

**Psalm 122:1-9** I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD." Our feet have been standing Within your gates, O Jerusalem! Jerusalem is built As a city that is compact together, <sup>4</sup> Where the tribes go up, The tribes of the LORD, To the Testimony of Israel, To give thanks to the name of the LORD. For thrones are set there for judgment, The thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces." For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace *be* within you." Because of the house of the LORD our God I will seek your good.

# The Great "I AM" Faith Center

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## DISCIPLESHIP WORKSHOP

Pastor / Dr. Mel Silas

2/12/2017



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# Discipleship Class

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## ONLINE ZOOM CLASS

**Location Online Zoom Class**

**Time & Day: Wednesdays 7:00pm – 8:15PM**

**Location: Internet Zoom**

**Duration: 8 Weeks**

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### **Important Things to Know Before Attending:**

1. You will be required to Announce yourself upon entering every Class.
2. **You MUST attend [orientation](#) before attending any of the class sessions.**
3. Class begins promptly at the scheduled times. If you are late (after a 10 minute grace period), you may not receive credit for that class session, and may have to retake it.
4. Class manuals are required and can be downloaded from the website.
5. Please be prepared by having your Bible and able to take notes.
6. You are required to complete all (8) **Discipleship Classes**
7. Make-Up day classes are available. Speak with Pastor if you need to make up a class.
8. Upon completion of all classes you will receive a certificate of completion.

**Why Have A Discipleship Class?**

The Bible is very clear that **involvement in, and commitment** to, a local church are essential for Christians. Throughout the New Testament, the pattern of the Christians is to meet in local congregations (Acts 2:46; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Ephesians 4:16; 1 Timothy 3:15).

**Acts 2:46 (KJV)** And they, continuing daily with **one accord in the temple**, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

**1 Corinthians 14:26 (KJV)** How is it then, brethren? **when ye come together**, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

**Ephesians 4:16 (KJV)** From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

**1 Timothy 3:15 (KJV)** But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

At some points we are commanded to do so (e.g. Hebrews 10:25).

**Hebrews 10:25 (KJV)** Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

**Having said that, it is true that the Bible nowhere requires membership of a church.** In fact, in Biblical times there was no such thing. However, **the Biblical principle is that the church is a family and a unit.** Church membership is a way of becoming involved in a local church as every believer should be. Also in demonstrating a commitment to that church which is following the church of the Lord Jesus.

**An orientation class is for new and prospective members is a must for a vibrant and growing church. “The manner in which people join the church will determine their effectiveness as members for years to come. . . . If little is required to join, very little can be expected from the members later on.”**

A Discipleship Class **identifies the uniqueness of our church. It shows that Discipleship is valued highly, and not casual.** It provides the first step in growing. It shows what is expected of every member. (The class does not add to what is needed for salvation; it clarifies what is already stated.) It answers questions and concerns in a healthy way. It provides the leadership with a way to interact with our current members and prospective and new members in a relaxed environment. It provides an avenue where you can get to know other new members and begin a relationship with them. It gets people on the same page with vision, direction, structure, purpose, strategy, of the vision and our Pastor. It prevents possible factions and problems. While not a guarantee, a Discipleship Class will help new and old members be faithful and effective members for years to come.



## THE VISION OF THE MINISTRY

### WHY IS VISION IMPORTANT?

**Proverbs 29:18** Where *there is* no vision, the people perish.

**Proverbs 29:18 (GW)** Without prophetic vision people run wild, but blessed are those who follow {God's} teachings.

The bible tells us that where there is no vision *Hāzōn* the people perish. A Godly vision almost always signifies a means of divine revelation. First, it refers to the means itself, to a prophetic "vision" by which divine messages are communicated. ***God gives the Pastor or the Leader of a ministry a vision for that ministry. The direction in which God wants that ministry to go, this is given to the Pastor or the Leader.*** God will also give the Pastor the method in which to do it. The method comes in part, and comes over time as God develops the man and the ministry, God will reveal more and more of the manner in which the vision will be accomplished.

### THE VISION IS FOR AN APPOINTED TIME

**Habakkuk 2:2-3** Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make *it* plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. For the vision *is* yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry.

The Word of God shows us that the vision should be written, and this is for a reminder to the person given the vision, and also those who have been called and selected by God to assist in working within the vision. The vision given by God will surely come to pass. What always must be remembered is that it is in God's timing and not in the person and people's timing.

The reason and the purpose that the vision is given during the New Members Class, is so that every member has a clear understanding of the God given vision of the Pastor for this ministry. We are all a part of this vision. That is why God has joined us together

## CHURCH VISION

The Great "I AM" Faith Center is a **multi-cultural ministry reaching out to people of every color, background and walk of life.** Our church is a place where people come to **share the love of God and to receive the love of God,** a church which has the heartbeat of God.

The ministry vision is of being a church without walls. Taking the message of the Lord Jesus the Christ beyond the walls of a building. The Ministry Vision not only included "A church without walls" but a

mission to prepare and equip men and women for ministry, to walk in the anointing that was ordained for them by God, and to encourage them to align themselves with the greatness which God has placed in them for the purpose in which they were created.

**Mark 16:15** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

**Ephesians 4:11-12** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

The Great “I AM” Faith Center is producing, training and equipping people and Leaders in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**THIS IS WHO WE ARE:**

- A Church With A Strong Pastor
- A Church With Sound Doctrine
- A Church With Good Fellowship
- A Church That Celebrates The Lord's Supper On A Regular Basis
- A Praying Church
- A Church That Teaches And Perfects The Believers For The Work Of The Ministry
- A Church That Teaches And Challenges You To Grow Up Spiritually
- A Church With A Loving Atmosphere
- A Church Where Jesus Is The Head
- A Church That Follows The Holy Spirit
- A Church Where The People Of God Matter
- A Church Where Your God Given Gifts Will Be Used And Developed

the fruit of the Spirit is...



faithfulness.

### III. Faithfulness in Study of the Word, Prayer, Tithes & Offerings, Service in Church and Church Attendance

***“Every attack that comes in your life is designed to get you to quit on your faithfulness, because all of hell recognizes that faithfulness is the key to promotion.”***

#### B. Review of Stewardship

1. We are **stewards** of God and must be faithful stewards, Manager, or Overseer (1 Corinthians 4:1, 2).

**1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (KJV)** Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and **stewards** (Manager, or Overseer ) of the mysteries of God. <sup>2</sup> Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

**1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (GW)** People should think of us as servants of Christ and managers who are entrusted with God's mysteries. <sup>2</sup> **Managers** are required to be trustworthy.

The word here Mysteries is that which, being outside the range of unassisted natural apprehension, can be made known only by Divine revelation, and is made known in a manner and at a time appointed by God, and to those only who are illumined by His Spirit. In the ordinary sense a "mystery" implies knowledge withheld; its Scriptural significance is truth revealed. Hence the terms especially associated with the subject are "made known," "manifested," "revealed," "preached," "understand," "dispensation." The definition given above may be best illustrated by the following passage: "the mystery which hath been hid from all ages and generations: but now hath it been manifested to His saints" ([Col. 1:26](#), RV).

2. Stewardship is not defined as getting God or the church at a good bargain. Stewardship is not “cheap-ship.” **(IT COST)**

Many people today want the walk with God at a cheap cost or at no cost. Salvation is free, but the life of a Believer is costly.

3. Stewardship is when the steward receives instructions from the owner concerning how his (the owner's) things that are managed, and obeys his instructions. **(Parable of 3 given Talents)**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

- a. Good stewardship is when a manager is managing the goods and affairs of the owner, the way the owner wants



them managed. Stewardship requires a relationship with the owner.

- b. Everything we have belongs to God; He is the one that gave it to us. God always gives us an opportunity to be good stewards over what He has put into our hands. Things such as:

- Our Time
- Our Money
- Our Children
- Our Lives

4. We are sons and daughters of the Almighty God, and we are no longer servants, but sons.

- a. As a son or daughter of God, you want to properly manage that which belongs to your Heavenly Father.
- b. Real breakthrough occurs when you recognize God can lead you much better than you can lead yourself. (Proverbs 3:6)

**Proverbs 3:6** In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

So the question here is what is Biblical Faithfulness?

**Psalm 31:23** Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! *For* the LORD **preserves (Keeps, and Protects) the faithful**, And fully repays the proud person.

**Psalm 101:6** My eyes *shall be on the faithful of the land*, That they may dwell with me; He who walks in a perfect way, He shall serve me.

**Proverbs 28:20** **A faithful man will abound with blessings**, But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

**Matthew 24:45-51 (KJV)**

<sup>45</sup> Who then is **a faithful and wise servant**, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? <sup>46</sup> Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. <sup>47</sup> Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. <sup>48</sup> But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; <sup>49</sup> And shall begin to smite *his* fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; <sup>50</sup> The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for *him*, and in an hour that he is not aware of, <sup>51</sup> And shall cut him asunder, and appoint *him* his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### Luke 16:10-13 (NKJV)

<sup>10</sup> He **who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much**; and he who is unjust in *what is least* is unjust also in much. <sup>11</sup> Therefore if you have not been **faithful** in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been **faithful** in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

### C. What is Faithfulness?

1. The Bible talks about the Fruit of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, etc. It mentions faith, but the real translation is *faithfulness*.

**Galatians 5:22-23 (KJV)** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, **faith**, (*faithfulness*) <sup>23</sup> Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

**Galatians 5:22 (GW)** But the spiritual nature produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, **faithfulness**,

2. Faithfulness is a characteristic of the Spirit of God, and a fruit of the Spirit like love, joy, and peace. Since faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit, that means *you* can walk in it.
  - a. You are not a steward if faithfulness is not the characteristic you demonstrate.
  - b. The Bible makes it very clear in Matthew 25:21; if you are faithful of a few, you will be ruler over many. Until you pass the test of faithfulness you can't be ruler over many.

3. Faithfulness is doing what you were last told or instructed to do.

### D. Characteristics of Faithfulness

1. Faithful people are hard to find (Proverbs 20:6).

**Proverbs 20:6 (KJV)** Most men will proclaim everyone his own goodness: **but a faithful man who can find?**

2. Faithful people shall abound in blessings (Proverbs 28:20).

**Proverbs 28:20 (KJV)** A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

- a. The blessing is an **empowerment**; or an anointing. It is "God's ability on yours to equip you to do what you can't do without His ability on you."

- b. The root to the blessing, prosperity, and promotion, is faithfulness.
- c. The Bible says the blessings of the Lord “*maketh whole, or maketh rich and addeth no sorrow with it.*”

**Proverbs 10:22 (KJV)** The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

### **E. Challenges of Faithfulness**

1. Church can be used as a training ground for developing faithfulness.
2. Trials come in your life to test your faithfulness.
  - a. Use these trials like exercise equipment and develop your spiritual muscles. When your spiritual muscles are developed, the trial no longer has the ability to hurt you.
  - b. Good things will happen in the lives of people when they prove they can be faithful in church attendance.

### **F. Faithfulness with our Time**

This is using our time wisely and correctly. In one week God gives us 168 hours, and if you are using the time wisely we all should be able to set aside time for prayer, personal bible study, mid week bible study and Sunday services. Let’s look at it in a week period.

Prayer 20 minutes a day Weekly .....	2 Hours 20min a Week
Bible Reading 20 minutes a day Weekly .....	2 Hours 20min a Week
Mid Week Bible with travel time Study .....	3.5 Hours a Week
Sunday Service with travel time .....	4 Hours a Week
<b>Weekly Total .....</b>	<b>12 Hours 10min Leaving</b>
<b>you with .....</b>	<b>155 Hours 50min</b>

### **Ephesians 5:15-16 (AMP)**

<sup>15</sup> Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully *and* worthily *and* accurately, not as the unwise *and* witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people),

<sup>16</sup> Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil.

### **G. Faithfulness in your Giving**

The bible tells us that we can not serve two masters. God blessed us with 90% of whatever we have coming in. But the 10% belong to Him. We are to be faithful to bring back to God what is His. That is the 10% which should be removed immediately, to avoid the temptation in spending it.

