or disease too hard for God. Any of us, our children, or our friends can be healed by the power of God. "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord shall raise him up: and if he have committed sins they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed" (James 5:14-16).

Eternal Life

We believe that eternal life in heaven is the reward of all who believe and receive Christ as their Lord. According to the Scriptures, "For God so loved the world that He sent His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). "But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars-their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death" (Revelation 21:8).

The Body of Christ

We believe that the Church is the Body of Christ, both universal and local, and is composed of individuals who, through faith in Jesus Christ, have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe that Christ Jesus is the Head and Lord of the Church. The mission of the Church is worship, evangelism, discipleship and the nurturing and care of one another. (Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 2:19-22)

The Return of Christ

We believe in the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the consummation of the Kingdom of God and the restoration of everything, as He promised long ago through His holy prophets. (Matthew 24:42-44; Acts 1:11, 3:19-21; Revelation 11:15)

Jesus Christ is coming back to earth in bodily form, just as He went away (Acts 1:11). He will catch away a holy people (His bride, His church) who have accepted redemption through His blood, by birth of water and of the Spirit, and who are found faithful when He comes. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thessalonians 4:16-17). "One shall be taken and the other left" (Luke 17:36). Will we be ready?

The signs of His coming are everywhere. The days of peril are here indeed, with forms of godliness void of the power of God; society and politics corrupted; and people's hearts filled with pride, blasphemies, Unholiness, love of evil, and love of pleasures (II Timothy 3:1-13). These things, together with multitudes running to and fro, the increase of knowledge (Daniel 12:4), the persecution of the Jews and their return to Palestine (Luke 21:24), and scores of other things are starting signs that Jesus' coming is drawing near. Wars, rumors of wars, famines, earthquakes, storms, floods, distress of nations, perplexity, and people's hearts failing them for fear are sounding the solemn alarm that Jesus' coming is at hand (Matthew 24:6; Luke 21:25-28). "Prepare to meet thy God" (Amos 4:12).

Resurrection

We believe there will be a resurrection of all the dead, both just and unjust. "Marvel not this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29). "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God . . . and the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them" (Revelation 20:12-13; Daniel 12:2; Corin 15:13-23.)

Judgment

We believe "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

For this reason there will be a resurrection for everyone. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Corinthians 5:10). The eternal destiny of every soul shall be determined by a just God who knows the secrets of everyone's heart. "And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Section 2 - SABBATH

We believe and do honor the Sabbath. Jesus taught us to keep the entire Law, and pronounced a curse on those who teach otherwise.

"Only one part of the Bible was written with God's own finger (Ex. 31:18), the Ten Commandments. In the very heart of the Ten Commandments God wrote these words, 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy....' Exodus 20:8-11. It should be noticed that this commandment does not command us to worship "one day each week," but to worship God on the seventh day of each week. There is, of course, no technical difference between one day of the week and another--they are each 24 hours long--except that God said that we are to keep it on a *specific day*. This commandment, like the tree of life versus the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden, is a simple test of loyalty to God. Throughout Revelation, God identifies His people, in contrast to the world, as those who keep the commandments: 'Here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus' Rev. 14:12.

"*Remember* the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the *seventh day* is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your manservant, nor your maidservant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and *rested the seventh day*. Therefore the Lord *blessed* the Sabbath day and hallowed it." Exodus 20:8-11. In this next text we will see how God rested, blessed and sanctified this same day: "And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He *rested* on the seventh day from all His work which he had done. Then God *blessed* the seventh day and *sanctified* it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made." Genesis 2:2, 3

There was and is a commandment to keep holy the Sabbath day, but that Sabbath day was not Sunday....It will be said, however, and with some show of triumph, that the Sabbath was transferred from the seventh to the first day of the week....Where can the record of such a transaction be found? Not in the New Testament--absolutely not. There is no scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week. It seems unaccountable that Jesus, during three years' intercourse with His disciples, often conversing with them upon the Sabbath question...never alluded to any transference of the day; also that during forty days of His resurrection life, no such thing was intimated. Of course, we quite well know that Sunday did come into use in early Christian history as a religious day, as we learn from the Christian Fathers and other sources.

Exod. 31:12, 13. NKJV 12 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 13 “Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: ‘Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may **know** that I am the LORD who sanctifies you.

The Sabbath is not intended to be a period of useless inactivity. The law forbids secular labor on the rest day of the Lord; the toil that gains a livelihood must cease; no labor for worldly pleasure or

profit is lawful upon that day; but as God ceased His labor of creating, and rested upon the Sabbath and blessed it, so man is to leave the occupations of his daily life, and devote those sacred hours to healthful rest, to worship, and to holy deeds. The work of Christ in healing the sick was in perfect accord with the law. It honored the Sabbath. {DA 207.2}

“As Sabbath keepers we often are accused of trying to work our way to heaven by keeping the Sabbath. Indeed, far from being a symbol of works, the Sabbath is the Bible’s eternal symbol of the rest that God’s people have always had in Him.”

“The Sabbath is a real-time manifestation of the rest that Christ offers to all. In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus calls us to rest in Him. He will give us rest, the keeping of the seventh-day Sabbath is a visible expression of that rest, a living parable of what it means to be covered by His grace. Our weekly rest from our secular, worldly works stands as a symbol of our rest in the completed work of Jesus for us.”

“Setting aside a holy Sabbath means that we can cease our productivity and accomplishments for one day in every seven. The exciting thing about such a practice is that it changes our attitudes for the rest of the week. It frees us up to worry less about how much we produce on the other days. Furthermore, when we end that futile chasing after wind, we can truly rest and learn delight in new ways.

Jesus kept the Sabbath

Did Jesus give us an example of Sabbath-keeping? Did He say anything about the Sabbath? Indeed He did. "So He [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read." Luke 4:16.

Jesus kept the Sabbath. The Scribes and Pharisees accused Jesus and His disciples of breaking the Sabbath (see Matthew 12:1-14; John 5:1-21; 7:21-24, but Jesus always claimed that He and His disciples were innocent of Sabbath-breaking. Jesus kept the Sabbath according to the Bible, not according to the rules of the Pharisees. Those who accuse Jesus of Sabbath-breaking today are doing the same work as the Scribes and Pharisees did in Jesus’ day.

Jesus not only kept the Sabbath, but He taught His followers to keep the Sabbath also. Before His crucifixion, in predicting to His disciples the fall of Jerusalem, He told them to pray that they might not have to flee on the Sabbath day. Jesus was speaking of an

event that was not to take place for another forty years, showing that He expected the disciples to still be keeping the Sabbath then. (See Matthew 24:20.)

The Apostles kept the Sabbath

Following the example of Jesus, the apostles kept the true Sabbath. There is not a single instance recorded of any of the apostles worshipping on Sunday. Yet there are scores of recorded examples of their keeping the Sabbath. Let us look at some examples:

"And when the Jews went out of the synagogue, the Gentiles begged that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. So when the congregation had broken up, many of the Jews, and devout proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God." Acts 13:42-44. Not that this second Sabbath worship meeting mentioned was not for the Jews, but for the Gentiles.

"And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there." Acts 16:13. They were in a heathen city where there was no Jews or Jewish synagogues, but when the Sabbath came they went to the river to worship. This was twenty-two years after the resurrection.

"Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. Then Paul, as his custom was, went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures." Acts 17:1, 2.

"And he [Paul] reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks . . . And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them." Acts 18:4,11.

The First Day of the Week

Where, then, did the keeping of the first day of the week come from? Since Jesus did not mention Sunday or the first day of the week in the Bible, He did not institute worship on this day. In fact, there are only nine references to the first day of the week in the whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. These references are Genesis 1:5; Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1,2; Mark 16:9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1; John 20:19; Acts 20:7; and 1 Corinthians 16:1,2. A perusal of these texts will reveal that nowhere is the first day of the week called "the Sabbath day," "the Lord's day," "the day of the assembly," or anything like that. None of these references even hint that the sanctity of the Sabbath was transferred to that day. Nowhere is it called the Christian Sabbath or the Christian day of worship.

ARTICLE 4 – OUR CHURCH COVENANT

Section 1

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of Jesus.

We do now in the presence of God and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enters into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love;

To strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and righteousness;

To promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, doctrines, and discipline;

To give it sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin;

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and to the spread of the gospel through all nations

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to train and educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;

To walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment;

To avoid all tattling, backbiting, excessive anger and to do all things without murmuring and complaining

To use our influence to combat the abuse of drugs and alcohol and the spread of pornography and other practices which lead to moral and spiritual decay; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to exalt and highly esteem others above ourselves;

To remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech;

To be slow to take offense, not holding a grudge nor retaliatory, but quick to forgive and always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay,

ARTICLE 5 – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Church Membership

Church Membership is the commitment of an individual or believer to serve God through a local church. It is about belonging to a local Christian community and being involved in its life, work and witness. Becoming a church member neither provides nor elevates a personal salvation. It is because we are saved that we should desire to become a member and enjoy the fellowship of other Christians. A devoted church member will agree to support the local body through attendance, personal and spiritual service and financial support. We welcome anyone desiring to faithfully worship God, learn more about Christ, walk more in God's ways, and serve according to the gifts He has given us to consider membership at the Temple of Yahshua.

Section 2 - Qualification for Membership

Anyone professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal savior, giving evidence of a changed heart, declaring him/herself in accordance with the practices and doctrines of Temple of Yahshua may become a candidate for membership.

Section 3 - Membership Process

Those who desire to become members of Temple of Yahshua Worship Center must complete the Membership Process.

Step 1: Complete the Membership Application

The completion of the Membership Application Form is required for all candidates before joining Temple of Yahshua Worship Center. The application form is designed to allow us to get important information about the candidate so that we may best serve them and encourage them in God's Kingdom work.

Step 2: Pre-Membership Interview

Step 3: Attend Membership/Discipleship Classes

Because of the need for a consistent understanding of membership expectations, every candidate for membership is required to attend the New Member and Discipleship classes. These interactive classes are designed to help the candidate make an informed decision regarding membership at Temple of Yahshua and will assist in their journey of Bringing Faith to Life.

Section 4 – Categories of Membership

We recognize that there are at least three categories of membership: Active, Inactive, and Watch-Care.

Section 5 – Rights and Privileges of Members

All active names on the church roll are members and are eligible for all rights and privileges of church membership; however only those on the active list (eighteen and over) shall have the right to participate in church business meetings and auxiliaries

Inactive Members

Inactive members may be reinstated to active membership by the New Members Class Leader(s) when there is evidence of compliance with church attendance, financial support, and Christian life that reflects Christ-like characteristics.

The New Member's Class Leaders will meet with the returning member and decide what training will be required before membership is restored.

Section 6 – Dissolution of Membership

Termination of Membership shall be dissolve by (1) death, (2) exclusion by action of this church (3) transfer by letter to another of like faith and order.

Written requests for withdrawal of membership are required. The request should be given to the active member cell group leader who shall present the request to the Apostle's Assistant along with a recommendation for action.

If the withdrawing member is in good standing the request will be honored and approval granted. Upon request, a Character Reference Letter or a Letter of Commendation will be provided to the member or sent to the church where the withdrawing member will be attending.

ARTICLE 6 – BAPTISM

Section 1 – Baptism into Christ

It is baptism that puts us into Christ so that we can be saved. Galatians 3:27, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." This is the only way a person can get into Christ. The preposition *into* indicates a change of relationship. You can search from the front to the back of your Bible, and you will find no other way to get into Christ except by being baptized into Christ. Also Romans 6:3 says the same thing, "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?" So the only way we can get into Christ is

to be baptized into Christ. Either a person has been baptized into Christ, or he is still outside of Christ. We are either in or we are out. Have you been baptized into Christ in order to be saved and have your sins forgiven? If you haven't been, let us notice some of the things that you are missing.

To be baptized into Christ cannot only mean to be baptized into his body, which is the church, but it can also mean to be baptized into his teachings, or into his character.

Section 2 - Water Baptism

Water baptism is an essential part of New Testament salvation and not merely a symbolic ritual. It is part of entering into the kingdom of God (God's church, the bride of Christ), and therefore, it is not merely a part of local church membership. (See John 3:5; Galatians 3:27).

Water baptism is to be administered only by immersion. Paul said, "We are buried with him [Jesus Christ] by baptism (Romans 6:4; see Colossians 2:12), Jesus came up "out of the water" (Mark 1:10), and Philip and the eunuch went down "into the water" and came up "out of the water" (Acts 8:38-39). Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection are applied to our lives when we experience New Testament salvation: "Repent [death to sin], and be baptized [burial] every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost [resurrection]." (See Acts 2:38; Romans 6:1-7; 8:2). Sprinkling, pouring, or infant baptism of any kind cannot be substantiated by the Word of God, but are only human traditions.

The name in which baptism is administered is vitally important, and this name is Jesus. Jesus' last command to His disciples was, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19). We should notice that He said name (singular) not names. As previously explained, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are not names of separate persons, but titles of positions held by God. An angelic announcement revealed God's saving name in the New Testament: "She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). The apostles understood that Jesus was the name to use at baptism, and from the day that the church of God was established (the Day of Pentecost) until the end of their ministry, they baptized all nations (Jews--Acts 8:16; Gentiles--Acts 19:5) in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. In fact, Jesus is the only name given for our salvation. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

➤ "Water Baptism"-Is it necessary for salvation?

