

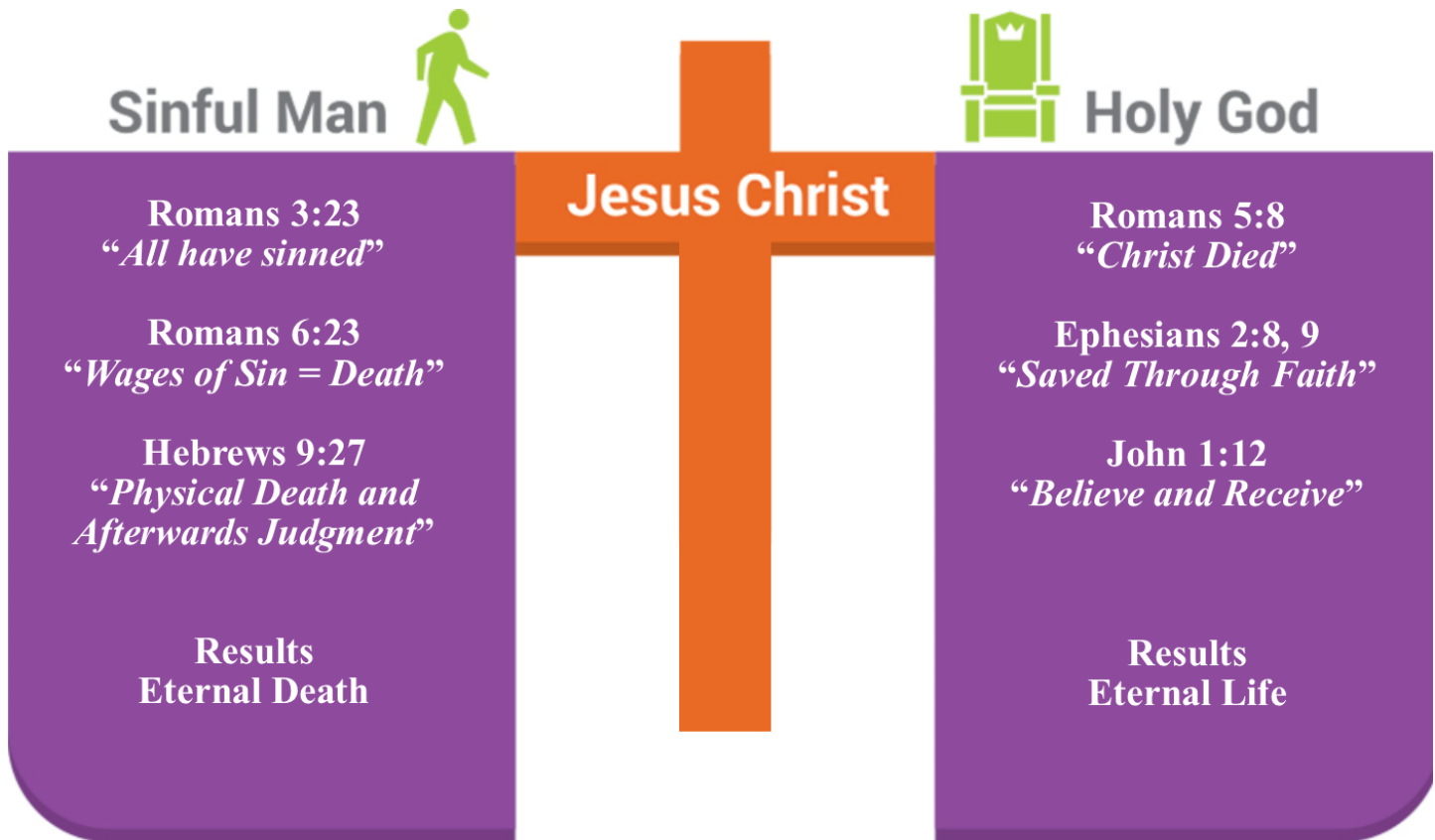
## **Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church**

