

PART 1 – SALVATION

Week 1 “Salvation”

Salvation is the single greatest benefit any human being could ever receive in their life. But what does it mean to be saved?

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Our text teaches us that...

***God saves us apart from any human works
by grace through faith, resulting in a life of good works.***

In other words, the root of salvation bears the fruit of a Godly life.

Let's first define salvation by stating what it is **NOT**:

- Salvation is **not** universal. (Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23)
- Salvation is **not** by good works. (Ephesians 2:8-10)
- Salvation is **not** attained by trying to live a legalistic life. (Romans 3:20 and 3:23)

1. Salvation is Empowered and Initiated by God.

Ephesians 2:1-5 (NIV)

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. 4 But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.

Paul states that before Christ, we are dead in our sins. Dead men can't do anything to change their situation. It takes an act of God to impart life on a dead man. Likewise, it takes an act of God to saved those who are dead in their sins. Jesus taught this same truth to a religious leader named Nicodemus when He told him, recorded in John 3:7, "You must be born again." Just as we didn't have anything to do with our own physical birth, so we can do nothing to bring ourselves from spiritual death to spiritual life. Only God can do that!

We share the gospel. We urge people to accept Christ. That doesn't change how we witness. But the point to keep in mind as we witness is: unless God imparts life to this dead sinner, he will not be saved.

John 1:12-13 (NIV)

12 Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God-- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

Notice the sequence in John 1. So evangelism is much more than persuading someone to make a decision for Christ as we present the gospel, we pray for God to work the miracle of regeneration in this dead sinner.

2. A person must have some realization of the fact that He is lost.

As a lost person, I was a spiritual corpse. So I didn't just need a little help. Some start sharing salvation by saying, "God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. That is the truth, but it isn't the whole truth." The truth is I'm dead in my transgression and sins.

Because of my sin, I am cut off and separated from God.

Ephesians 4:18 (NIV)

They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

Because of my sin, I am under God's condemnation and wrath.

John 3:18 (NIV)

Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:36 (NIV)

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.

So I need the Holy Spirit to convict me regarding sin, righteousness, and judgment.

John 16:8-9 (NIV)

8 When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in Me;

That means before I am saved, I have to realize I am lost. The Good News isn't Good News unless I know first what the bad news is! If someone doesn't know they are lost, he won't be interested in your directions as how to be saved.

3. Salvation is a Grace Gift.

Ephesians 2:8 (NIV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--

Salvation is a gift. That means it is given.

But it is "By Grace." That means His unmerited favor shown to those who deserve His wrath. So since God freely gives salvation, this means that God can save the worst of sinners.

Romans 5:8 (NIV)

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

4. This Gift is Received and Opened by Faith alone.

This faith is not a vague, general belief in God. The Bible says in James 2:19 – “Even the demons believe, and tremble.” Saving Faith has 3 facets to it: Knowledge, Acceptance, and Personal Trust.

Knowledge – Faith is not a blind leap into the dark. Some say, “It doesn’t matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere.” That’s like saying, “It doesn’t matter what medicine you take, as long as you are sincere.” That’s crazy! You can be sincere and still be sincerely wrong!!

You must have some knowledge about God to be saved. You must know that He is Holy and that you are a sinner. You must know that God sent His son to die for your sins. You must know that He lived a perfect life and died a sacrificial death. You must know that on the third day Jesus rose again to defeat sin, death, hell, and the grave!

Acceptance – You must then accept that these facts are true. Saving Faith includes giving intellectual assent to the truth of these facts. But again, if that is all that is involved with saving faith, then Satan and the demons are saved!

Personal Trust – You must commit yourself to the Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. For example, you might be an expert on airplanes. You may know and accept that it is mechanically sound. You may agree that it will fly. But knowing these facts will not get you anywhere. To get somewhere, you have to get on board. Another example is a chair. You might be an expert on woodwork. You might accept that a chair is built well and is sturdy. But it does no good if you don’t ever sit down in it and experience the chair for yourself.

