

### What do you think?

1. Is it enough for you to grow and deepen your knowledge and awareness of God's love?
2. Do you have a responsibility before God to do more with what you know and understand about His love?

1. Rom. 5:5
2. John 7:37-39

DOESN'T IT MAKE SENSE THAT WHAT GOD POURS INTO A PERSON'S LIFE IS WHAT HE WANTS TO FLOW FROM THAT PERSON'S LIFE? Since God pours His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, He wants love to flow out of our lives by the Holy Spirit.

3. John 13:34, 35
4. Gal. 5:13, 22
6. I Thess. 3:12,13;
7. II Thess. 3:5
8. I John 4:7-21

**Reality #4 - God wants you to be an extension of His love to others; therefore, you must allow God the freedom to love others through your life.**

### Action points:

1. Understand that God's love is not a possession that needs your protection, nor is it limited so that you need to hoard as much as you can get of it.
  2. Determine not to put conditions on allowing God to love others through your life.
  3. Seek practical ways to express God's love to others.
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### Now What?

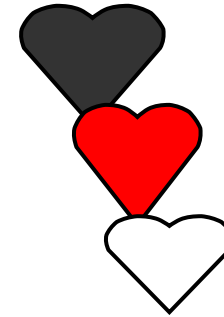
Love is a choice that we need to make every day – first, to be loved by God; then second to loving God and love people.

1. I Cor. 13:1-8(a)
2. I John 3:1,16,23; 4:21
3. I Tim. 4:11(b), 12
4. I Pet. 1:22; 4:8
5. I Thess. 1:3; Gal. 5:13
6. Matt. 5:44
7. Rom. 12:9-21

**Reality #5 - Demonstrate both the reality of being loved by God and the reality of your love for God by the way you treat others.**

### Action points:

1. Determine what it means to demonstrate your love for God in the way you love/treat others.
  2. Try to make it a prayer that every time you are with people that God's love will flow through your life into theirs.
  3. Be sure to guard your heart by keeping your focus on God first, others second and yourself third.
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## 5 REALITIES OF GOD'S LOVE THAT TRANSFORM LIFE & MINISTRY

**“We love, because He first loved us.”**

(1 John 4:19)

**INTRODUCTION:** Since our love for God is dependent on our comprehension of God's love for us, then we need to grow in our understanding of God's love. As we deepen our understanding of God's love our love will grow and become an ever-increasing reality.

**Additional Thought:** We love because He first loved us and He first loved us because “God is love” (I John. 4:8,16), and love is (I Cor. 13:4-8a. & Gal. 5:22,23) It is important to understand the uniqueness of love as a person (God), a character quality, a fruit of the Spirit and an emotion / feeling.

**One more thing to think about?** Since man was made in the image of God doesn't that mean he was made with a great capacity to love? This fallen capacity to love needs to be renewed within the regenerated believer. Love is not merely an intellectual issue. God changes our heart, making it possible for His love to be a life-changing reality in our lives. Time, experience, scripture, understanding and the Holy Spirit moves every believer further along in this process of love renewal – II Pet. 1:5-7; Eph. 3:17-19 – making the Image complete.

(Please read and meditate on each of the scriptures below and determine if you agree with my basic observation (that is what I call a reality) at the end of each section of scriptures. Also note that each point builds on each other.)

### **A foundational principle:**

Since God is love, it makes total sense that in order for there to be a remedy to man's broken relationship with Him, He must initiate the process of reconciliation.

A This section declares the fact of God's love initiating His actions towards us.

1. John 3:16
2. Rom. 5:8
3. Eph. 2:4-6
4. John 15:9
5. John 17:23-26
6. I Thess. 3:5

B. This section reveals that God's purpose is a life-style change motivated from a transformed heart.

1. Eph. 3:14-19
2. Eph. 1:4,5
3. Rom. 8:29
4. Rom. 6:11
5. Rom. 12:1,2
6. Heb. 12:6,10

### **What do you think?**

What changes take place once a person becomes united with God through the salvation that comes by faith in Jesus Christ?

**Reality #1 - Though God loves you the way you are, He loves you too much to leave you that way.**

### **Action points:**

1. Believe the fact that God loves you unconditionally.
  2. Confess as sin your doubt about how much God loves you.
  3. Surrender yourself to the Lord, who loves you so much, to do in you that which needs to be changed for a better you.
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### **What do you think?**

Since God's love for you, before you became a Christian, was 100% of how much He could love you and was not conditional on anything from you, on anything you did but rests entirely on His love. Is His love for you now as a Christian based on your performance (on what you do) and consequently less than a 100% of what it was before you were a Christian?

I don't think so.