**470 West Mill Street • PO Box 571, Gray Court, SC 29645**

**(864) 876-3716     [www.pvmbc1874.org](http://www.pvmbc1874.org)**

**Pastor Waddy L. Talley, Sr., Th.M – Teacher**

# BELIEVE + RECEIVE



Romans 3:23.....All Have Sinned  
 Romans 6:23.....The Penalty for Sin  
 Hebrews 9:27.....Penalty Must be Paid  
 Romans 5:8.....Penalty Paid by Christ  
 Ephesians 2:8, 9.....Salvation a Free Gift  
 John 1:12.....Must Receive Christ  
 Revelations 3:21.....Christ Knocking at Heart's Door  
 I John 5:11, 12.....Assurance of Salvation

**Believe and Receive!**

# God's Plan of Salvation

## HEAR

John 6:45,  
Rom. 10:14-17

## BELIEVE

Heb. 11:6, John 8:24,  
Rom. 1:16, Rom. 10:10

## REPENT

Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30,  
2 Cor. 7:10, 2 Pet. 3:9

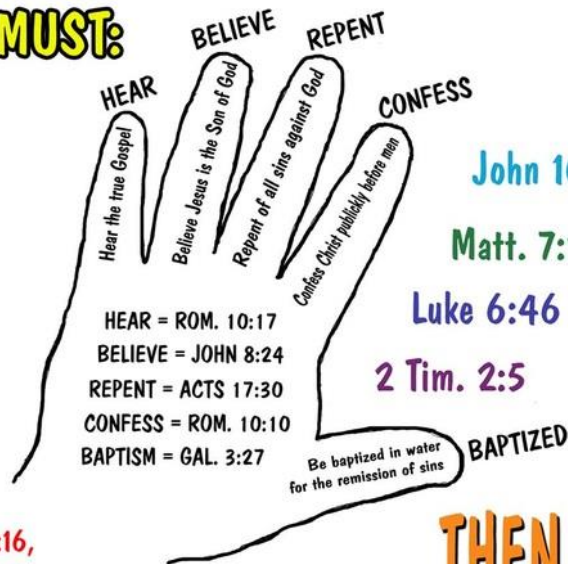
## CONFESS

Acts 8:37, Rom. 10:10  
Matt. 10:32, Luke 12:8

## BAPTISM

Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16,  
1 Pet. 3:21, Rom. 6:3-4, Gal. 3:27

## YOU MUST:



John 10:1-5

Matt. 7:21

Luke 6:46

2 Tim. 2:5

## HEAR

## BELIEVE

## REPENT

## CONFESS

+ BAPTISM

IN CHRIST



2 Tim. 2:10

THEN

Be faithful until death

Rev. 2:10, 2 Tim. 4:6-8

## 10 Key Verses to Memorize

1. **Ecclesiastes 7:20** "For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not"
2. **Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."
3. **Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"
4. **Romans 5:8** "But God commendeth his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"
5. **Hebrews 9:27** "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"
6. **Ephesians 2:8, 9** "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God; Not of works, lest any man should boast."
7. **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life."
8. **John 16:7-11** "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."
9. **John 1:12** "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name"
10. **I John 1:9, 10** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

**If you are not saved or have questions about your salvation you can be saved and absolutely sure about it right now!**

*Romans 10:9* –That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

*Romans. 10:13* –For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved

*I John 5:13* –These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

**God wants you to trust Christ as your Saviour and He will help you to understand the Plan of Salvation. God tells us that we cannot understand the Scriptures and teachings of the Holy Spirit until we are saved.**

*1 Corinthians 2:14* –But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

**Remember that God says to us that everyone is a sinner, less perfect than God.**

*Romans 3:23* – For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

**The Virgin Mary, your minister, the Pope, your mother, you and I – all are sinners!**

*Ecclesiastes 7:20* –For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not

**Now since we are sinners, let us understand that all sin must be paid for and the result and the penalty of sin is death- separation from God. And no sin can enter Heaven.**

*Romans 6:23* –For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**How then can you be saved? Nothing you can do could help you obtain the absolute perfection God requires for eternal life.**

*Ephesians 2:8* –For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

*Ephesians 2:9* –Not of works, lest any man should boast.

