

CHURCH OF HOPE

EVANGELISM AND

MINISTRY TRAINING

COURSE

TEACHINGS – Weeks 6 to 11

(All teachings for these study guides can be downloaded from the Downloads page of our website)

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LIST OF TEACHINGS:

Page No.

Weeks Six and Seven Related Teachings

Attachment One: The first two foundations of our faith	3
Attachment Two: The simple gospel message	6
Attachment Three: Some brief keys to being effective in Witnessing to and preaching to others	17
Attachment Four: Receiving the Holy Spirit	21
Attachment Five: Signs and Wonders as we preach the gospel	25
Attachment Six: John Harper – A true hero of the faith	30

Week Eight Related Teachings

Attachment One: A good leader mentors others	32
Attachment Two: Spiritual gifts questionnaire	40

Week Nine Related Teachings

Attachment One: Being a leader of vision (Part A)	57
Attachment Two: Three key areas of Christian Character to develop	60

Weeks Ten and Eleven Related Teaching

Attachment One: The six doctrines of our Christian faith	71
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ATTACHMENT ONE

THE FIRST TWO FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”
(1 Corinthians 3:11)

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.” (Hebrews 6:1-2)

In this passage of Scripture six doctrines of our faith are identified:

1) **Repentance from dead works**, 2) **Faith toward God**, 3) **The doctrine of baptisms**,
4) **Laying on of hands**, 5) **Resurrection of the dead**, and 6) **Eternal Judgment**.

The first two of these six doctrines will now be discussed in turn.

i) **REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS**

True repentance must always precede true faith. Without such repentance, faith alone is an empty profession. Christ and His apostles preached “Repent and believe.” Any preacher who leaves out the call to repentance is misleading sinners and misrepresenting God. Jesus Himself made it clear to those who told Him about the Galileans who had been killed by Pilate, “...unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3)

WHAT REPENTANCE IS NOT

- **Repentance is not the conviction of sin.** Conviction brings people to repentance. However many people go to the altar feeling guilty of their sin, but are not willing to let go of their sin.
- **Repentance is not remorse.** A person may have remorse over what they have done, but not wish to repent of what they have done. A person can stand before a judge with tears in his eyes, feeling sorry for himself, not wanting to go to jail, yet not sorry for breaking the law.
- **Repentance is not just a determination to do better (Reformation).** Many people make New Year’s resolutions, however they do not last long. Whilst repentance does involve reformation, if God is not involved in the reformation, if it is not based on the work of the cross, then it is not repentance and it will ultimately fail. Unrepentant Christians are most likely to be caught up in religious works.
- **Repentance is not just being religious.** People can even serve in a church and raise their hand and even shout “Hallelujah” but still not repent.
- **Repentance is not “just believism.”** Repentance is not just an emotional feeling.

WHY WE NEED TO REPENT

Repentance is necessary because we have all sinned. “For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.” (**Romans 3:23**) There are around 103 sins defined in the Bible in every category imaginable, however the root of all these sins is the same. This root is the rejection of the rule and ways of God, due to unbelief. This root of unbelief must be dealt with through repentance.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (**John 3:16**) The need for repentance must be focused on the condition of a person’s heart before a Holy God. The Prophet Jeremiah said, “The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (**Jeremiah 17:9**)

A person who has not repented is simply committed to going his own way and doing his own thing apart from God.

WHAT IS TRUE REPENTANCE

TRUE repentance has two compulsory components:

- 1) TRUE REPENTANCE** is based on a recognition that we have sinned. It is the supernatural power of God that has been placed in the gospel, which enables a person to repent. (**God’s saving Grace**)
- 2) TRUE REPENTANCE** also involves a recognition that we are responsible to turn from our sins to God. Repentance is an inner change of mind resulting in an outward turning back, or turning around, to face and to move in a completely new direction. **This turning around has three elements. A turning from sin and dead works, a turning to God, and an intent to serve Him and to obey His commands.**

ii) FAITH TOWARD GOD

After a person repents, he must then make a personal response to the gospel.

THE BASIC FACTS OF THE GOSPEL ARE:

- 1) Christ was delivered by God the Father to the punishment of death on account of our sins*
- 2) Christ was buried*
- 3) God raised Him from the dead on the third day, and*
- 4) Righteousness is received from God through believing these facts**

To receive salvation and the gift of eternal life, each individual soul must make a **direct personal response to Christ**.

THIS PERSONAL RESPONSE TO CHRIST CAN BE DESCRIBED IN MANY WAYS:

i) Calling upon the Name of Christ as Lord

“For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (*Romans 10:13*)

ii) Coming to Christ

Jesus said, “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (*Matthew 11:28*) “...and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” (*John 6:37b*)

iii) Personally receiving Christ

“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (*John 1:11-13*)

iv) Drinking of the water of life, which Christ alone can give

Jesus said, “But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (*John 4:14*)

Each individual soul must make a direct personal response to Christ from the heart.

Jesus said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.” (*Revelations 3:20*)

ATTACHMENT TWO – THE SIMPLE GOSPEL MESSAGE

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE

ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT

“The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23b)

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

**BECAUSE ETERNAL LIFE IS A GIFT WE CANNOT EARN IT
NOR DO WE DESERVE IT**

The bible says that no amount of personal effort, doing good things, or even being religious, can earn eternal life:

“It is the gift of God, NOT OF WORKS, lest anyone should boast.”
(Ephesians 2:8c-9)

IF GOD DID NOT OFFER EACH OF US A PLACE IN HEAVEN AS A GIFT,
NO-ONE WOULD GET THERE, BECAUSE

EVERYONE HAS SINNED

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

“There is none righteous, no, not one;” (Romans 3:10a)

“But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags;” (Isaiah 64:6a)

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked;...” (Jer. 17:9)

“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6)

We all have our own standards for what sin is. But when it comes to heaven, only God’s standard is relevant. To God, **hate and lust** are sins just as much as murder or adultery, because both express selfishness and ignorance of His Law.

The greatest commandments are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and to care for others as much as we care for ourselves. Every time we fail to love in this manner, we are sinning. That is why the Bible says: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

WE CAN DO NOTHING TO SAVE OURSELVES

The reason we cannot save ourselves is because we all miss the mark and fall short of God's standard of absolute perfection.

“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”
(Matthew 5:48)

No matter how good we are, any sin, no matter how trivial it may appear to be, spoils the perfection that God requires.

“For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” (James 2:10)

Whilst some people are better than others, being better is not good enough. It is like two people trying to jump across a deep chasm. If one falls only a couple of feet short of the other side, he is no better off than the other who only makes it half way.

BECAUSE WE HAVE ALL SINNED, NONE OF US ARE ABLE TO SAVE OURSELVES. NO ONE WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO GET TO HEAVEN. HOWEVER, IN CHRIST, GOD OFFERS US ETERNAL LIFE AS A FREE GIFT.

Why should God offer anyone the gift of eternal life?

BECAUSE GOD IS LOVING AND MERCIFUL, HE DOES NOT WANT TO PUNISH US

“The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works.” (Psalm 145:8-9)

“For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations.” (Psalm 100:5) **“For He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm.”** (Joel 2:13c)

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

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
(Romans 5:6-8)

In fact the bible says, “... for God is love” (1 John 4:8)

HOWEVER, BECAUSE GOD IS PERFECTLY JUST, HE MUST ALSO PUNISH SIN

God's love does not overrule His justice.

“Ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.” (Deuteronomy 32:3b-4)

“For I will not justify the wicked.” (Exodus 23:7c)

“I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity;” (Isaiah 13:11) “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27)

IF GOD WAS TO OVERLOOK OUR SIN BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE, HE WOULD NO LONGER BE JUST. HIS LAW IS PERFECT AND HIS SENTENCE HAS BEEN PASSED... “THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH” (Romans 6:23a)

HOWEVER, GOD HAS BROUGHT HIS LOVE AND HIS JUSTICE TOGETHER IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT JESUS IS GOD

JESUS WAS FULLY GOD YET ALSO FULLY MAN

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:1&14)

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” (Matthew 1:23)

JESUS CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD TO PAY THE PENALTY FOR OUR SINS AND TO FULFIL GOD'S JUSTICE

WITHOUT CHRIST, EACH ONE OF US WOULD STAND CONDEMNED BEFORE GOD BECAUSE OF OUR SINS. HOWEVER BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT LOVE FOR US, HE HAS PUT OUR SINS ONTO JESUS.

- **Jesus died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to fulfil God's justice**
- **On the third day He arose from the dead and is alive forevermore**
- **Jesus gives the gift of eternal life to all those who RECEIVE Him (believe in Him)**
- **This is why we celebrate Easter**

This is the simple gospel message which must be preached to the unbelievers. (Refer to Romans 1:16-17, 1 Cor. 1:17-24, 1 Cor. 2:1-5, 1 Cor. 4:20 and Acts 8:4-8) “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **(Romans 5:8)**

THE DEATH OF JESUS ON THE CROSS HAS REPAIRED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. WE ALL NOW HAVE A WAY OF COMING INTO HIS PRESENCE, HOLY, PURE AND FAULTLESS

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

THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE IS FOR **WHOEVER** BELIEVES IN HIM. **WHOEVER INCLUDES YOU!**

YOU CAN RECEIVE THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH FAITH

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

Relying on your own efforts or even human logic, or even religious activity, cannot save you. *Faith in Jesus Christ* is the only way to be forgiven by God and to receive the gift of eternal life.

HOW DO WE RECEIVE THIS GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE BY FAITH?

WE MUST TRANSFER OUR TOTAL TRUST TO JESUS CHRIST ALONE

We must simply **BELIEVE** what God has done for us, and **ACCEPT** His offer of eternal life and **TRUST** Jesus Christ alone. There is no other way.

WE NEED TO REPENT OF ALL OF OUR SINS

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (**Acts 3:19**)

REPENTANCE IS LIKE DOING A U-TURN

- 1) It is recognising that we are going in the wrong direction*
- 2) It is owning up to God and asking for His forgiveness, and*
- 3) Choosing to go in the opposite direction – HIS WAY*

TURNING FROM OUR OWN WAY TO GOD’S WAY IS ACKNOWLEDGING THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OF OUR LIFE

The Apostle Paul wrote, “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” (**Galatians 2:20**)

GOD KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR US. WE CAN TRUST HIM TO LEAD US INTO THE FULLNESS OF LIFE THAT HE WANTS US TO EXPERIENCE.

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

FULLNESS OF LIFE ONLY COMES WHEN WE LIVE OUR LIFE HIS WAY.

Jesus said, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word;...” (**John 14:23**)

GOD'S SPIRIT (THE HOLY SPIRIT) GIVES EVERY BELIEVER THE POWER TO LIVE AN OVERCOMING LIFE

OBEYING GOD INCLUDES DOING SOME NEW THINGS IN OUR LIFE AND DOING SOME THINGS DIFFERENTLY. THE BIBLE IS FULL OF WISDOM AND AS WE READ IT, GOD WILL SPEAK THROUGH IT (Psalm 119:133) TO ENCOURAGE US (Psalm 119:107) AND TO GIVE US CLEAR DIRECTION IN LIFE. (Psalm 119:105) (The bible is God's love letter to us) (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." **(John 8:31a-32)**

ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT SAVED BY DOING GOOD WORKS, (ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT), *LIVING IN A WAY THAT IS PLEASING TO GOD WILL BE EVIDENCE OF YOUR NEW LIFE* AS A BELIEVER, AND WILL CONFIRM THAT *JESUS CHRIST IS TRULY LORD OF YOUR LIFE*

THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES NEW LIFE TO ALL BELIEVERS

THE HOLY SPIRIT ALSO ENABLES AND EMPOWERS BELIEVERS TO WALK IN VICTORY. BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN FOR OUR LIFE, IS THE KEY TO EXPERIENCING ABUNDANT LIFE AS A BELIEVER.

"That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." **(John 3:6)** "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." **(Romans 8:11)**

THE NEW LIFE THAT WE RECEIVE THROUGH GOD'S SPIRIT MEANS THAT WE ARE NOW PART OF A NEW FAMILY

ALL BELIEVERS BECOME PART OF GOD'S FAMILY

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

Reading the bible, praying to God and finding a church home are all keys to help you to live a victorious life as a believer (Christian). Being part of a vibrant church fellowship will help you to become established in your faith.

"Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing," **(Ps. 92:13-14)**

SOME ADDITIONAL NOTES TO HELP ALL CHRISTIANS TO SHARE THEIR FAITH AND THE GOSPEL IN A CLEAR AND SIMPLE MANNER
(COMPILED FROM EXTRACTS FROM OUR EVANGELISM FIRE WORKSHOP MANUAL)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

In this passage of Scripture we see the four basic facts of the gospel which we need to preach and share with others:

- 1) *Christ was delivered by God the Father to the punishment of death on account of our sins*
- 2) *Christ was buried*
- 3) *God raised Him from the dead on the third day, and*
- 4) *Righteousness is received from God through believing these facts*

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Every person must make a personal response to the facts of the gospel to receive salvation and the gift of eternal life. When we repent and put our faith in Jesus Christ all of our sins are forgiven and God’s righteousness is imputed to us (that we might become the righteousness of God in Him) – It is based on His righteousness being imputed or attributed to us when we give our life to Jesus Christ, that we as believers satisfy and meet the entry requirement to get into heaven when we die, which is sinless perfection. (Matthew 5:48) To be absent from the body as believers is to be with the Lord.