**Malachi 3:10 (AMP)**

<sup>10</sup> Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now by it, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

**This passage of the Word of God declares the seven amazing blessings of the tithe:**

1. You will have revival.
2. You will experience great prosperity.
3. The enemy will be crippled and will not touch your life.
4. Your finances will be safe.
5. Your family will be safe from the hand of the enemy.
6. You will be a great witness of the power and blessings of the Lord to the nations.
7. You will be highly desired, and God will use you for His glory!

**H. Faithfulness In Coming to Church The Purpose of Coming to Church**

1. We come to church to provoke one another to walk in love and operate in good works (Hebrews 10:22-31; 2 Timothy 2:13).
2. The Bible instructs Christians not to forsake assembling together in church (Hebrews 10:25).
  - a. Christians have a biblical obligation to attend church.
  - b. God has a purpose for church attendance. He wants the saints to gather together (2 Thessalonians 2:1).
  - c. God wants us to meet with Him at church (Psalm 27:4; Psalm 84:1-4; Matthew 18:20).
3. The reason people stop coming to church is because they fall short in their love walk.
  - a. People fall out of love with God.
  - b. They fall out of love with their brothers and sisters in Christ (Matthew 24:12).
4. Faithful church attendance makes it difficult for the devil to seduce you.

## **I. The Results of Neglecting Church Attendance**

1. Bad things start happening in the lives of those who miss church, compared to those who attend faithfully.

- a. The first thing that happens when you start missing church is you begin to drift. To *drift* means “to flow by,” or “to carelessly pass.” People drift downstream, never upstream (Hebrews 2:1, *The Amplified Bible*, 1 Corinthians 10:12).

**Hebrews 2:1 (AMP)** SINCE ALL this is true, we ought to pay much closer attention than ever to the truths that we have heard, lest in any way we drift past [them] *and* slip away.

**1 Corinthians 10:12 (KJV)** Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

- (i.) You begin to drift past your prayer time.
- (ii.) You begin to drift past walking in love.
- (iii.) You begin to drift past resolving conflict and other disciplines that made you strong when you were first born-again.
- (iv.) You let your guard down and become more vulnerable to Satan’s attacks (1 Corinthians 10:12).

- b. The second thing that happens is you start doubting the love of God, the love of others, and the Word of God (Hebrews 3:12, 13).

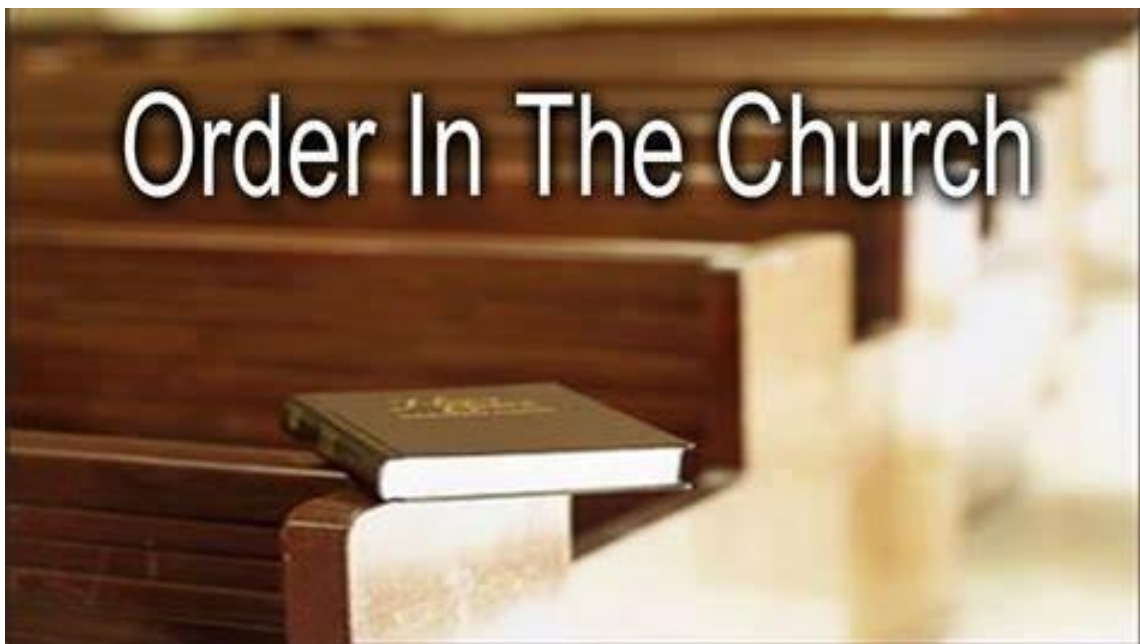
- c. The third thing that happens is you become dull of hearing. People in this stage no longer want to hear the Word of God preached (Hebrews 5:11).

- d. The final thing that happens is you backslide and get into presumptuous sin. Presumptuous sin is when you sin with arrogance and bold rudeness, disregarding how your sin affects other people (Hebrews 4:6-9, Psalm 19:13, Exodus 21:12-14).

## **J. Following the Example of Jesus**

- 1. It was the custom of Jesus to attend church (Luke 4:16). *Custom* is defined as “an action a person has repeated so often that he does it naturally, without thinking.”

2. Jesus considered church attendance as “*being about His Father’s business*” (Luke 2:43-49).
3. It was normal for people who were looking for Jesus to find Him in church (John 6:24, 59).



**But all things should be done decently and**

**1 Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.**

[1Co 14:31](#) — For you may all be prophets in turn so that all may get knowledge and comfort;

[1Co 14:33](#) — For God is not a God whose ways are without order, but a God of peace; as in all the churches of the saints.

**IV. Church Order**—*How to Honor Our Pastors, Church Discipline, Authority and Ordinances*

***“Respecting and submitting to those who are in spiritual authority and natural authority over you cultivates honor in your life (1 Peter 2:13)... Maintaining a humble, obedient attitude toward those God has placed over you reflects your respect, reverence, and honor for Him.”***

**A. Honor the Pastor by Receiving the Vision**

In order to receive the vision of The Pastor, you must first understand what *vision* means. According to *Strong's Concordance*, vision means “a dream, a revelation.” In order to walk in agreement, to walk united, to walk alike and to become *one*, you must hear, see, and understand the vision of *The Great “I AM” Faith Center*.

The Pastor was given the vision of *t h e c h u r c h* by God. Those in the church have been called to assist him in fulfilling this vision. The vision is an insight into God's divine purpose and will for a people whom He has chosen and called to fulfill it. You have been called, chosen, and placed into this fellowship of Believers to fulfill this revelation from God.

1. The vision of *The Church*:

*As we proclaim Jesus, the Christ, as the head of the Church and the manifested Word of God, our goal is to teach the Word of God with simplicity and understanding so that it may be applied to our everyday lives in a practical and effective manner; thereby being transformed into **People of Purpose** changing our immediate world and all those with whom we come into contact, ultimately making a mark that **cannot be erased**.*

- a. The Lord speaks in *visions* (*Psalm 89:19*)
- b. Where there is *no vision*, the people perish (*Proverbs 29:18*).

## 2. Understanding the Vision

There can only be *one* vision. The vision is always given to the Head (Pastor). The Father gives his vision to the Pastor, who in turn directs the body of Believers. Two visions create *DI-VISION*.

- a. *Amos 3:3* says, “Can two walk together (united, alike, becomes one) except they be agreed?”
- b. The vision *always* comes from the head. Our part is to assist him in fulfilling it through our commitment, faithfulness and loyalty.

### **Exodus 25:8-9 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. <sup>9</sup> According to all that I show you, *that is*, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make *it*.

## **B. Honor the Pastor by Receiving His Spirit**

***“By respecting, showing reverence for and submitting to the anointing that is on your leaders’ lives, you position yourself for success in all that you do...You’ll find yourself walking in the same anointing that they do.”***

- 1. The importance of receiving the Spirit of the pastor:

*Do not bring the spirit of your former pastor into this vision. “If you don’t have the Spirit of the man, you can’t work effectively in the vision of the land.” This is called the Law of Harmony.*

- 2. How to receive the Spirit of the pastor:

- a. **You must** receive the pastoral office as the head of this local body—He is the shepherd over this flock.
- b. **You must** know his office 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 account that they may do it with joy and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*"

c. **Examples** of receiving the spirit of your Pastor (2 King 2:1- 25, 2 King 3:11).

- (i) Elisha, by obeying and following, received a double honor, a double anointing.
- (ii) God's honor - God's authority comes to you based upon the degree of your submission to the leadership authority.

3. Two things you must know to receive the spirit of the Pastor:

- a. You cannot be easily offended. (insulted, hurt, and upset)
- b. You cannot be insecure.

4. Eight ways to relate to your pastor:

***"Throughout the scripture, you will discover that sowing into the life of an anointed man or woman of God is the key to increasing the anointing on your own life. According to Numbers 18:8, a spiritual transaction takes place when you support your spiritual father financially – your financial offering is exchanged for the anointing. Therefore, invest in another man's vision and God will invest in yours (Luke 16:12)."***

**Numbers 18:8 (NKJV)**

*And the LORD spoke to Aaron: "Here, I Myself have also given you charge of My heave offerings, all the holy gifts of the children of Israel; I have given them as a portion to you and your sons, as an ordinance forever.*

**Luke 16:12 (NKJV)**

And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?

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 (prophet, apostle, evangelist, *pastor*, and teacher). Listed below are eight ways that the Bible states we should relate to these gifts. We will be focusing particularly on the ministry gift of *Pastor*.

- a. **Receive him as a gift from God.** We know that every good and perfect gift comes from God, therefore, if He gave the gift

of Pastor, it must be perfect. Until you receive the gift, you don't really benefit from it.

- b. **Know your pastor.** (1Thessalonians 5:12) Develop a level of knowledge of him by spending time studying his teachings and meditating on his messages.
- c. **Esteem him very highly.** (1 Thessalonians 5:13) Esteem means to respect, appreciate, or hold in high regard.
- d. **Pray for him.** (2 Thessalonians 3:1, 2) Intercede daily for those in authority and this includes the Pastor. Prayer makes you involved in the message that comes forth and gives you a sense of your part in the ministry and your responsibility.
- e. **Communicate with him.** (Galatians 6:6) Communicate and share with him in all good things; show your appreciation verbally and financially.
- f. **Follow or imitate him.** (Hebrews 6:12) 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.
- g. **Obey him.** (Hebrews 13:17) Obey as long as what you are being told is not contrary to the Word.
- h. **Submit to him.** (Hebrews 13:17) Submission is an attitude. You cannot disobey and still submit.

***“Following your pastors’ instructions is another way to honor them. For example, if a fast is proclaimed for the entire congregation for a certain length of time, make it your business to participate. On the other hand, if the instruction is given to not leave the church until the end of service, become a part of whatever it is that God is directing your pastors to do, and do it cheerfully out of a sincere desire to serve them.”***

## C. Church Discipline

### 1. Definition of discipline

- a. The word “discipline” is the basic foundation for Bible teaching.

- b. Discipline is defined as training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or morals.

## 2. Purpose of discipline

- a. It corrects the *error*, but does *not reject* the person. Unconditional love and acceptance of the person is necessary, but *not the evil behavior* of the person.
- b. “I Love You” means, I will discipline you with the love of the Father. *Restore* means to thoroughly mend, as a wound to be healed. (*James 5:19-20, 1 John 5:16, Jeremiah 3:22, Hosea 14:4*).

## 3. Who administers discipline?

- a. The leadership that we are placed under (*Hebrews 13:7*).
- b. Obey and submit to the Pastor, who has the rule.

# **D. Church Authority**

## 1. Definitions

- a. Church Authority or Church Government has been defined as:
  - (i) The exercise of authority over an organization or institution.
  - (ii) We recognize the church as God’s house and God’s kingdom. As with any kingdom, it needs government (*Isaiah 2:1-4*).
- b. One of the most controversial and divisive areas is the subject of church government. That is because most people who have a voice or *vote*, want to be heard or counted.