**So then you see that even being a “good fell’ going to church, keeping God’s Law, etc., does not save you. You must repent of your sins and then through faith believe Jesus as the Lord who paid the price for you and your sins and ask Him to save your soul.**





### Eternal Life

**I John 5:11** *“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.”*

**I John 5:12** *“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life”*

**I John 5:13** *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God”*

### Forgiveness

**Colossians 2:13** *“And you, being dead in your sins and the un-circumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses”*

**I John 1:9** *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

### Sonship

**Galatians 3:26** *“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus”*

**John 1:12** *“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”*

**Romans 8:14** *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God; they are the sons of God.”*

**Romans 8:17** *“And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and join theirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”*

**THINGS**  
*you should*  
**KNOW**

### Facts and Not Feelings

**Colossians 2:6** *“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.”*

### Inner Witness

**I John 4:13** *“Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.”*

**Romans 8:16** *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God”*

### New Creation

**II Corinthians 5:17** *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passes away; all things are become new.”*

**THINGS**  
*you will*  
**HAVE**

### A Hunger for Bible Study

**I Peter 2:2** *“As newborn babies, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby:”*

### Desire for Holy Living

**I John 2:3** *“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments”*

### Love for Others

**I John 3:2** *“Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil and his brother’s righteous”*

### Desire to Tell Others

**Acts 4:18-20** *“And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus”*

**Acts 4:19** *“But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.”*

**Acts 4:20** *“For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”*

***“If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.”***

**~ Philippians 3:11**

# CHECKLIST for Victory



**1. Be sure you are saved.**  
II Corinthians 5:17 *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new."*

**2. Be consistent in devotions and prayer**  
I Peter 2:2 *"As newborn babies, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"*

Philippians 4:6, 7 *"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

**3. Be consistent in fellowship**  
Hebrews 10:24,25 *"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*

**4. Be sure you are filled**  
Ephesians 5:18 *"And he not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit"*

**5. Learn to deal with sin and temptation**  
I John 1:9 *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"*

II Corinthians 10:13 *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."*

**6. Be obedient**  
I John 3:22 *"And whatever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight"*

**7. Stay in God's will**  
Colossians 3:15 *"And let the peace of God rule your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful"*

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

**8. Become an effective witness**  
Acts 1:8 *"But we shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

**9. Learn more of God's Word. (Read Psalm 119)**

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

**10. Live by faith in facts, not feelings**

Colossians 2:6 *"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him;"*

## **Checklist for Victory Explained**

**1. Be sure of your standing in Christ**

Every new Christian should be certain of his standing in Christ. It will be impossible to build anything into your life if you're unsure of your salvation. The blessed assurance of eternal life and forgiveness of sin is basic to an abundant Christian life.

**2. Be consistent in devotions and prayer**

It has been explained before; devotions and prayer are the basic elements of developing true communication with God. It is essential that the habit of daily involvement in these actions be developed.

Listen to what God says: I Peter 2:2 As newborn babies, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby:

Philippians 4:6, 7 Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus

**3. Be consistent in fellowship**

The new Christian must understand the importance of fellowship and church involvement. An isolated Christian will usually grow cold and defeated. There is a dynamic for Christian growth found in the fellowship of Christians.

Listen to what God says: Hebrews 10:24, 25 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

**4. Be sure you are filled**

It is important that the Christian be certain he is filled with God's Holy Spirit, for He is the source of all power for living and of change in our lives. Ephesians 5:18 clearly shows us that the filling of the Holy Spirit is a continuous process. The verb "be filled" really means "be ye being filled" and thus shows a continuing action. We are filled after meeting the conditions for it, not merely by asking for it. The three conditions are:

*Desire:* We must really want God to control our lives

*Surrender:* We must prove our desire by surrendering the control of our lives to Him

*Cleansing:* We must deal with any unconfessed sin as prerequisite to being filled, because God cannot fill an unclean vessel.

Listen to what God says: Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.

**5. Learn to deal with temptation and sin**

It is necessary for the Christian to understand that temptation is not sin, but rather the initial urging to commit sin. You should realize that God promises to give you victory over sin if you will look to Him of r strength and



deliverance. As a Christian, you should realize that temptations will come and you need to be ready for them the sources of temptation are the world, the flesh, and the devil. God has revealed much in His Word about how to deal with temptations, and the new Christians should be increasing in this knowledge. If you should succumb to temptation and sin, you should understand how confession works and deals with the sin immediately. Listen to what God says: I Corinthians 10:13 There has not temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted about that ye are able; but with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

## **6. Develop the Habit of Obedience**

It is extremely important for you to develop the habit of obedience. You need the attitude of willing obedience in all the God commands and direct you to do. By being disciplined and persistent, you will succeed in following God's will as habit of life. It is a good to understand that this type of obedient life style is attained only when you follow God's commands, regardless of how you feel. Listen to what God says: I John 3:22 And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and so those things that are pleasing in his sight.