Saving faith means that you personally surrender to what you know and accept. Saving faith means that you trust Jesus Christ to deliver you from God’s wrath and judgment by what He did for you on the cross. You “get on board” and don’t keep one foot on the ground. He is both your Savior and Lord. You can’t take Him as one without the other. You can’t have one foot in the world and one foot in Christ and stand for anything!

The problem is that too many people have made a decision about Jesus; but have not dedicated their lives to Him. Disciples come from those who dedicate themselves, not to those who said they made a decision.

5. This Gift leads to good works!

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Paul is saying that salvation is entirely from God and it results in a life of good works. As Salvation comes from Him, good works come from His power through our lives. It all comes from God and so He gets all the glory!!

PART 1 – SALVATION

Week 2

“Symbols of our Faith”

If you looked up the definition of symbols you would find the following: “A thing that represents or stands for something else.” Biblical symbols are outward expressions of something significant inside someone’s soul.

Symbols are very important and have several levels of meaning. For example, take Nike. Years ago, every Nike shoe had the word “Nike” on them with their trademark swoosh. Now, most of Nike’s shoes only have the swoosh on them. Everyone knows that the swoosh means it is a Nike shoe. They know what that symbol represents. But only a few people now that the word Nike comes from a Greek word that means “Victory.” It is a symbol known around the world.

1 John 5:4 (NIV)

for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

God has given His children two symbols of our faith to honor what He has done for us. These two symbols are Water Baptism and The Lord's Supper. So, let's take a look at the Symbols of Water Baptism and The Lord's Supper and see the meanings behind these symbols of our Faith.

WATER BAPTISM

Why Should I be Water Baptized?

- **To follow the Example set by Christ.**

Mark 1:9 (NIV)

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

- **Because Christ Commands it.**

Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV)

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

- **Because it demonstrates that I am really a Believer.**

Acts 18:8 (NIV)

Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

1 John 2:3 (NIV)

We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands.

What is the Meaning of Water Baptism?

- **It illustrates Christ's Death and resurrection.**

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NIV)

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Colossians 2:12 (NIV)

having been buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.

- **It illustrates my [New Life](#) as a believer.**

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

Romans 6:4 (NIV)

We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Why should I be Water Baptized by Immersion?

- **Because [Jesus](#) was baptized this way.**

Matthew 3:16 (NIV)

As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him.

- **Every baptism in the [Bible](#) was by immersion.**

Acts 8:38-39 (NIV)

38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

- The word “baptize” (Greek: baptizo) means To dip under the water.
- It best symbolizes a burial and Resurrection.

Who should be Water Baptized?

- Every person who has Believed in Christ.

Acts 8:12 (NIV)

But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

When should I be Water Baptized?

- As soon as you Believed.

Acts 2:41 (NIV)

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Acts 8:36 and 38 (NIV)

36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" . . .

38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

THE LORD’S SUPPER

Jesus never asked His disciples to remember His birth. But He did instruct them to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called “ordinances”) as reminders of His death. These two ordinances are Baptism and The Lord’s Supper. The Lord’s Supper is an object lesson that represents a great spiritual truth for believers.

What is The Lord's Supper?

- It is a [Simple Act](#).

1 Corinthians 11:23 (NIV)

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread,

- It is a [Reminder](#).

1 Corinthians 11:24 (NIV)

and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

- It is a [Symbol](#).

1 Corinthians 11:25 (NIV)

In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

- It is a [Statement of Faith](#).

1 Corinthians 11:26 (NIV)

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Who should take The Lord's Supper?

- Only those who are already [Believers](#).

Mark 14:22-23 (NIV)

22 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take it; this is My body."

23 Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it.

How to I prepare for the Lord's Supper?

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 (NIV)

27 Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. 32 When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

We prepare for the Lord's Supper through . . .