## 2. Enemies to church authority (Government)

- a. *Jezebel Spirit* – is a spirit that must be in control, must have its own way at all cost. You can never stop this spirit from trying to control, except by casting it out.
- b. *Korah* – is a spirit of rebellion. Korah led a company of men against the leadership of Moses based on Korah’s belief that

Moses was not the only one to hear from God. Not only was Korah destroyed by God, but everyone who followed him (*Numbers 16:1, 2*).

- c. *Absalom* – is a spirit that attacks governments. Absalom, David's son, won the hearts of the people by "listening to their complaints" and then influencing them to lead a revolt against the government of God. This spirit will lead brother against brother, family against family. All who followed Absalom suffered great loss (*2 Samuel 13:1-33*).

3. **Government is God ordained.** The authorities are ordained of God. God has ordained that law and order be exercised in society and church through appointed authorities (*Romans 13:1-8*).

4. God has set in the church governments for steering, piloting, and directing His purpose in this world.

#### **E. Church Ordinances** — (*Why We Do, What We Do*)

1. What is an ordinance?

- a. *Ordinance*: A direction or command of an authoritative nature; a rite or church practice by the authority of the Trinity or the Godhead (*Acts 2:38, Acts 8:16-18, Acts 10:48, Acts 19:5*).
- b. The Lord has ordained three major ordinances (practices, direction, or command given by authority) in His church.

#### **2. Baptism**

- a. By definition and usage, the word means "to put into water or under water so as to entirely immerse or submerge" (*Mark 1:5, John 3:22-23*).
- b. Why do we have water baptism?
  - (i) Jesus commanded it (*Mark 16:16, Matthew 28:16-20*).
  - (ii) Jesus, as our example, was baptized (*Matthew 3:13-17*).
- c. What are the requirements for Baptism?
  - (i) Hearing and Heeding the Word (*Acts 2:41, 16:14, 15, 19:5*).
  - (ii) Convictions (*Acts 2:37*).

- d. The prerequisites for baptism are: repentance, confession, salvation, and faith. This clearly excludes infants' baptism.

### 3. Symbolism of baptism

- a. It is baptism unto His death, His burial, His resurrection.
- b. By baptism in His death, we are cut off from the former life.
- c. By immersion into the water, the old man, old life, is buried in a water grave.
- d. By rising up out of the water, we experience resurrection of new life. We are now walking in the newness of life.
- e. It is a sign to the world, that we are followers of Him.

### 4. Laying on of hands

- a. Definition: A belief that power or anointing or any other necessary quality can be transmitted (imparted) from one person, touching another.
- b. Laying on of hands – examples in the Old and New Testaments.
  - (i) In consecration of offerings (*Leviticus 1:4, 3:2, 4:15, 16:21*).
  - (ii) Laying on of hands in blessing (*Genesis 48:14 and Mark 10:13-16*)
  - (iii) Laying on hands for healing (*Mark 6:5 and Acts 28:8*)
  - (iv) Consecration (*Acts 6:2, 3;6*)
  - (v) Receiving the Holy Ghost (*Acts 8:16-18*) (vi) Ordination (*1 Timothy 4:14*)

### 5. Communion – *The Lord's Table*

The more Believers understand the Table of the Lord, the more benefits they will receive. All the blessings, the riches, and the fullness of God are represented here at the Lord's Table.

- a. Some of the titles given:

- (i) Lord's Supper (*1 Corinthians 11:20*)
- (ii) Lord's Table (*1 Corinthians 10:21*)
- (iii) Communion (*1 Corinthians 10:16*)

b. Symbols used in communion:

- (i) The Table
- (ii) The Bread (*Isaiah 53:5*)
- (iii) The Wine (*fruit of the vine*)

c. What is the significance of the symbol?

- (i) The Table is the place of love, fellowship, sharing, and communion (*Leviticus 24:5-9, Psalm 23:5*).
- (ii) The Bread represents His broken body (*Matthew 26:26*). It is the type of the Lamb that was slain.
- (iii) The Wine represents His blood and is significant of the New Covenant (*Matthew 26:27*). Fruit of the vine is the life of the grape. Alcoholic wine is certainly not a fitting symbol of His incorruptible blood.

d. What attitudes should we have in coming to the Lord's Table?

- (i) Come in faith believing (*Hebrews 4:2, 11:6, Romans 14:23*).
- (ii) Come in remembrance of what He did for you (*2 Corinthians 11:2, 25*).
- (iii) Come with thanksgiving (*Luke 22:17*).

HE WHO HONORS GOD,  
GOD WILL HONOR.

## **V. Honoring the Temple**

***“I like to think of honor as something that is heavy, or weighty, like a precious metal. I’ve often used the analogy of shower mist on a bathroom mirror to contrast what honor is not. While you can easily wipe away the mist on a mirror, you cannot do the same with honor...Recognizing the significance and ‘weightiness’ of the Bible will help us to place it as the highest and most esteemed reference point in our lives. This is how we demonstrate honor to the Father.”***

## **VI. Definition of Honor** *(Reverence)*

*Honor means to give weight to and reverence means to esteem highly. To have reverence for the Temple (church), we must understand what the church is, the importance of it and the purpose of it. If we do not have understanding of the purpose, we will abuse it.*

## **VII. The Importance of Honoring the Temple**

### **iv. What is the church?**

1. The word *church* means the “called out.” We as saved people are the “called out” or the chosen of the Lord.
  1. The called out come together in a collective gathering at an appointed time and place. Here we put the name “church” as the name where the “called out” gather.
  2. In reality, we saved individuals are the “called out,” *The New Testament Church* is revealed as the *Body of Christ* composed of all nations of people who are saved.
2. The *congregation* means convocation or assembly.
  1. The congregation was gathered by trumpets; a summons (*Numbers 10:7; Psalm 22:22; 35:18; 149:1*).
  2. Israel was “*called together out*” of their homes to the door of the Tabernacle of the congregation. That was the church or the assembly.
  3. Now in this place of gathering God has chosen to place His name; His presence; His spirit to bless,



heal, give insight and give salvation. Here God chose to meet His people (collectively).

4. In your private time with Him, He meets you privately through prayer, the word, praise and love. In the congregation at the time of assembling, He meets us as a Governor, Shepherd and Leader.

**v.** Why reverence the Temple?

1. The Temple is a place God chose for assembly, a place where God has set you in His universal body.
2. To reverence the temple is to *reverence God*. To give non-reverence to the place is to give non-reverence to God.
3. If you will love and respect God, you will love and respect His people and temple.
4. You love your home. Would you disrespect your home by letting it be in any kind of order or shape?

**vi.** Ways you disrespect the temple

1. Once service begins or is *called to order*, to continue to talk or walk around is disrespectful.
2. Once the service is called to order, understand the presence of God is “not coming,” the presence of God is already there.
3. When you get to church, the presence of God is already present.
4. It is preferable to use the restroom before services. Getting up to go to the restroom can be very distracting to people around you.
5. If a person wants to talk to you after order has been called, please quietly advise the person this conversation will be picked up after service. Noise may cause the person next to you not to hear what the Spirit is saying to them.
6. When the Holy Ghost begins to minister under the anointing of song, tongues, interpretation - *Be Sensitive*. Sometimes hand clapping can grieve the sensitivity of the Holy Ghost. Hollering out is sometimes disturbing to the Holy Ghost.

7. **Example:** If the song ministers *praise*, hand clapping is approved; but follow the leader of praise. However, if the song minister's *worship*, hand clapping is "out of order" for the Spirit of God wants to lead us into worship, not praise.

Again, *follow the leader*. If the leader begins to worship, follow worship.

8. After the sermon, the congregation participates in *Body Ministry (Prayer)*. This is not the time to converse, and it is NOT your time to be dismissed.

1. The service is *called* to order. The service will end in order with the final blessing or benediction.
2. Do not get up and slip out thinking no one will see.
3. Just because the minister has finished the message DOES NOT MEAN THE SERVICE IS OVER.
4. Moving unnecessarily can distract someone who is considering salvation.

9. The Temple is not just the building, but also the entire grounds. Once you turn into the parking lot, you have entered the grounds of the Temple.

1. Respect the church by respecting the authority and laws that govern the church.
2. Parking: there may be attendants to show you where to park. Remember, they are ministers doing their ministry. Obey them.
3. Obey set rules. Obedience shows respect to the one you are obeying.



## VI. Faith

***“Confidence is the force that launches your faith. Words alone can’t change your circumstances. Your words are spiritual containers. Faith is poured into your words by the force of confidence. Confidence is the force which pours the water into the pitcher (faith comes by hearing the Word of God) into the glass (your words). Simply put, confidence pours faith into your words and the faith-filled words go into action!”***

### a. What is Faith?

- i. Faith is the practical expression of confidence in God and His Word.
  1. Faith is an action motivated by the Word of God.
  2. The faith we have is living faith. It’s not just you living it, faith should be alive and working on the inside of you.
  3. The Bible defines faith as *“the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen...”* (Hebrews 11:1).
  4. The evidence or the results of your faith may not be immediately visible at the time, however faith *can* be seen.
- ii. Faith is the opposite of fear.
  1. They both work similarly although they produce contrasting results.
  2. Whatever you have faith in will come to pass and whatever you fear will also come to pass. So make sure you stay in faith, not fear.

### b. Biblical Examples of Faith

- i. If you say you are doing something *by faith*, and there is evidence of what you are doing, then your faith is apparent.
- ii. So when God tells you to do something in the Bible, and you say “I have faith in His Word,” then your obedience to that Word will make your faith obvious.
  1. Blind Bartimaeus took off the coat identifying him as a blind man, as an expression of his faith (*Mark 10:46-52*).
  2. Abraham went to a strange land that God told him of; this was an expression of his faith (*Genesis 12:1-4*).

3. Noah built an Ark as an expression of his faith (*Genesis 6:13, 14*).
4. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego declared that God was able to deliver them from the fiery furnace; this was an expression of their faith (*Daniel 3:16-18*).

**c. Faith versus Belief**

- i. Belief should never be by itself; it should always be accompanied by some type of expression.

1. Faith is acting out on what you believe.

2. The God-kind of faith is acting out on the Word of God that you believe.

- ii. Here is an example of belief with no faith:

*A deacon's car breaks down on his way to church. There is a heat wave and the deacon, who is 75 years old, has to walk 3 miles to church in a 3-piece suit. By the time the deacon arrives at the church, he is dehydrated. He collapses on a pew and the choir members and the other deacons rush to his aid.*

*One deacon is holding a 1-gallon jug of ice-cold water. The deacon looks at the water and says, "I believe that if I drink this water, I will be saved from death."*

*The other deacons agree with him. The deacon repeats himself and the choir joins in with songs and dancing, singing aloud, 'If the deacon drinks the water, we believe everything's gonna be alright.' In the midst of the singing and dancing, the deacon dies. Although he believed the water could save him from death, he never opened the 1-gallon jug and drank the water.*

**d. Confidence and Faith**

- i. Faith is a practical expression of your confidence.

1. When you have confidence in the Word, you are yielding to something that you trust.

2. When your faith is at work, there will be an expression of it in your actions and the words that you speak.

3. Your faith can always be detected in your actions and in the words you speak.
- ii. “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and (he also must believe) that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (*Hebrews 11:6*).
1. Your confidence (or faith) in the Word of God has a great recompense of reward. Now, replace the word *faith* with the word *confidence* in *Hebrews 11:6*.
  2. “*But without faith (the Word of God and confidence in the Word of God plus corresponding action) it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must [have confidence that] he is, and [they must have confidence] that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*”
- iii. If you have faith without confidence, your faith is missing something.
1. You cannot receive confidence through the laying on of hands.
  2. Confidence has to be developed; it has to be cultivated.
  3. You have to spend time reading God’s Word daily to have confidence in it.
  4. Fear is having confidence in the words of Satan.
  5. Therefore, if you have more confidence in Satan’s words than you do in God’s Word, you will be rewarded according to what you fear (*Job 3:25, 26*).
  6. Staying in God’s Word and building confidence in it will keep you out of fear.
- iv. The more time you spend away from the Word, the less effective you will be.
1. If you neglect the Word, you will act based on what you’ve see others do.
  2. Doing something just because you saw someone else do it is NOT faith. It’s just high expectation based on the wrong information.

v. Faith is the Word of God.