## **7. Stay in the center of God's plan**

It is only when a Christian is consciously living in the center of God's will for his life that he has the full and abundant life God promise to believers. God's plan for our lives is good in all respects and perfect. Make sure that you are committed to finding God's will in all aspects of your life. The role of the peace of God is determining God's will as pointed out by God as He says: Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

## **8. Become an effective witness**

It is necessary for anyone who truly desires to grow in Christ to be involved in witnessing. A good way of witnessing will be the development and use of a personal evangelistic testimony. Be sure that you have been working in this tool. It would also help to attend training conferences on evangelism, and read books written on this topic. Attend our Wednesday Evening Discipleship Class and Sunday School in order to be equipped with the necessary tools for witnessing. Listen to what God says: Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

## **9. Grow in your knowledge of God's Word.**

Knowledge of God's Word is intimately tied into growth in Christ. Although knowledge alone will produce growth, all the other elements of growth already noted, without knowledge, will be unable to produce maturity. There needs to be a good balance in your life. Make sure you are getting good Bible teaching and a broad background in Christian literature. Begin to study Psalm 119 to gain a better perspective on the importance of the Word of God. II Timothy 3:16, 17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

## **10. Live by faith**

Perhaps the most significant thing for the new Christian is to get off the "feelings" orientation and get on the "fact" orientation. You must learn to place your faith in what God says rather than what you feel. This is the only way you will ever become consistently obedient, consistent in all of the other elements of effective Christian living. You must learn to trust God's word as having the answers to your problems and obey His directions whether you feel like it or not. This is the only way your faith will survive through periods of great trials, when the external emotions are negative.

Listen to what God says: Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him



# How to live a SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

Learning to be filled, which means controlled and empowered, by God's Holy Spirit, is the key to spiritual victory and effectiveness for the Christian. It is only when this condition is present in the experience of a Christian that many of the promises in the word of God begin to become real to a Christian. Christ promised an abundant and meaningful life for His followers: **John 10:10** *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*

This kind of abundant life was to be characterized by both effectiveness in ministry (service) and in personal completeness of life. Personal completeness is described by the characteristics of the Spirit. The following verses illustrate these truths.

**John 15:16** *"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."*

**Galatians 5:22,23** *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

The Holy Spirit is the source of power for this kind of Christian living. It is only when one filled with God's Holy Spirit that this kind of life becomes possible.

**Acts 1:8** *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

## **What does it mean to be Filled with the Holy Spirit?**

Jesus Christ lives His life in and through us in the power of the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Spirit in a very real sense means to be filled with Christ and be abiding in Him. This is the point Paul sought to make in Galatians 2:20 *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."*

The filling of the Holy Spirit is described for us in Ephesians 5:18. This passage gives us many insights into this all-important truth. Ephesians 5:18 *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess (extreme indulgence); but be filled with the Spirit."*

Here Paul compares being filled with the Holy Spirit to drunkenness. This shows that the filling is basically a matter of control. The question to ask is: Who or what is controlling you? A person who is drunk is controlled by the alcohol in his bloodstream. He is no longer behaving normally or with self-control. The person filled with the Spirit is controlled by Christ and is also not behaving “normally”.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a question of maturity as much as it is a question of control. A mature Christian will be filled with the Holy Spirit, but there are other factors contributing to his maturity. A spiritual Christian is one who is allowing Christ to control his life. He may be at one of several maturity levels, yet filled. Maturity in Christ is a product of both time and a Christ-controlled life. This is how the filling of the Spirit relates to growth and maturity.

## **How can I be consistently filled with God's Holy Spirit?**

There are certain conditions which must be met before one can be filled with God's Holy Spirit. These conditions are ones that need to be met continuously, not just once, because the filling of the Spirit is not a once-for-all act, but a continuing process. Being filled is not the product of asking, as much as it is a product of meeting the conditions.

### **Condition 1: Desire**

You must really want God to control your life. You must really desire the power for victorious living. The whole man-mind, will, and emotions-must be committed to Christ.