Each individual soul must make a direct personal response to Christ from the heart. Jesus said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.” (Revelations 3:20)

The Apostle Paul wrote, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10)

SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE IS SIMPLY A FREE GIFT THAT WE MUST RECEIVE BY FAITH BY COMING TO CHRIST WITH A REPENTANT AND OPEN HEART. The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT OUR SALVATION HAS TWO COMPONENTS – REPENTANCE AND FAITH TOWARD GOD. In the book of Acts we read the words of Peter,

“Repent therefore and be converted, *that your sins may be blotted out*, so that *times of refreshing* may come from the *presence of the Lord*.” (**Acts 3:19**)

Jesus Himself preached both repentance and faith toward God in His messages. In the gospel of Mark we read,

“Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” (**Mark 1:14-15**)

IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WHEN WE SHARE THE GOSPEL THAT WE MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WE MUST BOTH REPENT FROM OUR SINS AND BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST – THAT JESUS CHRIST IS BOTH OUR SAVIOUR AND LORD (Lord of all)

We must let go of our old life to embrace the new resurrection life that can only be found in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (**John 10:10**)

ONLY JESUS CHRIST CAN SAVE US FROM OUR SINS

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (**Acts 4:12**)

Jesus said, “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” (**John 10:9**)

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (**John 14:6**)

<p>The Apostle Paul wrote, “being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a PROPITIATION by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because <u>in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,</u>” (Romans 3:24-25)</p>

IN ROMANS 3:24-25 WE SEE THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL

- i) *When we come to Christ we are “justified” and declared righteous in God’s sight. Salvation is a free gift that we simply receive by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9)*
- ii) **PROPITIATION** means the appeasement of divine wrath by a sacrificial offering (*Jesus Christ died in our place to pay the ransom (penalty) for our sins*)
- iii) His blood is a reference to Christ’s death as a substitute sacrifice for us (See also Hebrews 9:22 and Hebrews 10:19-22) – At the heart of the gospel is the fact that if Christ did not bear the wrath of God that we deserved (Romans 2:5), then that wrath is stored up for us. In John 3:36 we read, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36)
- iv) When Christ died on the cross, He paid the penalty even for those previous sins that had been committed in the time of the Old Testament “...to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed” (Romans 3:25)

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT EVERY PERSON FALLS SHORT OF GOD’S STANDARD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (AND ENTRY REQUIREMENT TO GET INTO HEAVEN) – SINLESS PERFECTION

Jesus said, “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in Heaven is perfect.” (*Matthew 5:48*)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“As it is written:

“There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” (Romans 3:10-12)

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (Romans 3:23)

“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)

ETERNAL LIFE IS A FREE GIFT WHICH EVERY PERSON CAN AND MUST RECEIVE BY COMING TO CHRIST IN REPENTANCE AND FAITH, IF THEY ARE TO BE SAVED FROM THEIR SINS AND GOD'S WRATH

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **(Romans 6:23)**

In the gospel of John we read, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” **(John 3:36)**

THE BIBLE MAKES IT VERY CLEAR THAT GOD'S DESIRE IS THAT NONE WOULD PERISH (2 Peter 3:9) (1 Timothy 2:3-4) (Ezekiel 33:11) AND THAT ALL WOULD HAVE AN ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM. IT IS THE LOVE AND KINDNESS OF GOD (“the goodness of God”) THAT LEADS PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE (Romans 2:4) AS WE PREACH THE GOSPEL MESSAGE AND WHAT CHRIST DID FOR US ON THE CROSS

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” **(Romans 5:6-9)**

JESUS HIMSELF SHARED ABOUT GOD'S INCREDIBLE LOVE FOR US AND THAT ALL WHO BELIEVE IN HIM WILL BE SAVED AND RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE – EVERY PERSON HOWEVER HAS BEEN GIVEN A FREE WILL AND MUST CHOOSE TO COME TO CHRIST

Jesus Himself said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.” **(John 3:16-21)**

I WILL NOW CONCLUDE WITH WHAT THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID,

“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law” **(Romans 3:28)**

WE ARE ALL SAVED BY GRACE AND GRACE ALONE THROUGH OUR FAITH IN CHRIST – Saved for a wonderful plan and purpose

Following is a suggested prayer that can be used to help lead an unbeliever to Christ:

“Dear Father God, today I choose to turn from my sins to live for You. I believe that Your Son Jesus Christ died for all my sins and arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit I pray in Jesus Name. Amen”

Again, in relation to the two requirements for New Testament Salvation, the Apostle Paul wrote, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

ONE FINAL THING THAT WE MUST ALWAYS HAVE A FIRM BELIEF IN – There is power in the message of the gospel to transform cities and nations

WE MUST ALWAYS BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL TO CHANGE OUR COMMUNITIES. As we preach the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit we can expect that many lives will be touched and transformed by the gospel message as people respond by coming to Christ.

In the book of Acts we read, “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY” (Acts 8:4-8)

Jesus Himself said, “And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mark 16:17-18)
“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen” (Mark 16:20)

ATTACHMENT THREE: *SOME BRIEF KEYS TO BEING EFFECTIVE IN WITNESSING TO AND PREACHING TO OTHERS*

1) The absolute importance of Prayer (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

- i) Prayer less people are powerless. We need God's help and enabling power to see our nation turn to Christ. Without Him we can do nothing. Prayer moves God's hand in our circumstances. *(Jeremiah 33:3) (Acts 4:23-24) (Acts 4:29-31)* Prayer is the key to seeing breakthroughs and miracles in our life. *(Acts 16:25-26)*
- ii) Prayer Walking *(Joshua 1:3)*
- iii) Pray as led by the Holy Spirit *(Romans 8:26-27)*
- iv) We need to pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest *(Luke 10:2)*
- v) Travailing in prayer – Praying in the harvest
- vi) We need to persevere in our prayers for the lost *(Luke 18:1)*
- vii) Praying for protection from the enemy
- viii) Prayer covering for outreach teams *(Colossians 4:12)*
- ix) The Lord is our example for prayer *(Luke 5:16) (John 17:6-26)*

2) Some things to consider when approaching people

- i) Be led by the Holy Spirit as to who to approach
- ii) Making a good first impression (friendly / smile)
- iii) Don't be pushy *(Colossians 4:6)*
- iv) Ice Breakers (help to break down any barriers)
- v) Conversation – First the natural and then the spiritual (We need to be first GENUINELY interested in those who we are witnessing to. Wait for the Holy Spirit to direct the conversation to the sharing of our faith)

ICE BREAKERS:

- Compliments
- Weather
- Child or Dog (talk about)
- Any prayer need?
- Invite to our church meetings
- An open ended question such as, "what do you think happens when someone dies?"
- Allowing the Holy Spirit to direct our conversations

3) Overcoming Fear (2 Timothy 1:7)

- i) Fear can pull us away from God's call (*Ephesians 2:10*)**
- ii) We need to keep focused on what God has called us to do**
- iii) Perfect love casts out all fear. Having an ongoing intimate relationship with the Lord helps to keep our heart full of God's compassion. Having a genuine love for people is a great key to overcoming our fear of being rejected**
- iv) Know that when God directs us to share our faith with others He will give us the words to speak. Jesus said,**
"Therefore settle it in your hearts not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist."
(Luke 14-15)
- v) The more secure we are in our relationship with the Lord, the more we are able to love people unconditionally – We must pursue wholeness in Christ**
- vi) Being continually filled with the Holy Spirit empowers us to witness to others (*Ephesians 5:18*) (*Acts 1:8*)**
- vii) We must never take rejection of the gospel message as being rejection of us. People are free to accept or reject the message of the gospel. Our responsibility is just to share our faith and to love people irrespective of their choices**
- viii) Know that all people have some insecurities and fears in life. Some are just better at putting on masks than others. A person will only ever be secure and free indeed when they make Jesus Christ truly Lord of all their life. So when we share the gospel it is GOOD NEWS for all**

4) WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT GOD HAS A GREAT LOVE FOR ALL PEOPLE AND THAT IT IS HIS WILL THAT NONE SHOULD PERISH

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." **(2 Peter 3:9)**

5) Some Other Practical Considerations

- i) We must prayerfully make plans as a church to outreach into our community with the gospel message. God has the best strategies to help reach our community with the love of Christ and to see people coming to Christ. Individually we need to also be prayerfully seeking the Lord as to who we need to be sharing our faith with.

Without making plans to purposely outreach into our communities and to others, we can more easily be distracted and sidetracked from effectively reaching others in our life and communities with the gospel message.

The Devil will continually try and prevent the gospel message from being made know to people. Planning helps us to be focused and efficient in the use of our time and to see others coming to Christ on a regular basis. In the book of Proverbs we read,

“The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.” (Proverbs 21:5)

- ii) Don't compete with each other when ministering in pairs or in a team – Where brethren dwell together in unity God commands a blessing (*Psalms 133*) When one shares the other/s can pray in the background
- iii) We need God's compassion for the lost (*Matthew 9:36*)
- iv) We need to genuinely care for people (*1 Thessalonians 2:7-8*)
- v) We need to have a genuine interest in people's lives
- vi) The more real God is in our own life (when He is truly at the centre of all that we do in life), THE EASIER IT IS TO SHARE OUR FAITH WITH OTHERS. When Jesus Christ is truly Lord of all and our first love, it is natural to share our faith with others with passion and compassion (*Psalms 37:4*) (*Luke 6:45*)
- vii) Be led by the Holy Spirit in all that we do and say (*John 16:3*)
- viii) There is power in the use of Scriptures. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (*Romans 10:17*) (*John 8:31-32*) (*Isaiah 55:11*)
- ix) We are most anointed when we flow in our own unique gifts and calling (God has created us uniquely different) We need to be ourselves (*Romans 12:4-8*) (*Ephesians 2:10*)

- x) It is good to prepare ourselves so that we are always ready to preach the word in season and out of season (*2 Timothy 2:15*) (*2 Timothy 4:1-5*) We need to learn to share the gospel message simply and clearly, so that all that we minister to can understand the message that we preach and share
- xi) AGAIN ALL THAT WE DO MUST BE MOTIVATED BY LOVE (*1 Corinthians 13:1-3*)
- xii) The importance of preparing our hearts before we go out to witness to and to preach to others (Worship and prayer is a key to preparing our hearts – Praying in tongues helps to build up our spiritual strength) *Jude 20*
- xiii) We need to be careful about the company that we keep. (Psalm 1:1) To keep our fire and passion for Jesus ablaze we need people of Godly passion and vision in our lives. (*Proverbs 12:26*)
- xiv) We must continually live a disciplined thought life. We need to be always quick to dispel wrong and critical thoughts that the enemy would want to put in our mind and replace them with Godly thoughts. (*2 Corinthians 10:3-5*) If we can win the battle for the mind we will always have a soft and loving heart towards others, a key TO REACHING OUT TO OTHERS WITH THE LOVE OF CHRIST and the gospel message. In the book of Proverbs we read, “Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” (*Proverbs 4:23*)
- xv) We need to commit each outreach to the Lord in prayer and ask for the Holy Spirit to minister through us. We need to also ask for God’s will to be done in all that we do and for divine appointments. We need to also pray for God’s presence to be tangible in all of our outreaches and for unity in the team.
- xvi) Enjoy yourself when reaching out to people with the gospel message during the outreaches. The more relaxed we are, the more comfortable others will feel when we share our faith with them
- xvii) Always humbly give all the glory to God in all that we do and say
- xviii) GOSPEL TRACTS ARE A GREAT TOOL FOR WITNESSING TO OTHERS, and
- xix) Never forget the grace of God and from where God saved us from

ATTACHMENT FOUR – RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

As believers it is so important that we live and minister in the power of the Holy Spirit. We must continually be filled with His power. The Apostle Paul wrote, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,” (Ephesians 5:18)

Jesus Himself depended on the Holy Spirit to fulfil His ministry here on earth. In the gospel of Luke we read;

“Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.” **(Luke 4:14-15)**

In the Book of Acts we read; “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” (Acts 10:38)

HOW TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

John the Baptist spoke about the greater Baptist to come (Jesus Christ) when he was baptizing people in the Jordan River.

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” **(Matthew 3:11)**

The first disciples had their born again experience on Resurrection Sunday when they were commissioned by Jesus

There are two requirements for receiving New Testament Salvation:

“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

Prior to resurrection Sunday the apostles had already confessed Jesus as their Lord. **(Mark 8:29 and John 6:67-69)** But now, for the first time, they also believed that God raised Him from the dead. Thus, their salvation was completed. This was the point at which they experienced the new birth. The Holy Spirit, breathed into them by Jesus, imparted to them a totally new kind of life - eternal life - which had triumphed over sin and Satan, over death and the grave.

THE APOSTLES RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT AND EXPERIENCED THE NEW BIRTH ON RESURRECTION SUNDAY

After appearing to the disciples on resurrection Sunday, Jesus said to them: **“Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them; “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:21-22)**

HOWEVER AFTER THIS WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE, JESUS MADE IT PLAIN TO THE APOSTLES, THAT ***THEIR EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS STILL INCOMPLETE***

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

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

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit empowers us to witness to and preach to others.

THE PROMISE OF THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR ALL BELIEVERS.