1. The Word of God and faith are the same. They are so much the same that everywhere you see the word *faith* in the Bible you can substitute the Word of God because they cannot be separated.
2. For example, look at the following passage:

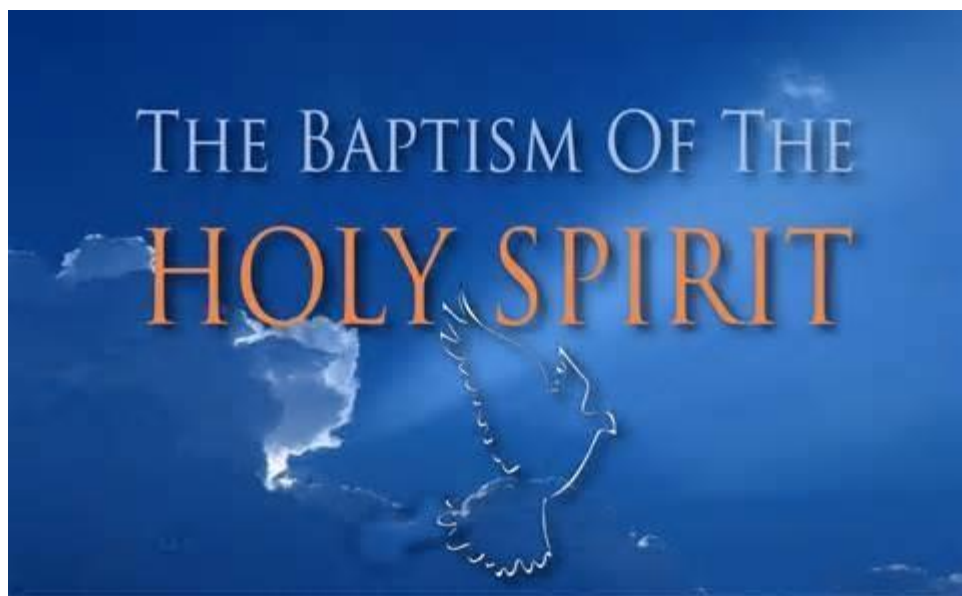
Now [the Word of God] is the substance of things hoped for [and the Word of God] is the evidence of things not seen. For by [the Word of God] the elders obtained a good report. Through [the Word of God] we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things, which are seen, were not made of things that do appear. By [the Word of God] Abel offered unto God an excellent sacrifice than Cain. By [the Word of God] Enoch was translated that he should not see death. However, without [the Word of God] it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him (*Hebrews 11:1-6*).

- a. The Word of God *is* faith and faith *is* the Word of God.
- b. When you hear the Word of God, believe it and act out on it with confidence, you will receive a recompense of reward.

**e. Applying Your Faith**

- i. **Get It.** The only way to obtain faith is by hearing the Word of God (*Romans 10:14-17*).
- ii. **Say It.** You must speak the Word of God to experience the results of your faith (*Mark 11:23, Romans 10:9, 10*).
- iii. **Receive It.** Whenever you ask God for something in prayer, believe that you receive it and you shall have it (*Matthew 21:22*).
- iv. **Do It.** Faith without works (or an expression of confidence in God's word) is dead (*James 2:17, 18*).
- v. **Tell It.** Share your testimony with others. Doing so positions you to be an overcomer (*Revelation 12:11*).

THE BAPTISM OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT





## VII. Baptism in the Holy Spirit

***“The effectiveness of your prayer life depends on the degree of confidence you put in the Holy Ghost in you. How much confidence do you have in the Holy Ghost that’s living on the inside of you?”***

### a. **Three Guarantees to Prayer:**

- i. Praying the Word of God is a guarantee.
- ii. Praying in the name of Jesus and the power that’s invested in that Name.
- iii. Praying in tongues, which is called the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. The evidence that you’ve received the baptism is the ability to speak in other tongues allowing you to pray the perfect prayer (*Romans 8:26*).

### b. **You Must Have Confidence When You Pray.**

- i. Build confidence by meditating on the Word.
- ii. If you don’t have confidence in the Holy Ghost where your prayer life is concerned, your prayer life will be limited.

### c. **The Holy Ghost: Our Counselor, Our Comforter, Our Helper (*Romans 8:26-28*)**

- i. *Likewise the Spirit...(verse 26)*
  1. This word “Spirit” is referring to the Holy Spirit, not your reborn human spirit, but the Holy Spirit. ***Likewise the [Holy] Spirit also helpeth our infirmities....***
  2. Now, we know that the Holy Ghost is called — a *Helper*; but He’s also known as a “*Comforter*.” He wants to increase you financially, physically and mentally. Understand how He operates and you will be blessed.
    - a. Having confidence in the Holy Ghost gives comfort.
    - b. So the Holy Ghost also —the Spirit of God— helpeth, *our infirmities*. The word “infirmity”

means weaknesses. So, the Holy Ghost helps our weaknesses.

ii. *“Likewise, the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities...”*

1. “..for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but...” (verse 26)
2. “But” indicates there is now a solution. The Spirit Himself maketh intercession. Now intercession is prayer that is offered for somebody else.
3. “...for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance” (*Romans 8:26, AMP*).
4. So, the Holy Ghost will pray on your behalf speaking the perfect prayer of the heart.
  - a. This section is talking about speaking in tongues.
  - b. To be able to pray (Jude 20), *in your most holy faith*. He also calls it praying in the *Holy Ghost*.
5. “And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (*Romans 8:27*).
  - a. Praying in the spirit means praying with the “mind of the Spirit” or the mind of God – the thoughts of God.
6. “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose...” (*Romans 8:28*).
  - a. “All things work together for good...” refers to prayer, which includes all things, such as intercession and speaking in tongues.

iii. The importance of speaking in tongues.

1. “Build ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost. Keeping yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” (*Jude 20-21*).
  - a. Jude makes it very clear here that if you’re going to build yourself up like an edifice, as the *Amplified Bible* says in verse 20, you’re going to have to do it by praying in the Holy Ghost.
  - b. The Holy Ghost will help you pray God’s perfect will.
2. “And they were all filled (diffused throughout their souls) with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other (different, foreign) languages (tongues), as the Spirit kept giving them clear and loud expression [in each tongue in appropriate words]” (*Acts 2:1-4, Amplified*).
  - a. The Holy Ghost now comes upon them and starts feeding them appropriate expressions of another language that they didn’t know in their minds and by faith they opened their mouths up and they said what they were hearing the Holy Ghost tell them to say.
  - b. And they were speaking other languages having never learned that language.
3. “And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under Heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitudes came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language” (*Acts 2:5, 6*).
  - a. Many people heard their own language being spoken by people who did not know how to.
  - b. It’s like you praying in French, when you don’t know French.
4. “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” (*1 Corinthians 14:2, KJV*).

- a. Remember *Romans 8:27* says that when we pray in tongues, we pray according to God's will for the saints.
- b. When you're speaking in tongues, you're talking to God in a private prayer language.

5. The word "mystery" means *hidden wisdom*.

- (i) When you speak in tongues you speak directly to God.
- (ii) When you speak in tongues you speak mysteries.
- (iii) When you speak in tongues, you speak hidden wisdom.

iv. The controversy over *praying* in tongues.

1. **Myth 1:** "You should not *pray* in tongues during corporate prayer."

- a. *Praying in tongues* means everybody can speak in tongues because when you're speaking in tongues you're speaking to God.
- b. So, when you come together in corporate prayer and you hear everybody speaking in tongues...we're not talking to you! And we're not talking to one another! We're talking to God! It's when all of us come together corporately, united that we bombard Heaven with prayers of hidden wisdom.

2. **Myth 2:** "Not everyone has the gift of tongues."

- a. There is a *gift of tongues* and then there's the *private praying in tongues*.
- b. The gift of tongues—According to *1 Corinthians 12:10, 28*, (Amplified) is the ability to prophesy and interpret for the edification of the congregation.

- c. *The private praying in tongues:* You are speaking directly to God. As you talk to Him, *you are being edified*, as well as interceding for others.

v. The power of praying in tongues

1. Again, *Jude 20* says, “But, ye beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”
  - a. If you build yourself up that means you cannot stay as you were before you started praying in tongues.
  - b. That means something has to be experienced in order for you to develop **wisdom**.
  - c. When you speak in tongues you’re speaking wisdom. Therefore, it is safe to say that when you speak in tongues you speak to God and you are building yourself up in the wisdom of God. **Wisdom** is the ability to do what you don’t know how to do.
2. **Receive the gift of speaking in tongues.** Just like the gift of salvation, is given freely by God. You cannot work for it. You cannot earn it. You do not have to tarry or wait for Him.

vi. **Characteristics of the Holy Ghost:**

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me” (Acts 1:8).

1. The scripture, “ye *shall be witnesses unto me*,” is saying that with the power of the Holy Ghost you will be able to live in line with God’s Word.
2. Other Attributes of the Holy Ghost:
  - a. He comforts, helps, strengthens and enables you (*John 14:16; 16:7, 8*)
  - b. He empowers you (*Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8*).
  - c. He intercedes for you in perfect prayer (*Romans 8:26, 27*).
  - d. He guides you to all truth (*John 16:13*).

- e. He teaches you all things (*John 14:26; 1 John 2:20, 27*).
- f. He shows you things to come (*John 16:13*).
- g. He receives of God and reveals it to you (*John 16:14, 15*).
  
- h. He tells you of the things that are freely given to you by God (*1 Corinthians 2:9-12*).
- i. He brings to your remembrance whatever God has said to you (*John 14:26*).



## VIII. Tithes and First Fruit Offerings

***“We don’t have to tithe, we get to tithe.”***

### a. **Explanation of the Blessing**

#### **Ephesians 1:3**

***Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:***

- i. The blessing is not the house, the car, the increase, or the healing. These things are the **results** of the blessing. The blessing is an empowerment to have **results in every area** of your life.
- ii. The blessing is a supernatural enablement. *“It is God putting His ‘super’ on your ‘natural,’ giving you supernatural ability to do what you couldn’t do before.”*
- iii. If you are born again, you are *already* blessed.

### b. **Explanation of the Curse**

- i. The curse is the opposite of the blessing. The blessing is an empowerment to succeed, while the curse is an empowerment to fail.
- ii. The curse doesn’t just show up without a cause. If the curse is operating in your life, there is a reason (Proverbs 26:2).

### c. **What is blocking your blessing?**

- i. It is possible to have the blessing but still appear to be under the curse.
- ii. There are (4) ways to withdraw the blessing:
  - 1. Obedience: When you obey and serve God, you will spend your days in prosperity and your years in pleasure.
  - 2. Faithfulness: A faithful man shall abound or flow in the blessing, and be empowered.
  - 3. Having a pure heart: A person who has clean hands and a pure heart shall receive the blessing.



4. Tithing: The person who tithes will be blessed by God.

iii. There are (4) ways to block the blessing:

1. Disobedience: Partial obedience and delayed obedience are still considered disobedience.
2. Unfaithfulness: Depending on an unfaithful person is like having a broken bone or a broken foot.
3. Not having a pure heart: Having unclean hands and an impure heart will stop the blessing from operating in your life.
4. Not tithing: Not participating in the tithing exchange will block the blessing from operating in your life.

d. **What does the Bible have to say about tithing?**

i. Tithing in the Old Testament

1. The tithing exchange was first mentioned in the biblical account of Abraham. Abraham had just finished winning a battle and collecting the spoils. He showed his appreciation for God giving him victory by giving a tenth of the spoils to the high priest, Melchizedek.