1. Rom. 8:37-39
2. I John 4:19
3. 1 Cor. 2:9
4. Luke 15:11-32
5. II Cor. 5:14,15
6. Matt. 22:37,39
7. Rom. 8:28
8. John 14:21

**Reality #2 - There is nothing you can do to make God love you more, There is nothing you can do to make God love you less, But there is a lot you can do to enjoy the love God has for you.**

### **What do you think?**

What are the benefits of cultivating a love relationship with God?

How does a Christian cultivate a love relationship with God?

### **Action points:**

1. Take by faith the fact that God loves you with a love that is not dependent on something from you.
  2. Determine to learn what you can to enjoy more fully the love God has for you.
  3. Take some practical steps to cultivate a growing love relationship with Jesus Christ.
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### **An Observation:**

Often individual believers think that God very likely would love committed Christians more than He does them because of their lack of commitment (failures, weaknesses, and inconsistencies). Then there might be times when a believer is doing well in their walk with the Lord and think that God loves them more than others who are not living a life as honoring to Him as they are. Check out these verses and see if you agree with reality number three.

1. Luke 7:36-50
2. Luke 18:9-14
- 3, Matt. 18:21-35
4. Isa. 53:1-12
5. I John 4:7-10

**Reality #3 - The Love of God is equal at the foot of the Cross; therefore, God's love is the same for everyone. God loves others as much as He loves you and visa versa.**

### **What do you think?**

1. What is the relationship between the love of God and forgiveness of sins?
2. And then, what is the relationship between loving others and forgiving others?

**What do you think?** Do not all the verses that declare God's love for me also declare His love for others?

### **Action points:**

1. Do not play the role of judge by judging whether others deserve God's love or not.
  2. Understand that the people you don't like are loved by God as much as you are.
  3. Never believe that you have gone too far for God to love you.
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**II Corinthians 5:18-20** “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

**Matthew 28:18-20** “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go [a]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, 20 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.”

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

### Because of the reality of Hell

**Heb. 9:27** “ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,”

**Rev. 20:11-13** “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. 12 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 which were written in the books. 13 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.

### Therefore we must see that sharing Jesus is not an option but a necessity.

**Romans 10:13-15** “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!”

**I Thess. 2:4** “But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.”

**Ezekiel 3:18** “When I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak

to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.”

### God’s method of reaching the world with the message of Jesus Christ.

#### By His Word –

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

**II Timothy 3:15-17** “and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

#### By His Spirit thru His people –

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

**John 16:7-11** “ Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”

**I Corinthians 9:16,17** “For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.”

## THE BASIC POINTS TO THE GOOD NEWS (GOSPEL) OF JESUS CHRIST:

### 1. God’s Position

A. *God loves man and wants to have fellowship with him.*

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

B. *God’s perfection means that He cannot lower His standard without violating His character.*

**Matt. 5:48** – “Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect”

**Heb. 13:8** - “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

### 2. Man’s Condition

A. *All people have sinned and fallen short of God’s perfect standard.*

**Rom. 3:12** - :For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

B. *God, in His justice, requires the penalty of spiritual death (eternal separation from God).*

**Rom. 6:23** - “For the wages of sin is death...”

**Ezel. 18:4** – “The soul that sins, it shall die.”

### 3. God’s Provision

*Jesus Christ, being God, paid the penalty for man’s sins by dying on the cross as the substitute for man. Jesus made it possible for man to have a personal relationship with God by offering His perfection in exchange for man’s sin.*

**II Cor. 5:21** – “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

**I Pet. 3:18** – “For Christ also died for sins one for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God.”

### 4. God’s Invitation

*God has made it possible for any person to be forgiven and become His child. He wants you to be with Him forever.*

**Rom. 10:13** – “Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”

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

## 5. Man’s Decision

*All anyone must do is place their trust in Christ and His death alone as sufficient payment for sin. This satisfies God’s requirement of perfection and establishes His desired eternal relationship with man.*

**II Cor. 8:9** – “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”

*A person must change their mind (repent) in regards to their sins and about their relationship with Jesus Christ.*

**Acts 2:38a** – “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus ...’  
*A person must decide to take God at His word and take His offer of eternal life.*

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

## A Model Prayer of Salvation:

Dear Father in Heaven, thank You for loving me and for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ to pay my sin debt to You. Please forgive me of my sins and come into my life and give me eternal life. I give you my life, please make me Your child forever. Thank You

In Jesus name, amen.