Self-Examination	1 Corinthians 11:27
Confession of Sin	1 John 1:9
Recommitment	Romans 12:1-2
Restoring Relationships	Matthew 5:23-24

PART 1 - SALVATION

Week 3

“Statements of our Faith”

HCC is a church that believes in bringing people and God together. At HCC we feel that Jesus' overwhelming love should be shared with everyone. We have a heart for people and our goal is to make sure that everyone who walks through our doors feels **His love.**

Matthew 22:36-40 (NIV)

36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"
37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

VISION and PURPOSE

HCC not only stands for Hattiesburg Community Church, but also for Hearts Continually Changing. We believe that God created us to know Him and love Him. When one enters a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, we believe that should not be the end of the journey but only the beginning. Upon receiving new life in Christ we then begin the process of spiritual growth. God does a continual work of transforming our lives to make us more like Him, and as we grow in the Lord, we become the instruments of God's grace and mercy unto others.

Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)

1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children
2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--His good, pleasing and perfect will.

Key Thoughts to Fulfill Our Purpose:

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

44 All the believers were together and had everything in common.

45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.

46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

<u>W</u> orship	We celebrate and respond to God's presence.	(Magnify)
<u>E</u> vangelism	We share the good news of salvation.	(Missions)
<u>D</u> iscipleship	We educate God's people.	(Maturity)
<u>F</u> ellowship	We love and encourage God's family.	(Membership)
<u>M</u> inistry	We demonstrate God's love.	(Ministry)
<u>P</u> rayer	We listen and talk to God.	(The Master)
	Commune with God and tune in to W.E.D.F.M	

OUR BELIEFS

GOD

We believe that there is one true, Holy God, eternally existing in three personalities: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. The blessed Trinity is co-equal and as such, each possesses all the characteristics and attributes of deity. God is the creator and ruler of all.

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. He is co-equal with Father. He lived a perfect sinless life and offered Himself on a cross as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people. He voluntarily became our substitute in order to pay for our sins, thus satisfying divine justice and accomplishing salvation for all who will receive Him as Savior and Lord.

He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power and victory over sin, satan, and death. He ascended to the glory of heaven where He is the only mediator between God and man. One day He will gather His children and return to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son. He is present in this world to convict people of their need for Jesus Christ. He indwells the believer through salvation in Jesus Christ. He enlightens believers and is our powerful source of assurance, strength, and wisdom. He endows each believer with spiritual gifts for the building up of the body of Christ, which is the church. He guides believers in understanding and applying the Word of God. His power, control, and fresh filling are appropriated by faith, making it possible for the believer to lead a life of Christ-like character and to bear spiritual fruit to the glory of the Father.

SALVATION

Salvation involves the redemption of a person and is evidenced by a changed life. Salvation is offered freely by Jesus Christ to all who will receive Him as their personal Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ paid for the penalty of our sins by His own body and blood. Salvation can be understood in three views: Justification, Sanctification, and Glorification.

Justification is God's gracious and full forgiveness of our sins through Jesus. In order for this to occur new life must come. The Bible calls this being born again or anew. It is a work of God's grace whereby believers become a new creation in Christ. It is a change of heart brought about by The Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds with repentance (change in direction) toward God and faith in Jesus Christ. Through this personal relationship with Jesus, we become His child and thereby justified through His love and grace.

Sanctification begins with new life in Christ, through which the believer is set apart for God's purposes. The believer is enabled to progress toward spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit indwelling and continually filling him or her. Growing in the grace of the Lord should not cease, thus our hearts are continually changing.

Glorification is the culmination of our salvation through entering the glory of heaven and rejoicing in our final abiding state of the redeemed with our Lord Jesus Christ.

CHURCH

The universal church is comprised of all who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The church is experienced through a local body of believers who have come together in the faith and fellowship of the gospel.

ETERNITY

People were created to exist forever. We will exist in one of two places. We will exist forever with God through His forgiveness in Jesus Christ in Heaven (Salvation), or we will exist forever, separated from God, through unbelief in a place called Hell (Condemnation). Death or the return of Jesus Christ will seal a person's destiny.

SACRED RIGHTS

Sacred rights are acts ordained by God, thus called ordinances of the church. At HCC we consider these as privileged acts of worship.