Many people insist that water baptism is essential for salvation. However, this is incorrect. You see, salvation is and always has been about faith in Jesus Christ. You must be "baptized" into Christ" in order to be saved; however, this not the same as being "baptized in water".

Requiring anything in addition to faith in Jesus Christ for salvation is a works-based salvation. To add anything to the gospel is to say that Jesus' death on the cross was not sufficient to purchase our salvation. To say we must be baptized in order to be saved is to say we must add our own good works and obedience to Christ's death in order to make it

sufficient for salvation. Jesus' death alone paid for our sins (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus' payment for our sins is appropriated to our "account" by faith alone (John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9). Therefore, baptism is an important step of obedience after salvation but cannot be a requirement for salvation.

➤ **Water Baptism - What does it symbolize?**

According to the Bible, the symbolism of baptism declares that three things happen to believers who are baptized: (1) they die with Christ to their old self; (2) they rise with Christ to become a new creature; and (3) they are incorporated in their new life with a living community which looks for the coming of the Lord (Romans 6:1-11)

As we are baptized in water, we are in effect saying goodbye to our old life (self), and saying hello to a new creation who is IN Christ Jesus. Because of death you are free from your old master the devil; now you have a new Master. When the devil brings temptations and accusations concerning their old life -- the believer can reply, "That person is dead and buried. I am a new person in Christ."

Water baptism is a point of separation, dividing the old from the new. It says the past is dead and gone -- drawing a clear line between the old life and the new, graphically imprinted on the mind of the believer.

In short, Jesus Christ commands baptism for His followers. Although the act of baptism does not cause eternal salvation, it seems that any believer who refuses baptism should truly examine his or her conversion.

Section 3 - Baptism into the Holy Spirit

The baptism of the Holy Ghost is the birth of the Spirit (John 3:5). This spiritual baptism is necessary to put someone into the kingdom of God (God's church, the bride of Christ) and is evidenced by speaking in other tongues (other languages) as the Spirit of God give utterance. It was prophesied by Joel (Joel 2:28-29) and Isaiah (Isaiah 28:11), foretold by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:11), purchased by the blood of Jesus, and promised by Him to His disciples (John 14:26; 15:16). The Holy Ghost was first poured out on the Day of Pentecost upon the Jews (Acts 2:1-4), then upon the Samaritans (Acts 8:17), and later upon the Gentiles (Acts 10: 44-46; 19:6). "The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:39).

➤ **Who is the Holy Spirit?**

The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. For many of us, this is a difficult concept to grasp. The Bible declares that there is only one living God, yet we learn from scripture that He comprises three separate personages. This is the ultimate goal of His indwelling. In the ancient language the word for Holy Spirit which is alternately translated, 'counselor' or 'comforter' actually signifies "called to one's side." Therefore the Holy Spirit is

He who was called along side of us, to help us. But the Holy Spirit is God, the Creator, the Sovereign; it is He, Himself, who is our helper. He does not simply give us help, He *is* our Help.

- How does He help us? The Holy Spirit teaches us; the Holy Spirit guides and leads us; the Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf according to the will of God. The Holy Spirit appropriates the righteousness, peace, and joy of the Lord to us. The Holy Spirit reveals to us the deep things of God, things previously hidden to man. *We* have power now that the Holy Spirit has come to us. He is the Spirit of God and Christ; He is made everything to us and His indwelling is Our future inheritance which surpasses even the wonder of our relationship to God, today. Perhaps the greatest thing of all is that by the Spirit, we cry, “Our Father.” The Spirit makes us know instinctively that we are the children of God. Even in our weakest moments that cry cannot be stilled as we call to Him, “Oh, my Father, help me.”

- **Two Works by the Holy Spirit**

Every person who has truly believed in the Lord Jesus has experienced a work of the Holy Spirit in his life. His inward person, or spirit, has been regenerated by the Holy Spirit (Tit. 3:5), and the Holy Spirit now lives within him (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:19). He has been “born of the Spirit” (John 3:5).

Just because a person has been *born* of the Spirit, however, does not guarantee that he has also been *baptized* in the Holy Spirit. According to the Bible, being born of the Holy Spirit and being baptized in the Holy Spirit are normally two distinct experiences.

The difference between being born of the Spirit and being baptized in the Holy Spirit is being born of the Spirit is primarily for the benefit of the one who is born again, that he might enjoy eternal life. When one is born again by the Spirit, he has a reservoir of Spirit within him that gives him eternal life.

Being baptized in the Holy Spirit, however, is primarily for the benefit of others, as it equips believers to minister to other people by the power of the Spirit. “Rivers of living water” will flow from their innermost beings, bringing God’s blessings to others by the power of the Spirit.

- **Why the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is needed?**

How desperately we need the help of the Holy Spirit to minister to others! Without His help, we can never hope to make disciples of all nations. That is, in fact, the very reason Jesus promised to baptize believers in the Holy Spirit—so the world would hear the gospel. He said to His disciples: Behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are *clothed with power* from on high” (Luke 24:49, emphasis added).

Jesus told His disciples not even to leave Jerusalem until they were “clothed with power from on high.” He knew they would be essentially powerless otherwise, sure to fail at the task He had given them. We note that once they were baptized in the Holy Spirit, however, God began to use them supernaturally to spread the gospel.

➤ **How to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

Like all of God's gifts, the Holy Spirit is received by faith (see Gal. 3:5). In order to have faith to receive, a believer must first be convinced that it is God's will for him to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. If he is wondering or doubting, he will not receive (see James 1:6-7).

No believer has any good reason not to believe that it is God's will for him to receive the Holy Spirit, because Jesus plainly stated God's will in the matter:

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him (Luke 11:13). That promise from the lips of Jesus should convince every child of God that it is God's will that he or she receive the Holy Spirit.

This same verse also supports the truth that being baptized in the Holy Spirit occurs after salvation, because here Jesus promised God's children (the only people who have God as their "heavenly Father") that God will give them the Holy Spirit if they ask.

According to Jesus, there are only two conditions that must be met for one to receive the Holy Spirit. First, God must be one's Father, which He is if you are born again. Second, you must ask Him for the Holy Spirit.

Although receiving the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands is scriptural (see Acts 8:17; 19:6), it is not an absolute necessity. Any Christian can receive the Holy Spirit by himself in his own place of prayer. He simply needs to ask, receive by faith, and begin to speak in tongues as the Spirit gives him utterance.

➤ **Steps to receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

If we ask for the Holy Spirit, God will give us the Holy Spirit, and we should have no fear of receiving anything else.

After a believer has asked for the gift of the Holy Spirit, he should believe and expect to speak in other tongues. Because the Holy Spirit is received by faith, the recipient should not expect to experience any particular feelings or physical sensations. He should simply open his mouth and begin to speak the new sounds and syllables that will make up the language that the Holy Spirit gives him. Unless the believer begins to *speak by faith*, no utterance will come forth from his mouth. *He* must do the speaking, and the Holy Spirit will provide the utterance.

1. The Key to being baptized in the Holy Spirit is expectation that the Holy Spirit will give you the utterance (the words to say, not your natural or normal language) as you open your mouth to speak. It's not about what you can do, but what the Holy Spirit wants to do through you.
2. Disregard and dismiss all fears, doubts and false teaching about receiving a counterfeit spirit. (Luke 11-11-13)
3. Expect to speak in tongues when hands are laid on you. (Acts 8:17)
4. Open your mouth as an act of faith (Romans 8:26; Ephesians 6:19)
5. Receive the gift of speaking in tongues in an atmosphere of peace (I Corinthians 14:33)

The Source of the Utterance

Tongues

Speaking in other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance is the manifestation God has given as the definite, indisputable, supernatural witness or sign of the baptism of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6).

It was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah as the rest and the refreshing (Isaiah 28:11-12), foretold by Jesus as a sign that would follow believers of the gospel (Mark 16:17), and experience by Jews and Gentiles alike.

The gift of "divers kinds of tongues," mentioned by Paul in I Corinthians 12:1-12 and concerning which he gave regulations in I Corinthians 14:1-40, is given by both for self-edification (I Corinthians 14:4) and for the edification of the church (I Corinthians 14:27-28).

In church meetings the gift of tongues is used to give a public message, and it is to be interpreted. Since this gift can be misused in public, it needs proper regulation (I Corinthians 14:23-28). Not all believers exercise the gift of tongues, which is different in function from tongues given by God as the initial witness of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Paul said, "Forbid not to speak with tongues" (I Corinthians 14:39) and "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all" (I Corinthians 14:8). Who dares to teach or preach to the contrary?

Speaking in tongues means speaking miraculously in a language unknown to the speaker, as the Spirit gives utterance. Tongues can be classified in two ways, according to function: (1) speaking in other tongues as the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost and (2) the gift of tongues as mentioned in I Corinthians.

According to Paul, when a believer prays in tongues, it is not his mind praying but rather, his spirit:

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also (1 Cor. 14:14-15).

Paul said that when he prayed in a tongue, his mind was unfruitful. That means his mind had no part in it, and he did not understand what he was praying in tongues. So, rather than praying all the time in tongues without understanding what he was saying, Paul also spent time praying with his mind in his own language. He spent time singing in tongues as well as singing in his own language. There is a place for both kinds of praying and singing, and we would be wise to follow Paul's balanced example.

Now That You Are Baptized in the Holy Spirit

Keep in mind the primary reason God gave you the Holy Spirit baptism—to empower you primarily for the purpose of being His witness, by means of the manifestation of fruit and gifts of

the Spirit (see 1 Cor. 12:4-11; Gal. 5:22-23). By living a Christ-like life and demonstrating His love, joy, and peace to the world, as well

as manifesting supernatural gifts of the Spirit, God will use you to draw others to Himself. The ability to speak in tongues is only one of the “rivers of living water” that should be flowing from your innermost being.

Also remember that God gave us the Holy Spirit to enable us to reach *all* the people of the earth with the gospel (see Acts 1:8). When we speak in other tongues, we should realize that the language we are speaking could well be the native tongue of some remote tribe or foreign nation. Every time we pray in tongues, we should be mindful that God wants people of every language to hear about Jesus. We should ask the Lord how He wants us to be involved in fulfilling Jesus’ Great Commission.

Paul also taught that speaking in speaking in other tongues edifies the believer (see 1 Cor. 14:4). That means it builds us up spiritually. By praying in tongues, we can, in a way we may not fully understand, strengthen our inner man. Speaking in other tongues should provide daily enrichment in every believer’s spiritual life and not be just a one-time experience at the initial filling of the Holy Spirit. Once you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, I encourage you to spend time every day praying to God in your new language. It will be greatly enhance your spiritual life and growth.

ARTICLE 7 - ORDINANCES

Section 1 - TITHES AND OFFERINGS

What’s the difference between the two?

Leviticus 27:30, the tithe is the Lord’s; it is holy unto the Lord. It is ten percent of your gross income (before taxes). This ten percent belongs to the Lord. It’s not yours. As believers we don’t give him the tithe, but we are simply returning to him what belongs to him. Malachi 3:7 says “Return to me, and I will return unto you, says the Lord of Hosts. “But you said, in what shall we return? God answers this question in Malachi 3:8, “In tithes and offerings”.

Your tithes opens up the windows (floodgates) of heaven, but your offerings causes your blessings to come down and overtake you (Malachi 3:10). When you tithe you open the floodgates to heaven’s blessing for you and your family.

Hebrews 7:4, 8, 9 - reveals to us that Jesus receives our tithes and because He is our High Priest. He (Jesus) takes our tithes before the Heavenly Father and worships the Father with our tithes. Jesus takes the tithes and offerings you returned to Him and He worships the Father with them.

Section 2 – COMMUNION

COMMUNION

➤ 1 Corinthians 10:15-18

The Lord's Supper, also called communion or the Eucharist (meaning "thanksgiving" in Greek), holds deep significance for a believer and should not be underestimated. More than just a memorial to remember Jesus' death and resurrection, the Lord's Supper is also a declaration of one's continual dependence upon Christ's life and a regular reminder of His soon return.

The Two Elements

➤ The Bread, Representing the Body of Christ

By partaking of the bread in communion, we acknowledge that Jesus is our source of life. Indeed, He is the bread of Life whereby we may satisfy our spiritual hunger. He said, I [Myself] am this Living Bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever; and also the Bread that I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh (body). (John 6:51) Bread signifies life, so when Jesus broke the unleavened bread and gave it to His disciples, He illustrated that His body (life) would be broken in order that they might have life.