## ROMANS ROAD

**Romans 3:10** *As it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one.”*

**Romans 3:23** *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

**Romans 5:12** *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.”*

**Romans 5:8** *“But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

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

**Romans 10:13** *“For whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

(Detour) **Revelations 3:23** *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with me.”*

**Romans 10:9,10** *“That if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”*

## WHY I NEED TO SHARE THE MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST

### Because of what Jesus did for us:

**II Corinthians 5:14,15** “For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose on their behalf.”

**Colossians 1:13,14** “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

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

### Because of the Love of God for all mankind (Example)

**John 15:13** “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

**Romans 5:8,10** 8 “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

10 “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

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

**II Peter 3:9** “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.”

### Because of the purpose of God for making us His children (Command)

**Matthew 5:13-16** “You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

➤ **Promises of God's Forgiveness:**

**I John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

**Colossians 1:13,14** "For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

Additional scriptures on forgiveness:

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Luke 15          | 2. Acts 3:19       |
| 3. Psalm 85:2       | 4. I John 2:1,2    |
| 5. Micah 7:18       | 6. Psalm 103:12    |
| 7. Psalm 34:18      | 8. Isaiah 44:21,22 |
| 9. Jer. 31:34       | 10. Jer. 33:8      |
| 11. Isaiah 43:25,26 | 12. Mark 3:28      |

➤ **Additional Promise verses**

**Psalm 16:11** "You will make known to me the way of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy;

In Your right hand there are pleasures forever."

**Isaiah 30:18** "Therefore the Lord longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the Lord is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

Additional promise scriptures

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. I Cor. 2:9     | 7. Eph. 1:13     |
| 2. II Peter 3:13  | 8. I Tim. 4:8    |
| 3. I John 2:25    | 9. Rom. 8:37-39  |
| 4. I John 3:2,3   | 10. Heb. 11:11   |
| 5. Heb. 6:12      | 11. James 1:12   |
| 6. Romans 4:21,22 | 12. Luke 11:9,10 |

**For an additional study learn from David's response to the Promise of God in II Sam. 7:8-29**

**!! Samuel 7:8-29 The Promise to David**

8 Now then, this is what you shall say to My servant David: "This is what the Lord of armies says: "I Myself took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader over My people Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have eliminated all your enemies from you; I will also make a great name for you, like the names of the great men who are on the earth. 10 And I will establish a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will malicious people oppress them anymore as previously, 11 even from the day that I appointed judges over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also declares to you that the Lord will make a house for you. 12 When your days are finished and you lie down with your fathers, I will

up your descendant after you, who will come from you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he does wrong, I will discipline him with a rod of men and with strokes of sons of mankind, 15 but My favor shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from you. 16 Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever." 17 In accordance with all these words and all of this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

**David's response to God's promise to him**

18 Then David the king came in and sat before the Lord, and he said, "Who am I, Lord God, and who are the members of my household, that You have brought me this far? 19 And yet this was insignificant in Your eyes, Lord God, for You have spoken also of the house of Your servant regarding the distant future. And this is the custom of mankind, Lord God. 20 Again what more can David say to You? For You know Your servant, Lord God! 21 For the sake of Your word, and according to Your heart, You have done all this greatness, to let Your servant know. 22 For this reason You are great, Lord God; for there is no one like You, and there is no God except You, according to all that we have heard with our ears. 23 .... 25 Now then, **Lord God, the word that You have spoken** about Your servant and his house, **confirm it forever, and do just as You have spoken, 26 so that Your name may be great forever**, by saying, 'The Lord of armies is God over Israel'; and may the house of Your servant David be established before You. 27 For You, Lord of armies, God of Israel, have given a revelation to Your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house'; therefore Your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to You. 28 **Now then, Lord God, You are God, and Your words are truth; and You have promised this good thing to Your servant. 29 And now, may it please You to bless the house of Your servant, so that it may continue forever before You. For You, Lord God, have spoken; and with Your blessing may the house of Your servant be blessed forever.**"

**One final word of caution** – *Be careful to make sure that a promise which you are trusting the Lord to accomplish in your life is intended for you – some promises are specific in nature and are given to an individual such as Abraham, David or Jesus Christ or is directed to the nation of Israel and is not directed generally for other believers.*

# THE PROMISES OF GOD

Their place in the life of the Christian

The promise of God's Word!!!

## MAKING GOD'S PROMISES MY LIFE'S EXPERIENCE.

### God's Ability

➤ **God's Character & Greatness**

**Psalm 100:5** For the Lord is good;

His mercy is everlasting

And His faithfulness is to all generations.

**Jeremiah 32:27** Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?"

**Titus 1:2** in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

**Isaiah 40:21-26** Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to live in.

23 It is He who reduces rulers to nothing, Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.

24 Scarcely have they been planted,

Scarcely have they been sown, Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth, But He merely blows on them, and they wither, And the storm carries them away like stubble.

25 "To whom then will you compare Me That I would be his equal?" says the Holy One.

26 Raise your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who brings out their multitude by number, He calls them all by name;

Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing.

➤ **His Word**

**Psalm 33:4** For the word of the Lord is right, And all His work is done in faithfulness.

**Isaiah 40:8** The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God abides forever.

## ➤ **His Power**

**I Kings 8:58** so that He may guide our hearts toward Himself, to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His ordinances, which He commanded our fathers.