The Feast of Tabernacles was a joyous celebration which was observed by the priests who brought water (which was symbolic of the water supplied from the rock in Exodus Chapter 17) to the temple from the pool of Siloam in a gold pitcher

“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. **HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME**, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:37-38)

Those who are satisfied by Jesus will themselves become channels of spiritual refreshment for others. The fountain of water in John 4:14 refers to the New Birth, whilst the rivers of living water referred to in John 7:38, represents the overflowing fullness of the Spirit-filled life which comes from being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT

“But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (**John 7:39**)

ON ***RESURRECTION SUNDAY*** THE APOSTLES RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT AND EXPERIENCED THE ***NEW BIRTH EXPERIENCE***

THE TERM “TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT” ***FROM PENTECOST SUNDAY*** ONWARDS ***ONLY*** EVER REFERS TO THE ***BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT EXPERIENCE***

“And being assembled together with them, He (Jesus) commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me;” “for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” (**Acts 1:4-5**)

THIS HAPPENED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (**Acts 2:4**)

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS A BELIEVER TO WITNESS FOR THE LORD AND MAKES THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT COMPLETE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THERE IS A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE BORN AGAIN EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT (BEING BAPTISED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT)

WHEN CHRIST WAS PREACHED IN SAMARIA

i) Multitudes in that city were born again,

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.” (Acts 8:5-6)

ii) Then Water Baptized, and

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, *both men and women were baptized.*” (Acts 8:12)

iii) Finally Baptized in the Holy Spirit (Received the Holy Spirit)

“Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might *receive the Holy Spirit*. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they *received the Holy Spirit.*” (Acts 8:14-17)

To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit a believer must simply ask their heavenly Father for the special gift of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said,

“If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.” (Luke 11:13)

Like the gift of salvation it is to be received – By Grace – Through Faith – Not of Works

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

A believer must simply receive the gift of the Holy Spirit by FAITH

“...that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” (Galatians 3:14)

FAITH IS HOWEVER NEVER A SUBSTITUTE FOR OBEDIENCE. TRUE FAITH IS ALWAYS MANIFESTED IN OBEDIENCE.

The apostle Peter focused on the obedience aspect of genuine faith in his defence to the Jewish council. “And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.” (Acts 5:32)

SIX SCRIPTURAL STEPS OF OBEDIENCE AND FAITH TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

1) & 2) Repentance and being Baptized

The first two steps are stated by the Apostle Peter. These are genuine repentance and being water baptized upon becoming a believer.

“Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

3) Being Hungry and thirsty for the fullness of the Spirit

Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” **(John 7:37-38)**

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.” (Matthew 5:6)

4) Asking our Heavenly Father for the gift of the Holy Spirit

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father *give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!* (Luke 11:13)

5) We must receive the Holy Spirit (DRINK)

Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.” **(John 7:37)**

“Drinking” represents an active process of receiving. The infilling of the Holy Spirit cannot be received by a negative or passive attitude, just as no one can drink with a closed mouth. The Lord says, “Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.” **(Psalm 81:10)** *God cannot fill a closed mouth. We must open our mouth to receive the fullness of the Spirit*

6) We must “yield” ourselves to God

The apostle Paul speaks to Christians of a two- fold surrender to God:

“But present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.” (Romans 6:13)

- The first surrender is the “surrender of the will and the personality” **YOURSELVES**
- The second surrender involves the surrender of our **PHYSICAL MEMBERS**

In surrendering our physical members, we can no longer seek to understand intellectually what God asks of us. We must simply hand over unreserved control of our physical members and allow God to use them according to His own will and purpose without demanding to understand what God is doing or why He is doing it. The particular member He takes full control of is that unruly member which no man can tame – the tongue. Thus the yielding of our tongue to the Spirit represents the ultimate surrender of one’s members and by this we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The above six Scriptural steps of obedience and faith are not always fulfilled when some believers receive the Holy Spirit, but they are important steps to be taught to those believers desiring to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit.

ATTACHMENT FIVE: SIGNS AND WONDERS AS WE PREACH THE GOSPEL

Healings are a great way in which the power of God is displayed, and will support the Gospel message that we preach.

Jesus told his disciples to go and preach the gospel and to heal the sick.

“And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.” **(Matthew 10:7-8)**

“Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and heal the sick.” **(Luke 9:1-2)**

The Apostles also prayed:

“Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ‘by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the Name of Your Holy Servant Jesus.” **(Acts 4:29-30)**

In this teaching I will be looking at a number of things that can help us to preach the gospel with more power and to see healings being a consistent part of our ministry to others

1) WE NEED TO HAVE COMPASSION FOR THE LOST

(This comes from Jesus being our FIRST LOVE – When we have Christ’s compassion we preach with passion and pray with conviction for the sick)

“And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.” **(Matthew 14:14)**

“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” **(Matthew 9:35-36)**

2) WE NEED TO SPEND TIME WITH JESUS

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

- Anointing comes from our relationship with Jesus
- Prayers need to be inspired by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26-27)
- God sets up divine appointments (We need to be led by the Holy Spirit)
“And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother’s womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, “Stand up straight on your feet!” And he leaped and walked.” (Acts 14:8-10)
- We need to involve Jesus in all of our life and commune with Him always
- We need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
- We need to learn to listen to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit
Jesus said,
“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26)
- We should seek to worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth (John 4:23-24)
- It is all about the heart and having Christ’s love for the lost and hurting

3) WE ALL NEED TO HUMBLE OURSELVES AND GIVE GLORY TO GOD

- The apostle Peter gave all the glory to God when he healed the lame man
“Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon’s, greatly amazed. So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our power or godliness we had made this man walk?...His Name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.” (Acts 3:11, 12 & 16)

- We must always give ALL the glory to God

The apostle Paul said, “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

- As Christians we descend to greatness. God’s Kingdom is an upside down Kingdom. The more we humble ourselves the more God can raise us up to do great things for Him

Jesus said, “But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Matthew 23:11-12)

4) WE NEED TO MEDITATE ON THE SCRIPTURES RELATING TO HEALINGS AND MIRACLES (We need to get them into our spirit. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

5) DON’T ALLOW YOURSELF TO SPEND TIME WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE SCEPTICS AND SPEAK AGAINST HEALINGS (They will quench the fire in your belly and dilute your faith)

In Psalm One we read,

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.” (Psalm 1:1-3)

WE MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT WHICH PEOPLE SPEAK INTO OUR LIFE

6) BE ASSURED THAT JESUS HAS GIVEN ALL BELIEVERS THE AUTHORITY AND POWER TO HEAL PEOPLE AND TO DELIVER PEOPLE FROM STRONGHOLDS IN HIS NAME

- *Just as Jesus commissioned His disciples to preach the gospel and to heal and deliver people (Luke 9:1-2), so has He commissioned all believers*

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

7) OUR OBEDIENCE TO GOD’S WORD IS ALSO A KEY TO SEEING GOD’S POWER OPERATING IN OUR LIFE IN A GREATER WAY

- We must be faithful in the little things
- Our obedience helps us to continually hear the Lord’s voice clearly
- Partial obedience is disobedience
- Delayed obedience is disobedience
- Doing the Lord’s will but murmuring is also disobedience
- **God is looking for an army of Christians who will be radically obedient to His call on their lives, and who will be men and women of faith**
- We need to have a childlike faith and dependency on God
- God will only pour out His Glory through Holy Vessels. (People who have a desire to be disciplined in both their actions and thought life)
We must continually aspire to become more like Christ and to allow the Holy Spirit to do a work of change in our lives. This change in our life comes through obedience as we learn to walk in the Spirit.
- This does not mean legalism, but freedom in the Spirit as we allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct our lives. Having a repentant heart and short accounts with the Lord is the key to walking a victorious Christian life and to growing in Christlike character.

**8) THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT
(Refer to Receiving the Holy Spirit Teaching)**

9) SIGNS AND WONDERS WITH THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL

AS WE PREACH THE GOSPEL WE CAN ALSO EXPECT SIGNS AND WONDERS TO FOLLOW THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL

In the gospel of Mark we read,

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

“And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen” **(Mark 16:20)**

In the book of Acts we see the signs and wonders that accompanied Philip’s preaching in the city of Samaria,

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralysed and lame were healed. **AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY.**” **(Acts 8:5-8)**

Jesus went about healing everywhere,

In the book of Acts we read,

“how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” **(Acts 10:38)**

In the gospel of Matthew we read,

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.” **(Matthew 9:35)**

Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works that these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.” **(John 14:12-14)**

ATTACHMENT SIX:

JOHN HARPER (his heart for the lost) A true hero of the faith

- John Harper was born to a pair of solid Christian parents on May the 29th, 1872
- On the last Sunday of March 1886, when 13 years old, John Harper received Jesus as the Lord of his life
- Four years later at the age of 17, John Harper began preaching in the streets of his village pouring out his soul to see lost people come to Christ
- As John Harper's life unfolded he was consumed by a passion to read and to preach the Word of God
- After five or six years of toiling on street corners preaching the gospel and working in a mill during the day, John Harper started his own church in September of 1896.
- This church started with just 25 members and over the next 13 years grew to 500 members
- During this time John Harper got married but shortly after was widowed. However during this brief marriage God blessed him with a beautiful little girl named Nana.
- Ironically, John Harper almost drowned on three occasions
- When two and a half years of age, he almost drowned when he fell into a well but his mother resuscitated him
- At the age of 26 he was swept out to sea by a reverse current and barely survived
- And if this was not enough, at the age of 32 he faced death on a leaking ship in the Mediterranean.
- It was like God was preparing him for what would come next
- On the 14th of April 1912 the RMS Titanic was sailing swiftly on the bitterly cold ocean waters
- On board this ship were many rich people
- At 11.40 pm on that fateful night, an iceberg scraped the ships starboard side and ripping open six watertight air compartments
- The sea poured in.
- On board the ship that night was John Harper and his much beloved six year old daughter Nana
- According to documented reports as soon as it became apparent the boat was about to sink, he immediately took his daughter to a lifeboat

- It is reasonable to assume that this widowed preacher could also have easily got on board this lifeboat and been saved
- However, this thought never crossed John Harper's mind
- He bent down and kissed his precious little girl; looking into her eyes he told her that she would see him again someday.
- The flares going off in the dark sky reflected the tears on his face as he turned and headed towards the crowd of desperate humanity on the sinking ocean liner
- As the rear of the huge ship began to lurch upwards, John Harper made his way up the deck yelling, "Women, children and unsaved into the life boats."
- As the ship began to break in half many people dived into the icy waters. 1528 people went into the frigid waters.
- John Harper was seen swimming frantically to people in the water leading them to Christ before hypothermia became fatal
- John Harper swam up to one young man who had climbed up on a piece of debris
- John Harper between breaths said "Are you saved?" This young man replied no.
- Harper then tried to lead him to Christ only to have the young man who was in shock, reply no
- John Harper then took off his own life jacket and threw it to the young man
- A few minutes later John Harper swam back to this young man and led him to Christ
- Of the 1528 people who went into the icy waters that night only six survived. One of them was this young man
- Four years later, at a survivors meeting, this young man stood up in tears and recounted how John Harper had led him to Christ
- Mr Harper had tried to swim back to help others, yet because of the cold had become too weak to swim.
- **HIS LAST WORDS BEFORE GOING UNDER IN THE FRIGID WATERS WERE, "Believe on the Name of the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."**

TOPIC 3 SELECTED TEACHINGS

Leadership and Discipleship Manual Excerpts (*Teaching No. 9*)

A GOOD LEADER MENTORS OTHERS

(A good leader invests in the lives of other believers and leaders)

A GOOD LEADER IS A MULTIPLIER

(Who will help to raise up many spiritual sons and daughters)

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy:

“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” **(2 Timothy 2:1-2)**

THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS A FATHER IN THE FAITH AND ENCOURAGED MANY OTHERS TO FULFIL THEIR GOD GIVEN DESTINY

A great leader will mentor and encourage many others to fulfill God’s destiny for their life. (Acts 14:21-22) (*Acts 11:21-26*)

All church leaders and Pastors need to invest in the lives of the next generation of leaders. (Psalm 145:4)

The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the church in Corinth,

“For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, to imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.” **(1 Corinthians 4:15-17)**

JESUS EMPHASISED THE NEED TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Jesus said to His disciples, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

EVERY GOOD LEADER MUST HAVE A COMMITMENT TO SEEING ALL BELIEVERS IN HIS CHURCH BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME MATURE DISCIPLES (and acknowledges the importance of small groups in preparing mature disciples)

Pastor John Luliano from the Chatswood Assemblies of God in Sydney NSW, did a study on what Jesus taught His disciples as He prepared them for ministry. He found that of all the 350 things that Jesus commanded His disciples to do, he could summarise them into just seven major Core Values.

SEVEN CORE VALUES OF A MATURE DISCIPLE

A DISCIPLE

i) Loves God

“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.”