Finally, the breaking of bread with other believers signifies fellowship within the Body of Christ and unity by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:42). The Body of Christ is strengthened and Jesus is glorified when the Body serves one another in humility and shares blessings in selfless love. "For we being many are one Bread, and one body; for we are all partakers of that one bread (Jesus)". (I Corinthians 10:17)

➤ The Cup, Representing the Blood of Jesus

The symbol of a cup represents a measure or portion, and blood signifies suffering and death. Blood is the life of the body, but when it is poured out, death occurs (see Leviticus 17:11). The Father gave Jesus a cup of suffering to drink, requiring Him to be the sacrificial Lamb of atonement for sin and to pour out His sinless blood through a torturous death; for only the shed blood of Jesus can cleanse and make permanent atonement for all sin. (I John 1:7).

Jesus cried out in Gethsemane, "Abba (Daddy), father, all things is possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt". (Mark 14:36). Later, Jesus said to Peter, "Put up thy sword into the sheath; the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? (John 18:11). Jesus submitted Himself to His Father's will and drank the dark and terrible cup of wrath for our sin. "For he (the Father) hath made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (II Corinthians 5:21)

By partaking of the communion cup, we commit to follow Jesus no matter the cost. Jesus drank the cup of God's wrath for our sin, but we are to partake in His sufferings for righteousness' sake.

The Lord's Supper gives believers the opportunity to identify themselves with Jesus, Mediator of the new covenant, and show that they are willing to experience both His life (power) and death (suffering) in their daily walk.

➤ **Biblical Warnings**

Because of the significance of identifying with Christ in communion, unbelievers and hypocrites (those who profess to be Christians but live according to the world) should not participate. Everyone else should examine his own heart prior to partaking the Lord's Supper to be certain of a pure conscience toward God. So then whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in a way that is unworthy [of Him] will be guilty of [profaning and sinning against] the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man [thoroughly] examine himself, and [only when he has done] so should he eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discriminating and recognizing with due appreciation that [it is Christ's] body, eats and drinks a sentence (a verdict of judgment) upon himself. (I Corinthians 11:27-29). The word "discern" in this context means to make a distinction or set apart the holy from that which is common;; it means to not regard "the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing" (Hebrews 10:29).

Although you should certainly rejoice and celebrate the finished work of Christ's death and resurrection, be sure you also "walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto His kingdom and glory" (I Thessalonians 2:12). Eating and drinking unworthily has to do with trying to identify with Christ but elsewhere living like the world (a hypocrite). We are warned to turn from sin before identifying with Christ so as not to come under judgment. Paul said, "Purge out therefore the old leaven that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (I Corinthians 5:8).

Section 3 – WHAT ARE CHURCH LAWS?

Church laws are manmade laws that are set up by the Local Church based on the Word of god for the purpose of avoiding the vices that bring men and women into bondage.

ARE CHURCH LAWS THE SAME AS GOD'S LAWS?

Yes. Church laws are the rules made by the spiritual leaders of a Local Church based on the Word of god. God's laws are the Ten Commandments.

IS IT A SIN TO DISOBEY CHURCH LAWS?

If you have become a member of a Local church and have agreed to abide by its church laws, and then break the church's laws, you have sinned. To disobey a church law means to dishonor those in authority over us. We are commanded in the Fifth Commandment to obey our superiors.

Obey them that have rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for those that is unprofitable for you. (Hebrews 13:17)

CAN CHURCH LAWS BE ENFORCED?

Yes, the Elder's deal with offenders and if they do not change their habits, fellowship with the Local church is severed.

DID THE CHURCHES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT HAVE CHURCH LAWS?

Yes. The Jerusalem Church Council set down the rules for Gentile believers.

Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollution of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. (Acts 15:19, 20).

WHAT CHURCH LAWS DO LOCAL CHURCHES OBSERVE TODAY?

Local churches command us not to participate in anything that can enslave us.

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. (I Corinthians 10:23)

While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought into bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollution of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. (2 Peter 2:19, 20).

WHAT ENSLAVING PRACTICES SHOULD WE AVOID?

We should avoid all forms of intemperance that can enslave us:

- A. Drunkenness and gluttony
- B. Nicotine and drug abuse
- C. Gambling
- D. X-rated movies, books and entertainment. Pornography, immodesty, immortality, indecent music and dance.
- E. Occult literature, meetings and practices.

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempted he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death. (James 1:13-15)

WHY MUST WE NOT PARTAKE OF THINGS THAT WILL ENSLAVE US?

If we yield ourselves to these things, they will become our masters.

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness. (Romans 6:16)

HOW CAN WE DEVELOP THE LIFESTYLE OF THE KINGDOM IN OUR LIVES?

The lifestyle of the Kingdom is developed in us as we discipline ourselves daily to pray and read God's word. The worship services and activities of the Local Church are designed to help us mature spiritually, so we can produce the fruits of the spirit in our lives.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Cor. 6:17, 18; 7:1).

ARTICLE 9 – CHURCH MEETINGS

- Section 1 -** Worship Services-The church shall meet regularly each Sunday morning, and Wednesday evening for preaching, instruction, evangelism and for the worship of almighty God. These meetings will be open to everyone and shall be conducted under the direction of the Apostle.
- Section 2 -** Special Services-All church meetings which are essential to the promotion of the objectives of the church shall be placed on the church calendar, published in the church newsletter at least once prior to the meeting being held and announced at all services on the Sunday prior to the special service being held.
- Section 3 -** Special Business Meetings-A specially called business meeting may be held to consider matters of a significant nature. Notice of the subject, date, time and location must be

published in the church newsletter or bulletin for the specially called business meeting at least one week before the meeting and announced at all services on the Sunday prior to the special business meeting.

ARTICLE 10 – CHURCH STAFF AND OFFICERS

All church officers and staff, excluding nonelected staff, must be members of the church. The officers of this church shall be as follows:

ARTICLE 11 – PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONS

All program/organizations of the church shall be under church control, all Department Heads/Leader being appointed by the Apostle.

Section 1. Children Church

Section 2 New Members and Discipleship Class

Section 3. Ushers

Section 4. Missionary

Outreach Program

a. Prison

b. Nursing Homes

c. Alcohol & Drug (Morris Village)

d. Food Bank

e. MOLWHH (Ministry of Love With Helping Hands)

f. Benevolent

Section 5. Finance

a. Procurement

Section 6. Administrative

a. Assistants to Apostle

a. Administrative Assistant

b. Executive Assistant

c. Special Projects

ARTICLE 12 – MINISTRIES/AUXILIARIES

The church shall evaluate, plan, organize and implement such ministries as the church deems necessary.

Section 1. Anointed Twelve

Section 2. Five Fold Ministry School

Section 3. Woman Ministry

Section 4. Men Ministry

Section 5. Hospitality

Section 6. Pulpit Aide Ministry

Section 7. Music Ministry

- a. Praise and Worship
- b. Musicians
- Section 9.** Cell Ministry
- Section 10.** Ministry of Helps
- Section 11.** Deacon Ministry
- Section 12.** Trustee Ministry
- Section 13.** Custodial Department
- Section 14.** Media Ministry
 - a. Publication
 - b. Public Relations
 - c. Tape and Audio Visual Ministry
- Section 15.** Marriage Enrichment
- Section 16.** Singles Ministry

REFERENCES

RECEIVING THE SPIRIT OF THE PASTOR**I. IMPORTANCE OF RECEIVING THE SPIRIT OF THE PASTOR**

(I Peter 1:5; I Corinthians 12)

This is receiving the Pastor as Spiritual Head, overseer, one sent by God to be the under shepherd.

II. TO RECEIVE THE SPIRIT OF THE PASTOR

- A. You must receive the pastoral office as the head of this local Body---the shepherd over this flock.
- B. You must know that the Father has led you to this body---to this flock. If you know this, then you know that the pastoral office is to feed you, and educate you with the things of the Father, so you can grow up in Christ in all things-be a healthy growing Christian.
- C. You must know his position and yours, and submit to his rule (authority). Hebrews 13:17 says, "Obey them (pastor) that have rule (authority) over you and submit yourselves: for they (the pastor) watch for your souls as they (the pastor) must give an account that they may do it with joy and not with grief - for that is unprofitable for you.
- D. You must not bring the spirit of another pastor into this vision. You cannot have two heads of authority. Your Pastor to whom you serve is the spirit head.
- E. If you do not have the spirit of the man, you cannot work effectively in the vision of the land. This is called "the Law of Harmony". The Law of Harmony is - you must receive the vision of the Lord and become submitted to and committed to this mandate as it is given to the pastor as a vision.
- F. Examples of receiving the spirit of your Pastor can be found in II Kings 2 and II Kings 3:11.
 - 1) Elisha following after Elijah
 - 2) There was submission
 - 3) There was acceptance of authority
 - 4) The work was for the benefit of the whole
 - 5) Elisha trusted the leading of Elijah
 - 6) Elisha by obeying and following, received a double honor, a double anointing
 - 7) God's honor - God's authority comes to you based upon the degree of your submission to the leadership authority.
 - 8) Elisha supported Elijah
 - 9) Elisha was a servant to Elijah. *(I Kings 19:19-21; II Kings 3:11)*

- G. Three things you must know to receive the spirit of the Pastor.
- 1) You must know that you cannot be offended by his position of authority. (*Romans 13: 1, 2*).
 - 2) You must know that you cannot be insecure about his ability to lead you. (*Corinthians 11:1*)
 - 3) Your dream/vision must die so that the leaders dream lives, and in so doing, your dream will be resurrected.

When a vision, other than that of the Pastor's begins to pull, attract, or influence you, then its purpose is to pull you out of harmony with the Body, making you available to the onslaught of the enemy.

Jeremiah 14:14-18 "...they prophesy False Visions:"

Ezekiel 13:6-15 "...they have seen vanity and lying divination..."

III. EIGHT BIBLE WAYS TO RELATE TO YOUR PASTOR

In the book of Ephesians (4:8-12), it states that Jesus led captivity captive and gave gifts unto men. These gifts are spiritual gifts to the body (apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher).

Below you will find a list of the (8) ways that the Bible states we should relate to these gifts, but we will be focusing, particularly, on the ministry gift of Pastor.

- A. You must receive HIM as a gift from God. (II Corinthians 12:27-28)
1. Receive means to accept as in ownership.
 2. We know that every good and perfect gift comes from God; therefore, if he gave the gift of Pastor, it must be perfect.
 3. Until you receive the gift, you don't really benefit from it.
- B. Know your pastor (I Thessalonians 5:12)
1. Know - here means having a level of knowledge of him that causes one to be familiar with, sure of, and understanding. It's more than surface knowledge.
 2. Know him also, after the spirit. The Bible tells us to know no man after the flesh. The man is imperfect, but the gift is perfect. Therefore, if you know your Pastor and walk in the spirit yourself, his imperfections in the flesh will not hinder you from receiving him.
- C. Esteem him very highly. (I Thessalonians 5:13)
1. Esteem means to respect, appreciate or hold high regard for.
 2. We are to do so if for no other reason, do it for the work's sake.
- D. Pray for him. (II Thessalonians 3:1-2)
- Intercede daily for those in authority and this includes the Pastor.
This allows the Word to have free course.
This also makes you involved in the message that comes forth and gives you a sense of your part in the ministry, as well as, your responsibility.
When we are praying for the Pastor, we are less likely to be critical.

E. Communicate with him (Galatians 6:6)

1. Communicate with him in all good things.
2. This includes your finances as well as verbal appreciation shown.
3. Doing your part in the ministry is a good communication. *It says, "I am with you."*

F. Follow or imitate him (Hebrews 6).

If you know your Pastor and receive him, then you should have no problems in following him.

Follow and imitate in only those things that are good and acceptable unto God.

(I Corinthians 11:1)

If you feel that your Pastor cannot be followed, you need to find a place that is lead by a Pastor that you can submit to and follow.

G. Obey him. (Hebrews 13:17)

1. As long, as what you are being told is not contrary to the word and will of God. Again you must receive, know, and trust your Pastor or you will have problems obeying.
2. Obedience is active. It means you have to do something you are told to do.

H. Submit to him. (Hebrews 13:17)

1. Submission is an attitude of the heart. You can disobey and still submit in body.

IV. TWO IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES TO REMEMBER:

- A. Loyalty - to change my plans to serve the one whom I'm under.
- B. Commitment - unknown until it is tested. (II Kings 2:1-2)
- C. If you are offended, you cannot receive the spirit of the leader.
- D. Submission is different from obedience. Submission is an attitude of the heart. Example: Tell a child to sit down and he sits down, but on the inside he's standing up.

V. COLLECTIVE REBELLION:

- A. Democracy is NOT God's order.
- B. The rebellion began when certain men of Israel began stirring up the leadership against Moses and Aaron. (Numbers 14)
- C. They tried to correct authority. Authority must be dealt with from the top down, not from the bottom up. (Numbers 16:3)
- D. Death is the cure for rebellion. (Numbers 16:49) Death is the alienation of life. When life is absent that means death has now set in.