**Genesis 14:18-20**

***And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him (Melchizedek) tithes of all.***

2. In exchange for the tithe, the Bible says the high priest blessed Abraham. Abraham exchanged the tenth (or tithe) for the blessing (Genesis 14:18-23).
3. The blessing is more valuable than its results because the blessing is the *root* to the fruit.

ii. Tithing in the New Testament

1. There is a myth that tithing does not appear in the New Testament.

- a. In Hebrews 6:20, the Bible refers to Jesus as being a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.
  - b. In Hebrews 7:1-5, the Bible compares tithing under the law to the tithing exchange as it was practiced by Abraham.
- 2. There are two tithing systems which reveal two different motivations for tithing: (1) Abraham, who gave tithes to Melchizedek without a commandment from God. (2) The Levitical Priesthood, who gave tithes as a result of a commandment from the law (Hebrews 7:5).
- 3. When Abraham tithed, his descendants tithed with him and thus, received the blessing (Hebrews 7:8, 9).
- 4. Melchizedek was the greater one who blessed Abraham, the lesser. Likewise, Jesus is the greater who blesses us as the lesser (being the seed of Abraham) when we tithe.
- 5. Jesus is the high priest after the order of Melchizedek, not after the order of Aaron (the Levitical Priesthood). Therefore, we should tithe with the same motivation as Abraham, not with the same motivation as the Levitical priesthood (Hebrews 7:10).
- 6. Abraham was motivated to tithe by his love for God, not because of a commandment or law.

**e. Tithing by Love vs. Tithing by the Law**

- i. Tithing by the law was imperfect because it used the fear of being cursed to motivate people to tithe (Hebrews 7:12-19).
- ii. Jesus didn't come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it. Thus, Jesus gave us the new commandment which is to love. This means everything we do must be motivated by love, including the practice of tithing (Luke 10:27). In other words, Jesus is saying:

***“I want you now to love Me and allow your love to be the reason why you tithe. Allow your love to be the reason why you keep the Ten Commandments. Allow your love to be the reason why you don’t steal and kill. Let your love be the motive. And if I can get you to have the right heart, then you’ll do the right things.*”**

***I'm not here to command you by the law to do something. I only have one law in the Kingdom of God—walk in love. And when you walk in love you'll want to bring Me the tenth. When you walk in love you're going to want to tithe. So I don't need to talk to you about tithing, because I've already established that. But what I've done is set you free from the commandment, the law, and the curse of it. Now I want to see you bring Me the tithe because you love Me. I want to bless you and after you see how I bless you, I want you to be so appreciative that you show up with the tenth of what I've done for you because you love Me."***

- iii. All the laws and the prophets hang on the law of love, including the law of tithing.
- iv. The blessing will come on those who tithe out of love (Malachi 3:6-11).
- v. When the devil comes against you, he is not just coming against a tither, but coming against someone who loves God.

**f. Firstfruit Offerings Bring Honor to God (Proverbs 3:9, The Amplified Bible).**

- i. A firstfruit offering can only be presented to the priest (Leviticus 23:9-21; 2 Chronicles 31:4, 5).
- ii. The difference between the tithe and the firstfruit is the tithe is always the tenth regardless of its condition, while the firstfruit is always the first of the *best* fruit (Leviticus 27:24-27, 30-33).
- iii. You dishonor the firstfruit when you question whether to give it.
- iv. Breakthrough power becomes available to you when you honor God with a firstfruit offering.
- v. Giving an offering does not guarantee that God will honor it.
  - 1. Cain and Abel each gave God an offering, but God did not honor Cain's offering (Genesis 4:1-7).
  - 2. Cain's offering didn't honor God because it didn't cost him anything. Abel, on the other hand gave the *first* of the *best* of his flock.

**g. Offerings Activate the Law of Seedtime and Harvest.**

- i. God established the law of seedtime and harvest to ensure that when we sow, we will receive a plentiful harvest (Genesis 8:22; 2 Corinthians 9:6).
- ii. It is only when you have more than enough that you can dispense good into someone else's life (2 Corinthians 8:14;10-15, *AMP*).
- iii. You can be blessed by sowing into the life of someone whom God has blessed (Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:10-15, *AMP*).
- iv. Investigate where you will "invest." Make sure you are giving to an organization or person that is considered "good ground." Check for evidence of godly character and integrity (1 Samuel 16:7).
- v. Give cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7; 2 Corinthians 8:7-12; 15, 16, *AMP*).

**h. Alms are Gifts Prompted by Love to Help the Needy.**

- i. When giving alms, always be led by the Holy Spirit about where to give (2 Corinthians 8:2-6, *AMP*; Luke 12:33).
  - 1. *Alms* are gifts that express compassion toward those in need.
  - 2. You must not boast or brag about your giving, or your reward will be measured by the praise of men, not the blessings of God (Matthew 6:1).



## **IX. The Purpose and Power of Prayer**

***“Prayer isn’t to be just a monologue, with you conducting a one-way transmission of your needs to God. Prayer is communication. It’s give and take, talking and listening and fellowshiping with God.”***

### **a. Four Facts About Prayer**

- i. Prayer is not trying to get God’s attention.
- ii. Prayer is not trying to get God to do something.
- iii. Prayer is communication with God, believing and receiving what He has already given to you in Jesus.
- iv. Prayer is being settled in the Word and communicating to God about that Word; and understanding that whatever is settled in Heaven is also settled in the earth.

### **b. Understanding What Prayer Is**

- i. Prayer, in its simplest form, is saying to God what God has already said to you through His Word.
- ii. Every prayer is going to be based on your faith in the Word of God.
- iii. You cannot pray effectively without the Word and expect to come out with results.
- iv. You’re going to have to meditate on the Word that you’re getting ready to pray until it is living on the inside of you and literally have seen yourself in it and developed a picture on the inside of you.
- v. When you get ready to pray, you are praying an earnest, heated, boiling, effectual fervent prayer that by the time it comes out of your mouth, you are more convinced about it than Heaven.

### **c. The Enemies of Prayer**

- i. One of the biggest enemies against Christians really spending time in prayer is how they see themselves versus how God sees them:
  1. They feel unworthy to go before God.

2. They feel as if they do not qualify to mutter a word of prayer before God, which prevents them from seeking Him.
- ii. God wants you to begin to see yourself as He sees you. Until you begin to see yourself in light of the Scriptures, your lack of confidence will prevent you from walking in your every God-given right and every privilege available to you.
- d. **Confidence – *The Key To Righteousness***
  - i. God's love for you is unconditional. You can have total confidence in God because He loves you.
  - ii. God endeavors for you to get to a place, out of your relationship with Him, that you establish confidence in our prayers, that you have confidence in what He says in His Word.
    1. He says that He rejoices over you daily.
    2. He says that you are the apple of His eye.
    3. He wants to do you good and He wants to make you happy.
- e. **Answered prayer – *Has more to do with you, than with God.***
  - i. Abide in the Word: *"If you abide in Me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done for you."* (John 15:7)
    1. God has already made up His mind on how He will answer prayer.
    2. God's Word abiding in you is a prerequisite to answered prayer.
  - ii. Fellowship with God.
    1. The most important thing in the world is fellowship with God.
    2. Until knowing God and becoming more acquainted with Him becomes your priority, your prayer life will be weak.

iii. Put God first.

1. Matthew 6:33 tells us to “*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*” We must seek God’s system of operation first, before all other things.
2. With God at the center of our lives, we can call on him and he will answer.
  - a. “Call to Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things, fenced in and hidden, which you do not know (do not distinguish and recognize, (those things that you) have knowledge of and understand)” (*Jeremiah 33:3, AMP*).
  - b. “And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear” (*Isaiah 65:24*).
  - c. “Fear not [there is nothing to fear], for I am with you; do not look around you in terror and be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen and harden you to difficulties yes, I will hold you up and retain you with My [victorious] right hand of rightness and justice” (*Isaiah 41:10, AMP*).

iv. We must establish a personal relationship with God in trust (*Psalms 115:9*).

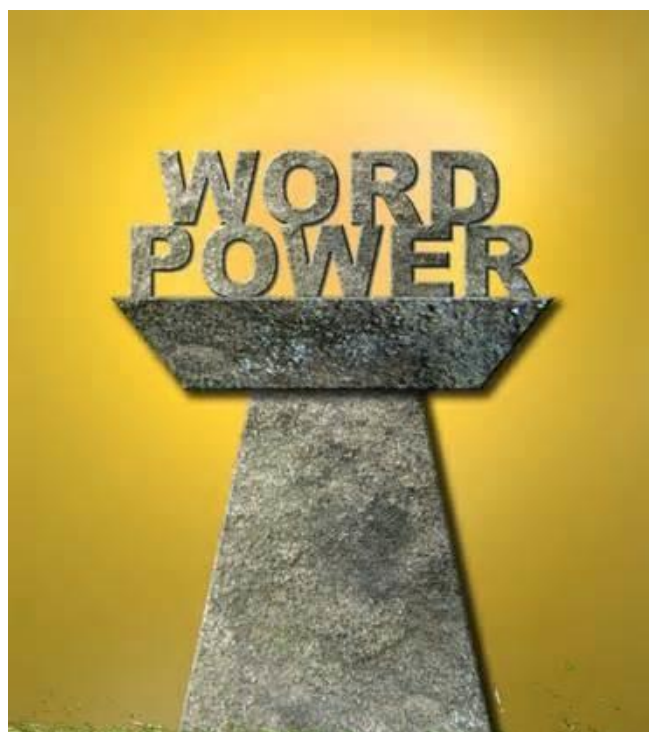
1. God wants us to relate to Him as a Father and a child relationship.
  - a. Paul refers to God as a Father and He refers to the relationship as a family. Not a dysfunctional family, not a crazy family, but a family that is whole, complete, mature, that’s secure in who He is and who we are (*Ephesians 3:14*).
  - b. Prayer is conversation between the Father and His child. There is nothing twisted, and nothing tilted, nothing indecent about this relationship. It is just as informal as you want it to be. It is conversation between the Father and the child.



c. One of the goals of our individual prayer life should be that of having victory; not just based on crisis; not based on an event; not based on a circumstance; but out of developing a oneness and closer acquaintanceship with our Father.

v. The power of a heartfelt prayer:

1. *Psalm 63: 1-3* - See the power and the glory.
2. *Jeremiah 29: 11-13* - He promises us an expected end.
3. *James 5:16 – 18* - The fervent prayer of a righteous man.
4. *I Peter 5: 6, 7* - Because the Spirit is truth.
5. *Hebrews 10:35* - Cast not away therefore your confidence.
6. *Luke 24:45* – Then He opened their understanding.



## **X. The Power of the Word**

***“Recognizing and acknowledging the sovereignty of the Scripture is critical. John 1:1 says, ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.’ Regardless of what popular culture may say or what the media would try to have you believe, God’s Word is the final authority in all things?”***

### **a. The Word of God:**

#### **i. The Word of God is...**

1. Not a group of collective words without meaning.
2. A person which breaths and lives in His sayings.
  - a. *John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”*
  - b. *John 1:14, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father...)”*

#### **ii. The Word of God – “The Book That Endures Forever”**

1. *Psalms 119:89*
2. *Isaiah 40:8*
3. *Matthew 5:18-19*
4. *Matthew 24:35*
5. *1 Peter 1:25*

#### **iii. The Word of God is spiritual food**

1. *Deuteronomy 8:3, (quote by Jesus to the devil) “Man shall not live by natural bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God doth man live (Matthew 4:4).”*

2. *Job 23:12, "... I have esteemed the words of his (God) mouth more than my necessary food."*
3. Psalm 119:103, Jeremiah 15:16, 1Peter 2:2

iv. The Word of God is divinely inspired

1. *Jeremiah 36:2*, God tells the prophet to write his words that He has spoken.
2. *2 Timothy 3:16*, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God."
3. *2 Peter 1:21*, "For the prophecy came not by the will of man, but Holy men of God as they were inspired (moved on) by the Holy Ghost."

v. The Word of God is mighty...