(Mark 12:30)

- They know that fullness of joy comes from being in the presence of God **(Psalm 16:11)**
- They have a great hunger for God and love meditating on His Word **(Psalm 1:1-3)** **(Psalm 37:4)**
- They love worshipping God in Spirit and truth **(John 4:23-24)** **(Ephesians 5:19-20)** **(Colossians 3:16)**
- They have a great desire to walk in Obedience to God’s plan for their life. Jesus said, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our home with him.” **(John 14:23)**

ii) Loves People

“And the second, like it, is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:31)

- They have a genuine love for others **(Ephesians 4:32-5:2)**
- They have a desire to serve and encourage others **(Matthew 20:26-28)**
- They have a desire to live for others **(Philippians 2:3-4)**
- They extend grace towards others and aim to look for the best in others. **(James 3:18)** **(Romans 13:8)** **(Colossians 4:6)** Love covers a multitude of sins **(James 5:20)**
- They have learned to practically help those who are in need **(1 John 3:16-17)** **(Acts 2:44-45)**

iii) Loves a Godly Lifestyle

“Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”
(Matthew 5:48)

- They have a genuine desire to glorify God with their lives
(Matthew 5:13-16)
- They have a desire to walk in obedience and to follow God’s ways and plans for their life **(Romans 8:14)**
- They no longer have a desire to live for the things of this world
(1 John 2:15-17)
- They have a great desire to serve the Lord and to have fellowship with other believers **(Galatians 2:20)**
- They have a great hunger for the things of God **(Colossians 3:2)**

iv) Loves Telling Others

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.’” (Mark 16:15)

- They have a great love and compassion for the lost
- They have been equipped to share their faith effectively with others and can clearly communicate the gospel message to others **(2 Timothy 2:15)**
- They have a great desire to reach out to the lost with the gospel message. The Apostle Paul tried all means to win people to Christ. **(1 Corinthians 9:19-22)**
- They pray for all their family and friends to be saved and for God to open up opportunities to lead people to Christ
- They look for every opportunity to share the hope that they have in Christ with others. They are always prepared to share the gospel in season and out of season **(2 Timothy 4:2)**
- They have great joy when seeing people come to Christ

v) Loves God’s Family

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

- They have a genuine love for their brothers and sisters in the Lord **(1 Peter 1:22) (1 John 3:14)**
- They have a great desire to encourage and to build up those Christians who are struggling in their faith **(Hebrews 3:13)**
- They look for opportunities to bless and encourage other believers

vi) Loves God's Kingdom

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)

- They have a great love for the things of God (**Philippians 3:7-8**)
- They love the things of God more than the things of this world and desire to store up treasures for eternity (**Matthew 6:19-21**) They are more concerned about the eternal things rather than the temporal things of this world
- They know that all the promises of God in Him (Christ) are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us." (**2 Corinthians 1:20**)
- They have a great love for the church and for seeing God's Kingdom expanded here on earth.
- They have a great desire to see God's Kingdom values transforming their communities. (**Matthew 6:7-10**)

AND

vii) Loves to Give

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

- God's Kingdom is all about giving. God gave His best, His only Son Jesus. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..." (**John 3:16**)
- They have a real joy in giving to the work of the Kingdom and to giving to those who are in need
- They have an understanding in their heart that it is more blessed to give than to receive (**Acts 20:35**)
- They generously give as the Lord purposes on their heart to give
- They know that you can never out give God
- How much we love God is truly reflected in our approach to giving.

A GOOD LEADER HAS THE ABILITY TO TRAIN UP AND MENTOR OTHER CHRISTIAN LEADERS TO BECOME MATURE DISCIPLES WHO WILL IN TURN BE ABLE TO HELP OTHER CHRISTIANS TO BECOME MATURE DISCIPLES WITH FRUITFUL MINISTRIES **(2 Timothy 2:2)**

A good Leader will help and encourage many other Christians to have a passionate love for God and a genuine love for people of all backgrounds. A good leader will also help to foster in others a commitment to becoming more Christlike.

They will also help to train up and equip disciples who know the importance of sharing the gospel with the unsaved, who have a heart to encourage all other believers, who have a passion for the things of God and who give generously to the work of God.

GREAT LEADERS WILL TRAIN UP MANY OTHER LEADERS WHO WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE FRUITFUL MINISTRIES LONG AFTER THEY THEMSELVES HAVE GONE TO BE WITH THE LORD.

A GOOD LEADER HAS THE POTENTIAL TO TRAIN UP MANY OTHERS WHO WILL CONTINUE TO TRAIN UP OTHERS ALSO, THEREBY LEAVING AN ONGOING LEGACY OF THEIR MINISTRY HERE ON EARTH.

THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE GREAT EXAMPLE OF THIS. IN HIS SHORT TIME IN MINISTRY, HE TRAINED UP A SMALL GROUP OF DISCIPLES WHO HELPED TO ESTABLISH THE EARLY CHURCH. THE CHURCH IS STILL GROWING TODAY. JESUS IN HIS MINISTRY HERE ON EARTH DEMONSTRATED A FOUR STEP PROCESS FOR RAISING UP MATURE DISCIPLES.

DURING HIS MINISTRY HERE ON EARTH JESUS RAISED UP A TEAM OF DISCIPLES AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) Jesus first GATHERED a group of people whom He believed would become disciples (Mark 1:16-18) (Mark 1:19-20) (Mark 2:14)**

2) After Jesus had gathered His disciples, He then took them on preaching tours and MODELLED the following for them:

- i) The importance of finding and fulfilling God's purpose for their life **(Mark 1:38)**
- ii) How to preach the gospel of the Kingdom **(Mark 1:39)**
- iii) How to serve people by casting out demons and healing the sick **(Mark 1:39-41)** and
- iv) How to live a genuine God-glorifying life **(Mark 1:38-42)**

AS HE MODELLED WHAT TRUE KINGDOM LIFE WAS LIKE, HE ALSO CONSTANTLY ENCOURAGED THE DISCIPLES THAT GOD WAS DOING A WORK IN THEIR LIFE, AND THAT ONE DAY THEY WOULD PREACH, HEAL AND CAST DEMONS OUT THEMSELVES. JESUS APPOINTED THE TWELVE DISCIPLES AND TOLD THEM WHAT THEY WOULD BE DOING IN THE FUTURE. (Mark 3:13-15)

As disciple makers, we must give people a vision of what they can become. We must then teach them what it is like to be a real disciple by both showing and explaining to them what it is to be a true disciple

3) Jesus then began to MENTOR the twelve disciples

Although appointed in Mark 3:13, the disciples were not officially sent out by Jesus until Mark 6:7

"And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits." (Mark 6:7)

When they had finished their mission trips, they returned and reported back to their mentor

"Then the apostles gathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught." (Mark 6:30)

THE REPORT IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE MENTORING PROCESS. JESUS WAS INTERESTED BOTH IN: i) What they had done, and ii) What they had taught

No person will ever do things perfect the first time. A person must be allowed to make mistakes and create room for correction. A DISCIPLE MAKER MUST LEARN TO BECOME AN EQUIPPER. When giving an assessment for a completed task, mentors must address three issues:

- i) **What was done well**
- ii) **What could be done better, and**
- iii) **What needs to be done next time which was not done this time**

MENTORING IS A PROCESS DESIGNED TO “ENRICH” PEOPLE. The Apostle Paul emphasised the need for more Fathers of the faith to help encourage believers to become mature disciples. (1 Corinthians 4:15-17)

THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD PASTORS INTENSIVE HANDBOOK OUTLINES SIX KEYS TO BEING AN EFFECTIVE MENTOR WHO IS ABLE TO “ENRICH” THOSE WHO THEY ARE MENTORING.

A GOOD MENTOR WILL:

i) Encourage those whom they are mentoring

(The meaning of the word encourage, is to give courage. Encouragement helps people to overcome their failures, fears and insecurities)

ii) Nurture those whom they are mentoring

(Nurtured people are strong people, whereas neglected people can become weak, picking up wrong mindsets)

iii) Resource people with their knowledge, gifts, talents and abilities as well as providing resource materials

iv) Invest their life in the lives of other people

(We need to have a genuine commitment to and love for others)

v) Coach those whom they are mentoring, (Advising but not Manipulating, Leading but not controlling) and

vi) Hang in with those who they are mentoring (We must never give up on people, no matter what is happening to them)

4) Finally, before ascending to heaven, Jesus MOBILISED the disciples to do what He had trained them to do.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” **(Matthew 28:19-20)**

A disciple of Christ is not complete until he has been mobilised and released to become a disciple maker.

Mobilisation produces the “DNA” of multiplication. However many churches fail at this point because they try to get mobilisation happening without first spending enough time on the MODELLING and MENTORING phase of training up new leaders (disciples).

Before Jesus had got to the mobilisation stage, He had already spent approximately three years in correctly training up His disciples for the work of the ministry

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT ALL CHRISTIAN LEADERS INVEST IN THIS GENERATION OF YOUTH, WHO WILL BE THE NEXT GENERATION OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN THE COMMUNITY

APPENDIX G

SPIRITUAL GIFTS QUESTIONNAIRE

God's purpose for our life as a Christian is revealed in the spiritual gifts that He has given us. Our church believes in the present day operation of the nine supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit, as recorded in **1 Corinthians 12:4-11**. (*The word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, the gift of faith, gifts of healing, the working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, different kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues*)

Our church also believes in the five ministry gifts of Christ, as recorded in Ephesians 4:11-13. (Apostles, *Prophets*, Evangelists, *Pastors and Teachers*)

OTHER GIFTS FROM THE FATHER INCLUDE: Prophecy, Exhortation, Giving, Leadership, Mercy, Ministry and the gift of Teaching (Regardless of Public Office) (**Romans 12:3-8**) Helps and Administration are two other gifts. (**1 Corinthians 12:28**)

Spiritual gifts are given to Christians for the building up of the Body of Christ. They are not natural abilities, fruits of the Spirit or acquired skills.

	<u>NATURAL ABILITIES</u>	<u>SPIRITUAL GIFTS</u>
<i>Given</i>	By God	By God
<i>To</i>	Every Person	Christians
<i>When</i>	At birth and as acquired	At the New Birth
<i>For</i>	General Life Activities	Christian Ministry
<i>As a</i>	Natural Ability	Supernatural Ability

TEST OF A SPIRITUAL GIFT

- 1) Are you blessing others
- 2) Is your ministry proving to be fruitful
- 3) Are you meeting a need
- 4) Is it helping you to love others
- 5) Do you get a sense of deep joy

EVERY BELIEVER HAS A MINISTRY

Every Christian has a ministry and mission field. “There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. **(1 Corinthians 12:4-6)** “But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.” **(1 Corinthians 12:18)**

KNOWING AND OPERATING IN OUR GIFTS IS THE KEY TO ABUNDANT LIFE

True purpose and meaning in life is only experienced when a Christian finds and fulfils his destiny in God. It is as a believer uses their spiritual gifts that they experience the fullness of joy and the abundant life that Jesus promised to those who love and serve Him.

A Christian with a gift of evangelism will have great purpose when sharing their faith, but most likely less fulfilment, if they find themselves doing an administrative role in their life which limits their ability to use their gift of evangelism.

DISCOVERING AND USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- 1) Have faith**
- 2) Pray**
- 3) Understand**
- 4) What Stirs You (Motivates you)**
- 5) Seek Guidance (Commit your ways to the Lord. Seek counsel from your leaders)**
- 6) Get Involved**
- 7) Never Fear Failure**
- 8) Make Jesus Christ Lord of all that you do**
- 9) Develop a Servant Spirit**

SPIRITUAL GIFTS QUESTIONNAIRE

This following spiritual gifts questionnaire is designed to help all Christians to identify their spiritual gifts. In identifying their spiritual gifts, a Christian can then prayerfully find a ministry role in which they can use their gifts and as a result experience the joy and purpose that comes from using your spiritual gifts for the work of the Kingdom. **(The following questionnaire has been developed based on a survey done by Robert Logan)**

INSTRUCTIONS

For each of the questions contained in the following Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire, say: "This has been experienced in my life ***"much"***, ***"some"***, ***"little"*** or ***"not at all"*** and circle the appropriate number.

1. Do you feel a great amount of satisfaction performing routine tasks for God's glory?
2. Do you have a sensitivity to recognise people's prayer needs before others do?
3. Has anyone ever told you that he/she understands the Bible better because you explained it clearly?
4. Are you able to provide food/lodging graciously to those in need?
5. Are you effective in persuading others to move toward achieving bible objectives?
6. Have you regularly visualized great things for the future of God's work and seen them accomplished?
7. Do you know when and to whom to delegate important responsibility?
8. Do you find yourself attracted to unbelievers in order to share Christ with them?
9. Do you adapt easily to a different culture than your own?
10. Does God give you special insight that solves problems or meets needs?
11. Have people involved in ministry sought you out to assist them in some way?
12. Do you manage your money well in order to give over-and-above the tithe to the Lord's work?

<i>Circle one number</i>					
Much	Some	Little	Not at all		
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0

- 13.** Can you sense when demonic forces are at work in a person, situation or teaching?
- 14.** Have you had the desire to care for the spiritual needs of a group of people?
- 15.** Have people often expressed to you how much you have encouraged them in time of need?
- 16.** Have you experienced an instant understanding of facts concerning people which you did not learn by natural means?
- 17.** When you hear of someone in the hospital, do you feel a strong desire to go and comfort them?
- 18.** Have people told you that you have communicated timely and urgent messages which have come directly from the Lord?
- 19.** Do you speak in tongues for personal worship and prayer?
- 20.** Are you effective in motivating and equipping others to start new churches?
- 21.** Have you been empowered by the Spirit to expel demons in the name of the Lord?
- 22.** Do you enjoy praying for sick people because you know that many of them will be healed as a result?
- 23.** Have you heard someone speak in tongues and were able to interpret their prayer without ever having learned the language?
- 24.** When you hear of a job that needs to be done, are you anxious to do it?
- 25.** Do people regularly share prayer requests with you because they know you will pray for them?
- 26.** Do you find it easy to organise your thoughts and explain things to people?