PASTOR

QUALIFICATIONS OF A PASTOR

1. Must be called and be anointed by God
2. Must be able to teach
3. Must be an ordained minister
4. Above reproach (a cause of blame or disgrace)
5. The husband of one wife
6. Temperate
7. Self Controlled
8. Respectable
9. Hospitable
10. Not given to drunkardness
11. Non-violent
12. Gentle
13. Not money hungry
14. Manages his family well
15. See that his children obey him with proper respect
16. Must not be a recent convert
17. Good reputation with outsiders
18. Must be able to set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in Faith and Purity.
19. Must be diligent in God's work
20. Long suffering

QUALIFICATION**The Qualification of a Pastor for Temple of Yahshua Worship Center**

The Pastor of Temple of Yahshua Worship Center must be a male or female, be called and anointed by God. He must be able to set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, purity, and effectively preach God's word.

He should be reflections of God's truth:

If the current pastor does not select a replacement pastor, and the associate ministers are not interested in becoming a pastor of the church, the associate ministers and the deacons are responsible to select a pastor. He must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.

(1 Timothy 3:1-15)

He must be faithful to his family responsibilities:

Spiritual leadership begins at home. He must be willing to care for, discipline, and teach his children to be qualified to lead the church.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Pastor must be a strong leader with a vision for fulfilling what God has called his church to do. He will preach and teach God's people by word and example, stand up for what is right according to the word, and set an example for Godly living.

He must be committed to the ministry, willing to speak the truth in love and challenge the believers to grow with the courage to give loving corrections, gentle instruction and occasional reproof, to help one grow into mature spiritual adulthood. A strong pastor will challenge you to develop your own personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

The Pastor should rely on God for help and power, as Micah attributed the power of his ministry to the Spirit of the Lord. He should be the overseer and final decision maker of the disbursement of church funds.

Deuteronomy 18:1-5

Micah 3:1-12

Acts 20:17-38

ENTERING THE NEW COVENANT

WHAT IS THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS?

It is the teaching of the apostles that all believers must experience three distinct but related baptisms as an entrance into the new covenant.

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrines of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms. (Hebrews 6: 1, 2)

HOW DO WE ENTER INTO THE NEW COVENANT?

We enter into the New Covenant with God by becoming partakers of the death (repentance), burial (water baptism) and resurrection (Holy Spirit baptism) of His son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

WHAT ARE THE THREE BAPTISMS?

They are Water Baptism, Holy Spirit Baptism and the Baptism of Fire.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR THREE BAPTISMS?

In each baptism, when it is entered into by faith, the Holy Spirit produces a distinct spiritual change in us.

...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (John 3:5)

WHAT IS THE FIRST BAPTISM WE MUST EXPERIENCE?

We must be baptized into Christ through water baptism after we have repented of our sins.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38)

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3, 4)

John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire: whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable. (Luke 3:16, 17)

WHAT IS WATER BAPTISM?

Water Baptism is a sacred act instituted by Jesus Christ by which we are baptized into Christ and into His death.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthews 28:18-20)

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3, 4)

HOW ARE WE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST?

The Scripture teach that through water baptism, the Holy Spirit immerses us into Christ causing us to put on His nature and making us members of His body, the church.

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (I Corinthians 12:13)

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (Romans 6:3)

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Galatians 3:27)

WHAT IS MEANT BY THE NATURE OF CHRIST?

The nature of Christ was divine, the express image of His Father. He was totally submissive and obedient to the Father's plan and will. Because of sin, we have partaken of an earthly, sensual and devilish nature. The design of God is to remove this and make us partakers of the divine nature, to bring us back to the image of God.

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (II Peter 1:2-4)

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: (Philippians 2:5-9)

WHY IS BAPTISM NECESSARY?

Baptism is necessary because it is the command of Christ and we cannot enter into the kingdom of God unless:

1. We have been identified with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which He experienced, in our place.
2. The enmity (hostility) that is in us because of original sin is removed.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. (Romans 6:5)

.... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. (John 3:5)

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16:16)

WHAT IS ORIGINAL SIN?

Original sin (inherited sin) is the total corruption of our whole human nature. Man, by nature, is without true fear, love and trust in God. He is without righteousness, is inclined only to evil, and is spiritually blind, dead and an enemy of God.

WHAT IS MEANT BY ENMITY AGAINST GOD?

Enmity is a feeling or condition of hostility. When Adam and Eve refused to yield to God's plan for their lives, their move for independence brought enmity between them and God. The desire for independence from God's control has been a curse to Adam's race- it is called the "nature of wrath".

.... (We) were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (Ephesians 2:3)

.... The carnal mind is enmity against God. (Romans 8:7)

Man's goings are of the Lord; how can a man then understand his own way? (Proverbs 20:24)

DO WE HAVE ANY WORDS IN THE BIBLE FOR ORIGINAL SIN?

Yes. The Bible refers to it as "the old man" or "the body of sin".

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts. (Ephesians 4:22)

WHAT IS THE PENALTY FOR ORIGINAL SIN?

The penalty for original sin is spiritual and physical death. Spiritual death is separation of man from God. Physical death is separation of man's body from his soul and spirit.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. (Genesis 2:16-17)

HOW CAN WE HAVE THE SENTENCE OF SIN REVOKED?

We must become partakers of Christ's death by repentance, faith and being buried with Him in water baptism, so that the penalty for sin is paid for us through the shedding of His blood.

.... without shedding of blood is no remission. (Hebrews 9:22)

For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. (Matthew 26:28)

Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death. Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3, 4)

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. (Romans 5:10)

WHEN WE ARE BAPTIZED, WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ENMITY THAT IS IN US?

The enmity is cut away, and the feud between God and man is brought to an end. Love for God begins to grow because man's will has been freed and he is now free to choose God's will and plan for his life.

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. (Romans 5:10)

Don't you realize that you can choose your own master? You can choose sin (with death) or else obedience with (acquittal). The one to whom you offer yourself- he will take you and be your master and you will be his slave. (Romans 6:16 - Living Bible)

HOW IS THE ENMITY CUT AWAY?

The Holy Spirit performs a spiritual operation on the heart to cut away our old, corrupt nature with its passions and lusts.

In Him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands, but in a (spiritual) circumcision (performed by) Christ by stripping off the body of the flesh (the whole corrupt, carnal nature with its passions and lusts). (Colossians 2:11 AMP)

WHAT IS THE SPIRITUAL OPERATION CALLED?

The Bible calls it a circumcision of the heart.

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ. (Colossians 2:11)

WHY IS IT CALLED A CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART?

It is called a circumcision of the heart to show its relationship to the Old Covenant, whose seal of righteousness was the sign of circumcision in the flesh of men. The circumcision of the heart, which replaces natural circumcision, is the seal of the New Covenant. It is put into the heart at the time of water baptism.

This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man-child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. (Genesis 17:10, 11)

(Thus you were circumcised when) you were buried with him in (your) baptism, in which you were also raised with (Him to a new life) through (your) faith in the working of God (as displayed when He) raised Him up from the dead. (Colossians 1:12 AMP)

WHAT DOES THE SEAL OF THE NEW COVENANT DO FOR US?

1. When the heart is circumcised, God places His seal of righteousness upon us making us heirs to all the promises made to Abraham.

And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also. (Romans 4:11)

2. When the enmity (hostility) is cut away, true love for God begins to develop in the heart making it possible for us to love the Lord with all of our mind, soul and spirit.

And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. (Deuteronomy 30:6)

3. When the conscience is cleansed, we approach God in confidence because we no longer feel guilty in His presence. (Or sight.)

The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. (I Peter 3:21)

Bible Narrative: Believers in Christ are under the gracious provisions of the covenant, which God made with Abraham. (*Galatians 3:15-29*)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE “BORN-AGAIN”?

You are born from above, by the Spirit of God, and by water, (water baptism). There is a transformation by the Spirit of God of our human spirit that is equal to a second birth. When this occurs, the old Adamic nature is taken away, and is replaced by the nature of Jesus.

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. (John 3:5-7)

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (II Peter 1:2-4)

WHO CAN BE BAPTIZED?

Only those who believe and confess that Jesus is the Christ are to be baptized. Candidates for baptism must also give believable evidence of having received true repentance for their sins and faith to enter into the communion of Christ's death and resurrection.

And as they went on their way, they came to a certain water and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. (Acts 8:36, 37)

SHOULD CHILDREN BE BAPTIZED?

Children should be baptized only when they have had the Holy Spirit reveal Jesus, the Christ, to them and have been given full understanding of the significance of baptism.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.... (Mark 16:16)

SHOULD INFANTS BE BAPTIZED?

No. Water baptism is only for believers who have repented of their sins and recognized the enmity in them against God's authority over their life and desire to be a new creature in Christ Jesus.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.... (Mark 16:16)

WHY CAN'T BAPTISM BE ADMINISTERED TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE BELIEVING PARENTS OR SPONSORS TO CARE FOR THEIR CHRISTIANS NURTURE?

CHILDREN WERE ADMITTED INTO THE OLD COVENANT WHEN THEY WERE EIGHT DAYS OF AGE? 38

It is true; children were admitted into the Old Covenant by performing the “rite of circumcision” on them when they were eight days old. It is also true that baptism has replaced this rite of circumcision, but remission of original sin and the removal of enmity from the heart are only possible when a knowledgeable believer prepares his/her heart through the true repentance and faith.

And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live. (Deuteronomy 30:6)

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. (Ezekiel 11:19-20)

HOW ARE WE TO BE BAPTIZED?

To receive the life and experience the Holy Spirit gives us in water baptism; we must follow the Bible pattern for baptism exactly as it is prescribed in the Scriptures.

1. **Repent** for the sins and the enmity that is in us against God.
2. **Believe** for an operation on our heart (circumcision) that will completely remove the old nature of sin.

Be baptized (completely immersed) into Jesus Christ so we may share His death, burial and resurrection.

WHO CAN ADMINISTER BAPTISM?

Administering baptism is the work of the minister who has the Holy Spirit reveal to him the identity of Jesus Christ and who has the power and authority to use His name.

He (Jesus) saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood did not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock (revelation) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. (Matthews 16:15-20)

JESUS CHRIST INSTRUCTED HIS DISCIPLES TO BAPTIZE “IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST”. WHY DID THEY BAPTIZE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST?

They followed Jesus Christ's command to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost by baptizing believers in the New Testament name for the Triune God-Lord Jesus Christ. A triune name for a tri-unity God. Lord, The JHVH of the Old Testament. Jesus, The earthly name, the name of His humanity. Christ, The name of the Spirit, the anointing, the Messiah.

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:37-38)

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BAPTISM OF JOHN AND THE BAPTISM OF JESUS CHRIST?

John the Baptist's baptism was a baptism of repentance and preparation for the Messiah. It was to show that those who had been baptized by him and repented of their sins and were looking forward to the Messiah. It was an outward act declaring their repentance. Christ's baptism, also a baptism of repentance, is an inward work for the circumcision of the heart and entrance into the Christ and the New Covenant.

And he (Paul) said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. (Acts 19:3,4)

WHAT DID THE PEOPLE DO WHO RECEIVED JOHN'S BAPTISM?

When they heard of the baptism of Jesus Christ, they were baptized again in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 19:5)

IS IT POSSIBLE TO BE BAPTIZED AND NOT RECEIVE A CIRCUMCISED HEART?

Yes! To receive a circumcised heart, the Holy Spirit must prepare the heart by giving us the desire and the faith to be born again. When baptism is not preceded by heart preparation, it is merely a rite and not an experience.

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. (Hebrews 4:2)

.... for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life. (II Corinthians 3:6)

WHAT SHOULD WE DO IF OUR BAPTISM HAS ONLY BEEN A RITE?

If our baptism has only been a rite, we should pray asking the Holy Spirit to prepare us for the promised experience. When we have the assurance that the heart has been fully prepared, we should be baptized.

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jew or Gentile, whether we be bond or free, and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism. (Ephesians 4:4,5)

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

RECEIVING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The first step toward establishing a relationship with the Holy Spirit is to respect and acknowledge him as God and not as an it. He is the third person of the God Head.

The Holy Spirit is a gift from God and can be received by asking or laying on of hand.

Luke 11:13

HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

According to Acts 2:1-4, on the day of Pentecost the disciples were on one accord, and there came a sound from heaven as a rushing might wind and it filled the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongue like as of fire, and sat upon each of them. The disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 10:44-48, Jude 1:20, Acts 2.

PRAYING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Praying in the Spirit guarantees perfect prayer that is directed by the Holy Spirit; untouched by doubt and fear of the mind; and impossible for the devil to understand or hinder. **Romans 8:26-27, 1 Corinthians 14:2, 1 Corinthians 14:14-15**

THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE IDENTITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is a member of the Trinity

As Jesus was baptized, a revelation of God was given. The Spirit descended like a dove on Jesus, and the voice from heaven proclaimed the Father's approval of Jesus as his Divine Son. That Jesus is God's Divine Son is the foundation for all we read about Jesus in the Gospels. Here we see all three members of the trinity together - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (*Mark 1:9-13*)

The Holy Spirit is God living in and among those who believe.

Jesus looked ahead to a new day when he would be present with his followers not in body, but through his Holy Spirit. In the body of believers (the church), the sincere agreement of two people is more powerful than the superficial agreement of thousands, because Christ's Holy Spirit is with them. Two or more believers, filled with the Holy Spirit, will pray according to God's will, not their own; thus their request will be granted. (*Matthew 18:15-20*)

The Holy Spirit is God at work in believers. Who is the Holy Spirit?