**Joshua 23:14** “Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth, and you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words which the Lord your God spoke concerning you has failed; they all have [a]been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed.

## God's Promises

### ➤ **The Principle**

**II Corinthians 1:20** For as many as the promises of God are, in Him they are yes; therefore through Him also is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

### ➤ **The Purpose**

**II Peter 1:4** Through these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world on account of lust.

**II Corinthians 7:1** Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let's cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

## How Promises Work - *Our Response to God*

**John 15:7-12,16** If you remain in Me, and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. 9 Just as the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; remain in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. 11 These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. 16 You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

**Romans 4:18-21** In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “So shall your descendants be.” 19 Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as

dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; 20 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

**Hebrews 6:11-20** And we desire that each one of you demonstrate the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, 12 so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and endurance inherit the promises. 13 For when God made the promise to Abraham, since He could swear an oath by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, “indeed I will greatly bless you and I will greatly multiply you.” 15 And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. 16 For people swear an oath by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath serving as confirmation is an end of every dispute. 17 In the same way God, desiring even more to demonstrate to the heirs of the promise the fact that His purpose is unchangeable, confirmed it with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to hold firmly to the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and reliable and one which enters within the veil, 20 where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Hebrews 10:23,35,36** Let's hold firmly to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 35 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was of God, you may receive what was promised.

**Psalms 119:49** Remember the word to Your servant, In which You have made me hope.

## Our Daily Practice

1) **Faith's Formula** -- “My faith can be based only on God's faithfulness, made possible only through His Power and trusting Him to keep His Word to me.”

2) Pray for God to do in you and through you what He has promised in His Word to do.

3) Be willing for God to change you so He can fulfill His Word to You.

4) Turn commands into promises, realizing that God alone gives you the power enabling you to fulfill His commands.

5) Recognize the difference between conditional and unconditional promises. For example:

**Hebrews 13:5b** “for He Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever abandon you,” (unconditional)

**John 8:31b,32** “If you continue in My word, then you are truly My disciples; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (conditional)

*Pray that God would grant you the ability to meet the conditions for realizing these promises.*

6) Read and study God's Word to find and know the promises and commands which He intends to fulfill in your life.

Keep a “promises” list with dates and then refer to them often.

## PROMISES VERSES:

### ➤ **Promises of God's Provision:**

**James 1:17** Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or [a]shifting shadow.

**II Corinthians 9:8** And God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

Additional scriptures on provision:

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Phil. 4:19    | 2. I Cor. 10:13  |
| 3. Matt. 6:19-21 | 4. Psalm 1:1-3   |
| 5. Rom. 8:28     | 6. Isaiah 41:10  |
| 7. I Peter 5:6,7 | 8. I Peter 1:3,4 |
| 9. II Peter 1:3  | 10. James 1:5    |
| 11. Rom. 8:11    | 12. Gal. 5:22,23 |

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or Personal  
Old Testament Discipleship Series

**When Recruiting** - one on one or large group announcement. Share several personal experiences of God's blessing when you put yourself in a discipline type situation. Share some of the following scriptures, then use the rest at your first lesson time:  
Ps. 1:1-3 - I Cor. 9:24-27 - Heb. 5:11-14 - Ps.16:11  
II Pet. 1:2-4 - Matt. 7: 24-27 - I Tim. 4:8  
James 1:22-25 - II Tim 2:15 - Rom. 15:4; 10:17

Ask fellow believers if they would commit themselves to God and then to you with a few others for a period of time seeking the Lord through an Old Testament study.

**Lesson Plan / Basic Study Format:**

1. **Open** in prayer (assign a different person each time)
2. **Ask** group members if they recognized God's Hand in their lives this past week, and if they would please share it with the others.
3. **Share** their personal discoveries in the assigned chapters, a chapter at a time, answering **the three basic questions**.
4. **Develop** a list of items to pray for personally from today's lesson.
5. **Pray**, each person for the one on the right or left, the list that night and every day throughout the week.
6. **Make** next week's assignment.

**Three basic questions for each chapter:**

1. What do you think is important from this chapter?
  2. What spoke to your heart from this chapter?
  3. What questions do you have from this chapter?
- Each person needs to bring a notebook and keep notes!