<i>Circle one number</i>					
Much	Some	Little	Not at all		
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0

		<i>Circle one number</i>					
		Much	Some	Little	Not at all		
27.	Can you provide a comfortable haven for guests without the feeling of family interruption?	5	4	3	2	1	0
28.	Do you usually think about long-range goals rather than short-range goals?	5	4	3	2	1	0
29.	Do you have an unusually strong, personal assurance from God that He will accomplish great things that may seem impossible to others?	5	4	3	2	1	0
30.	Are you able to organize ideas, people, things and time for more effective ministry?	5	4	3	2	1	0
31.	Do you find it easy to make friends with Non-Christians?	5	4	3	2	1	0
32.	Would you like to learn another language well in order to minister to different peoples?	5	4	3	2	1	0
33.	When you need to make a decision between several biblical alternatives, do you have a clear sense of which one is best?	5	4	3	2	1	0
34.	Do you sense the need to help other people become more effective in their ministry?	5	4	3	2	1	0
35.	Do you enjoy giving to the Lord's work without asking the question of whether or not you can afford it right now?	5	4	3	2	1	0
36.	Can you sense the Holy Spirit's anointing upon a believer?	5	4	3	2	1	0
37.	Are you able to restore persons who have wandered away from their Christian community?	5	4	3	2	1	0
38.	Do you find that you are a good and patient listener?	5	4	3	2	1	0
39.	Have you shared insights and information that have brought conviction to other Christians?	5	4	3	2	1	0
40.	Do you feel a lot of compassion for those who are suffering physically and think of ways to care for them?	5	4	3	2	1	0

41. Do you proclaim what God reveals to you in such a way that people are strengthened and encouraged to mature spiritually?
42. During prayer, do you speak in a language you do not understand which strengthens you to edify and love others?
43. Have others encouraged you to work with other congregations and church leaders?
44. Have you been used by God to do supernatural acts which authenticated the message of Christ?
45. Have others affirmed power in your faith and prayer to see suffering people healed?
46. Have you enjoyed interpreting for the Body a prayer given in tongues?
47. Would you enjoy being called upon to do special jobs around the church that no one else will do?
48. Do you pray a lot and enjoy it?
49. Do you enjoy spending time learning new biblical truths in order to share them with others?
50. Do you have a knack for making strangers feel at home?
51. Do you enjoy leading, inspiring and motivating others to involve themselves in the Lord's work?
52. Do you find God working in incredible ways when you encounter difficult circumstances?
53. Are you able to make effective and efficient plans to accomplish the goals of a group?
54. Do you regularly and compassionately pray for pre-Christians, asking for their salvation and for opportunities to witness?

<i>Circle one number</i>					
Much	Some	Little	Not at all		
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0

- 55.** Do you have a strong desire to see people of other cultures won to the Lord, and would you like to help reach them?
- 56.** Do you have the ability to choose from several biblical alternatives an option that usually works?
- 57.** Do you enjoy doing routine tasks that lead to more effective ministry by others?
- 58.** Do you feel deeply moved to give and do you give when confronted with urgent financial needs for God's work?
- 59.** Do you warn others against being led astray by counterfeit teachers who appear to be Christian?
- 60.** Do you enjoy the responsibility for the spiritual well-being of a group of Christians?
- 61.** Do you find yourself urging others to seek a biblical solution to their affliction or suffering?
- 62.** Has God revealed a person's private sin to you?
- 63.** Would you really like a regular ministry to the sick, shut-ins, or others who are hurting?
- 64.** Do you supernaturally receive and deliver specific messages from God for His people?
- 65.** Have you prayed in a language unknown to you that, when interpreted, brought a blessing to those who heard it?
- 66.** Would you like the spiritual responsibility for the health and growth of a number of churches?
- 67.** Can others point to specific instances where your prayers have resulted in visible miracles?

<i>Circle one number</i>					
Much	Some	Little	Not at all		
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0

- 68.** Have others told you that God healed them of an emotional or physical problem when you ministered to them?
- 69.** When someone is speaking in tongues, are you able as the Spirit wills to interpret the prayer to God?
- 70.** When someone asks a favour of you, do you feel grateful that they asked you?
- 71.** Do you see God consistently answer your prayers?
- 72.** Have you been effective in communicating biblical truths to others which produced a change in knowledge, attitudes, values or conduct?
- 73.** Do you take unexpected guests in stride, without apology for how your house may look?
- 74.** Have you influenced others to accomplish a particular task or biblical purpose?
- 75.** Has God done miraculous works for you and others in response to your prayers?
- 76.** Do you have a desire to help organize ministry areas and activities?
- 77.** Do pre-Christians come to you with questions because they know that you care?
- 78.** Would you enjoy living in a foreign country, not just visiting?
- 79.** Do you feel an unusual presence of God and personal confidence when important decisions need to be made?
- 80.** Do you regularly look for ways to relieve leaders of responsibilities that you or others could do?

<i>Circle one number</i>					
Much	Some	Little	Not at all		
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0

- 81.** Do you give consistently and sacrificially to the Lord, knowing He will meet your needs?
- 82.** Do you know with certainty that a person isn't a Christian even though he/she professes faith in Christ?
- 83.** Have you been effective in helping needy Christians by guiding them to relevant portions of the Bible and praying with them?
- 84.** Do you really get a lot of joy encouraging people who are going through personal problems and trials?
- 85.** Has God revealed to you problems or pain within an individual's life before they have made it known to you?
- 86.** Have others encouraged you to have a special ministry toward the sick and suffering?
- 87.** Do you feel compelled to expose sin in the culture, church or an individual's life in order to have them walk consistently in the truth?
- 88.** Do you pray to God in a language you do not understand?
- 89.** Do you often think about how to develop more effective strategies for the expansion of God's Kingdom?
- 90.** Have people believed in Jesus because of the miracles you have done in His name?
- 91.** Do people seek you to pray for their physical healing?
- 92.** When you have interpreted tongues, has it encouraged and edified the Body?

<i>Circle one number</i>					
Much	Some	Little	Not at all		
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0

- 93.** Are you always looking for jobs to perform and complete?
- 94.** Do you always take prayer requests very seriously?
- 95.** When you hear a spiritual question, are you anxious to both find and give an answer?
- 96.** Do you enjoy making your home available to those in the Lord's service for an extended period of time?
- 97.** Do others give you the leadership role in a group?
- 98.** When all looks dim, do you say and do things that demonstrate your confidence in God?
- 99.** Is planning easy for you?
- 100.** Of the people you've influenced toward Christ, have you seen many become active Christians in a local church?
- 101.** Do you make friends easily with people from different cultures?
- 102.** Do you enjoy working out solutions to complicated problems?
- 103.** Do you sense great satisfaction in helping someone else to be successful?
- 104.** Do you look for extra opportunities to give without hearing any appeals?
- 105.** Do you readily see and expose Satan's attempts to short-circuit God's leading?
- 106.** Is it important for you to know intimately and be well-known by those you serve and guide?

<i>Circle one number</i>					
Much	Some	Little	Not at all		
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0

- 107.** Do you enjoy verbally encouraging the wavering, troubled or discouraged?
- 108.** Have you had the experience of receiving knowledge about someone through prayer?
- 109.** Do you desire to work with those who have physical or mental problems in order to alleviate their suffering?
- 110.** When you clearly communicate a message given to you by God, are people inspired to turn from sin and obey God's word?
- 111.** When you publicly speak in tongues, is it interpreted?
- 112.** Do pastors, church planters or missionaries seek and follow your counsel for their ministries?
- 113.** Do people tell you that you were God's instrument which brought supernatural change in lives or circumstances?
- 114.** Have you seen God answer your prayer for a miraculous healing on several occasions?
- 115.** Without knowing the language, are you sometimes able to interpret publicly what is spoken in tongues?

<i>Circle one number</i>					
Much	Some	Little	Not at all		
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0
5	4	3	2	1	0

**Spiritual Gifts
Questionnaire
Scoring Instructions**

- 1) After completing the entire questionnaire form, transfer the numbers that you have chosen for each question into the “Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire Scoring Chart” on the next page and record them in the box which has the same question number.
- 2) Then add up the five numbers in each row and place this figure in the **“Total”** column in the Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire Scoring Chart.
- 3) Then enter the gift names into the **“Gift Name”** column which corresponds to each Alphabet Letter. (The list of spiritual gifts is on the page after the Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire Scoring Chart. The Alphabet letters are before each gift name)
- 4) Then numerically rank each gift and choose your top three spiritual gifts

Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire Scoring Chart

	Value of Answers (For each question)					Total	Gift Name	Rank
A	1	24	47	70	93			
B	2	25	48	71	94			
C	3	26	49	72	95			
D	4	27	50	73	96			
E	5	28	51	74	97			
F	6	29	52	75	98			
G	7	30	53	76	99			
H	8	31	54	77	100			
I	9	32	55	78	101			
J	10	33	56	79	102			
K	11	34	57	80	103			
L	12	35	58	81	104			
M	13	36	59	82	105			
N	14	37	60	83	106			
O	15	38	61	84	107			
P	16	39	62	85	108			
Q	17	40	63	86	109			
R	18	41	64	87	110			
S	19	42	65	88	111			
T	20	43	66	89	112			
U	21	44	67	90	113			
V	22	45	68	91	114			
W	23	46	69	92	115			

THREE HIGHEST RATED GIFTS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Spiritual Gifts

Questionnaire

Gift Definitions

A. SERVICE: The gift of service is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ, to identify the unmet needs involving a task related to God's work and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired goals.

B. INTERCESSION: The gift of intercession is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to pray extended periods of time on a regular basis. Those with this gift see frequent and specific answers to their prayers to a degree much greater than that which is expected of the average Christian.

C. TEACHING: The gift of teaching is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the Body and its members in such a way that others will learn.

D. HOSPITALITY: The gift of hospitality is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to provide an open house and warm welcome for those in need of food and lodging.

E. LEADERSHIP: The gift of leadership is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate these goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to accomplish those goals for the glory of God.

F. FAITH: The gift of faith is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to discern with extraordinary confidence the will and purposes of God for the future of His work. Those who have this gift have the supernatural ability to believe God without doubt and to combat unbelief. They have the supernatural ability to meet adverse circumstances with trust in God's messages and words.

G. ADMINISTRATION: The gift of administration is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to understand clearly the immediate and long-range goals of a particular unit of the Body of Christ and to devise and help execute plans for the accomplishment of those goals.

H. EVANGELISM: The gift of evangelism is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to draw closer to pre-Christians and effectively communicate God's message of love and redemption so that people respond to Jesus and become responsible disciples in a local church.

I. MISSIONARY: The gift of missionary is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to use whatever other spiritual gifts they have in a cross-cultural ministry.

J. MESSAGE OF WISDOM: The message of wisdom is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to know the mind of the Holy Spirit in such a way as to receive insight into how given knowledge may best be applied to specific needs. People with this gift have a divinely given power to receive spiritual intuition in problem solving and have a supernatural perspective to ascertain the divine means for accomplishing God's will in given situations.

K. HELPS: The gift of helps is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to invest the talents they have in the life and ministry of other members of the Body, thus enabling the person helped to increase the effectiveness of his or her spiritual gifts.

- L. CONTRIBUTING:** The gift of contributing is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to give their material resources to the work of the Lord with generosity and cheerfulness.
- M. DISTINGUISHING SPIRITS:** The gift of distinguishing spirits is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to discern with assurance whether certain behaviour purportedly to be of God is in reality divine, human or satanic.
- N. PASTOR:** The gift of pastor is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to assume a long-term shepherding responsibility for the spiritual welfare of a group of believers.
- O. ENCOURAGEMENT:** The gift of encouragement is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body to minister words of comfort, consolation, exhortation and counsel to other members of the Body in such a way that they feel helped.
- P. MESSAGE OF KNOWLEDGE:** The message of knowledge is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to obtain information from the Holy Spirit about someone or something that could not be known from any other source. Those who have this gift have supernatural insight or understanding of circumstances or a body of facts by divine revelation.
- Q. MERCY:** The gift of mercy is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals, both Christian and non-Christian, who suffer distressing physical, mental or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into cheerfully done deeds that reflect Christ's love and alleviate the suffering.
- R. PROPHECY:** The gift of prophecy is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to receive and communicate an immediate message of God to His people through a divinely-anointed utterance.
- S. TONGUES:** The gift of tongues is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to pray to God in a language they have never learned.

- T. APOSTLE:** The gift of apostle is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to assume and exercise general leadership over a number of churches with an extraordinary authority in spiritual matters that is spontaneously recognized and appreciated by those churches.
- U. MIRACULOUS POWERS:** The special ability that God gives certain members of the Body of Christ to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to perform powerful acts that are perceived by observers to have altered the ordinary course of nature.
- V. HEALING:** The gifts of healing are special abilities that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to serve as human intermediaries through whom it pleases God to cure illness and restore health apart from the use of natural means. Those who have these gifts of Healing are use by God to supernaturally heal others without human aid.
- W. INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES:** The gift of interpretation of tongues is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to translate the message of one who speaks in tongues.

BEING A LEADER OF VISION (Part A)

It is so important as pastors and leaders (and for all believers), that we are people of vision and purpose. We only have one lifetime in which to make our lives count for all eternity. We are also the generation, which is responsible for passing the gospel on to the next generation. All great Christian leaders will live for a cause to see others helped and set free to fulfil their own God given destinies. A leader of vision will inspire others to follow God's plan for their life.

Every God given vision is beyond our natural abilities to achieve and is totally dependent on God bringing it to pass as we simply step out by faith to follow His plan for our life and church. Moses when asked by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt knew His great need for God's help. **(Exodus 3:11-12)** As leaders of vision we must put our entire trust in God alone. We must consistently seek God for His wisdom and direction in all that we do. "Unless the LORD builds the house, they labour in vain who build it..." **(Psalm 127:1)**

Like King Solomon we need to ask God to give us His wisdom **(1 Kings 3:7-13)** and strategies for fulfilling our God given destiny. This wisdom will also bless and help many others to complete God's plan for their life. **(2 Chronicles 9:7, 22-23)** Great Leaders of vision trust and obey the Lord as they know that God is absolutely faithful and only has plans to prosper them and not to harm them. **(Jeremiah 29:11)** Walking in obedience is a key to seeing God's supernatural provision in our lives and churches.