God is three person in one - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God became a man in Jesus so that Jesus could die for our sins. Jesus rose from the dead to offer salvation to all people through spiritual renewal and rebirth. When Jesus ascended into heaven, his physical presence left the earth, but he promised to send the Holy Spirit so that his spiritual presence would still be among mankind (see Luke 24:49). The Holy Spirit first became available to all believers and they have the power of the Holy Spirit available to them. (*John 3: 1-21, John 14:16-28, Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 12:13 and 2 Corinthians 1:22*)

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT -- What does the Holy Spirit do?**The Holy Spirit empowers believers.**

This phrase, "The Spirit of the LORD came upon him," was also spoken of the judges Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson, among others. It expresses a temporary and spontaneous increase of physical, spiritual, or mental strength. This was an extraordinary and supernatural occurrence to prepare a person for a special task. The Holy Spirit is available to all believers today, but he will come upon believers in an extraordinary way for special tasks. We should ask the Holy Spirit's help as we face our daily problems as well as life's major challenges. (*Judges 3:7-11*)

The Holy Spirit is present in time of hardship.

Jesus told the disciples that when they were arrested for preaching the gospel, they should not worry about what to say in their defense - God's Spirit would speak through them. The promise was fulfilled in Acts 4:8-14 and elsewhere. Some mistakenly think this means we don't have to prepare to present the gospel because God will take care of everything. Scripture teaches, however, that we are to make carefully prepared, thoughtful statements (Colossians 4:6). Jesus is not telling us to stop preparing, but to stop worrying. (*Matthew 10:16-42*)

The Holy Spirit helps us worship God.

"God is Spirit," means He is not a physical being limited to one place. He is present everywhere, and he can be worshipped anywhere, at any time. It is not where we worship Him that counts, but how we worship. Is your worship genuine and true? Do you have the Holy Spirit's help? How does the Holy Spirit help us worship? The Holy Spirit prays for us (*Romans 8:26*), teaches us the words of Christ (14:26), and tells us we are loved (*Romans 5:5*).

The Holy Spirit transforms us from within.

Jesus was soon going to leave the disciples, but he would remain with them. How could this be? The Counselor - the Spirit of God himself - would come after Jesus was gone to care for and guide the disciples. The regenerating power of the Spirit came on the disciples just before his ascension (20:22), and the Spirit was poured out on all the believers at Pentecost

(Acts 2), shortly after Jesus ascended to heaven. The Holy Spirit is the very presence of God within us and all believers helping us live, as God wants and building Christ's church on earth. By faith we can appropriate the Spirit's power each day.

The Holy Spirit works in every part of our life.

The following chapters teach these truths about the Holy Spirit: he will be with us forever (14:16); the world at large cannot accept him (14:17); he lives with us and in us (14:17), he teaches us (14:26) he reminds us of Jesus' words (14:26; 15:26); he convicts us of sin, shows us God's righteousness, and announces God's judgment on evil (16:8); he guides unto truth and gives insight into future events (16:13); he brings glory to Christ (16:14). The Holy Spirit has been active among people from the beginning of time, but after Pentecost (Acts 2) he came to live in all believers. Many people are unaware of the Spirit's power; the Spirit gives a whole new way to look at life.

The Holy Spirit helps us understand and remember the Bible.

Jesus promises the disciples that the Holy Spirit would help them remember what he had been teaching them. This promise ensures the validity of the New Testament. The disciples were eyewitnesses of Jesus' life and teachings, and the Holy Spirit helped them remember without taking away their individual perspectives. We can be confident that the Gospels are accurate records of what Jesus taught and did (see 1 Corinthians 2:10-14). The Holy Spirit can help us in the same way. As we study the Bible, we can trust him to plant truth in our mind, convince us of God's will, and reminds us when we stray from it.

The Holy Spirit Give us Peace.

The end result of the Holy Spirit's work in our life is deep and lasting peace. Unlike worldly peace, which is usually defined as the absence of conflict, this peace is confident assurance in any circumstance; with Christ peace, and we have no need to fear the present or the future. If your life is full of stress, allow the Holy Spirit to fill you with Christ's peace (*see Philippians 4:6-7 for more of experiencing God's peace*).

SEVEN STEPS TO RECEIVING THE HOLY GHOST

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. (*John 14:16, 17*)

This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. (*Acts 2:32, 33*)

This lesson has a two fold purpose: Number one is to help those who have not yet received the infilling of the Holy Ghost. Number two is to help Spirit-filled believers pray with those who are seeking to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Any layperson can take the following seven steps and help any Christian get filled with the Holy Ghost without any tarrying or waiting.

The steps were told of a preaching in a certain meeting once where about sixty-five people had been filled with the Holy Ghost. In one of the daytime services, someone asked, what are we going to do when you leave?

It had been known by the people in the past struggles in order to get believers filled with the Holy Ghost. One of the women who were an outstanding altar worker said, "In every meeting, she always prayed with people to receive the Holy Spirit until her throat almost gave out. And after the meetings sometimes she had laryngitis for a month."

They were told about these seven steps to receiving the infilling of the Holy Ghost. That night seven believers came forward to receive the Holy Ghost. It was also told that the

speaker didn't pray for them to be filled, instead he prayed for the sick who came forward for healing and sent seven people into a prayer room, telling the altar workers, "All right, go back there and get them filled, following the instructions he gave them earlier.

They went to the room, and came out in ten minutes' time with six of the seven having been filled with the Holy Ghost! They apologized for not getting the seventh one filled, but it turned out that he wasn't even a Christian, and he didn't want to get saved. You see, you can't get the Holy Ghost without getting saved first.

One of the workers was so thrilled to learn how to help people receive the Holy Ghost that she could hardly wait to go visit her mother who lived some distance away and help her be filled with the Holy Spirit. "Mama has been seeking the baptism for nineteen years," the lady said, "but now I know she will receive."

Several months later returning back to that same church to hold meetings again, the woman testified, "I drove about one hundred and fifty miles to my mother's home, and Mama was outside waiting for me. I said, 'Mama, just come on into the house. I can't stay long. I'm going to have to get back home. I only have time to attend to the business I came for – to get you filled with the Holy Ghost.' "But, you know, I have been seeking a mighty long time," her Mama answered. The woman related, "I told her, 'I know it, Mama, but now you are going to receive.' They went into the house and she said, 'Just sit down and open your Bible to Acts chapter 2.' She sat down on the seat next to her mother and spent ten minutes with her just sharing the Word. Then she laid hands on her and her mother received the Holy Spirit and started speaking in tongues!"

The Seven Steps to Receiving the Holy Spirit

Step Number 1

Help the believer see that God has already given the Holy Spirit and that it is now up to that person to receive God's free Gift.

Above everything else, help the believer see that he is not to beg God to fill him with the Holy Spirit. The promise that the Holy Spirit was to be *given* was fulfilled in *Acts chapter 2*. The Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost, and He has been here ever since. After that time God hasn't *given* the Holy Spirit to anyone. Now people simply have to receive the Holy Spirit.

For instance, let's look at what the Apostle Paul said some years after the incidents recorded in *Acts chapter 2*.

(Acts 19:1-6)

- 1 Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,
- 2 He said unto them, Have ye Received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? (He didn't say, "Has God given you the Holy Ghost?" He said, "have ye received the Holy Ghost?) And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.
- 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.
- 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.
- 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Paul didn't tell these disciples to pray that God would give them the Holy Ghost. The Bible says, "...the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied" (Acts 19:6). Notice also *Acts chapter 8* which occurred some years after the Day of Pentecost.

(Acts 8:14, 15)

- 14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD (concerning salvation), they sent unto them Peter and John:
- 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might RECEIVE the Holy Ghost.

The apostles didn't pray that God would give the Samaritans the Holy Ghost. They prayed that they might receive the Holy Ghost: "Then laid they their hands on them, and they RECEIVED the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8:17).

God hasn't given the Holy Ghost to anyone since the Day of Pentecost, but people have received Him. The Holy Ghost is already here for believers to receive.

Step Number 2

Show the person who has come to receive the Holy Ghost that anyone who is saved is ready to *immediately* receive the Holy Spirit.

(ACTS 2:37, 38)

37 *Now when they (the unsaved multitude who gathered as a result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and to whom Peter had preached quoting Joel's prophecy) heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?*

38 *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

Verse 38 shows us that anyone who is saved is *immediately* ready to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Some people think there are certain things they have to do to qualify to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. For example, some think they have to make restitution for past sins. Some may think they have to return something that they may have stolen before they can get the Holy Ghost.”

It is true that sin, which has not been confessed, can hinder people from receiving the blessings of God. However, if folks are saved and walking in fellowship with God, they couldn't possibly be any cleaner than they are right then. Once we confess our sins, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all unrighteousness (*1 John 1:9*). We believe that saved people go to heaven when they die. And if they are good enough to go to heaven, they are good enough to have a little bit of heaven in them here on earth!

Some people think they have to follow certain standards of dress in order to receive the Holy Spirit. For example, it's been told that someone was preaching at a certain place and in the meeting a woman came forward to receive the Holy Spirit. She did receive and spoke with tongues for fifteen or twenty minutes.

Afterwards, she was sitting down and praising God in English. Some walked over to her and thought she hadn't received because they hadn't heard her speaking in tongues. They also noticed that she was wearing a wedding ring and said to her, “Sister, if you will take that wedding band off, God will fill you with the Holy Ghost.”

It was told that someone whispered to him, “Brother, you are too late. He has already filled her, wedding band and all.” You see, some people have the mistaken idea that they have to court God's favor in order to get Him to do something for them. All we have to do is to be saved and walk in the light of salvation. A person who is out of fellowship, of course, would have to come back into fellowship with Him. Some people have imagined that one has to be perfect before he can get the Holy Ghost. However, even the great Apostle Paul said he wasn't perfect. Yet we know he had the Holy Spirit.

(PHILIPPIANS 3:12, 13)

- 12 *Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect...*
 13 *...I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things, which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things, which are before.*

If you could do everything you ought to do and be everything you ought to be without the Holy Ghost, what would you need Him for? If you can do everything for yourself, why do you need the Holy Ghost?

Carnal Christians (or Christians who are sense ruled or dominated by the flesh) can be filled with the Holy Ghost. How do we know that? Because the Bible says the Corinthian Christians were carnal, and yet Paul prayed for them they would come behind in no gift. (*1 Cor. 1:7*) He was not endorsing carnality, to be sure. He was trying to get them to grow up in God and outgrow carnality. But as believers yield to Him, the Holy Ghost will help them grow out of carnality.

Baby Christians can be filled with the Holy Spirit. Carnal Christians and baby Christians—indeed, all believers—greatly need to be filled with the Holy Spirit because then they will receive power that will help them. (*Acts 1:8*) Also, if they will walk in the light of God’s Word and be led by the Holy Spirit, He will lead them into all truth and help them to outgrow some things in their lives which have perhaps hindered their Christian walk (*John 16:13*).

Therefore, if a person is saved, he is ready to receive the Holy Ghost now. Always lead the believer who is seeking the Holy Ghost to see that truth.

Step Number 3

Tell people that when you lay hands on them, they are to receive the Holy Ghost.

Anyone can lay hands on another in faith, for God honors faith. However, there is also a ministry of laying on of hands, and some are used along these lines more than others. But anyone can lay their hands on a person in faith as a point of contact, and tell them, “This is the time—right now—that you are to receive the Holy Ghost.” The Holy Ghost is received *by faith*, and faith is always “now” or present tense. (*Heb. 11:1*)

Step Number 4

Tell the candidate what to expect as he receives the Holy Spirit; otherwise, he won’t know what is happening when the Holy Spirit begins to move on him.

Tell the candidate that he is to expect the Holy Spirit to move upon his vocal organs and put supernatural words on his lips, which he will have to speak out himself in cooperation with the Holy Spirit. Remember, the person is the one who does the actual speaking, not the Holy Spirit. *The Holy Spirit* gives the *utterance*, but man does the actual speaking.

Some people have taught things that are unscriptural for so long that it is hard for them to break the habit of teaching them. For example, we have seen someone about to speak with tongues; the Spirit of God would be moving on his lips and vocal cords. Then we would hear someone say to him, "Let the Holy Ghost talk." But it is not the Holy Ghost who is to do the talking. It is the person receiving the Holy Ghost who is to do the talking.

Now it is all right to tell the person to yield to the Holy Ghost. But notice again Acts 2:4:"... *they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and (they) began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*" Notice, *they* were all filled and *they* began to speak. In other words, the Holy Spirit gives the utterance; the person who is receiving the Holy Spirit does the speaking.

Many people have thought *if I do the speaking, that would just be me*. Well of course, it will be you talking. It sure won't be the other person! And it sure won't be the person praying with you who will be doing the talking. Anytime you ever speak with tongues, it will surely be *you* doing the talking. But the Holy Ghost gives you the *utterance*, and it is a supernatural utterance.