Matthews 5:6 *“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled”*

### **Condition 2: Surrender of Control**

A person must make the basic decision to step down from controlling his life. No amount of wishing or asking to be filled will avail if he has not done this. He must let Christ control his life and have the use of it, before he can be filled with the Spirit. Remember Paul's attitude expressed in Galatians 2:20 *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who lived me, and gave himself for me.”*

The truth is also seen in Romans 12:1 *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”*

### **Condition 3: Obedient Living**

It is extremely important that we are walking in obedience to God's direction. A Christian has no choice but to follow God's commands as seen in His word. Our commitment to the Lordship of Christ implies a commitment of our will to be obedient to Him in all things. Our obedience is proof of our love and our salvation. The following verses make this clear:

I John 2:3 *“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.”*

John 15:14 *“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.”*

### **Condition 4: Cleansing**

God will not fill and unclean vessel. When one sins as a Christian, he must learn to confess it to God. This is the way God has ordained for dealing with sin in our lives. This is seen in I John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”*

Confession is not merely a matter of telling the Lord you are sorry for sinning, but it also includes repenting (turning from sin) and trusting God for forgiveness. These elements are essential. The word “confess” means to

agree with God concerning your sin. These are the conditions for the filling of God's Holy Spirit. If you have met these conditions, then as a simple act of faith, surrender your life, ask Christ to control your life, and trust Him that He has and will continue to do so. Consistently walking in the Spirit is a product of meeting the conditions day by day.

It is a simple matter of Believe and Receive. If you have not done this before do it right now by repeating this little prayer. Be sincere and honest.

### **Now that YOU are a Christian**

Now that you are save and have become a member of the church, there are certain obligations and responsibilities to Christ, your Church and Pastor that you should willingly assume.

As a Christian, especially a new Christian, one of the most essential elements or needs in your life is that of real sincere prayer. Before you undertake to go into the Christian warfare and battlefield, you must develop a constant, consistent, and continuing prayer life. The following diagram outlines will give you some steps you can follow that will help you to understand what prayer is and what it will do.



### **Purpose of Prayer**

#### **Prayer satisfies the deepest need of the human heart**

*Psalms 42:1 "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God."*

#### **Prayer is a means of discovering God's guidance**

*Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."*

*James 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men, liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."*

#### **Prayer is the means of God has given us to deal with worry.**

*Philippians 4:6, 7 "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"*

*I Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."*

## **Prayer is the means of communicating our need and concerns to God.**

John 16:23-27 *“And in the day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father. At that day ye shall ask in my name: a I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you; for the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out for God.”*

Hebrews 4:16 *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

I John 5:14 *“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us.”*

### **Prayer aids us in our fight against sin and temptation**

Matthew 6:13 *“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever Amen.”*

Matthew 26:41 *“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”*

II Thessalonians 3:1-3 *“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith. But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.”*

## **Things that will Hinder Effective Prayer**

### **Not praying in faith or believing.**

James 1:5-8 *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men, liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”*

### **Not praying enough or really asking for anything**

Matthew 21:22 *“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive”*

James 4:3 *“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon you lusts.”*

### **Asking for the wrong reasons (Selfishness)**

James 4:3 *“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon you lusts.”*

### **Because of unconfessed sin in one's life**

Psalms 66:18 *“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.”*

### **Because of unsolved marital problems**

I Peter 3:7 *“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayer be not hindered.”*



## **Living outside of God's will.**

I John 5:14,15 *"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us; and we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of them."*

## **How to Be Effective in Prayer**

### ✓ **Be well rounded.**

There is no more than one type of prayer. In order to be effective there must be a balance in one's prayer life. Phil. 4:6, 7 related three essential elements of effective prayer:

- Personal requests: The personal request needs and desires we express to God
- Supplication: The request we make for other people and projects
- Thanksgiving: Remembering to thank God for His answers and provision for our needs.

### ✓ **Be constant**

### ✓ **Be specific**

### ✓ **Be systematic**

Prayer, my dear friend, is very serious business. There is not greater privilege that God has given to man than the privilege of prayer. Just think: prayer gives us access into the very presence of God. To think that you and I can hold a conversation with the God of the universe and He hears us because He loves us and He answers our prayers! The wonder is that we do not use this privilege more often.

## **How to Deal with Temptations**

I Corinthians 10:13 *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."*

You are definitely going to be tempted of the devil. This however will help you to become a mature Christian if you learn to deal with it in God's way. Temptation is the initial urging a person feels to commit sin. In itself temptation is not sin. However, if not dealt with correctly and immediately it can become sin rapidly.