Jesus said, "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much..." and "if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?" **(Luke 16:10-11)** As we faithfully follow God's best plan for our life He will begin to open up new and greater doors of opportunity and responsibility. **(Isaiah 55:8-9)** **(Ephesians 3:20)** A great leader loves God and has a desire to please the Lord as those who love the Lord will obey His commandments. EVERY GREAT LEADER WILL LIVE FOR OTHERS. Jesus Himself said that He did not come to earth to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. **(Mark 10:45)**

Great leaders will inspire others to see the vision of the church come to pass. Leaders of vision have the ability to encourage people to work together as a team to see the vision for the church become a reality. **(Nehemiah 2:11-12 & 17-18)** As church leaders we need to have a vision to see our villages, cities, states and nation won to Jesus. To see God's Kingdom expanded here on earth. **(Luke 11:2)** As a church we need to have a love for the lost and a passion to see the love of Christ transforming our community.

Every great leader has a clear vision for their life. **(Habakkuk 2:2)** A Pastor or leader should have, or develop the following attributes to become a leader of vision and destiny.

- 1) A person who spends time with God and abides in Christ. **(John 15:4-5)**
 - i) A person of prayer **(Jeremiah 33:3)** **(Nehemiah 1:4-6)**
 - ii) A person of faith (God dependence) **(Psalm 22:4-5)** **(Hebrews 11:6)** **(Mark 9:23)**
 - iii) A person with Godly passion (Which comes from intimacy with God) **(Psalm 37:4)**
 - iv) A leader whose first love is Jesus **(Galatians 2:20)** **(Philippians 3:7-8)** **(Exodus 33:14-15)**
 - v) A leader who is led by the Holy Spirit (Whose steps are ordered by the Lord) **(Exodus 33:13)**

- 2) A leader who follows God's plan for their church or ministry and for their own life
- 3) A leader who is committed to seeing their community / nation won to Jesus
(**Nehemiah 2:2-5**)
- 4) A leader who is committed to helping others to be passionate about their faith
- 5) A person who stays within his own gifting and ministry call (FOCUSED)
(**Nehemiah 6:1-4**)
- 6) A servant leader (Who lays down his life for others)
- 7) A leader who has a heart to empower others for ministry
- 8) A person who has a passion to see mature disciples raised up
- 9) A leader who is able to delegate responsibilities to others as God leads
(**Exodus 18:18-23**)
- 10) A leader who has a passion to see the gospel proclaimed (**Ephesians 6:19-20**)
- 11) A person who can communicate a vision to those that he shepherds
- 12) A leader who is able to encourage others to operate in their gifts and callings
 - i) *A good leader encourages others to find out what God has planned for their life*
 - ii) *God gives all of us a God-given desire or passion to make a difference somewhere*
 - iii) *God has created each heart differently. God places in our heart ministry desires and callings. Our heart draws us to the focus of our ministry. (Psalm 37:4)*
 - iv) *Leaders of vision help people to identify the areas of ministry God has placed on their heart to do*
- 13) A person who has initiative. (A DOER) (**Nehemiah 6:15-16**)
- 14) A Leader who seeks God for strategies and goal setting
- 15) A person who has a pioneer spirit and is not afraid to take on new challenges
- 16) A person who has the courage to stand up for the gospel and Godly values
- 17) A leader who raises up and mentors other leaders
- 18) A leader who is able to maintain unity
 - i) *Has wisdom and discernment, and*
 - ii) *Has a shepherd's heart (Father of the faith), and pastors the leadership team*
- 19) A big picture person (Who mobilises others into their ministry callings)

- 20) A leader who acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of others (A key to team unity)
- 21) An Encourager (**Nehemiah 2:19-20**)
- 22) A person who is Kingdom minded (Networks with other leaders / churches), and
- 23) A leader who leads by example

As Christians we are all called to be examples to those in the world and should have leadership qualities as we have been called to reign with Christ here on earth. (**Revelation 5:9-10**) Husbands also have been given the leadership responsibility within the family. However, God also appoints and empowers specific leaders in the church to help equip and to give direction to the Body of Christ to see God's Kingdom advanced here on earth.

All ministry leadership appointments should be ordained of God. It is God who calls and raises up leaders and who puts people into the five-fold ministry.

(1 Timothy 1:12) (Ephesians 4:11-12) (1 Timothy 1:1) (Exodus 3:7-10)
(Deuteronomy 31:1-3 31:7-8 & 34:9) (Joshua 1:1-3)

APPENDIX J

THREE KEY AREAS OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER TO DEVELOP

Developing character and integrity is crucial for every Christian. *Before God can promote us in His Kingdom, we need to first have the character in place* that will enable us to withstand and overcome the temptations and testings that we will invariably experience when serving the Lord. The Apostle Peter wrote in his epistle, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” **(1 Peter 5:8)**

As Christians it is also important that our lives reflect the message that we are preaching. Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” **(Matthew 5:16)**

Jesus was our role model for humility. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even, the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name.” **(Philippians 2:5-9)**

Developing a humble and teachable spirit is also a key to walking a victorious overcoming life. When we humbly place our total dependence on God we do not have to worry as He promises to supply all of our need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus **(Philippians 4:19)** and that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. **(Philippians 4:13)** Jesus Himself said, “...Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:33)** Jeremiah the prophet wrote, “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD.” **(Jeremiah 17:7)** Like John the Baptist we need to say, He (Jesus) must increase, but I must decrease.” **(John 3:30)**

In the following study I will be looking at what the Bible says in relation to *Humility, Having a Servant Heart and a Teachable Spirit*. I will then share how many other areas of our life will be impacted by these three character attributes, and how we can best develop these attributes in our own life as Christians.

HUMILITY

The Bible makes it clear of the danger of having pride in our own life, how God resists the proud and how promotion within God's Kingdom comes to those who are humble and God dependent.

i) **Pride precedes a fall**

The book of Proverbs says, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." (**Proverbs 16:18**)

"Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty and before honour is humility" (**Proverbs 18:12**)

The Bible also gives an account of how when King Nebuchadnezzar became proud about his achievements, (**Daniel 4:30**) God immediately took his kingdom away, (**Daniel 4:31**) and he became insane and roamed about like a wild animal for seven years. (**Daniel 4:32-33**) After seven years King Nebuchadnezzar began praising God and he had his kingdom restored back to him by God. (**Daniel 4:34-37**)

ii) **Humility precedes promotion in the Kingdom of God**

God's Kingdom is totally different to the spirit of this world. In this world people love to receive recognition and endeavour to promote themselves, but in God's Kingdom, it is those who are willing to give their life away who will truly find life and who God will raise up to do great and mighty things for Him. The Bible has many Scriptures that state that greatness and promotion comes as we learn to humble ourselves and to die to all selfish ambition.

Jesus himself said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour." (**John 12:24-26**)

JESUS HIMSELF SAID THAT WE ARE TO HUMBLE OURSELVES. IT IS IN DOING THIS THAT WE RECEIVE PROMOTION IN GOD'S KINGDOM

Jesus said, "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (**Matthew 23:12**)

James in his epistle wrote, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (**James 4:10**)

The Apostle Peter wrote, "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time," (**1 Peter 5:6**)

GOD RAISED UP MOSES TO BE A GREAT LEADER WHO WOULD LEAD THE ISRAELITES OUT OF BONDAGE IN EGYPT. HE WAS REFERRED TO IN THE BIBLE AS BEING THE MOST HUMBLE MAN ON EARTH

“(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth)” (*Numbers 12:3*)

Psalm 147:6 says, “The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked to the ground”

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT HUMILITY IS A PREREQUISITE FOR BEING USED MIGHTILY OF GOD. GOD WILL SHARE HIS GLORY WITH NO MAN

“But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty, and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things which are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.” (**1 Corinthians 1:27-29**)

The Apostle Paul also wrote, “Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

iii) God resists the proud

The devil (Lucifer) was thrown out of heaven because of his pride and jealousy. Pride in our lives will be a barrier to seeing God’s blessing and favour in our lives.

On the other hand, God blesses those who have a humble dependence on Him and who put their trust in the LORD. (**Jeremiah 17:7-8**)

The bible makes it clear that God resists those who have pride in their life.

“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (**James 4:6a**)

“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” (**1 Peter 5:5**)

“The Lord will destroy the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow.” (**Proverbs 15:25**)

HAVING A SERVANT HEART

As Christians we should have a desire to help build the Kingdom of God. Serving one another in the Body of Christ is a key to seeing God's Kingdom expanded here on earth. The first church had great unity and they all helped one another as anyone had need. **(Acts 2:44-46)** The first church grew rapidly **(Acts 2:47)** **(Acts 5:14)** and moved in power. **(Acts 5:12-16)**

As Christians we need to use our spiritual gifts to help see others come to faith and to help other believers to grow in their faith. Ministry is all about helping others to grow in their faith and to fulfil their God given destinies.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel." **(1 Corinthians 14:12)**

"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all." **(1 Corinthians 12:7)**

JESUS MADE IT CLEAR THE GREATNESS IS ALL ABOUT SERVING OTHERS

After washing the disciples feet, Jesus said to them, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you." **(John 13:14-15)**

After the mother of Zebedee's sons had come to Jesus asking if her two sons could sit in His Kingdom, one on His right hand and the other on the left, (Matthew 20:20-21) Jesus said to His disciples,

"You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." **(Matthew 20:25-26)**

TO HAVE A SERVANT HEART MEANS:

i) Living for others

The Apostle John wrote, "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." **(1 John 3:16)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote, “We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbour for his good, leading to edification.” **(Romans 15:1-2)**

ii) Esteeming others better than yourself

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” **(Philippians 2:3-4)**

“Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honour giving preference to one another.” **(Romans 12:10)**

iii) Helping others to fulfil their God given destiny

Jesus said, “And if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own?” **(Luke 16:12)**

HAVING A TEACHABLE SPIRIT

Having a teachable spirit is a key to fulfilling our God given destiny. When a Christian has a teachable spirit they will invariably avoid many of the pitfalls that unteachable people experience throughout their lives. To learn from other mature believers and to continually seek the Lord for His wisdom and direction in helps a Christian to grow strong in their faith, so that they in turn can encourage and help other believers to remain strong in their faith. The Bible makes it very clear how important it is that a person has a teachable spirit and that great blessings come to those who are teachable.

“Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.” **(Proverbs 19:20)**

“Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.” **(Proverbs 15:22)**

“Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.” **(Proverbs 11:14)**

“He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.” **(Proverbs 16:20)**

“Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.” (**Proverbs 9:9**)

“Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid.” (**Proverbs 12:1**)

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...” (**Hosea 4:6**)

HAVING A TEACHABLE SPIRIT MEANS:

i) Desiring Wisdom

“Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding.” (**Proverbs 3:13**)

King Solomon knew the importance of having wisdom when he was made King of Israel. When asked by God, “What shall I give you” Solomon said, “Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?” (**2 Chronicles 1:10**)

HAVING A HEALTHY FEAR OF THE LORD WILL HELP US TO CONTINUALLY PURSUE GODLY WISDOM. (Proverbs 1:7)

ii) Having an obedient heart

“Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice.” (**1 Samuel 15:22a**)

Due to his disobedience Saul was rejected as King by God.
(*1 Samuel 15:10-29*)

Unlike King Saul, King David, except for his relationship with Bathsheba, always sought the Lord for His counsel in all that he did and was a man after God’s own heart.

iii) Having a submitted heart

Having a submitted heart is a key to becoming all that God has planned for our life. Being submitted to other mature Christian leaders and being open to correction helps to safeguard us against making unwise decisions in life. What happens in our life is invariably related to what is in our heart. The Bible says, “Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.” (**Proverbs 4:23**)

For this reason we need to choose our friends wisely. The Bible says that “The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.” (**Proverbs 12:26**) If we spend time with people who are rebellious and not submitted or accountable to anyone, they can begin to negatively impact our life. The bible says that “A little leaven leavens the whole lump.” (**Galatians 5:9**)

The devil is continually trying to sow rebellion and discord into the lives of Christians. As believers we need to make wise choices that will help us to become more Christlike in our character, so that our light will continue to shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in Heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**) Having a submitted heart and a teachable spirit are keys to safeguarding us against drifting of track in our Christian walk. God has a great plan for each of our lives and it involves staying on the narrow path that truly leads to the abundant life that Jesus spoke of.