The point is this: the Holy Ghost doesn't take you over, so to speak, and force you to do anything. But you can respond to Him and follow His promptings. He will give you the utterance, but *you* do the talking. Nowhere in the Bible do we find that the Holy Ghost spoke in tongues. Every scripture reference tells us that the person receiving the Holy Ghost does the talking and speaks the supernatural utterance—tongues—the Holy Spirit gives him.

Let's look at what the Scriptures say about the believer's role in speaking in tongues and the Holy Spirit's role in giving the utterance.

(ACTS 2:4)

... (They) began to SPEAK with other tongues, as THE SPIRIT gave them UTTERANCE.

(ACTS 10:46)

For they heard THEM SPEAK with tongues, and magnify God...

(ACTS 19:6)

And When Paul had laid his hands upon them, THE HOLY GHOST CAME ON THEM; and THEY SPAKE with tongues, and prophesied.

(1 CORINTHIANS 14:2, 4, 5)

For HE THAT SPEAKETH in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit HE SPEAKETH mysteries...

HE THAT SPEAKETH in an unknown tongue edifieth himself...

I would that YE ALL SPAKE with tongues...

(I CORINTHIANS 14:14, 15, 18)

- 14 For if I PRAY in AN UNKNOWN TONGUE, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.
- 15 What is it then? I WILL PRAY with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding...
- 18 I thank my God, I SPEAK with tongues more than ye all.

(I CORINTHIANS 14:27, 28)

- 27 IF ANY MAN SPEAKS in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.
- 28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church...

Notice that every one of these scriptures shows that in receiving the Holy Ghost and in praying in tongues and in ministering tongues in public assembly, it is always *the person* himself that does the actual speaking. But *the Holy Spirit* gives the supernatural utterance.

When we tell this to people who have been seeking the Holy Ghost for thirty or forty years, they often look at us in amazement and say, “If I had known that, I could have been speaking in tongues for the last thirty years. I had the urge—I had the prompting all the time. In fact at times, it was all I could do to keep from speaking in tongues, but I was waiting for the Holy Ghost to come and take my tongue over.”

Some people think that the baptism in the Holy Ghost is as if someone swallowed a small radio, and then when God gets ready, He just turns on “the radio” and it starts playing or speaking automatically. However, the *Holy Ghost* gives you *the utterance*, but *you do the talking*.

When the Spirit of God is moving on your tongue and lips, what you must do is lift your voice and put sound to it. If you will obey those promptings of the Holy Spirit, you will find yourself speaking with tongues. You see, you must cooperate with the Holy Ghost. Speaking with tongues isn’t entirely you, and it isn’t entirely the Holy Ghost. Speaking with tongues is *cooperation* between you and the Holy Ghost.

Step Number 5

It may be necessary to help some folks get over their fears first before they can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Many seekers have been told by well-meaning people that they might get something that is false or counterfeit when receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit. We have heard people say, “You know, there is a wrong spirit as well as a right one. I want to be certain and be sure I get the right thing.”

When we hear people talk like that, we point out *Luke 11:11-13* to them.

(LUKE 11:11-13)

- 11 *If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?*
- 12 *Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?*
- 13 *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: HOW MUCH MORE SHALL YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER GIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TO THEM THAT ASK HIM?*

Jesus was saying in this passage of Scripture, “If your child asked you as a parent for bread, would you give him a stone? If your child asked you for a fish, would you give him a serpent? If your child asked you for an egg, would you offer him a scorpion?”

No, of course you wouldn't. *“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”* (Luke 11:13). We can be assured that God will not give His children a counterfeit when they ask Him for the Holy Spirit.

It is a different thing entirely, of course, when a sinner is seeking the Holy Spirit because the sinner cannot receive the Holy Spirit (John 14:17). But if a person who is a child of God is seeking the Holy Spirit, he is not going to receive an evil spirit.

Notice that the words “serpent” and “scorpion” are used here in Luke chapter 11. Turning to Luke 10:19, we read that Jesus said, *“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy...”*

Jesus used the terms “serpents” and “scorpions” to talk about evil spirits. So He said in Luke 11 you are not going to get a “serpent” or a “scorpion” when you ask for the Holy Spirit. If you are a child of God and you go to your Heavenly Father to receive the Holy Ghost, then that is what you are going to get—the Holy Ghost.

When we have given these scriptures to those who have been misled by false teaching, we have seen them immediately begin to speak with tongues. They later tell us, “If I had known that, I could have been speaking with tongues and could have known the fullness of the Spirit for many years. But I was afraid I might get a wrong spirit.” Thank God, we can be relieved of our fears through the Word of God.

Step Number 6

Tell the candidate to open his mouth and be ready to use his own mouth and vocal chords, for the Holy Spirit will give the utterance, but he must yield and give voice to that utterance, at the same time the believer should tell God in his heart, “I am receiving the Holy Spirit right now by faith.”

We like to absolutely insist that people not speak one word in their natural language. We will give Scripture further in this lesson why a person receiving the Holy Spirit shouldn't speak one word in his natural language.

Then when the Holy Spirit begins to move upon the believer, tell him to lift his voice and speak out whatever utterance is given to him by the Holy Spirit, regardless of what it sounds like.

Tell the candidate to begin to speak the words and the language the Holy Spirit gives him, continuing to praise God and speak to God with those supernatural words until the language becomes more and more fluent.

When that person can hear himself speak in tongues in a distinct language, he will have assurance and confidence that he has received the Holy Ghost.

(JOHN 7:37-39)

- 37 *In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him COME UNTO ME, AND DRINK.*
- 38 *He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, OUT OF HIS BELLY (spirit) SHALL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER.*
- 39 *(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given: because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*

The Bible says the Holy Spirit will come to us as the rain. Jesus said in John chapter 7 that we are to come and drink of the Holy Spirit.

In other words, Jesus said receiving the Holy Ghost is like drinking water. That is, the same principle is involved. The point is no one can drink with their mouth shut. And in the same way, in order to receive the Holy Spirit, a person must act out action to his faith and give voice to the unction of the Holy Spirit; he can't do that with his mouth closed. Remember, the Holy Spirit gives the utterance; the person does the actual talking.

Secondly, no one can drink and talk at the same time. We have seen people come to receive the Holy Spirit and open their mouth in faith. We have never seen anyone who opened his mouth in faith to receive the Holy Spirit who didn't receive as quickly as you can snap your finger.

We have seen thousands of folks filled with the Holy Ghost—preachers and pastors of every denomination, doctors, lawyers, school teachers, college professors, laborers, farmers, and people from every walk of life.

Businessmen came down the aisle in one of my meetings to receive the Holy Spirit, and they were all filled too!

That's scriptural because Jesus said, "Come and drink" (John 7:37). If you will act on God's Word, He will honor His Word, and you can receive the Holy Ghost or whatever it is that He has promised.

Step Number 7**Keep the candidate from being distracted.**

For instance, don't permit a crowd to gather around the candidate, giving instructions all at once. This will confuse a person. We like to have only a few workers whom we have specially instructed to help individuals receive the Holy Spirit.

Many times individuals are a little slow about yielding to the Spirit, but if someone is there to help encourage them to yield to the Holy Spirit, people can more readily receive.

For example, when going swimming, sometimes it is hard to get some people in the water, but if you will take the lead and get in the water and swim around and say, "The water sure feels good," they will be encouraged to get in the water too.

Similarly, sometimes you can simply speak in tongues yourself after praying with the candidate and this will encourage the candidate to "follow you into the water," so to speak—into the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We have been in Full Gospel circles many years, and have seen nearly everything happen you can mention when people were seeking the Holy Ghost (and a lot we don't want to mention).

For example, It was told of folks at the altar seeking the Holy Spirit while someone on one side of them was yelling in one ear, "Hold on Brother, hold on."

Someone else might be hollering in the other ear, "Turn loose, Brother, turn loose."

Someone kneeling right behind them would be patting him on the back hollering, "Let go, Brother, let go." Then someone sitting right in front of them would be shouting something else at the top of his voice.

Many have still received the Holy Spirit this way, not because of this kind of behavior, but in spite of it! However, even though multitudes have received, many honest and sincere believers have been driven away. We will see more people filled with the Holy Spirit if we will follow scriptural practices.

Therefore, don't allow several people to crowd around candidates who are seeking the Holy Spirit. And don't allow more than one person to give instructions at one time, because that would cause the candidate to become confused. Let one person instruct him how to yield to the Spirit.

If others are standing nearby, have them pray quietly in tongues, not in their own language. If people are praying in their own native language, that person receiving the Holy Spirit can hear what they are saying. And it will distract him. In other words, he might get his mind on the others and what they're saying, and many times people will not yield to God if they are listening to what people around them are saying.

You will find that by following these seven steps, you will help believers receive the Holy Spirit immediately without tarrying. As you assist believers in receiving the Holy Spirit, you will feel personally blessed and rewarded for your part in their receiving this wonderful gift of the Holy Ghost.

THE LIFESTYLE OF THE KINGDOM

WHAT IS THE LIFESTYLE OF THE KINGDOM?

The lifestyle of the Kingdom is a method of living, which Jesus Christ prescribes for His Body, the Church.

WHAT IS THIS METHOD?

It is a method of discipline and self-denial that produces the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. (Matthew 16:24, 25).

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR THIS LIFESTYLE?

The purpose for the Kingdom lifestyle is to conform us into the image of God's Son and to make us partakers of His holiness.

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (Romans 8:28).

Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God. (Leviticus 20:7).

WHAT ARE THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT THIS LIFESTYLE PRODUCES?

The Kingdom lifestyle produces:

Three Christian habits of mind: love, joy, and peace.

1. Three special qualities that affect man's relationship with his neighbor: long-suffering, kindness, and doing good.
2. Three Christian conducts: honesty, gentleness, and temperance

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23).

WHAT DOES CHRIST REQUIRE OF HIS PEOPLE?

Christ requires them to live holy lives and to live in peace with all men, as much as is possible.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord; (Hebrews 12:14).

Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God (Leviticus 20:7)

WHAT IS MEANT BY “DISCIPLINE”?

Discipline is the training we receive from those in authority over us in the Local Church. It is designed to train character through instruction, control, correction, and strengthening.

Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. (Proverbs 9:9)

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (II Timothy 3:16-17)

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF DISCIPLINE?

Discipline teaches us obedience through submitting our will to the will of God.

Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. (Hebrews 13:17)

WHY MUST WE LEARN OBEDIENCE?

We must learn obedience because God demands it of His children. He not only requires us to be obedient in keeping the Ten Commandments but we are to practice obedience in all areas of life.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverb 22:6)

For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. (Hebrew 12:6)

DOES GOD REQUIRE OBEDIENCE OF EVERYONE?

Yes, everyone is required to learn obedience. God presents to us the example of His own Son, Jesus Christ, who was obedient in all things.

The Bible gives us examples of His obedience:

1. To His parents.

And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. (Luke 2:51).

2. To those in authority.

And Jesus answered said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. And they marveled at him. (Mark 12:17)

3. In His suffering.

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered. And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him. (Hebrew 5:8-9)

4. In His death.

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:8)

5. To God, the Father.

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. (John 6:38)

WHY IS DISCIPLINE AND OBEDIENCE NEEDED IN THE LOCAL CHURCH?

It is needed in a Local Church for the development of our spiritual growth, to train us in God's ways and to correct us when we are wrong or disobedient.

Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: Therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned, also thou has delivered thy soul. (Ezek. 3:17,18, 21)

WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO DISCIPLINE US IN THE LOCAL CHURCH?

The Pastor with the Church Council

WHAT IS THE CHURCH COUNCIL?

The Pastor and elders and those to whom God has given the responsibility of oversight and the ministry of governments have the supervisors, teachers, ushers, etc.

When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them. (Acts 15:2-4)

I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephenas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) that ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth. (I Corinthians 16:15, 16)

WHO GIVES THE AUTHORITY TO THE PASTOR AND ELDERS?

All authority comes from God and those who are placed over us receive it only when we submit ourselves to it.

Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. (I Peter 2:13,14)

WHEN IS DISCIPLINE NEEDED IN THE LOCAL CHURCH?

Discipline is needed in the Local Church at all times. Correction is needed when the members become unruly or it is needed to maintain fellowship with each other.

.... Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sanctified for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness: but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. (I Corinthians 5:6-8)

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE WHEN A DIFFERENCE EXIST BETWEEN TWO MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH?

The one who has been wronged is to go the one at fault and attempt to make reconciliation. According to the Scriptures, two attempts should be made the first one is to be made privately; the second, in the presence of two or three witnesses. If both attempts fail, the matter should be brought before the Church leaders. If the one at fault refuses to hear the Church leaders, he is to be excluded from the Local Church. However, the Church has no power to excommunicate the erring one from the Grace of God.

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican. (Matthew 18:17)

NOTE: The Scriptures forbid Christians to take a Christian brother to court. All grievances must be settled within the church and its governmental structure.

*Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?
(I Corinthians 6:1,2)*

HOW SHALL ONE BE DISCIPLINED WHO HAS CORRUPTED THE CHURCH WITH SINFUL PRACTICES?