## **Source of Temptation**

The Bible teaches that temptation to sin come from three sources:

### ***Satan (the devil)***

Genesis 3:1-5 *"Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God has made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, we may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil"*

I Peter 5:8 *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."*

Revelations 20:1 *"And I say an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled; and after that he must be loosed a little season."*

### ***The flesh***

Romans 8:5-13 *“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is not of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”*

### ***The world***

John 16:33 *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulations: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world”*

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

I Timothy 6:10 *“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have earned from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”*

I John 2:15 *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”*

## **How You can Escape the Sin of Temptations**

### **Be alert. Be on guard against the tempter (Satan)**

I Corinthians 16:13 *“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong”*

I Peter 5:8 *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”*

### **Be filled. You will never successfully defeat temptation in you own strength. It is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that victory becomes possible.**

Acts 2:8 *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

Ephesians 5:18 *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”*

Philippians 4:13 *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”.*

### **Be quick. Temptation must be dealt with when it arises. Don't put it off. Scripture shows a definite progression of events leading from temptation to sin, in James 1:14,15**

**Know Biblical escapes. First Corinthians 10:13 states that with every temptation, God promises a means of escape. Study God's word and rely on it to help find a way out.**

Psalms 119:11 *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee”*

II Timothy 2:22 *“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”*

Matthew 4:11 *“Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him”*

James 4:7 *“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

## WHAT IS BAPTISM?



Baptism is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, established for continuous observance by his people. Every believer or regenerate person is under obligation to submit to this ordinance of Jesus Christ.

Baptism is the immersion in water of the believer in the name of the father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. The truths symbolized in baptism are the following:

- ✓ Remission of Sins
- ✓ Fellowship or union with Christ death and resurrection
- ✓ Cleansing from all unrighteousness and concentration to the service of God.

Baptism is a prerequisite to church fellowship and to participation in the Lord's Supper.

Scriptures:

Matthew 3:7; Matthew 21:25; Mark 1:4; Mark 1:9; Romans 6:4  
Acts 2:38; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:38; Ephesians 4:5; Colossians 2:12  
1 Peter 3:21; Galatians 3:27



The Lord's supper is an ordinance of Christ's church wherein the elements are bread and wine. The bread symbolizes the body Christ given for the salvation of humanity and the wine symbolizes His blood shed for the remission of sins.

Scriptures:

Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 11:26; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-23

# RESPONSIBILITIES OF EVERY CHURCH MEMBER

Romans 12:4-13



## Be a "F.A.T." CHRISITAN Faithful- Avaliable- Teachable

The church member has sacred responsibilities. He has become a member of God's family and it is his privilege and duty to play his part in forwarding and helping the cause of Jesus Christ. God has a plan for the world, and the Church member, as a Christian, should fit into his plan. Here are some of his responsibilities.

**Serving.** The Pastor cannot do the work of the church alone. He needs others to help him. There are many ways of helping such as ushering, singing in the choir, visitation programs, teaching Sunday school classes and holding an office in the church. Remember you are serving Christ and not the Pastor. God gives rewards for your works, not your idleness.

**Learning.** You should come to church to know your Bible well. You should learn how to serve and you should know your church and its practices. There are many opportunities for this through the total program. You are expected to become actively involved in our Church Bible and Discipleship training classes on Wednesday nights and Saturday afternoons as well as Sunday school each Sunday morning at 9:15.

**Witnessing.** A Christian is always desirous that others would come to know Jesus Christ. We are God's ambassadors. Therefore, our lives should always represent Him. The church offers opportunities for witnessing through various calling programs and gives training to this end. God says we are His witnesses; Christ made known to others by us. Share Christ by becoming a soul winner!

**Praying.** Prayer is a vital part of Christian living. All Christians should learn how to pray in order that their lives may experience its many benefits and blessings. Joining with others in prayer affords a great spiritual stimulus. We will assign you a prayer partner and expect to see you in prayer meeting on Wednesdays at 9:30 am or 6:30 pm.

**Worshipping.** Worship keeps the soul of your church alive. You should regularly attend the Sunday worship services and be faithful. You should be reverent at all times in church. Remember, you are worshipping God.