{ **Suggested Lessons:**

1. Share basic format, give lesson demonstration - Genesis 1-3

2. Genesis 4-9
3. Genesis 11-14, Hebrews 7
4. Genesis 15-19, II Peter 2:1-9
5. Genesis 20,22-24, Romans 4
6. Genesis 37, 39, 40, 41, 50
7. Exodus 1-5
8. Exodus 7-11
9. Exodus 12-14, 19, 20
10. Numbers 11, Exodus 32, Numbers 16:41-17:11, Numbers 21, 25, I Cor 9:24-10:13
11. Deuteronomy 8, 11, 28, 30, 32:44-47
12. Joshua 1, 4, 5, 6
13. Joshua 7, 8, 23, 24
17. I Samuel 12-16
18. I Samuel 17, 28, 31; II Samuel 1:1-16
19. II Samuel 5, 7, 11, 12:1-14; Psalm 51
20. Psalms of David - Psalm 19, 23, 32, 37, 91, 139
21. I Chronicles 22; II Chronicles 6, 7; I Kings 3
22. II Chronicles 9:1-12  
The wisdom of Solomon Proverbs 1, 4, 7, 24; Ecclesiastes 2, 12
23. I Kings 11, 12, 13, 14; II Chronicles 9, 12
24. I Kings 16; II Chronicles 13, 14, 16
25. I Kings 16; II Chronicles 17-20
26. I Kings 17-19, 21, 22
27. II Kings 1-5
28. II Kings 6-9, 13
29. Other prophets of this time - Hosea 1-5
30. Hosea 4, 6, 7, 11, 14
31. II Chronicles 24-28
32. II Kings 17-20; II Chronicles 32
33. Other Prophets continued - Isaiah 6, 40-43
34. Isaiah 44-48
35. Isaiah 53, 55, 58, 59, 1
36. II Kings 21-25
37. Jeremiah 1-3, 7,17
38. Jeremiah 31, 32, 42, 43, 44
39. Daniel 1-5
40. Daniel 6-10
41. Ezekiel 2, 3, 12, 20, 33
42. Ezra 1, 7-10
43. Nehemiah 1, 2, 4-6
44. Haggai 1, 2
45. Esther 1-5
46. Esther 6-10
47. Hebrews 10-13; Psalm 78
48. Extra Psalms 73, 119

# Salvation

**Definition:** *Deliverance from the Penalty, Power, and Dominion of sin.*

The Christian's Salvation is a 3-fold Salvation

**IT IS A SALVATION FROM THE:**

➤ **PENALTY OF SIN**  
**JUDGMENT**

❖ **PAST** – JESUS CHRIST  
paid our penalty for sin  
before a Holy God.

❖ **Romans 8:1** “Therefore there is now no condemnation at all for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Peace replaces guilt

**Here Jesus is our SAVIOR**

{Supportive verses:

**Romans 5:1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Romans 5:16** And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification.

**Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

**Titus 3:5-7** not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

## IT IS A SALVATION FROM THE:

### ➤ POWER OF SIN DAILY VICTORY

❖ **PRESENT** – GOD’S SPIRIT provides for us the ability to overcome sin patterns and temptations

❖ **Gal. 5:16** “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.”

We experience freedom from sin resulting in Joy.

Here Jesus is our **LORD**

{Supportive verses:

**1 Thessalonians 4:3** “For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;”

**Romans 13:11-14** “Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we first believed. 12 The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let’s rid ourselves of the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let’s behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and debauchery, not in strife and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.”

**Romans 12:1,2** “Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present

your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

**Philippians 2:12,13** “So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to desire and to work for His good pleasure.”

## IT IS A SALVATION FROM THE:

### PRESENCE OF SIN ETERNAL STATE

❖ **FUTURE** – We will be united WITH GOD FOREVER in a totally sinless state.

❖ **II Peter 3:13** “But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.”

Develops hope which is guaranteed instead of an elusive dream

Here Jesus is **GLORIFIED** and we with Him forever

Supportive verses:

**Colossians 3:1-4** “Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on the things that are

above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”

**Romans 8:16,17** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

**1 Peter 1:3,4** “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,”

**Ephesians 1:18** “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,”

### **AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION –** **WHAT GOD HAS STARTED HE WILL FINISH**

**Philippians 1:6** “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”

**Jude v.24** “Now to Him who is able to protect you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy,”

Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”

**Acts 13:1-3** “Now there were prophets and teachers at Antioch, in the church that was there: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 While they were serving the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set Barnabas and Saul apart for Me for the work to which I have called them.” 3 Then, when they had fasted, prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.”

## 7. SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT

**Hebrews 5:14** “But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.”

**Colossians 3:15-17** “Let the peace of Christ, to which you were indeed called in one body, rule in your hearts; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

## 8. LOVE FOR OTHERS

**1 Thess 2:7-8** “But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing mother tenderly cares for her own children. Having thus a fond affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us.”

**Galatians 5:13** “For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

## 9. CONVICTION OF FUNDAMENTALS

### A. THE WORD OF GOD

**Romans 10:17** - “So faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of God.”

**Isaiah 55:11** “So will My word be which goes out of My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the purpose for which I sent it.”

### B. THE SPIRIT OF GOD

**John 16:8** - “And He when He comes will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.”

**Acts 1:8** “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth.”

### C. THE MESSENGER OF GOD

**John 15:16** - “You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give to you.”

**Romans 10:14,15** “How then are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? How are they to believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? 15 But how are they to preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!”