1. Jeremiah 5:14, "a devouring fire"
2. Ezekiel 37:1-7, "a life giving force"
3. Romans 1:16, "a saving power"
4. Ephesians 6:17, "a defensive weapon"
5. Hebrews 4:12, "a probing instrument"

vi. The Word of God is a blessing.

1. Joshua 1:18
2. Psalm 19:11
3. Matthew 7:24
4. Luke 11:28

vii. The Word of God cleanses.

1. *Psalm 119:9* says "Wherewithal (how) shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to thy word."

2. *John 15:3 “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”*

b. **The Purpose of the Word of God is:**

- i. To show us the divinity of Jesus and his purpose in coming (*John 20:31*).
- ii. To give hope to man (*Romans 15:4*).
- iii. To live by, to study by, a road map to get to the Father and explain Him, His love and all our rights in Him.

**RIGHTEOUSNESS**  
**of GOD**

## **XI. Righteousness**

***“Our righteousness in Christ is the centerpiece on which Christian faith is built. On it hangs everything God’s Word promises us, and the entire structure of our salvation is built upon it. If we are going to walk in the joy of our salvation and the power of the promises we have in Him, we must understand our righteousness in Christ.”***

### **a. Righteousness is a Gift**

- i. As a born-again Believer, you have been *declared* righteous; this was given to you as a free gift when you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior (*Romans 3:1-4*).
- ii. All humans are born with a sin nature (*Psalms 51:5*).
- iii. Because of the sinful nature innate in all humans by birth, all people have sinned against God (*Romans 3:9-23*).

### **b. We are all Born Sinners (The Law of Moses)**

- i. The law makes you conscious of sin; it can not change your nature and make you righteous. When you are ignorant of sin, you are not guilty of it. But when you become aware of the law, you become conscious of your sins and as a result guilty of them (*Romans 7:7- 24*).
- ii. All humans are born sinners because of the sinful nature passed down from Adam as a result of his fall (*Romans 5:12-14, Psalm 103:13, 14*).
- iii. Since you were born with a sinful nature, God does not hold your sins against you unless you reject Christ. You reject Christ by rejecting salvation. By rejecting salvation, you reject righteousness (*Mark 16:16, Romans 5:19*).

### **c. Righteousness by Faith**

- i. The righteousness of God comes by faith (*Romans 3:21-31*).
  - 1. You did not have to commit any sins to become a sinner. You were automatically made a sinner because of Adam’s sin. God put Adam’s sin on all men.

2. Since it was by the first Adam that you were made a sinner, it is by the last Adam (Jesus Christ) that you have been justified or made righteous (*Romans 5:15-21*).

ii. The righteousness of God, like salvation, is made available to all men who believe (*Romans 3:22*).

d. **Can Righteousness be Lost?**

i. Since good works cannot make a sinner righteous; neither can sin make a Christian unrighteous (*Romans 9:30-33*).

ii. God is married to covenant people who have backslidden (*Jeremiah 3:14*).

iii. If you sin, God has already forgiven you (*1 John 1:9*).

iv. The Bible says that if you denounce or reject Christ or disobey His teachings, even after accepting Him, you will receive the same punishment as those who have never accepted Christ (*Hebrews 10:27-29*).

e. **The Truth About Righteousness and Sin**

i. Although you are made righteous by faith, do not use your righteousness as an excuse to *sin* (*Romans 6:1-14*).

ii. Sin will lead to bondage. Since Christ has set you free, do not go back into slavery through sin (*Romans 6:15-22*).

iii. Although you have been made righteous, the wages of sin is still death (*Romans 6:23*).

iv. Sin can lead you to a point of denouncing Christ, which will cause you to lose the free gift of righteousness (*Revelation 3:1-5*).

f. **The Benefits of Righteousness**

i. You have the right to be free from sin and its consequences (*Romans 8:2*).

ii. You have a right to be forgiven of your sins (*1 John 1:9*).



- iii. You have a right to come into God's presence with boldness and receive guidance and direction (*Hebrews 4:16*).
- iv. You have the right to walk like Jesus on the earth and do the works that He did (*John 14:12*).
- v. You have the right to take authority over Satan, fallen angels, demons, and all their works (*Mark 16:17, 18*).
- vi. You have the right to be healed and whole in your physical body (*1 Peter 2:24*).
- vii. You have the right to have wealth and riches (*Psalms 112:3*).



Covenant

## **XII. The Meaning of Covenant**

***“The new covenant was cut between God and Jesus; it cannot be broken. Because of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection, the covenant has been extended to you. By making you a joint heir with Him, Jesus allows you to share in His covenant relationship with the Father.”***

### **a. What is a Covenant?**

- i. A covenant is a pledge, a vow, or a promise between two or more parties to carry out the terms agreed upon.
- ii. It is one of the most powerful agreements known to mankind.
  1. A blood covenant is a type of covenant that can only be broken by death.
  2. The covenant guarantees that the promise made will be fulfilled. A covenant with God can be used as the foundation for your faith.
  3. God uses covenants to show men that He will do His part, so that we can do our part.

### **iii. The Covenant Between God and Man.**

1. In *Genesis 12:1-3*, God made some awesome promises to Abraham. He promised to:
  - a. Make Abraham a great nation.
  - b. Bless him.
  - c. Make his name great.
  - d. Make him a blessing to others.
  - e. Bless those who blessed him and curse those who cursed him.
  - f. Bless all families of the earth through his seed.
2. After God made these promises, Abraham still had concerns. God used covenant as a way of assuring Abraham that what He had promised would come to pass (*Genesis 15:2, 8*). So God made a covenant with Abraham by:
  - a. Reciting the promises (*Genesis 15:13-16*).

- b. Confirming the covenant in blood by walking through the blood, and reciting the promises again (*Genesis 15:17-21*).
- c. Keeping His part of the covenant (*Hebrews 11:17- 19*).

3. God cut a covenant with Abraham, who was a shadow of His Son, Jesus, who later came into the earth.

- a. Everything begins with God's Word (His written promises).
- b. You must rely upon God's Word for everything you do in life.
- c. In His covenant with Abraham, God promises that His Word is true.
- d. Abraham's covenant with God was tested so that God could prove to him that He would not break His promises (*Genesis 22:1-18*).
- e. God instructed Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac.
- f. Isaac's sacrifice was to take place on the same mountain where Jesus would be crucified.
- g. Abraham was so confident in God's promises that he envisioned God raising Isaac from the dead after the sacrifice.
- h. Abraham believed and said that he and his son would return.
- i. Because of Abraham's obedience, God first revealed Himself as Jehovah Jireh, by providing a ram as a substitute for Isaac.
- j. Jesus is your substitute; you don't have to die for your sins.

4. As Abraham's covenant partner, God promised that whatever He asked Abraham to do, He would also do.
  - a. God never breaks His covenants.
  - b. Because God asked Abraham for his only son, God gave to us His only Son.
  - c. When Jesus said on the cross, "*It is finished*," He was referring to the Abrahamic covenant.
5. God promised Abraham that his seed would be blessed and that through his seed all nations of the earth would also be blessed (*Galatians 3:14-17*).
  - a. Jesus is the Seed (*Galatians 3:14, AMP*).
  - b. The promises of God belong to all descendants of Abraham (*Galatians 3:13-16*).
  - c. You also possess the promises of God by right of inheritance through Jesus (*Galatians 3:29*).

iv. The New Covenant

**A. The Cup, Sacrifice and Blood are all Elements of Cutting a Covenant**

1. Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, "...let this cup be passed from me" (*Matthew 26:39*).
  - (ii) "Jesus, being in agony, prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44).
  - (iii) Jesus was both the priest and the sacrifice, which made His sacrifice legal.
2. God cut a covenant with Jesus.
  - (i) The agreement was that when Jesus stepped out of life and into death, after three days and three

nights, God would bring Him back to life, allowing Him to be born again.

(ii) Jesus died both a spiritual and physical death.

(iii) His separation from God began while He was alive on the cross—when He took the sins of the world upon Himself.

3. Jesus entered Hell based on His covenant with God (*Acts 2:24, 31*).

(i) Death, Hell and corruption could not hold Him there.

(ii) He took back the keys to death, Hell and the grave.

4. Jesus made it possible for you to partake of the covenant He has with the Father.

(i) Jesus makes the difference.

(ii) When you become born-again, you can be who He says you can be and you can have what He says you can have (*1 Corinthians 1:29; Romans 8:17*).

5. Jesus is the Christ (the Anointed One and His Anointing), the Son of God; and that, believing, you might have life through His name (*John 20:31*).

(i) Everything you need is available to you through Jesus (*Romans 5:1; Romans 6:23; Romans 11:36; Ephesians 2:7*).

(ii) You have authority over the power of demonic forces (*Luke 10:19*).

(iii) You cannot stand against the enemy in your own power (*Ephesians. 6:10*).

(iv) A law enforcement officer does not operate in his own authority, but in the authority delegated to him by government.

- (v) You are nothing without Jesus; your authority is through Him.
- (vi) The devil has to cease in his maneuvers against you when you exercise your authority through the name of Jesus.

## **B. Covenant is a Two Fold Agreement**

1. In a covenant, each party has a responsibility to do his or her part.
2. One party not performing his or her part of the covenant releases the other party from the obligation of fulfilling his or her part of the agreement. However, when one party fulfills his or her part, the party is also obligated to do the same.

## **C. Your Part of the Covenant Agreement**

1. You must accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior (*Romans 10:9, 10*).
2. You must walk upright before God, thereby perfecting Holiness (*Genesis 17:1, Psalm 15:1-5*).
3. You must walk in love and not selfishness (*Galatians 5:13-23*).
4. You must pray and believe you receive what you pray (*Mark 11:24*).
5. You must pay tithes and give offerings (*Malachi 3:6-8*).
6. You must hear and obey God when He speaks to you (*John 2:2-5*).

## **D. God's Part of the Covenant Agreement**

1. To make you one with God through reconciliation (*II Corinthians 5:17-19*).
2. To save you from eternal damnation (*Mark 16:16*).
3. To cleanse you of all sins (*Hebrews 10:15-18*).

4. To save you from the Great Tribulation that is will occur in the Last Days (*Revelations 3:10*).
5. To declare you righteous (*Romans 3:21-26*).
6. To heal you of all sicknesses and disease (*Isaiah 53:5*).
7. To give you the power to get wealth (*Deuteronomy 8:18, Psalm 112:1-3*).
8. To give you wisdom (*Psalm 37:6; Psalm 112:4*).
9. To deliver you from your troubles and your enemies (*Psalm 34:17-22*).
10. To guide you continually (*Isaiah 58:11*).

#### **E. Conclusion**

1. What happens when you do not keep your part of the covenant (*Deuteronomy 28:15-19*)?
2. When you keep your part of the covenant, you will experience days of Heaven on earth (*Deuteronomy 28:1-14*).



# LOVE

is patient  
is kind  
it does not envy  
it does not boast  
it is not proud  
it is not rude  
it is not self-seeking  
it is not easily angered  
keeps no record of wrongs  
does not delight in evil  
rejoices with the truth  
always protects  
always trusts  
always hopes  
always perseveres  
never fails

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

### **XIII. Love: The Law of Life and Power**

***“Love is the foundation to the anointing, or power of God, in the life of a Christian. Many Believers expect to walk in the power of God; however, they are “AWOL” (Absent Without Love). They are operating outside of God’s directive to walk in love. Staying inside God’s “love circle” is the key to remaining free of the curse and its results.”***

- a. **What’s love got to do with it?**
  - i. Without love, you will not receive God’s anointing to prosper.
  - ii. Walking in love is the only way to receive divine empowerment.
  - iii. Walking in the love of God means keeping His commandments and doing what He says. Obedience honors God (*Proverbs 3:1-10*).
    1. Honoring your parents means submitting to their authority and taking heed to their direction.
    2. To honor God is to submit to His authority and obey His Word.
      - a. The Bible says that loving God means keeping His Commandments.
      - b. When you honor God, His Word holds more weight than anyone else’s.
  - iv. Why is love the greatest commandment (*Matthew 22:36-40*)?
    1. “Master, which is the great commandment in the law” (*Matthew 22:36 KJV*)?
    2. “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment” (*Matthew 22:37, 38*).
      - a. Jesus said that the first and greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul and mind.
    3. The second is like unto it, “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (*Matthew 22:37, 38*).