Being submitted to other mature Christians of good character helps us to stay on that narrow path. Continuing to maintain a right heart attitude is crucial for all Christians. As Christians we must live in this world but not be of this world. The bible makes it clear that we must not allow the spirit of this world to impact our hearts. (**1 John 2:15-17**)

When a Christian begins to lose their first love for the Lord, they are then in danger of drifting off track in their live. All backsliding begins in the heart of a Christian. The book of proverbs says, “**The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, But a good man will be satisfied from above.**” (Proverbs 14:14)

iv) Being a person of prayer (God dependent)

Those who have a teachable spirit will always seek God in prayer for His wisdom and direction on an ongoing basis. The book of proverbs says, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)

The Apostle Paul emphasised the importance of having a prayerful dependency on God,

“Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (**Ephesians 5:17**)

“praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-” (**Ephesians 6:18**)

“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;” (**Colossians 4:2**) and

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” (**Philippians 4:6**)

Jesus Himself said to His disciples, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” (**Luke 22:40**)

v) Being open to learning from others

A Christian with a teachable spirit will have godly mentors in their life and know the wisdom that comes from having a number of mature believers in their life who can give them wise counsel when major decisions have to be made. A mature Christian will always appreciate input from other mature believers into their life. The bible makes it very clear that to isolate oneself from fellowship is not wise but that “... in the multitude of counsellors there is safety. (**Proverbs 11:14**)

“A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; He rages against all wise judgment.” (**Proverbs 18:1**)

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

vi) Having a repentant heart (Keeping short accounts with God)

As Christians it is important that we keep our hearts soft by keeping short accounts with God. Wrong attitudes and all known sins in our life should be repented of quickly, so that we can continually have intimate fellowship with the Lord. Maintaining short accounts with the Lord helps us to clearly hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. Unconfessed sins have the potential to rob us of that close intimacy with God so that we do not hear as clearly the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Though as Christians we are always in a relationship with Jesus Christ, sin can impact the sweetness of our fellowship with the Lord. The bible makes it clear that God loves to continually restore us to that place of intimate fellowship with Himself. **The Apostle John wrote,** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” **(1 John 1:9)**

HAVING A REPENTANT HEART IS A KEY TO MAINTAINING AN INTIMATE WALK WITH THE LORD AND TO REMAINING STRONG IN OUR CHRISTIAN WALK.

Having a repentant heart helps us to continually stay on course with God’s plan for our life and to remain strong during times of temptation. Someone once gave the analogy of how when you are sitting on the top of a slide at a fun or recreational park, you are safe when you are sitting at the top. The moment you move forward a bit you begin to slide down. As you begin to slide down you can always easily move back up to sit at the top of the slide. But once you have begun sliding down the slide you begin to slide faster and faster the further you go down the slide until it is impossible to stop. The same thing can be applied to sin and temptation in our Christian walk. It is good to address any sin in our life right at the beginning before it gains momentum in our life so that it becomes a stronghold in our life.

Therefore how important it is to have a repentant heart as a Christian. God has a great plan for our lives but the devil will do everything that he can to destroy that plan or to sidetrack us from God’s best plan for our life.

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

vii) Being led by the Holy Spirit

As Christians we need to allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct our steps. **The Apostle Paul said in the book of Roman’s,** “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” **(Romans 8:14)**

Walking in obedience is a key to receiving God's blessings. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth.

A Christian with a teachable and submitted heart will desire to know the promptings and guidance of the Holy Spirit in their life. As they allow the Holy Spirit to direct their steps, they know that God's destiny for their life will unfold.

Jesus said to His disciples, "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you all things to come." (**John 16:13**)

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

AS WE LEARN TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT (Galatians 5:16) (Galatians 5:25) WE WILL NOT ONLY BECOME MORE HUMBLE AND MORE TEACHABLE AND SERVANT HEARTED, BUT WE WILL ALSO INVARIABLY BEGIN TO GROW IN CHARACTER IN MANY OTHER AREAS OF OUR LIFE AS WELL.

AS WE LEARN MORE AND MORE TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT, WE WILL ALSO BEGIN TO GROW IN THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT AREAS:

- **We will keep our commitments with others (Matthew 5:37)**
- **We will cultivate endurance in our life (Galatians 6:9)**
- **We will speak the truth (1 Corinthians 5:8)**
- **We will practice self-control (1 Peter 3:17) (2 Peter 1:5-8)**
- **We will become more kind and gentle (Ephesians 4:32a)**
- **We will respect our bodies (Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit)**
- **We will endeavour to guard our tongues (Ephesians 4:29), and**
- **We will offer forgiveness to others (Ephesians 4:32b)**

IN CONCLUSION

- **INTIMACY WITH THE LORD**

(John 15:4-5) (Psalm 37:4) (John 4:23-24)

- **MEDITATING ON THE WORD OF GOD**

(Romans 12:2)(John 8:31a-32) (Joshua 1:8)(Psalm 1:1-3)(Psalm 119:33-40)

- **AND BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

(Ephesians 5:18) (Galatians 5:22-23)

ARE ALL SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES THAT WILL HELP US TO GROW IN THE AREAS OF HUMILITY AND IN BECOMING MORE SERVANT-HEARTED AND TEACHABLE.

AS WE GROW IN THESE THREE AREAS, WE BEGIN TO QUALIFY FOR GREATNESS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

THE SIX DOCTRINES OF OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” **(1 Corinthians 3:11)**

Our right standing with God (being justified) comes only out of being in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. **(1 Timothy 2:5) (John 14:6) (John 3:3 & 5) (Acts 4:12)** The Apostle Paul also wrote, “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” **(2 Corinthians 5:21)**

Only through believing in Jesus Christ can we be saved from our sins. Jesus Himself said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” **(John 3:16-18)**

Salvation (Eternal life) is a free gift. We cannot earn it, nor do we deserve it. We can do nothing to save ourselves as we have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23) We must all just simply receive the gift of eternal life by faith, by coming to Jesus Christ and accepting His offer of eternal life through repentance and faith in Him. **(Acts 20:21)** The Apostle Paul wrote,

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

In the book of Hebrews we see listed the six doctrines of our faith. “Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.” **(Hebrews 6:1-2)**

In this passage of Scripture six doctrines of our faith are identified:

1) Repentance from dead works, 2) Faith toward God, 3) The doctrine of baptisms, 4) Laying on of hands, 5) Resurrection of the dead, and 6) Eternal Judgment.

These six doctrines of our faith will now be discussed in turn.

ii) REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

True repentance must always precede true faith. Without such repentance, faith alone is an empty profession. Christ and His apostles preached “Repent and believe.” Any preacher who leaves out the call to repentance is misleading sinners and misrepresenting God. Jesus Himself made it clear to those who told Him about the Galileans who had been killed by Pilate, “...unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (**Luke 13:3**)

WHAT REPENTANCE IS NOT

- **Repentance is not the conviction of sin.** Conviction brings people to repentance. However many people go to the alter feeling guilty of their sin, but are not willing to let go of their sin.
- **Repentance is not remorse.** A person may have remorse over what they have done, but not wish to repent of what they have done. A person can stand before a judge with tears in his eyes, feeling sorry for himself, not wanting to go to jail, yet not sorry for breaking the law.
- **Repentance is not just a determination to do better (Reformation).** Many people make New Years resolutions, however they do not last long. Whilst repentance does involve reformation, if God is not involved in the reformation, if it is not based on the work of the cross, then it is not repentance and it will ultimately fail. Unrepentant Christians are most likely to be caught up in religious works.
- **Repentance is not just being religious.** People can even serve in a church and raise their hand and even shout “Hallelujah” but still not repent.
- **Repentance is not “just believism.”** Repentance is not just an emotional feeling.

WHY WE NEED TO REPENT

Repentance is necessary because we have all sinned. “For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.” (**Romans 3:23**) There are around 103 sins defined in the Bible in every category imaginable, however the root of all these sins is the same. This root is the rejection of the rule and ways of God, due to unbelief. This root of unbelief must be dealt with through repentance.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” **(John 3:16)** The need for repentance must be focused on the condition of a person’s heart before a Holy God. The Prophet Jeremiah said, “The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?” **(Jeremiah 17:9)**

A person who has not repented is simply committed to going his own way and doing his own thing apart from God.

WHAT IS TRUE REPENTANCE

TRUE repentance has two compulsory components:

- 1) TRUE REPENTANCE is based on a recognition that we have sinned. It is the supernatural power of God that has been placed in the gospel, which enables a person to repent. (God’s saving Grace)***
- 2) TRUE REPENTANCE also involves a recognition that we are responsible to turn from our sins to God. Repentance is an inner change of mind resulting in an outward turning back, or turning around, to face and to move in a completely new direction. This turning around has three elements. A turning from sin and dead works, a turning to God and an intent to serve Him and to obey His commands.***

ii) FAITH TOWARD GOD

After a person repents, he must then make a personal response to the gospel.

THE BASIC FACTS OF THE GOSPEL ARE:

- 1) Christ was delivered by God the Father to the punishment of death on account of our sins***
- 2) Christ was buried***
- 3) God raised Him from the dead on the third day, and***
- 4) Righteousness is received from God through believing these facts***

To receive salvation and the gift of eternal life, each individual soul must make a **direct personal response to Christ.**

THIS PERSONAL RESPONSE TO CHRIST CAN BE DESCRIBED IN MANY WAYS:

a. Calling upon the Name of Christ as Lord

“For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (***Romans 10:13***)

b. Coming to Christ

Jesus said, “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (***Matthew 11:28***) “...and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.” (***John 6:37b***)

c. Personally receiving Christ

“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (***John 1:11-13***)

d. Drinking of the water of life, which Christ alone can give

Jesus said, “But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life” (***John 4:14***)

Each individual soul must make a direct personal response to Christ from the heart. Jesus said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.” (***Revelations 3:20***)

iii) THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMS

“There are two Christian Baptisms. One is the Water Baptism and the other is being Baptised in the Holy Spirit by Jesus. They will now be discussed in turn.

WATER BAPTISM

“The bible makes it clear that water baptism is not an optional extra. Jesus Himself was baptized, even though He had no need to repent of sin. **(Mark 1:9)** Jesus commanded His disciples to baptize new believers. **(Matthew 28:19)** Water baptism is for all believers. **(Mark 16:16)** *Water Baptism is an outward expression of what has already taken place in the heart of the new believer.*

Before a person is baptized he must have first repented of his sins and believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. **(Acts 16:30-33)** Water Baptism, or baptism by full immersion, is also called the “Believers Baptism”

Baptism speaks of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we follow the Lord’s command to be baptized, we identify with Him in this way. When you accepted Christ as your Saviour, your sins were forgiven – you became “dead” to your past life. **(2 Corinthians. 5:17)**

Baptism signifies this death. The water into which you are immersed is like a “grave” and indicates that you were buried with Christ. As you rise from the water you testify that you are now a new creation, rising to newness of life (resurrection power) in Christ Jesus. **(Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12)**

In Water Baptism we identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” **(Galatians 2:20)** Water Baptism also helps to enable a new believer to separate themselves from their ‘old man’, which was dead in sin, whilst reinforcing their commitment to walk in the newness of life in Christ Jesus. **(Romans 6:1-14)**

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Once a person becomes a Christian, God has another wonderful gift for them - the gift of the Holy Spirit. This gift is known as the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Bible speaks much about this experience. John the Baptist spoke of it, and revealed that Jesus is the Baptiser with the Holy Spirit. **(Mark 1:8)** The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is described in a number of different ways, each way referring to an aspect of this wonderful act:

- i) **Baptism in the Holy Spirit** (John 1:33) – which means immersion into the Spirit
- ii) **Gifts of the Spirit** (1 Corinthians 12) – emphasizing the gift aspect
- iii) **Receiving the Spirit** (Acts 19:2) – referring to the actual moment of reception
- iv) **Filled with the Spirit** (Acts 2:4) – suggesting something poured into a person

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is also spoken of as the promise from the Father, which the disciples were to wait for (**Luke 24:29**), and which they received on the day of Pentecost. (**Acts 2:33**)

Before a person can receive the Holy Spirit, they must be saved (Born Again). (**Acts 19:2a**)

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the submerging of the whole being into the Spirit of God. It is being filled with the Holy Spirit Who Himself is a living person.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to minister to others. Jesus promised His disciples that when the Holy Spirit came upon them, they would receive power to be His witnesses. (**Act 1:8**) After receiving the Holy Spirit, all the disciples become powerful preachers. Being Baptised in the Holy Spirit enables all believers to witness with greater joy and freedom, and with much more boldness when sharing with others who Jesus is, and what He has done for them. It also helps believers to enter into a richer spiritual awareness of the Lord.

God has given a lasting sign as evidence that we have been baptised in the Holy Spirit. That sign is speaking in tongues, or praying in the Spirit. (**Mark 16:17 and Acts 2:4**) The language that you receive when baptised in the Holy Spirit, is not one that you have learnt with the mind. However, you must use your own mouth and tongue to speak the words that God will give you.

The bible says that God gives good gifts. (**James 1:17a**) The Holy Spirit is one such good and perfect gift from God. **The baptism of the Holy Spirit is available to all believers.** Jesus said, "If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him." (**Luke 11:13**) When Jesus baptises us with the Holy Spirit, He does so in a very personal way, a way that seems to suit our individual lives and personalities.

For some it is at home alone and for others after being prayed for by other Christians. This was very common in the early house churches, (**Acts 8:17, Acts 19:6**), but not always so. (**Acts 10:44-46**) The basic requirement for receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit is defined by the Apostle Paul as the hearing of faith.

Six steps of faith and obedience, which help a person to be Baptised in the Holy Spirit, are:

- 1) Repentance** (Acts 3:19) **and** **2) Water Baptism** (Acts 2:38)
- 3) Being Thirsty and Hungry for more of the Spirit** (John 7:37-38, Matt. 5:6)
- 4) Asking for the Holy Spirit** (Luke 11:13)
- 5) Drinking (Active process of receiving)** (John 7:37 and Psalm 81:10), and
- 6) Yielding (Surrender of will, physical members and intellect)** (Rom. 6:13)

4) LAYING ON OF HANDS

The fourth foundational doctrine of the Christian Faith is that which is called “Laying on of hands” The laying on of hands is used on a number of occasions for specific purposes. These include:

i) Transmitting a spiritual blessing or authority to the one upon whom hands are laid:

In the Old Testament, Joseph brought his two sons Ephraim and Manasseh to his father Jacob, and Jacob blessed them by laying his hands on them. **(Genesis 48:14)**

Believers can also lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. **(Mark 16:17-18)**

Christians can also lay hands on other believers who are seeking the baptism in the Holy Spirit. This was common in the early church. **(Acts 8:18)**

HOWEVER, THE SCRIPTURE ALSO WARNS US THAT THIS ORDINANCE OF LAYING HANDS UPON BELIEVERS IS NOT TO BE PRACTICED LIGHTLY OR CARELESSLY.