**Giving.** What each member gives is between himself and God. Our church advocates "tithing". This means giving one-tenth of all money one earns to Christ and His Church. We should give cheerfully because God has given us everything in the first place. You are urged to give regularly, Sunday by Sunday. The Church has many expenses and it supports a missionary program. Envelopes will be provided for your use, which helps you to be careful and diligent, and which will give you an official record from the Financial Secretary for Income Tax deduction purposes. Remember, tithing is a starting point for Christian giving.

## UNDERSTANDING THE TWO NATURES

OLD  
MAN



V S

NEW  
MAN



### Does a Truly Saved Person Sin Any More?

Much confusion arises from improper teaching of the two natures of man. I feel that you need to understand this lesson so that you can effectively live your life for the Lord. The understanding of the good and the bad or sinful and saved man who occupies residency in your life is needed. Without the understanding you will be confused, doubtful, anxious, and unable to maintain your faithfulness to the cause of Christ. (Read Romans 7.)

Lack of understanding of the two natures brings about questions like the following (1) Does a truly saved person sin more? (2) Can I lose my salvation if I keep sinning? (3) What happens to a Christian when they sin? (4) How can a Christian have the power to really serve the Lord? In our series of lessons, we will prayerfully and scripturally try to answer these questions. But first of all let us note some things about the new birth.

The new birth is provided by God when a man by sincere faith accepts the payment that the Lord Jesus made for him on Calvary's cross. We are not saved as a result of our works or deeds (Eph. 2:8, 9). It is not water baptism that saves us. The thief on the cross was saved at the last minute but died without water baptism. But he received salvation. We are saved as a result of a new birth. Note that John 3:5 states a man must be born of water.

However, this Scripture definitely speaks of water as the Holy Spirit. It means being born of living water, not H<sub>2</sub>O, and is referred to throughout the book of John as the Holy Spirit.

John 4:11 *"The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; from whence then hast thou that living water?"*

John 4:14 *"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him, shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."*

John 7:38,39 *"He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water, (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given, because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)"*

**The First Birth is of the flesh. The Second Birth is of the Spirit.**

John 3:6 *"That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."*

These two are completely separate, and nothing of the birth of the flesh has anything to do with the second birth which is of the spirit. The flesh birth is from fleshly parents. The spirit birth is from God himself, who is a Spirit.

John 1:12-13 *"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*



The new birth does not come from prayers; neither is speaking in an unknown tongue and evidence of the fact that you have received the new birth. It is a simple matter of confession and admittance of the fact that you are a sinner and a belief in your heart that you believe in Christ Jesus as the Son of God and an invitation to Him to come into your life to become Lord and Master. The Holy Spirit is the guaranteed by God to you and to all who will believe.

John 7:38,39 *“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water, (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given, because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”*

II Corinthians 1:22 *“Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”*

The Holy Spirit is always spoken of as a gift of God, not coming by man's efforts.

Romans 5:5 *“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”*

There is absolutely nothing you can do to earn, work for or buy salvation. If that were so, then all rich folk could buy a tick to heaven and the poor would not have enough for a down payment and make it even if it could be paid in installments.

### **The Understanding**

When a person is saved, a man's carnal desires of the flesh do not change or improve one iota. They remain the same. Flesh is flesh, and it remains that way. Much unscriptural teaching and confusion come from thinking the old nature should get better after receiving salvation, and when people still see sin in their lives, it brings great doubt as to whether or not their conversation was real, or whether or not they have lost their salvation. (We will discuss the scriptural fact of “once saved, always saved” in the next session)

# GLOSSARY

These are not exhaustive definitions. They tell how words are used in this manual.

## **ADORATION**

Great love, devotion and respect. You can adore God in prayer by focusing on all that He is and all He has done and by honoring Him.

## **ASCENSION (of Christ)**

Name describing what happened following the resurrection when Jesus Christ publicly and visibly left earth and entered Heaven where He acts on our behalf.

## **BODY OF CHRIST**

A group which includes all those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and are believers in Him. Christ is the head of the Body and individual believers are various members of it. This term is sometimes used to refer to the Church.

## **CHURCH**

A group of people who know and love Christ. A local congregation. Today church also is the name of a Christian place of worship.

## **COMMITMENT**

A pledge or a promise of faithfulness; the entrusting of oneself into the charge of keeping of another.