### D. THE NECESSITY OF PRAYER

**Matthew 9:37,38** - “... ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ‘Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.’”

**Ephesians 6:18** “With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be alert with all perseverance and every request for all the saints.”

## MARKS OF A SERVANT LEADER’S INFLUENCE

I’d rather see a lesson  
Than to hear one any day,  
I’d rather you’d walk with me  
Than to merely show the way.  
The eye’s a better teacher  
And more willing than the ear,  
And counsel is confusing  
But examples are always clear.  
The best of all the teachers  
Are the ones who live the creed.  
To see good put into action  
Is what everybody needs.  
I soon can learn to do it  
If you let me see it done.  
I can see your hand in action  
But your tongue too fast may run.  
And the counsel you are giving  
May be very fine and true,  
But I’d rather get my lesson  
By observing what you do!

Author Unknown

# Servant Leadership is a Biblical Principle

## THE SCRIPTURAL MANDATE:

**Matthew 20:25-28** But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles domineer over them, and those in high position exercise authority over them. 26 It is not this way among you, but whoever wants to become prominent among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever desires to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

**John 13:12-17** Then, when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done for you? 13 You call Me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord’; and you are correct, for so I am. 14 So if I, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15 For I gave you an example, so that you also would do just as I did for you. 16 Truly, truly I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. 17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

**Matthew 20:26** It is not this way among you, but whoever wants to become prominent among you shall be your servant,

**Matthew 23:11** But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.

**Mark 9:35** And sitting down, He called the twelve and \*said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”

**Mark 10:43** But it is not this way among you; rather, whoever wants to become prominent among you shall be your servant;

**Mark 10:45** For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

**Luke 22:26** ... I am among you as one who serves.

**Philippians 2:7** but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men.

**II Cor. 12: 15a** I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls.

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

**John 12:26** *If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.*

**John 3:27 & 30** *27 John replied, “A person can receive not even one thing unless it has been given to him from heaven.  
30 He must increase, but I must decrease.*

**II Corinthians 4:5** *For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants on account of Jesus.*

**Romans 16:1** *I recommend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea,*

**Hebrews 3:5** *Now Moses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later;*

**Psalms 78:70** *He also chose His servant David And took him from the sheepfolds;*

**Matthew 25:40** *‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’*

## Definition of a Christian Servant Leader

*A Servant Leader is a person who is committed to another person’s (spiritual) success.*

*The question a Christian leader needs to ask themselves is “How am I helping others to succeed in their walk with the Lord?”*

## PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE SERVANT LEADERSHIP

### 1. HEART FOR GOD

**1 Samuel 16:7** *“But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God does not see as man sees, since man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”*

**II Chron 16:9(a)** *“For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.”*

### 2. GODLY LIVING

**Romans 12:2** *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

**Ephesians 5:8** *“for you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light.”*

### 3. THE ATTITUDE FACTOR

#### A. HUMILITY

**Phil 2:3-4** *“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

**1 Peter 5:6** *“Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt you at the proper time,”*

#### B. GRATITUDE

**1 Thess. 5:18** *“In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

**Hebrews 12:28** *“Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let’s show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; “*

#### C. SPIRITUAL ROLE MODEL

**John 13:14-15** *“If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. 15“For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.”*

**John 13:34,35** *“I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another.”*

### 4. CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES

**1 Tim 4:7(b)-8** *“On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”*

**Hebrews 12:1,2** *“Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let’s rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let’s run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the*

*cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

### 5. THE BIG “3”

**1 Thessalonians 1:3** *“constantly keeping in mind your work of faith and labor of love and perseverance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father,”*

#### A. FAITH

**Romans 10:17** *“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”*

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

#### B. HOPE

**Romans 15:4** *“For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”*

**Hebrews 6:19** *“This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and reliable and one which enters within the veil,”*

#### C. LOVE

**II Corinthians 5:14-15** *“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”*

**1 Corinthians 13:1-3** *“If I speak with the tongues of mankind and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give away all my possessions to charity, and if I surrender my body so that I may glory, but do not have love, it does me no good.*

### 6. VISION

#### A. PERSONAL

**Eph 2:10** *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*

**Galatians 6:9,10** *“Let’s not become discouraged in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary. 10 So then, while we have opportunity, let’s do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”*

#### B. CHURCH

**Eph 4:11-13** *“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of*

merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

(I Pet 5:6) "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time."

#### Ask yourself:

- How has humility become increasingly evident in my life?
- In what areas is pride evident in my life?
- How do you deal with anger in your personal life?

#### Integrity is Mandatory:

(I Tim. 3:2) "An overseer, then, must be above reproach,"

(I John 1:6-9) "If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Pro. 8:13) "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil."

(Ps. 97:10a) "Hate evil, you who love the Lord."