Believers Baptism is obedience to the Lord's commands through immersion of a believer in water in the name of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. It is an act symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen savior. The act symbolizes the believer's death to sin and the old life, and being raised to walk in the newness of life in Christ. It is a living testimony of a living faith.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby believers memorialize the death of our Lord and Redeemer through the partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, which represent His body and His blood. Through this act we acknowledge that Our Lord Jesus is Risen, Reigning, and one day will be Returning.

FAITH AND PRACTICE

We acknowledge the priesthood of the believer whereby the Holy Scripture is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. The church cannot bind the conscience of an individual; rather each believer is to be led by The Holy Spirit, to whom each believer will be responsible. We as believers are to exhort and encourage each other in our spiritual journey toward Christ-likeness.

CHURCH GOVERNANCE

The governance of Hattiesburg Community Church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other body or organization. We acknowledge Jesus Christ as the head of the church. The church will be based on a theocracy, which means each member of the body is entitled to vote their conscience as they are led by The Holy Spirit. We will seek the will of the Lord through decisions of the body of believers. Prayer will precede all decisions of the body. The body will recognize the biblical positions of pastoral leaders, elders, and lay ministers. Each believer will be encouraged to recognize his or her spiritual giftedness in order to participate and contribute to the functioning of the church. All believers will be encouraged to express their hearts desire on every decision brought before the body. The decisions of the body will be understood and made by a consensus of the majority of believers during a regular scheduled business session.

MINISTRY

The ministry of Hattiesburg Community Church will be lay led. The lay leadership positions will be defined and filled by the body of believers. Each lay leader will be given the freedom to encourage, enlist and train others to fulfill the appropriate ministry based upon the needs to be met through that particular ministry.

PART 2 – SPIRITUAL HEALTH

Week 4 “Structure and Strategy”

STRUCTURE

1 Corinthians 14:33 and 40 (NIV)

33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

As in all the congregations of the saints, . . .

40 But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.

We believe:

THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH DETERMINES ITS STRUCTURE!

In other words, what the Church is determines how it is organized.

For example:

1. The Church is a Fellowship.

Acts 2:42 (NIV)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

A top priority in a fellowship is Harmony and Unity.

Ephesians 4:3 (NIV)

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Romans 14:19 (NIV)

Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

Implication:

A good structure promotes Unity and Downplays difference.

1 Corinthians 11:17-18 (NIV)

17 In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good. 18 In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and to some extent I believe it.

2. The Church is a Family.

Galatians 6:10 (NIV)

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

1 Peter 4:17 (NIV)

For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Implication: We operate on the basis of relationships not rules.

1 Timothy 5:1-2 (NIV)

1 Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father.
Treat younger men as brothers,
2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

3. The Church is a Body.

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Ephesians 1:22-23 (NIV)

22 And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.

Implication: We function on the basis of spiritual gifts, not elected offices.

4. The Church is a Flock.

John 10:7-11 (NIV)

7 Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep.
8 All who ever came before Me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through Me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
11 "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Implication: HCC is cared for and led by Shepherds.

3 different terms are used in the New Testament to refer to the same church leaders.

“Poimen”	Pastor or Shepherd
“Presbuteros”	Elder
“Episcopos”	Overseer or Bishop

1 Peter 5:1-4 (NIV)

1 To the **elders** (Presbuteros) among you, I appeal as a fellow **elder**, (Presbuteros) a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed:

2 Be **shepherds** (Poimen) of God's flock that is under your care, serving as **overseers** (Episcopos) --not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve;

3 not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

Acts 20:17 (NIV)

From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the **elders** (Presbuteros) of the church.

Acts 20:28 (NIV)

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers** (Episcopos). Be **shepherds** (Poimen) of the church of God, which He bought with his own blood.

HCC Structure

- Pastor
- Associate Pastors and Church Staff
- Council of Elders
- Lay Ministers
- Members

STRATEGY

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (NIV)

22 To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some.

23 I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

We try to gear everything we do at HCC to allow us to get on common ground with a lost person so that we can share the Good News.