- a. By loving God with all your heart, mind, and soul, you conquer selfishness.
- b. The evidence that you have overcome selfishness is your ability to demonstrate love toward your neighbor—regardless of how you feel.

v. So far, we have covered three main points:

- 1. How to honor God.
- 2. How to walk in the commandments of love.
- 3. How to love God with all your heart, mind and soul.

□ **Self-Check:** *It's easy to say we love God, but do we honor Him? Do God's words hold more weight than your own desires?*

#### b. **The Law of Life is the Love of God**

- i. God's commandment that we love one another is not an option, but a direct order from Jesus, our Commander-in-Chief.
- ii. The rich young ruler missed an opportunity to follow Jesus and partake of His anointing because he loved *things* more than he loved God and others (*Mark 10:17-22*).

- 1. The rich young ruler asked Jesus, "What do I need to do to inherit eternal life?"

- a. The Greek word for eternal life is *Zoë*, which means, "The God-kind of abundant life."

2. Jesus answered him:

- a. Do not commit adultery.
- b. Do not kill.
- c. Do not steal.
- d. Do not bear false witness.
- e. Defraud not.
- f. Honor thy father and thy mother.

- 3. The rich young ruler told Jesus that he had done so.

Then Jesus observed him and said with love (*verse 21-22*):  
 "One thing thou lackest: go thy way and sell whatsoever thou

hast, and give it to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in Heaven: and come take up the cross, and follow me...And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.”

4. The rich young ruler missed an opportunity to walk with Jesus because he viewed giving as a loss rather than an opportunity to reap a 100-fold harvest.
  - a. He went away grieved because he had great possessions and did not want to separate himself from them.
  - b. To connect with Jesus, you must be willing to separate yourself from your possessions.

iii. In *Luke 10:25-28* we see a similar example.

1. A certain lawyer asks Jesus (*verse 25*), “*Master what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*”
2. Jesus asks the man what the Word says about the subject.
3. The lawyer replies, “*Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; And thy neighbor as thyself*” (*verse 27*).
4. Jesus confirmed his answer by saying, “*Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live*” (*verse 28*).

iv. The rich young ruler demonstrated two characteristics of a person who lacks the love of God in their lives.

1. *Selfishness*: Selfishness is the direct opposite of the love of God.
2. *Fear*: When you operate in selfishness, you operate in fear. The only way to get rid of fear is to perfect your love walk, because perfected love casts out fear.
  - a. Thoughts of the rich young ruler: “Oh, I love You, Jesus, but I can’t walk the road You walk. I trust more in my resources and earthly possessions. I’ve crowned myself god because at least these are things I can control. I don’t really trust You to meet my needs and bless me in abundance.

- b. Don't separate from God! When you're walking in this kind of fear, you'll take on the burden of worry because you don't trust Him to take care of you. Fear will cause you to separate from God! But, giving your cares to Him gives you the freedom to live stress-free.
- c. Love is the foundation of the power and anointing of God. When we operate in love and obedience, we can achieve victory in life.

**c. We Abide in the Love of God by Keeping His Commandments (John 15:10).**

- i. Unfortunately, many Christians don't receive the promises of God because they are not walking in love.
  - 1. For example, the US military has many different branches, including the Navy, Army, Marines and the Air Force. There are certain *general orders* that each branch of the military has to obey. Whether you are in the Air Force or the Army, you are not allowed to be *absent without leave* (AWOL).
  - 2. And when we don't keep that *general order* and you are AWOL—outside of love. As a result, we try to operate in our authority without power.
  - 3. When military personnel go AWOL, they walk away from their authority. Even when they are in uniform, they have no power. A Christian who does not walk in love is powerless even though he or she may appear to be close to God.
- ii. The power of God won't work without love.
- iii. Christians are to believe in Jesus and love one another (*1 John 3:23*).
  - 1. *1 John 3:23* in the Amplified Bible says, "And this is His order (His command, His injunction): that we should believe in (put our faith and trust in and adhere to and rely on) the name of His Son Jesus Christ (the Messiah), and that we should love one another, just as He commanded us."
  - 2. *1 John 5:18* says, "We know that whatsoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not."

- a. God is Love. God does not *have* love; He *is* love. Read verse 18 again and replace the word God with the word Love:
  - b. *“We know that whosoever is born of [Love] sinneth not; but he that is begotten of [Love] keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.”*
- iv. By abiding in the love of God, you set yourself free from the law of sin and death, which includes sin, sickness, poverty, lack and fear.

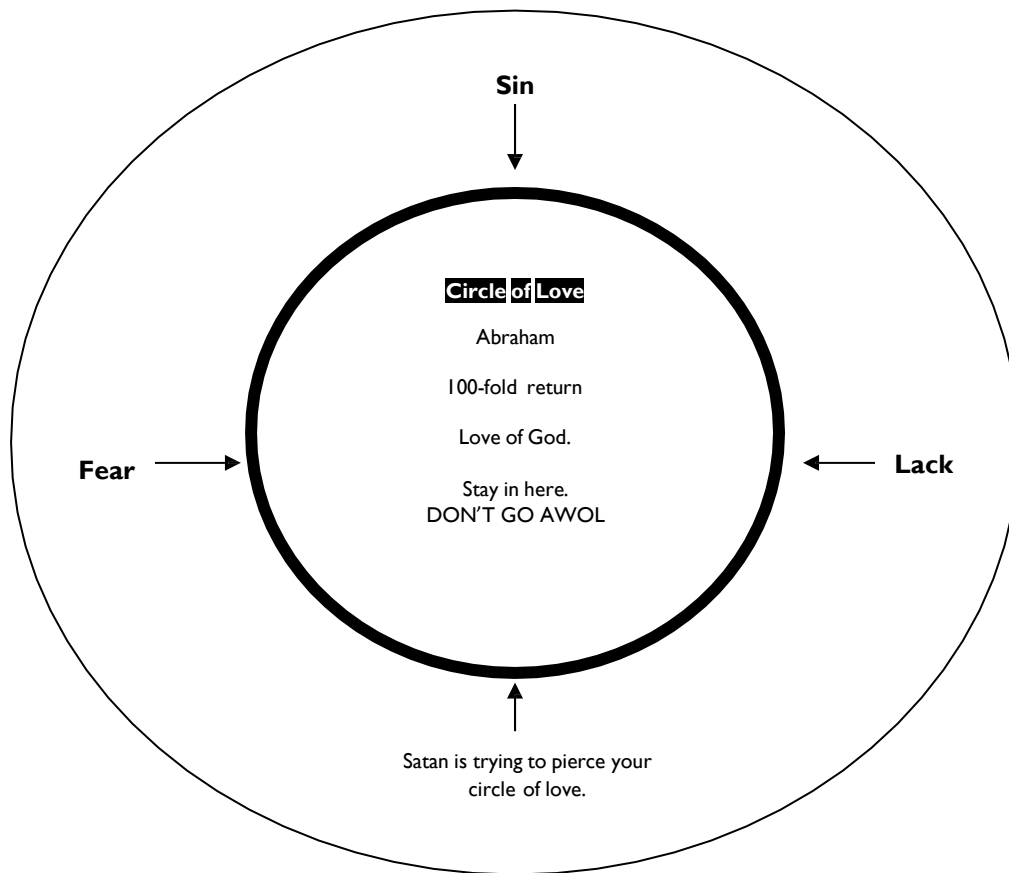
## LET’S LOOK AT THE CIRCLE OF LOVE



### **The Circle of Love**

The circle below represents Adam and his fall. When Adam fell, mankind was cursed with fear, lack, sickness and death. The inner circle represents the law of love. Jesus redeemed mankind from the curse of the law. Through Him, mankind can receive abundant life. Every promise God made in His covenant is represented in this circle.

**Outside the circle of love is Adam's *fall, curse, sin, lack, decrease, fear***



v. The enemy can't harm you when you remain in the center of God's love (*1 John 5:17, 18*).

1. We must not allow our emotions to influence us to move out of the circle of love.
2. Although the blood of Jesus has delivered us from the law of sin and death, when we step out of the circle, we are unprotected. The enemy cannot harm us when we operate in love. He cannot penetrate your protection as long as you stay in love. That's why Jesus said, *if they slap you on one side, offer the other side*. The power of God shields you and ministers on your behalf!
3. Love is the gateway to getting your prayers answered. When you step out of love, your prayers will be hindered. You may be expecting things to work out when they weren't designed to work outside the circle of love.

4. Your authority is found in the love of God. All of His promises hang on love. Outside of love, you are powerless. But when you choose to stay in love no matter how it feels, God will bless you in abundance.
5. Ask yourself....
  - a. What is it that is trying to get me to act out of the circle of love?
  - b. Do I forgive those who have offended me?
  - c. How do I respond when I get cut off in traffic?
  - d. Do I love unconditionally no matter what?
6. Choosing to stay in the circle of love will stop the enemy in his tracks.
  - a. Your love is your power!
  - b. Your love is your anointing!
  - c. Your love is your supernatural enablement!
  - d. Love wants to bless others. You can't go around saying you love God whom you've never seen and not love the people you see every day. It's about how you treat one another (*1 John 4:20*).





## **XIV. Praise**

***“When you praise and thank God for the blood of Jesus, boldness begins to rise up within you. You gain the confidence to enter the Holy Place by reminding yourself of what Jesus’ blood has done to you and for you.”***

### **a. What is Praise?**

- i. To *praise* means to commend, to applaud, to express approval or admiration of, to exalt in words or in song, to magnify, or to glorify (*Isaiah 40:9*).
- ii. Praise is always preoccupied with who God is and what He has done.
  - iii. Praise is characterized by celebration and exhilaration.
- iv. Praise is expressed through singing, shouting, speaking forth, and playing of musical instruments, dancing and other external forms.

### **b. Make A Joyful Noise**

- i. The Bible shows us that praise is to be declared and manifested. It is not silent.
- ii. In *Psalms 66:8* we see that God wants us to tell somebody about His goodness: who He is and what He has done.
  1. Praise is an act of your will, not your emotions (*Psalms 103:1; Leviticus 22:29*).
  2. Do not wait for something to move you; encourage yourself in the Lord and enter into praise.
  - c. It doesn’t matter how you feel or what you are going through in life. You should praise the Lord (*Psalms 34:1*).

### **c. Why Should We Praise?**

1. You are commanded to praise (*Psalms 150:1*).
2. Praise is for your benefit not for God’s benefit. God loves your praise and when you praise it brings you into right relationship with Him.
3. God is enthroned in your praise (*Psalms 22:3; Isaiah 60:18; Psalms 87:2*).

4. There is power in your praise. When you need ability you need to praise (*2 Chronicles 20:21*).
5. It is a good thing to praise the Lord (*Psalms 100:4, 5; Psalm 103:1-5*).
6. He's worthy to receive your praise (*Psalm 48:1*).
7. You were created for the purpose of praise (*Psalms 102:18; Isaiah 43:21; 1 Peter 2:9; Jeremiah 13:11*).

**D. Where Should We Praise?** (*Psalms 149:5; Psalm 113:3; Psalm 26:8,12*)

1. You do not have to wait until you get to church to praise the Lord; praise at home, in the bed, everywhere.
2. Bless Him in the congregation (*Psalms 35:18; Psalm 107:32; Psalm 122:1-2*).
3. Praise when you feel like it and when you don't (*James 5:13; Psalm 42:5*).
4. Praise in the midst of trials. (*1 Thessalonians 5:18, Acts 17:25-34, Jonah 2:7-10*).
5. Praise Him when the trial is over (*Psalm 40:1-4*).