## **CONFESSION**

To acknowledge sin and guilt before God

## **CURCIFIXION**

A very painful form of death used frequently in Roman times. A person was nailed or bounded to a cross

## **DEVIL**

Chief opponent to God, His plan and His people. A real being referred to in the Bible as Satan, god of this world, adversary, enemy.

## **ETERNAL**

Having no beginning and no end

## **FAITH**

Synonyms include trust, belief, and hope. Having faith in God involves abandoning trust in one's own resources and relying on God.

## **FELLOWSHIP**

A group of people mutually sharing experiences, activities and interests.

**GRACE**

The underserved love and mercy of God towards man.

**HOLY**

Spiritually perfect or pure  
Set apart for God's use

**IMMORTAL**

Enduring, deathless, living forever

**IMMUTABLE**

That quality of God's perfection whereby He does not change

**INFINITE**

Having no limits or boundaries; extending beyond measure or comprehension

**JUSTIFICATION**

God's declaration of guilty men as righteous because of their faith in Christ. Simply put, God pardons my sin so that I am just – as – if – I'd never sinned.

**MEDITATE**

To reflect or think deeply on something

**OMNIPOTENCE**

A word describing God's ability to do whatever He wills or desires

**OMNIPRESENCE**

God's presence everywhere at once. He fills the universe in all its parts; not a part, but the whole of God is present in every place.

**OMNISCIENCE**

God's perfect and eternal knowledge of all things; past, present and future.

**PRAISE**

An expression of joy to God in response to who He is and what He's done

**PRAYER**

Talking with God

**PRIORITIES**

People or things in a person's life which are most important to him.

**PROPHECY**

Used two ways in the Bible: 1. The proclamation of God's messages. 2. Predictions concerning the future.

**RESURRECTION**

Christ's body return to life after His death. Because of Christ, Christians will also experience resurrection, a bodily return to life after death

**SALVATION**

To be rescued or saved from something. For Christians, salvation especially refers to being saved from God's judgment.

**SANCTIFICATION**

A process of inward change whereby the Holy Spirit makes the believer more and more like Christ. It results in a life of more and more goodness and godliness.

**SIN**

Any failure, error, transgression, unrighteousness which separates us from God.

**SUPERNATURAL**

Something which exists or occurs outside the normal experience of knowledge of man and is caused by other than the known forces of nature.

**SUPPLICATION**

Asking God for something in prayer.

**WITNESS**

One who gives a firsthand account of something that has occurred; also to testify or give evidence. A believer witnesses when he tells what he knows and is experiencing in Christ.

**WORSHIP**

The expression of God of love and devotion



**How can we know, definitely, the purpose and leadings of the Lord for our lives? Here are key points to remember:**

Many Christians depend exclusively on their impressions to determine the will of God.

However, not all impressions are valid. Some are from God; some are from Satan; some are probably of our own asking

Since it is difficult to determine the origin of an impression, we can easily make a mistake while assuming that a feeling is sent from God.

Our Lord has promised to enlighten us and “guide us with his eye”. On the other hand, He wants to “test” and “prove” our impressions and leadings.

Therefore, every impression should be tested by four criteria before being accepted as valid:

*Is it scriptural?* This test involves more than taking a random proof text. It means studying what the whole Bible teaches. Use a concordance, search the Scriptures as did the Bereans (Acts. 17:11). Evaluate tentative learning against the immutable word of God.

*Is it right?* Every expression of God’s will can be expected to conform to God’s universal principles of morality and decency. If an impression would result in the depreciation of human worth or the integrity of the family or related traditional Christian values, it must be viewed with suspicion.

*Is it providential?* The third test requires every impression to be considered in the light of providential circumstances. Such as: Are the necessary doors opening or closing? Do circumstances permit the implementation of what I feel to be God’s will? Is the Lord speaking to me through events?

*Is it reasonable?* The final criterion against which the will of God is measured relates to the appropriateness of the act. Does it make sense? Is it consistent with the character of God to require it? Will this act contribute to the Kingdom?

Satan will offer false representatives of the will of God, including astrologers, witches, mediums, false teachers, etc. We must scrupulously avoid these alternatives and “hold fast to that which is good”

There will be times when the will of God will not be abundantly clear to us. During those occasions, we expected to retain our faith and “wait on the Lord.”