Paul told Timothy, “Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure.” (1 Timothy 5:22)

The next purpose for laying on of hands is the imparting of spiritual gifts (Especially the gift of prophecy). The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome saying,

“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established – that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.” **(Romans 1:11-12)**

The Apostle Paul told Timothy, “Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.” **(2 Timothy 1:6)**

ii) Acknowledging publicly some spiritual blessing or authority already received from God by the one upon whom hands are laid:

The Lord told Moses to lay hands on Joshua to inaugurate him in the sight of the congregation and to give some of his authority to him. **(Numbers 27:18-20)**

This action produced a tremendous result in Joshua. Now Joshua was full of the spirit of wisdom, and the children of Israel heeded him. **(Deuteronomy 34:9)**

iii) Publicly committing to God for some special task or ministry the one upon whom hands are laid:

When the Holy Spirit said for Barnabas and Saul to be separated for the work to which He had called them, the Church Elders at Antioch laid hands on them and sent them away.

The Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them” **(Acts 13:2)**

“Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.” **(Acts 13:3)**

THE APPOINTMENT OF DEACONS AND ELDERS IS ANOTHER NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLE OF WHERE THE ORDINANCE OF LAYING ON OF HANDS IS USED.

(Acts 6:1-6 {deacons} and Acts 14:21-23 {Elders most likely})

5) RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

The fifth of the foundational doctrines that are listed in Hebrews 6:1-2 is 'Resurrection of the dead.' The first four doctrines relate to this present time, *however this and the last doctrine* relate to the realm of eternity. There are two universal, irrevocable appointments of God: resurrection and judgment. To this universal appointment of resurrection from the dead, the Bible admits only one class of exceptions, those who never die. (These include those Christians who will be raptured, Enoch, Elijah and those who become righteous during the millennium rule of Christ and never die).

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10) Judgment concerns the things done in the body while on earth. As it is for the things done in the body that man must answer, God has ordained that man should appear in his body before Him to answer for those things.

Therefore resurrection of the body must precede eternal judgment.

There are two diverging destinies for those who die as believers and those who die having rejected Christ. After death there is a complete and permanent separation between the departed spirits of the righteous and the wicked. Prior to Christ's resurrection, the departed spirits of the righteous were consigned to a certain area of Sheol, the netherworld, which was called "Paradise". Since Christ's death and resurrection, the spirits of all believers who die, ascend immediately and directly into heaven and into the presence of God Himself. **(2 Corinthians 5:6, 8)**

For those who die as unbelievers, the dark angel of Death who is a minister of Satan's infernal kingdom, claims their spirit and gives it to another of Satan's dark angels called Hades. Hades takes charge of all the spirits of the unrighteous that he receives from the angel of Death and then conducts them to their appointed place of imprisonment.

However, for all believers we can be comforted by the words of Jesus,

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die..." (John 11:25-26)

"Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." (John 8:51) AND

"that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:15)

The believer's resurrection body will be incorruptible, immortal (incapable of death), a body of beauty and glory (free from all of man's present limitations), and it will be raised up from the grave by the power of the almighty God.

This contrasts with our earthly bodies which are corruptible and subject to sickness, decay, old age and death, and which are a continual source of humiliation as we struggle with sin, physical needs and limitations, and finally which is committed to the grave in weakness.

The total resurrection of the righteous, from the moment of Christ's own resurrection down to the resurrection of the tribulation martyrs, (just prior to the millennium), is called by the apostle John, "The First Resurrection." All those who take part in this resurrection are "blessed and holy," that is, they are all righteous believers:

They include, **i)** Christ Himself, and those of the Old Testament saints who were resurrected at the time that He was resurrected, **ii)** "those who are Christ's at His coming" (being those who died in the faith), **iii)** the two witnesses of the tribulation period, and **iv)** the remainder of the tribulation martyrs, who are resurrected at the close of the tribulation period, and who will share with Christ and the other saints the privilege of ruling and judging the nations on earth.

The "Final Resurrection" will be mainly for "the spiritually dead" (Those who died in sin and unbelief) and who were not written in the Book of Life. They will be cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15) However, there are two categories of people in the "Final Resurrection" who will be delivered from condemnation. These are the righteous who died during Christ's millennial reign on earth, and the queen of the South (Sheba) and the men of Nineveh referred to by Jesus, who were never granted a revelation of Christ's atoning sacrifice. (Luke 11:31-32)

6) ETERNAL JUDGMENT

The sixth and last of the foundational doctrines is Eternal Judgment. Every person will appear before the judgment seat of Christ. Several scriptures make this very clear.

“For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” (Romans 14:10a)

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, ...” (2 Corinthians 5:10a)

Each person will be judged according to the things that he did in the body here on earth. God’s judgment is tempered by His mercy and grace, which was manifested in the mediatorial office and the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The blood of Jesus pleads for mercy and forgiveness for the sinner.

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” **(Romans 5:6-9)**

In the first instance and by sovereign eternal right, judgment belongs to God the Father. The Apostle Peter speaks of “the Father who without partiality judges according to each one’s work” **(1 Peter 1:17)** Here judgment of all men is declared to be the office of God the Father. However, in chapter five of John, Christ reveals that the Father has chosen in His sovereign wisdom to commit all judgment to the Son.

“For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honour the Son just as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent Him.” **(John 5:22-23)** “For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.” **(John 5:26-27)**

Because Christ is also the Son of man as well as the Son of God, (Having both a human and divine nature whilst here on earth), in His judgment He is able to make allowance, from His own experience, for all the infirmities and temptations of human flesh. So gracious and merciful, however, is the divine nature in the Son, as like the Father, Christ, too, is unwilling to administer judgment. For this reason, He has, in turn transferred the final authority from His own person to the Word of God. Jesus Himself said,

“And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.” **(John 12:47-48)**

The final authority of all judgment is vested in the Word of God.

This is the impartial, unchanging standard to which all men must one day answer. This same revelation concerning God’s Word is given in the Old Testament, for David says to God: “The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of your righteous judgments endures forever.” (Psalm 119:160) Therefore all the standards and principles of God’s judgment are contained within His Word and endure unchanged forever.

FOUR MAIN PRINCIPLES OF DIVINE JUDGMENT REVEALED IN GOD'S WORD:

1) THAT GOD'S JUDGMENT IS ACCORDING TO TRUTH

"Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things." (**Romans 2:1-2**) Jesus Himself says to the Father, "Your word is truth" (**John 17:17b**)

God's standard does not vary. It is always the truth – the revealed truth of God's Word and it applies just as much to the one who judges as to the one who is judged. (We must all ensure that we apply the truth to ourselves and to our own lives).

2) THAT JUDGMENT WILL BE RENDERED TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS

God's judgment is according to our "deeds" In heaven God preserves a complete and flawless record of the entire life of every person. According to this record of his deeds preserved on a heavenly scroll or "book", each person will one day be judged. In the account of the final judgment we read that:

"Books were opened...And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books." (**Revelation 20:12**)

The whole bible makes it plain that God in His judgment of man, takes into account not merely external actions, but also the deepest and most secret thoughts, impulses and motives of the heart.

"In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel" (**Romans 2:16**)

"Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God." (**1 Corinthians 4:5**)

3) THAT GOD'S JUDGMENT IS WITHOUT PARTIALITY (OR RESPECT OF PERSONS)

Men are often influenced in forming their judgments by such external appearances as race, religion, profession, social position, physical appearance, wealth and education. However God's judgment is not influenced or diverted by any of these things. (God also expects that all those who are charged with judging human affairs should never yield to this influence either).

"For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (**1 Samuel 16:7**)

4) THAT JUDGMENT IS ACCORDING TO THE LIGHT AVAILABLE TO THOSE BEING JUDGED

Each person will be judged according to measure of moral light and understanding which has been made available him. Those who have had the full knowledge of God's moral standards revealed to them through the law of Moses will be judged by that law.

"For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law." **(Romans 2:12)**

But those who have not had the fuller revelation of the law of Moses, will not be judged by the law, but in accordance with the general revelation of God granted to the human race as a whole through the wonders of creation.

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so they are without excuse. **(Romans 1:20)**

Whoever receives an additional and special revelation through God's Word however, will be judged by the higher standard of moral knowledge granted to them. Therefore, judgment is according to light – according to the measure of moral knowledge granted to each person.

THREE FINAL JUDGMENTS

1) The judgment of Christian believers before the judgment seat of Christ

All true Christians will be judged first and will appear before the judgment seat of Christ. This is made clear in Scripture.

“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now if the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?” **(1 Peter 4:17-18)**

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” **(2 Corinthians 5:10)**

The judgment of Christians will not be a judgment of condemnation.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.” **(Romans 8:1)**

The true believer in Christ will never need to be judged at all for the sins he has committed. When a person comes as a sinner in faith to Christ, receiving Him as Saviour and confessing Him as Lord, the whole record of that person’s past sins is immediately and eternally blotted out by God, never to be remembered anymore.

“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.” **(Isaiah 43:25)**

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” **(1 John 1:9)** “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” **(1 John 2:1-2)**

These two passages teach that if a believer in Christ sins, and thereafter repents and confesses his sin, the record of his sin is erased, and he himself is cleansed from all unrighteousness.

The judgment of Christians will not be in relation to their righteousness, but with their service rendered to Christ. The purpose of the judgment will not be to decide upon either acquittal or condemnation, but rather to assess the reward due to each believer for his service to Christ while on earth.

THE JUDGMENT OF BELIEVERS IS TO DETERMINE THEIR REWARDS

“For no other foundation can anyone lay that that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.” **(1 Corinthians 3:11-15)**

2) The judgment of the Gentile nations at the close of the great tribulation – Carried out before the throne of Christ's glory

After Israel has passed through the fires of the great tribulation and been reconciled again to God through Jesus Christ, there will be no further need for God to judge them. Thereafter, when Christ sets up His earthly Kingdom and takes His seat upon the throne of His Glory, He will need only to judge the Gentile nations remaining alive on earth at the close of the great tribulation.

“When the Son of Man comes in His Glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.” (Matthew 25:31-33)

The purpose of the judgment that follows is to separate the sheep (those whom God accepts) from the goats (those whom God rejects) The sheep will be received into the Kingdom God has prepared for them – that is, Christ's millennial kingdom. *The goats will have final, irrevocable judgment pronounced upon them, by which they will be banished into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*

These rejected Gentiles will not be sent forth to Sheol or Hades but directly to the place of final punishment of all rebels – the lake of fire. Into this lake the beast – the Antichrist – and his false prophet already will have been cast. **The separation between sheep and goats is based upon one decisive issue: the way in which those people being judged have treated the brothers of Jesus; that is, the Jewish people.** The intervention of the Lord against the Gentile nations persecuting the Jews and His final reconciliation with Israel are described in Zechariah.

“It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” (Zechariah 12:9-10)

Once the sheep have been separated from the Goats, the judgment of the Gentile nations will be complete. All those who are accounted worthy to enter into the period of Christ's millennial kingdom will have passed through the refining judgments of God. Israel will have been purged in the fires of the great tribulation, whilst at the close of the tribulation; the Gentiles will be purged by Christ's own direct intervention and judgment.

After these purging judgments upon both Jews and Gentiles, there will ensue a thousand years of peace and prosperity, with Christ ruling as King over all the earth. At the close of this period of one thousand years, Satan will make one final attempt to organize the Gentile nations in rebellion against Christ and His Kingdom, but this rebellion will be brought to nought by the direct intervention of God. **At this time Satan himself will at last be banished forever from earth and will be cast into the lake of fire, to join the Antichrist and the false prophet who will already be there. All the rebellious among those living at that time will be purged out.**

“Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Revelation 20:7-10)

After this the third of the final judgments will commence.

3) The judgment of all the remaining dead at the close of the millennium – Carried out before a great white throne

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”
(Revelations 20:11-15)

Here is the ultimate end for those who have sinned and rebelled against the authority and holiness of God: to be cast forever into the lake of everlasting fire. Only those whose names are written in the Book of Life will escape this final judgment. The names recorded in this book are those who during their life on earth availed themselves through repentance and faith, of God’s mercy and grace.

As those who put their faith in Christ’s atoning sacrifice will have been resurrected at the commencement of the millennium, and already appeared before the judgment seat of Christ – not for condemnation, but to assess their reward, it seems that the majority of those who appear before the great white throne will **not** have fulfilled the conditions for receiving God’s mercy and will therefore be condemned to the lake of fire.

However, there will definitely be at least two categories of people before the great white throne who will escape condemnation and enter into eternal life.

The first category will consist of people such as the queen of the South and the men of Nineveh, who availed themselves of the mercy, which God offered to them in one brief but decisive revelation of Himself.

Jesus Himself said, “The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah is here. The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon is here.” **(Matthew 12:41-42)**

A second category will consist of all those who died in faith during the millennium.

This study of Hebrews has laid the scriptural foundation of doctrine upon which the faith of every Christian can be firmly built. With these foundations in place, it becomes possible to obey the further exhortation of Hebrews 6:1, “Let us go on to perfection.”