**E. How Should You Praise?**

1. Lifting of your hands.
2. You lift your hands as a child running toward his/her father (*Numbers 7:89*).
3. Extend your hands in Thanksgiving.
4. Extend your hands as to receive from God (*Psalms 28:2; Psalm 63:4; Psalm 134:2*).
5. Clapping of hands (*Psalm 47:1*).
6. Playing of instruments (*Psalm 150: 3-5*).
7. Shouting ( Shabach means to shout) (*Psalm 47:1*).
8. Singing:

- a. Zamar* – To praise with song
- b. Tehillah* – Singing in the Spirit

9. Speaking in tongues.

10. In Celebration:

- a. Hallel* – To be vigorously excited; to celebrate
- b. Barak* – To bless and declare God as the source of power, prosperity and success

11. Whatever you do, let it be an act of your will, and praise Him for how good He is and all that He has done!



## **XV. Worship**

***“Worship is an act of reverence or a deep respect. love, awe and esteem. Having a heart after God’s own heart. The highest calling of true worship is obedience doing what God tells you to do.”***

### **a. What is Worship?**

- i. Worship is the supreme honor or veneration given either in thought or in deed to one of greater authority.
- ii. *Psalm 29:2; Matthew 4:10*

### **b. Three Important Elements of True Worship**

- i. *Reverence* – Honor and respect directed to God your Father in thought, feelings and sincerity of heart. They that worship Him must worship Him in *spirit* and in *truth* (*John 4:24*).
  1. *Spirit* – Speaks of the personal nature of worship. It is from your person to God’s person; the innermost part of man that communicates with God (*Proverbs 20:27*).
  2. *Truth* – Speaks of the content of worship. God is pleased when you worship Him understanding His true character. God’s Word is truth.
- ii. *Faithfulness* – In worship you respond to God’s faithfulness.
- iii. *Obedience* – The patterns of worship throughout the scriptures are linked to obedience. Doing the will of God (*Joshua 1:8; Deuteronomy 28:1, 2*).

### **c. How to Worship**

- i. Worship is learned (*Psalm 89:15*).
- ii. We must learn expression and how to open our hearts as a channel of the Holy Spirit.
- iii. Worship is the act of expressing oneself to God.
  1. Worship encompasses thought, feelings and deed.

2. Worship may be expressed privately or publicly (*Psalm 46:10*).
3. Giving is a form of worship (*1Chronicles 16:29; Genesis 4:4; Genesis 8:20-22*).
4. Holy Communion (*1Corinthians 11:25, 26*).
5. Worship may be expressed through singing, speaking and playing of musical instruments.
6. Worship is an expression of love. It frequently functions very similarly to marital love:
  - a. It involves eye contact with God, staring into His very being.
  - b. It does not need to be verbalized in order to be expressed or appreciated.
- iv. The single most important act of worship is the presentation of oneself to God as an *obedient servant*. Loving Him with all of your heart, with all of your soul, all of your mind and all of your strength; loving your neighbor as yourself.

d. **Why We Should Worship**

- i. God commands it (*Matthew 4:10; Luke 4:8; Psalm 29:2; Psalm 96:9*).
- ii. God defines its purpose (*Leviticus 26:12; Revelations 21:3*).
- iii. God desires it (*John 4:23; Exodus 34:14; Psalm 99:5*).
- iv. God deserves it.
  1. Love (*John 3:16*)
  2. Goodness (*Psalm 100: 4, 5*)
  3. Mercy (*Exodus 4:31*)
  4. Holiness (*Psalm 99:5*)
  5. Creative Power (*Revelation 4:11*)
- v. We need it.

## WORSHIP VS. PRAISE

Worship	Praise
<i>Worship</i> is intimate.	<i>Praise</i> is intimate but can be distant.
<i>Worship</i> involves giving and receiving.	<i>Praise</i> can be <i>given</i> only.
<i>Worship</i> is quiet.	<i>Praise</i> is always seen and/or heard.
<i>Worship</i> is vertical interaction.	<i>Praise</i> is horizontal in its purpose.
<i>Worship</i> is a function of the spirit.	<i>Praise</i> is expressed through the flesh.
<i>Worship</i> is reverence to God for who He is.	<i>Praise</i> is thanking God for who He is.



## **XVI. Soul Winning—*The Believer's Responsibility***



***“I am a firm Believer that God did not save you just for you. In other words, your new life in Christ has a purpose – to be a witness, or testimony, of the blessing that comes from living for God. You are expected to share Jesus with unbelievers... However, you are not expected to ‘share Jesus’ in your own strength... You have been empowered by the Holy Spirit, Who gives you the ability to be an effective witness” (Acts 1:8).***

### **a. God's Ability and Authority**

- i. God has given the Believer the ability to be a soul winner.
  - 1. The Holy Ghost gives us the power to be witnesses (*Acts 1:8; Luke 24:49*).
  - 2. The Name of Jesus gives us the authority (*Mark 16:15-20*).
  - 3. The Word gives us the knowledge (*John 8:31,32*).
- ii. It Is every Believer's responsibility.
  - 1. Soul winning, the ministry of reconciliation, is the primary ministry of all Believers regardless to what office he/she is called to (*2 Corinthians 5:17-20*).
  - 2. The Great Commission was given for this reason (*Matthew 28:19, 20*).

### **b. How to Win Souls**

- i. In order to be an effective soul winner, you must be a good witness.
- ii. Witnessing is not only what you say but also the life you live.
  - 1. Not every Believer is a good witness (*2 Timothy 2:20, 21*).
  - 2. How you live must line-up with what you say (*Matthew 5:16*).

3. Be a doer, not a hearer only of the Word (*James 1:22*).

c. **Six Reasons for Being a Soul Winner:**

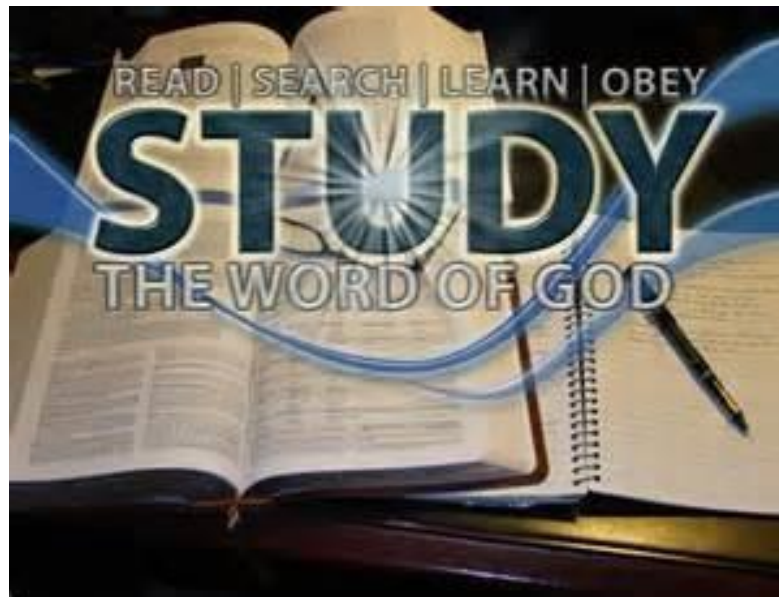
- i. Jesus was a soul winner. He is our example.
- ii. The harvest is great, but the laborers are few. While there are greater numbers of people saved today, not all are willing to share in the work.
- iii. *The Great Commission*. Jesus gave us the commandment to go and preach the gospel (*Mark 16:15-20; Matthew 28:20*).
- iv. It is useless to learn the mechanics of soul winning (how to) without the dynamics (the Holy Spirit and a willingness) to do the work.
- v. Unfulfilled prophecies concerning Christ's return: when the work is done, then and only then will Christ return.
- vi. To reconcile the lost to Christ – the ministry of reconciliation (*2 Corinthians 5:18*).

d. **Five Steps to Complete Salvation** - *to lead someone to the Lord a person must:*

- i. Recognize and admit that they are sinners (*Psalms 51:5*)
- ii. Repent of their sins (*1 John 1:9*).
- iii. Confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (*Romans 10:9, 10*).

*"Father in the name of Jesus, I recognize and admit that I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and I make a 180 degree turn away from sin to you by changing my heart, mind, and direction. I confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord, and I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. I invite You to come into my life, Lord Jesus, and I thank You that I am saved" Amen.*

- iv. Receive baptism by water (*Matthew 3:6*) and the baptism in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues (*Acts 2:3, 4, 38; Acts 8:14 – 17*).
- v. Pray, read and obey the Word of God daily (*1 John 5:3*).



## **XVII. How to Study the Word**

***“Knowing and understanding your Bible is one of the most important aspects of being a Christian because the Bible is your manual for living the abundant life.”***

### **a. The importance of study and meditation...**

- i. What the digestive tract is to the natural body, meditation is to the spiritual body. The word “meditate” means to “*roll over and over and over in thought.*”
- ii. So let us *eat* the Word (by studying) and digest the Word (by meditation). Then the strength of the Word, which has been eaten and digested, will give us strength to grow up in Him and in all things to radiate His glory and His image.
- iii. Get so much Word in you, so full of Word that when the devil puts the pressure on you the only thing that he’ll squeeze out of you will be the Word.
- iv. Deuteronomy 17:19, Isaiah 34:16, John 5:39, Acts 17:11, Romans 15:4

### **b. The Word of God is incorruptible seed.**

- i. The Word is life; the Life is in the seed. 2.

John 12:24, Psalm 126:6

3. *Mark 4:14* (Parable of the Sower of Seed) Some fell by the way side, some on stony ground, and some on good ground.
4. *2 Corinthians 9:10*, The Word is the seed to plant in your life in every area of need, so you can reap the harvest that God has for you. Plant the Word in your life, in your situation, and see the harvest produced.

### **c. Study techniques**

- i. **First**, make the Bible your final authority in every area of your life—from how you raise your children and conduct your marriage or business to how you handle your finances. God’s way is perfect (*Psalm 18:30*) and when you seek *first* His kingdom and His righteousness, or His way of doing and being right, all the other things you need will be given to you (*Matthew 6:33, AMP*).

Therefore, you have nothing to fear from obeying what it commands—it's all for your benefit!

- ii. **Second**, purchase a Bible that is easy for you to understand. I study and teach mainly from the *King James* and *The Amplified Bible* parallel edition. To find the version that best suits your needs, take a familiar scripture, such as *John 3:16*, and read it in other versions, such as the *New King James Version (NKJV)*, *New International Version (NIV)*, *New American Standard (NAS)* and *The Living Bible (TLB)*.
- iii. **Third**, pick up a *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* or go to Web sites such as *Biblegateway.com* or *blueletterBible.com* to locate all the scriptures regarding specific subjects. You can also study by reading the New Testament. Begin with the letters of John, then move on to the gospels. The letters of John give insight into God's love and delve into how the "faith system" works, while the gospels tell of the life and works of Jesus. The rest of the New Testament is comprised of letters to Christians, instructing us in how to live godly lives.
- iv. **Fourth**, when studying the Word of God be sure to read and study each scripture in its proper context. That may mean taking a few moments to study the entire chapter in which the verse is contained, to research the historical and social history of the book or to cross-reference the scripture you are studying with others like it in other Books of the Bible. Another way to ensure a correct interpretation is to apply the "Law of First Mention." The *law of first mention* simply states that the first mention, or occurrence, of a subject in Scriptures establishes an unchangeable pattern. In other words, a word or phrase will mean the same thing in Revelation as it does in Genesis. Need help with word definitions? Use a Bible dictionary such as *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*.
- v. **Fifth**, as you study the Word, remember to pray for God to open the eyes of your heart so that you can clearly understand what is written on the page (*Ephesians 1:17, 18*) and apply it to your life. Keep in mind that daily Bible study will renew your mind and empower you to succeed in every endeavor!
- d. **Additional study tools:**
  - 1. Daily Devotionals
  - 2. Daily Confessions
  - 3. Practical "How To" Articles
  - 4. Listen to Pastor Silas's messages on CD (available in the Audio Department).