#### Ask yourself:

- Can you see progress over sin in your life?
- How often do you confess sin? Does your confession or lack of it say something about your attitude about sin in your life?
- How strong is your hatred of sin?

#### Sacrifice is our Manner:

(II Cor 12:15) "And I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls. If I love you the more, am I to be loved the less?"

(Gal 6:14) "But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

#### Ask yourself:

- What am I sacrificing while serving the Lord?
- In what ways does sacrifice and humility relate to each other?
- How conscious am I of sacrificing for the Lord and what does that reveal about me?

#### Planning and Preparation is a Must:

(I Cor 14:40) "But let all things be done properly and in an orderly manner."

(James 4:15) "Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that.'"

#### Ask yourself:

- How much time do I spend in planning and in preparation for the ministry?
- Is my planning and preparing time used well?
- What can I do better here?

#### To Serve is our Marching Orders

(Matt. 20:26-28) ... *whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*"

(Josh. 24:14,15) "Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods ... and serve the Lord 15 If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

#### Ask yourself:

- What does serving your staff and volunteer leaders look like? How can you do better?
- How are you serving the members of your church? Can we do better? How?
- How are you serving the community around your church? Can we do better? How?

#### Christ's Likeness is our Mark / Measure

(Rom. 8:29) "For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;"

(Rom. 12:2) "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

#### Ask yourself:

- Do you measure yourself in comparison with others or with Christ?
- Do you hope others will be impressed with you or are you hoping they see Jesus in you?

## LEADERSHIP MANDATE

### EXAMPLE

is our Motto  
I Tim. 4:12

### LOVE

is our Motivation  
II Cor. 5:14

### GOD'S KINGDOM

is our Mission  
I Thess. 2:10-12

### DEPENDENCY

is our Mode  
John 15:5

### JESUS

is our Message  
II Cor. 4:5

### GOD'S WORD

is our Manual  
Psalms 19:7-11

### FAITH

is our Method  
Heb. 11:6

### PLANNING & PREPARATION

is a Must  
I Cor. 14:40

### PRAYER

is our Muscle  
Eph. 6:18-20

### THE HOLY SPIRIT

is our Means  
Zech. 4:6

### HUMILITY

is our Mind Set  
Phil 2:3.4

### SACRIFICE

is our Manner  
II Cor. 12:15

### TO SERVE

is Our Marching Orders  
Matt. 20:26-28

### CHRIST'S LIKENESS

is our Mark / Measure  
Rom. 8:29

### **Example is our Motto:**

(I Tim 4:12) *“Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.”*

(I Cor 11:1) *“Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”*

#### **Ask yourself:**

- Do I see myself as an example to others?
- In what ways am I a godly example?
- Where do I need to make some major improvements in my character and conduct?

### **Love is our Motivation:**

(II Cor. 5:14-15) *“For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.”*

(Rom 5:5) *“And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”*

#### **Ask yourself:**

- Does the love of God move me to minister?
- When do I have to choose to love even though I don't feel like loving?
- How sacrificial is my love for God?

### **God's Kingdom is our Mission:**

(I Thess. 2:10-12) *“You are witnesses, and so is God, how devoutly and uprightly and blamelessly we behaved toward you believers; 11 just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children, 12 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”*

(Matt 28:18-20) *“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’”*

#### **Ask yourself:**

- Whose kingdom am I building?
- What concerns me most my reputation or Christ's?
- How does building God's Kingdom express itself in my ministry?

### **Dependency is our Mode:**

(John 15:5) *“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart*

(Ps 127:1) *“Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain.”*

#### **Ask yourself:**

- How dependent on the Lord am I?
- What is often substituted for dependency on the Lord in your ministry?
- How offend do you become jealous while serving the Lord?

### **JESUS is our Message:**

(II Cor 4:5) *“For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake.”*

(Acts 4:12) *“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.”*

#### **Ask yourself:**

- How do I lift up the name of Jesus in my ministry?
- How often is the gospel made clear when you speak?
- How do I attempt to have others follow Jesus instead of me?

### **Prayer is our Muscle:**

(Eph. 6:18-20) *“With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, 19 and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”*

(Matt 7:7-8) *“Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. 8 ‘For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.’”*

#### **Ask yourself:**

- How am I depending on God for answered prayer?
- Is my prayer life a model for other Christians?
- Why don't I pray more?

### **God's Word is our Manual:**

(Psalm 19:7-11) *“The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the*

*LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. 10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. 11 Moreover, by them Thy servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward.”*

(II Tim 2:15) *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.”*

#### **Ask yourself:**

- What are my ministry promise verses?
- In what ways does my ministry model that of Jesus Christ?
- How do I incorporate the scriptures into the ministry?