When a person has fallen into sinful practices or disorderly conduct, it is the duty of the “spiritual ones” in the congregation to attempt a restoration of that individual. The final responsibility falls upon the pastor of the church, but it must not be his alone. Every spiritual one (other elders, deacons, teachers of the Word) must be concerned about this discipline that will bring unity and purity to the Church and restoration to the one gone astray.

Brethren, if any person is overtaken in misconduct or sin of any sort, you who are spiritual - who are responsive to and controlled by the Spirit - should set him right and restore and reinstate him, without any sense of superiority and with all gentleness, keeping an attentive eye on yourself, lest you should be tempted also. (Galatians 6:1 AMP)

WHAT IF SUCH A PERSON, WHO HAS COMMITTED SINFUL PRACTICES, REFUSES TO REPENT AND BE RESTORED?

That one must not be allowed to come to the Lord’s Table and share in a communion with the Lord and the other members of the Body. He must be put out of the fellowship. Sin is contagious, and if one, who deliberately and stubbornly practices wickedness, is allowed to remain, the whole Body of believers will be diseased (sick). A member of the Church in Corinth was living in sexual sin. Paul, the Apostle, gave the following command:

In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ.... Deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.... Know ye not that a little leaven (contaminated) the whole lump (loaf of bread).... Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person. (1 Corinthians 5:4, 5,13)

HOW DO YOU DISCIPLINE ONE WHO HAS BROUGHT CONFUSION INTO THE BODY WITH FALSE DOCTRINE, TEACHINGS, AND ACTIVITIES?

Some people feel that what you do is important, but what you believe is unimportant. This is not true. What you believe causes you to do what you do. If we do not believe, teach and practice what the Bible says, we are bearing false witness to the truth.

(As for) a man who is factious- a heretical sectarian and cause of divisions—after admonishing him a first and second time reject (him from your fellowship and have nothing more to do with him), well aware that such a person has utterly changed—is perverted and corrupted; he goes on sinning (thought) he is convicted of guilt and self-condemned. (Titus 3:10,11 AMP)

But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. (Galatians 1:8)

BIBLE NARRATIVE: Achan’s sin hurt the whole nation of Israel. (Joshua 7:1-12)

ARE WE TO HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH ONE WHO HAS BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE LOCAL CHURCH?

Having fellowship with an individual who has been excluded from the Church indicates we condone what he has done. It also shows that we do not support those in authority over us whose responsibility is to keep the fellowship between Christ and His body, the Church, flowing freely.

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them. (Romans 16:17)

IS THE CHURCH EVER ALLOWED TO USE PUNISHMENT AS A FORM OF DISCIPLINE?

No. The Government (state) has the right to punish but never the Church. The symbol of civil authority (government) is the sword. The symbol of Church authority is keys. When Jesus spoke to Peter and the disciples about their authority, He said, "I give unto you the keys of the Kingdom", but in the Garden of Gethsemane, Peter was told, "Put up your sword!" The Church is not allowed to charge fines of its members, put them into prison, beat them, or boycott them in business.

IN WHAT THREE AREAS IS THE CHURCH TO PRACTICE DISCIPLINE?

The Church is to discipline:

1. Personal wrongs between individuals.

*Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unjust, and not before the saints? Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?
(I Corinthians 6:1,2)*

2. Personal conduct (sins) that would corrupt the Body, causing a hindrance to the unity of believers and a halt in the communion (fellowship with Christ). Fornicator (One who is immoral); Covetous person (One who is greedy, grasping for another's possessions, a swindler); An idolater (one who is devoted to anything that takes the place of God in his life); A railer (one with foul, abusive, slandering tongue); A drunkard (One habitually under the influence of drink); An extortioner (one who lives by taking advantage of others through lies and sharp dealings, often with unlawful methods).
3. Wrong beliefs and teachings that would corrupt the truth of the Bible, bringing confusion into the Body of Christ and disrespect to the Word of God.

For if there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: (I John 10)

HOW CAN WE HELP OURSELVES TO LEARN OBEDIENCE?

We can help ourselves to learn obedience by practicing self-discipline and obeying the laws of the Local Church.

*.... Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.
(I Samuel 15:22)*

WHAT IS SELF-DISCIPLINE?

Self-discipline is practicing temperance (self controlled) in our own lives.

And in exercising knowledge develop self control; and in exercising self control develop steadfastness patience, endurance), and in exercising steadfastness develop godliness (piety), (II Peter 1:6 AMP)

For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. (I Cor. 11:31).

But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. (I Cor. 2:15)

WHAT ARE CHURCH LAWS?

Church laws are man made laws that are set up by the Local Church based on the Word of god for the purpose of avoiding the vices that bring men and women into bondage.

ARE CHURCH LAWS THE SAME AS GOD'S LAWS?

Yes. Church laws are the rules made by the spiritual leaders of a Local Church based on the Word of god. God's laws are the Ten Commandments.

IS IT A SIN TO DISOBEY CHURCH LAWS?

If you have become a member of a Local church and have agreed to abide by its church laws, and then break the church's laws, you have sinned. To disobey a church law means to dishonor those in authority over us. We are commanded in the Fifth Commandment to obey our superiors.

Obey them that have rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for those that is unprofitable for you. (Hebrews 13:17)

CAN CHURCH LAWS BE ENFORCED?

Yes, The elder's deal with offenders and if they do not change their habits, fellowship with the Local church is severed.

DID THE CHURCHES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT HAVE CHURCH LAWS?

Yes. The Jerusalem Church Council set down the rules for Gentile believers.

Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them which from among the Gentiles are turned to God: But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollution of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood. (Acts 15:19,20).

WHAT CHURCH LAWS DO LOCAL CHURCHES OBSERVE TODAY?

Local churches command us not to participate in anything that can enslave us.

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. (I Corinthians 10:23)

While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought into bondage. For if after they have escaped the pollution of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. (2 Peter 2:19,20).

WHAT ENSLAVING PRACTICES SHOULD WE AVOID?

We should avoid all forms of intemperance that can enslave us:

- A. Drunkenness and gluttony
- B. Nicotine and drug abuse
- C. Gambling
- D. X-rated movies, books and entertainment. Pornography, immodesty, immortality, indecent music and dance.
- E. Occult literature, meetings and practices.

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempted he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death. (James 1:13-15)

WHY MUST WE NOT PARTAKE OF THINGS THAT WILL ENSLAVE US?

If we yield ourselves to these things, they will become our masters.

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness. (Romans 6:16)

HOW CAN WE DEVELOP THE LIFESTYLE OF THE KINGDOM IN OUR LIVES?

The lifestyle of the Kingdom is developed in us as we discipline ourselves daily to pray and read God's word. The worship services and activities of the Local Church are designed to help us mature spiritually, so we can produce the fruits of the spirit in our lives.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. (2 Cor. 6:17, 18; 7:1).

FAITH

Faith gives reality and proof of things unseen, treating them as if they are already objects of sight rather than hope. *(Hebrews 11:1)*

Through faith we understand that the world was formed by the word of God. *(Hebrews 11:3)*

WE BELIEVE:

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible and that it is the word of God, and was written by Holy men as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit.
2. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of a virgin.
3. That Jesus was crucified, buried and raised from the dead, and all power was given unto Him in Heaven and Earth; he commissioned the church to preach the gospel to all the earth. *(Matthew 28:18-20)*
4. We believe in the second coming of Christ.

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF FAITH:

1. Natural Faith: things that we can see, feel or touch.
2. Spiritual Faith: things that cannot be seen, felt or touched. *(I Corinthians 5:7, Habakkuk 2:4)*
3. God has dealt to every man the measure of faith. *(Romans 12:3)*

HOW DO YOU OBTAIN FAITH?

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. We must believe that the word of God is true. *(Hebrews 12:2; Romans 10:17)*

FAITH IS PLACED IN ACTION BY:

1. Speaking the word
2. Believe in the heart
3. Act on the word; for faith without works is dead.
(James 2:17, Ephesians 2:8)

Without faith it is impossible to please God; for the just shall live by faith and faith alone.
(Hebrews 10:38, 11:6; II Corinthians 4:18)

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Pray without ceasing. *(I Thes. 5:17)*

Men ought always to pray and not to faint. *(Luke 18:1)*

Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on all people. *(Zeh. 12:10 TLB)*

I. PRAYER IS: Your spiritual life, while breathing is your physical life.

Prayer is an appointment with God. Never break your appointment.

- A. Talking to God
Abraham said: I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord. *(Gen. 18:27)*
- B. Fellowshiping with God
You shall hide them in the secret place of your presence. *(Psalm 31:20)*
Learn how to come and spend time in the secret place of God's presence.
- C. Listening to God talk to you
Whoever listens to me, will dwell safely and will be secure without fear of evil.
(Proverbs 1:33)

Learning to listen takes much time and effort. Prayer is not telling God what to do. The goal in prayer is to find out what God wants you to do so that He will be glorified. Learn to listen to God as much as speaking out prayers to God. Half of the time spent in prayer should be listening.

- D. Bringing God's will into the earth
Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
(Matt 6:10)

Prayer is not begging God to do something. God's will is known by knowing what His word says (His Word is His will). Prayer is speaking God's will into existence and causing His power to be released on the earth on your behalf.

- E. The ability to work with and understand the spiritual world
...May the Lord give you understanding in all things. (2 Tim. 2:7)

Knowledge from the Word about the spiritual world is necessary so prayers will be answered. God's people have not had the spiritual understanding to break through and use His power to see prayers answered. Wrong ideas about prayer will cause a weak prayer life with few results.

- F. Spiritual Warfare—Coming Against Satan

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against will to do His plan in the earth. Prayer is a battle against Satan.

II. REQUIRES DISCIPLINE

Prayer has to be learned. Just as it is discipline to exercise the body, so it is discipline to exercise the spirit to pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to change you into a person of prayer. There are three stages of prayer:

1. Desire: Ask God to give you the desire to pray.
2. Discipline: Make a definite decision to pray. Ask Holy Spirit to help.
3. Delight: Prayer will eventually become a delight you won't want to miss.

III. ALL ARE CALLED TO PRAY

Prayer is for everyone, not a special ministry. The works of Jesus are teaching, preaching, healing, casting out demons and praying. Jesus was able to do these works because He spent many nights and hours in prayer to receive the anointing to perform them. (*Luke 6:12*)

IV. PRIORITY OF PRAYER

Prayer is a weapon to use BEFORE to prevent the attacks of Satan. Pray EVERYDAY, and the troubles in life will be fewer. Prayer provides constant protection. Prayer will take care of things in the spirit world FIRST, so they will never happen in the physical world.

V. GOD HEARS THE PRAYERS OF THE RIGHTEOUS

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers. (*I Peter 3:12*)

A. Righteous

“Righteous” means, “right standing” with God. Right standing with God comes when you have accepted God’s salvation in Jesus Christ’s death on the cross and His forgiveness of sins. The Bible tells us what to do to be righteous or saved:

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your HEART that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the HEART one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation. (*Rom. 10:9, 10*)

What is believing with the “heart”? There are two hearts in the human body. One is the physical heart in your chest, which pumps blood through the body. However, the heart mentioned in this Scripture is in the head. It is the heart of the mind—the will. To be saved you must make a conscientious decision with the heart of your mind—your will—to totally commit to live for God and serve Him.

The three levels of prayer are:

Asking: Petition

Seeking: Becoming a Worshipper

Knocking: Carrying on a conversation openly and freely with God

A. First Levels: ASKING

"Ask, and it shall be given you... for everyone who asks receives."

This is the beginning, elementary level of prayer. New, baby Christians ask and God will miraculously grant them their simple requests, in Jesus name. But, as a Christian grows, those answers don't come all the time. God expects growth in the knowledge of prayer.

Moving on to the next level:

To grow spiritually, it is necessary to move on from the "Asking" level. Spiritual growth and prayer growth depends on what is learned from the Word. It takes a desire and a seeking into the Word to grow. For spiritual growth, move on to the level of "Seeking" in the Word.

B. Second Level: SEEKING

"Seek, and you shall find... he who seeks finds."

Seek God by studying His Word, and He will reveal His great promises. Search out a truth so that prayer can be based on the Word. Actually "Pray the Word." When prayer is based on the truths in the Word, faith will arise, and answers to prayer can be assured.

Moving on to the next level:

To grow further in prayer life, it is necessary to move on from "Asking and Seeking." Begin to knock by ACTING on the Word in faith, and the door to the spiritual world will be opened.

C. Third Level: KNOCKING

"Knock and It shall be opened to you... and to him who knocks it shall be opened."

This level is true "intercessory prayer-intercession." Begin to praise and worship Him, giving Him quality time and staying before Him in the Spirit. A spiritual door will then be opened. Revelation knowledge and understanding will come. A new walk in spiritual maturity is available for those who take the time to knock.

There are three levels of intercession, which will be discussed further in Part I, Lesson 5:

- (1) Praying in the understanding
- (2) Simple tongues
- (3) Groanings.