### **Faith is our Method:**

(Heb 11:6) *“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”*

(Hab 2:4) *“Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.”*

#### **Ask yourself:**

- What do I do that is an exercise of faith?
- How is my faith expressed in the leadership team?
- In what areas of the ministry does faith need to increase?

### **The Holy Spirit is our Means:**

(Zech. 4:6) *“Then he answered and said to me, ‘This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.’”*

(John 7:38-39) *“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.’ 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”*

#### **Ask yourself:**

- In what ways is the Holy Spirit evident in the ministry?
- How does the Holy Spirit, the scriptures, faith and dependency relate?

### **Humility is our Mind Set:**

(Phil 2:3-4) *“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; 4 do not*

**II Peter 2:1-3** But false prophets also appeared among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2 Many will follow their indecent behavior, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; 3 and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

**Colossians 3:1-4** Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory

**II Peter 3:3,4** Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation."

**II Timothy 3:1-5** But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

**Titus 2:11-14** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, 12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of [c]our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus, 14 who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

**Romans 13:11-14** Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. 12 The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-10** Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness,

that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

**Matthew 24:3-16** As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" 4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. 6 You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. 8 But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. 9 Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. 10 At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. 11 Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. 12 Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. 13 But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. 14 This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come. 15 "Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), 16 then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.

**Matthew 24:32-39** "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near; 33 so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door. 34 Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. 36 "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. 37 For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be.

## PROPHECY 101

**What is prophecy?** The theological term is Eschatology which is the study of future events foretold by the God of the Bible.

### **Isaiah 46:9-11**

"Remember the former things long past,  
For I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is no one like Me,  
10 Declaring the end from the beginning,  
And from ancient times things which have not been done,  
Saying, 'My purpose will be established,  
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';  
11 Calling a bird of prey from the east,  
The man of My purpose from a far country.  
Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass.  
I have planned it, surely I will do it.

### **Why study / understand bible prophecy?**

(Because the bible is 25-30% prophetic)

**Matthew 16:2,3** But He replied to them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' 3 And in the morning, 'There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.' You know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but are you unable to discern the signs of the times?"

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

### **Biblical mandate for prophecy.**

#### **For Prophets –**

#### **Deuteronomy 13:1-5**

If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or the wonder comes true, of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let's follow other gods (whom you have not known) and let's serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer of dreams; for the Lord your God is testing you to find out whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 You shall follow the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him. 5 But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken falsely against the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, to drive you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall eliminate the evil from among you.

**Deuteronomy 18:20-22** But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name, a word which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name

of other gods, that prophet shall die.' 21 And if you say in your heart, 'How will we recognize the word which the Lord has not spoken?' 22 When the prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, and the thing does not happen or come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you are not to be afraid of him.

### **For Believers in Christ -** **Revelation 1:3**

3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

**Matthew 24:42-44** "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. 43 But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. 44 For this reason you must be ready as well; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will.

**II Peter 3: 10-13** But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

**I John 2:28** Now, little children, remain in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not draw back from Him in shame at His coming.

**1 John 3:2,3** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope set on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

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

**Acts 1:9-11** And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were watching, and a cloud took Him up, out of their sight. 10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, then behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them, 11 and they said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

## **How to best understand Bible Prophecy?**

***(Critical Biblical Prophecies as back ground for understanding how to interrupt current events)***

**First is the central personally of the Scriptures and of Prophecy – Jesus Christ (The Messiah) Hebrews 1:1,2**

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

**Revelation 19:11-16** And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. 12 His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. 13 He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. 15 From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. 16 And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

**Second is the Prominence of the Nation of Israel in End Time Events**

**Daniel 9:24-27**

"Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the wrongdoing, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for guilt, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy Place. 25 So you are to know and understand that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, until Messiah the Prince, there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with streets and moat, even in times of distress. 26 Then after the sixty-two weeks, the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. 27 And he will confirm a covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come the one who makes desolate, until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, gushes forth on the one who makes desolate."

**Isa. 66:7-9** "Before she was in labor, she gave birth; Before her pain came, She delivered a male child. 8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such

things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children. 9 Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?" says the Lord. "Shall I who cause delivery shut up the womb?" says your God.

**Ezekiel 34:13** And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land; I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, in the valleys and in all the inhabited places of the country.

**Joel 3:1,2** "For behold, in those days and at that time, When I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will also gather all nations, And bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; And I will enter into judgment with them there On account of My people, My heritage Israel, Whom they have scattered among the nations; They have also divided up My land.

**Third is the significance of Jerusalem in End Time Events**

**Zech. 12:1-3**

Thus declares the Lord who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him, 2 "Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah. 3 It will come about in that day that I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples; all who lift it will be severely injured. And all the nations of the earth will be gathered against it.

## **Some Bible Prophecies relevant to our times**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**II Timothy 3:1-5**

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, [a]haters of good, 4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 holding to a form of [b]godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