BASIC RULES FOR PRAYER

Some basic rules for prayer include:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Abide in the Word | 8. Watch and Pray |
| 2. Confess Sins to God and One Another | 9. Be Specific |
| 3. Live a Life of Forgiveness | 10. Remind God of Promises |
| 4. Prayer in Faith – Do Not Doubt | 11. No Repetitious Prayers |
| 5. Believe You Receive When You Pray | 12. Husband Honor Wives |
| 6. Pray in the Name of Jesus | 13. When, Where, How, Who |
| 7. Thanksgiving | 14. Hindrances to Prayer |

I. ABIDE IN THE WORD

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit so you will be my disciples.

(John 15:7, 8)

Webster's' dictionary says abide means:

- (1) To remain, continue, stay; to dwell. "Live" in the Word by continually reading it, speaking it, praying it, meditating in it, and memorizing it.
- (2) To remain steadfast it or faithful. Be faithful to do what the Word says.
- (3) To await or accept the consequences of. Be willing to accept not only God's blessings for being obedient to His Word, but also to accept His judgment for being disobedient to His Word. God forgives sin, but the consequences or judgment for our actions many times still come.

To "Abide in the Word" is to follow Jesus by having a full knowledge of what is in the Bible and not asking anything in prayer that does not agree with it.

You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. (James 4:3)

At this point in a believer's life, God puts His desires in the heart so that His will can be prayed and brought forth in the earth. Thus, this Scripture says that "you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you."

II. CONFESS SINS TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

- A. Have a pure heart before God for prayers to be answered.**

Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2)

- B. All have sinned, and continue to sin everyday in thought, word or deed.**

If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8, 9)

- C. Ask God to search your heart and show you your personal sins. Ask Him for forgiveness.**

- D. If you have sinned against someone, confess your sins to that person so healing can come.**

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (James 5:16)

LIVE A LIFE OF FORGIVENESS**Unforgiveness causes prayer not to be heard.**

And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. (Mark 11:25, 26)

Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:30, 31)

Steps to forgiveness:

1. Choose to forgive person
2. Ask God to forgive person
3. Ask god to forgive you
4. Release emotions to God
5. Forget it
6. Don't complain or talk about it

PRAY IN FAITH—DO NOT DOUBT

A. Pray according to the will of God, the Word, to be sure prayer will be answered. When prayer is based on the word, it is in faith, and there will be no doubting.

Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, Be moved and be cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. (Mark 11:23)

But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. *(James 1:6-8)*

AMEN means, so be it! It is done! To know with certainty that prayer has been heard by God.

B. Do not speak negative words against the prayer. Negative words stop the prayer from being answered. *Mark 11:23* above states that you will have whatever you say. This works for both positive words and negative words.

Death and life are in the power of the tongue and those who love it will eat its fruit.... You are snared with the words of your mouth. (Proverbs 18:21; 6:2)

Just as God created the world by His words, our circumstances are created by our words.

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the Word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. (Hebrews 11:3)

(See Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24)

Notice that Mark 11:23 says we can have whatever we SAY. Don't be deceived by Satan by not "speaking" out your prayer. God spoke the world into existence in Genesis 1. We speak our world into existence by what we **PRAY OUT LOUD.**

III. BELIEVE YOU RECEIVE ANSWER WHEN YOU PRAY

A. Believe the answer to prayer is received at the time it is prayed. Believe in the heart of your mind for the answer before actually seeing the prayer come to pass.

B. Speak as if the prayer has already been answered. Abraham did this and established a very important prayer principle.

...Who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "so shall your descendants be." (Romans 4:17,18)

PRAY IN THE NAME OF JESUS

A. Always Pray in the Name of Jesus

Ask or pray to the **Father** in Jesus name. Jesus did not say to pray to Him, but to the Father in His name. This is the key to answered prayer.

And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. John 16:23,24

Jesus says to **ASK**. Many times prayers are not answered because they are just "wished" and never spoken and asked according to the Word.

Yet you do not have because you do not ask. James 4:3

"Demand" In The Name of Jesus To Do the Works of Jesus

Jesus gave every born-again believer the **authority** to stand against Satan for himself and others command in Jesus' name that Satan stop his evil works.

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Luke 10:19

To do the works of Jesus (healing, miracles, casting out demons, etc.), take authority over Satan, always using the name of Jesus. The works of Jesus are God's will. The works of Satan are not God's will for anyone.

The thief (Satan) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I (Jesus) have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. John 10:10

Do not "ask" the Father in prayer, as in John 16:23,24 above, but DEMAND, in Jesus name, that the devil stop his works.

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to my Father. And whatever you ask (demand) in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. John 14:13,14

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

1. Jesus never prayed for the sick; he demanded it. Demanding is doing the works of Jesus. Examples of Jesus demanding or commanding, not praying, are:

Stretch out your hand. And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. Mark 3:5

For He (Jesus) said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit." Mark 5:8

**Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more.
Mark 9:25**

Arise, take up your bed and go to your house (paralytic healed). Matt. 9:6

2. Peter also followed this rule, as follows:

Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Acts 3:6

3. Mark refers to this as **"Speaking to the Mountain"**:

Jesus said, Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Mark 11:22b, 23

Verbal words are powerful in the spirit world. Speak to the problem (the mountain) and command it to go, in the Name of Jesus. An example would be:

In the name of Jesus I command all financial problems to leave me now.

(However, for this command to work it would be necessary that all Biblical financial principles were being followed—i.e., tithing, sowing seeds, etc.)

VII. THANKSGIVING

In everything five thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. I Thes. 5:18
Thank God” in” everything, not “for” everything. In adverse circumstances, do not thank God for them, but thank God that He will see you through them. Life must be one of continual thanksgiving to God. Thank Him before seeing the answer to prayer. Never give up in prayer. Just keep thanking Him that He has answered it.

FASTING

WHAT IS FASTING

Fasting is voluntarily refraining from food and drink at a time and for a time to give us the opportunity to give our full attention to a particular matter. It must be accompanied with sincere prayer to be effective in securing an answer from God. **Isaiah 58:6-7, Matthew 6:16-18**

TYPES OF FASTING

1. Regular - Refraining from all food and drink, except water. **Matthew 4:2**
2. Partial - Omit a certain meal each day and strictly restrict the quantity of food and drink we consume. **Daniel 10:3**
3. Complete - We do not eat nor drink liquid of any kind. Do not exceed 3 days. **Acts 9:9, Esther 4:16**

WHY DO WE FAST?

1. Obedience
2. It aids in temptation
3. Develops faith
4. Rests the digestive system
5. Denies the flesh
6. To hear clearly from the Lord **Matthew 8, Luke 4**

LIQUID FAST

A liquid fast is a partial fast that allows liquids of all kinds to be taken to any period of time (juice, broth or beverages). This fast can be accomplished for extended time periods.

OUR MOTIVES FOR FASTING

When fasting, our main objects should be to minister to the Lord through worship and by giving ourselves wholly to Him.

When ye fasted...Did ye at all fast unto me, even to me? (Zech 7:5)

THE BENEFITS OF FASTING

1. It brings deliverance
2. It disciplines the body
3. It releases our faith for healing
4. It gives force to our prayers
5. It purges our spirit

Isaiah 58: 1 – 9

PRAISE

Often, praise and thanksgiving go hand-in-hand. Thanksgiving arises from our desire to show appreciation for the goodness of God. Praise stems from the desire to love and extol God for Who He is, rather than for what He does. We were created for this purpose.

1. WHY DO WE PRAISE THE LORD?

1. It is a command (Psalm 81:1-5)
2. It is comely (Psalm 33:1)
3. It is pleasant (Psalm 135:3)
4. It is good (Psalm 54:6; 92:1)
5. God is worthy (Psalm 18:3; 48:1)
6. It assures us of the abiding presence of the Lord (Psalm 89:15)

2. WHAT DOES PRAISE ACCOMPLISH

1. It opens a line of communication (Psalm 68:32,33)
2. Purification (Proverbs 27:21; 17:3)
3. It glorifies the Lord (Psalm 50:23)
4. Deliverance (Psalm 42:5)
5. Healing (Psalm 42:11)

WORSHIP

In the Hebrew language, it means to “bow yourself down in adoring contemplation of God”. Worship involves devotion, reverence, adoration, respect and honor.

1. THE IMPORATANCE OF WORSHIP

1. This is how we come into His presence (Psalm 100:4)
2. God inhabits the praise of His people
3. It is pleasing to God (Psalm 69:30,31)
4. God requires it as our sacrifice to Him (Hebrews 13:15)
5. We were created for this purpose (Psalm 102:18)
6. The Word of God expresses God's desire for us to worship Him (Psalm 45:11; 86:9; 95:6)
7. The Father seeketh true worshipers to worship Him in Spirit and in truth. (John 4:23)

2. HOW ARE WE TO WORSHIP THE LORD?

1. In Spirit (John 4:20-24; Phil 3:3)
2. In Truth (John 4:24; 8:32; 17:17)
3. In the Beauty of His Holiness) I Chronicles 16:29; Psalm 29:2; 96:9)
4. In the Fear of the Lord (Psalm 5:7; Deuteronomy 10:12)

PRAISE AND WORSHIP**1. HOW OFTEN DO WE PRAISE AND WORSHIP LORD?**

1. Continually (Psalm 71:6; 35; 34:1)
2. Day by day (II Chronicles 30:21)
3. In everything (I Thessalonians 5:18; Ephesians 5:19-20)

2. IN WHAT WAYS CAN WE PRAISE AND WORSHIP THE LORD?

1. In song (Psalm 28:7; 40:3)
2. In the Spirit (John 4:24)
3. With understanding (I Corinthians 14:14-15)
4. In the dance (Psalm 150:4)
5. With Instruments (Psalm 33:2; 150:3-5)
6. By lifting our hands (Psalm 63:3-4; 134:2)
7. By clapping our hands (Psalm 47:1)

3. WHERE ARE WE TO PRAISE AND WORSHIP THE LORD?

1. In our home (Psalm 42:8; 149:5)
2. In the Assembly (Psalm 22:22; 35:18; 111:1)
3. In the presence of Non-Believers (Psalm 40:3; 126:2, Acts 2:46-47)

4. WHO ARE SOME BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF WORSHIPPERS?

1. Joshua (Joshua 5:14)
2. Gideon (Judges 7:15)
3. David (II Samuel 12:20)
4. Israel (II Chronicles 7:3; Nehemiah 8:6)

COMMUNION/THE LORD'S TABLE

There are three titles given for communion.

1. The LORD'S Supper
2. The LORD'S Table
3. Communion

WHAT IS THE LORD'S SUPPER?

The LORD'S Supper is a sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ on the night before he died, that confirms that covenant made with God through the blood of Christ. It is fulfillment of the eternal covenant of the Passover Feast, which God commanded the Israelites to observe. Through the blood of the Lamb, the Israelites confirmed their covenant with God.

The LORD'S Supper is a visible representation of Christ death for our sins and the glorious hope of his return. Our participation in it strengthens our faith through fellowship with Christ and other believers. **I Corinthians 11:20**

The Table: A place of love and fellowship, sharing, and communing. It is the family Table; love feast, a meal. **I Corinthians 10:21**

The Bread: Represents His broken body. He is the Lamb that was slain. **I Corinthians 11:23, 24. Matthews 26:27**

The Wine: Represents His blood which was shed for the remission of sins and symbolizes the new covenant. **I Corinthians 11:25, 26**

The fruit of the vine is the life of the grape. Alcohol wine is certainly not a fitting symbol of his incorruptible blood. (Wine is a mockery strong drink is raging, whosoever is deceive thereby is not wise) **Proverbs 20:1**

WHAT ATTITUDE SHOULD WE HAVE WHEN COMING TO THE LORD

The LORD'S Supper should be taken thoughtfully because we are proclaiming that Christ died for our sins. We should take it worthily with due reverence, respect and with faith.

It should be a joyous occasion. **I Corinthians 11:26**

We should examine ourselves for any unconfessed sin or resentful attitudes. **Corinthians 11:27**

We are to be properly prepared based on our belief and love for Christ. **I Corinthians 11:34**

If any one is hungry let him eat at home.

TITHING

TITHING IS A CLEAR WAY TO DEMONSTRATE OUR PRIORITIES

The Bible makes the purpose of tithing very clear - to put God first in our life. A habit of regular tithing can keep God at the top of our priority list and give us a proper perspective on everything on everything else we have.

Tithing - is the first fruit that belongs to God. It is a 10th of what we earn. It is used for the upholding of God's kingdom; to take care of the poor, widows, and those in need. (Widow if there is no next of kin). Hebrews 7:2; Leviticus 27:32

WHY SHOULD WE PAY TITHES?

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. **Malachi 3:10**

WHAT TO EXPECT IF YOU DON'T PAY YOUR TITHES?

Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me (God) even this whole nation.
Malachi 3:9, Haggai 1:5-9, Luke 21:1-4, I Corinthians 16:2

OFFERING

Offering is a way of showing our appreciation for God's blessings. It is given from our heart, as God has prospered us after paying our tithes. Offering is given voluntarily, cheerfully, and not grudgingly and should be your best; there is no certain amount.

But this I say, He, who soweth sparingly, shall reap also sparingly, and he, which soweth bountifully, shall reap also bountifully. **Luke 18:12, Malachi 1:14**