Our target audience is the same target audience that Jesus had.

EVERYONE

Romans 10:13 (NIV)

for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Our purposes are the same purposes that Jesus has.

John 20:21 (NIV)

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you."

How did the Father send Jesus? What is the purpose of Jesus Christ? Each one of the gospel writers gives us a purpose statement of why Jesus came.

Matthew 20:28 (NIV)

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."

Mark 10:45 (NIV)

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 19:10 (NIV)

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

John 10:10 (NIV)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

THE INDWELLING CHRIST

We are not sent out alone! He is not only with us, but He is also in us. When you invited Jesus to come into your life, He did. Christianity is LIFE – the Life of Christ coming into you and then Christ living through each moment of each day. It is not trying to imitate Christ, but it is Christ indwelling you. It is not trying to live like Christ; it is trusting Christ to live in and through you.

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.
The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave himself for me.

Colossians 1:27 (NIV)

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit,
who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;
20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

He is more than a helper to assist you; more than a teacher to instruct you; and more than a friend to encourage you. He does more than just give you strength. He is your life!!

PART 2 – SPIRITUAL HEALTH

Week 5 **“Spiritual Maturity”**

What is Spiritual Maturity?

Ephesians 4:13 (NIV)

until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Spiritual Maturity is being like Christ.

Romans 8:29 (NIV)

For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.

3 Statements about Spiritual Maturity

1. It is NOT Automatic

Hebrews 5:12-14 (NIV)

12 In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food!

13 Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. 14 But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

2. It is a Process

Proverbs 8:5 (NIV)

You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, gain understanding.

2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

3. It takes Discipline

1 Timothy 4:7 (NIV)

Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather,
train yourself to be godly.

Understanding Discipleship

1. Mature believers are called Disciples, which means “a learner.”
2. I cannot be a disciple without being Disciplined.
3. The more disciplined I become, the more God can use me.
4. The mark of a disciple is Cross-Bearing.

Luke 14:27 (NIV)

And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple.

5. Discipleship happens Daily.

Luke 9:23 (NIV)

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after Me,
he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

6. What attitude is involved in “Cross bearing”?

Whatever it takes to give Christ first place in my life

Philippians 4:13 (NIV)

I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.

1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,

PART 2 – SPIRITUAL HEALTH

Week 6

“Spending Time with The Lord”

Two major ways of spending time with the Lord are Bible Study and prayer.

*“Anyone who wants to be always united to God must
pray often and read the Bible often.*

*For in prayer it is we who are speaking to God,
but in the Readings it is God speaking to us.”*

St. Isidore of Seville

BIBLE STUDY

Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Job 23:12 (NIV)

12 I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my daily bread.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

James 1:22-25 (NIV)

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-- he will be blessed in what he does.

Notice James says that the “man who looks intently into the perfect law . . . and continues to do this . . . will be blessed in what he does.”

So how do we do that?

How do we look intently into the law that gives freedom?

Getting a GRASP on God's Word!



The Word Hand

The Word Hand illustration is an easy-to-remember tool highlighting five methods of learning from the Bible.

(Adapted from Navigators Disciple Tool.)

1. **Hearing** the Word provides fresh insight into the Scriptures. The weakest finger – the pinkie – represents hearing because we retain only 5% of what we hear.

Romans 10:17 (NIV)

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

2. **Reading** gives us an overview of the Bible and is the foundation for a daily time with The Lord. This is represented by the ring finger. We generally retain 15% of what we read.

Revelation 1:3 (NIV)

Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

3. **Studying** the Scriptures deepens our convictions. Most people retain 35% of what they study, This is represented by the middle finger.

Acts 17:11 (NIV)

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

4. **Memorizing** God's Word enables us to use the Sword of the Spirit to overcome temptations and to have verses readily available to minister to others. The index finger, our strongest finger, represents memorization. We remember 100% of what we memorize if we consistently review it.

Psalm 119:9-11 (NIV)

9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your word.
10 I seek You with all my heart; do not let me stray from Your commands.
11 I have hidden Your word in my heart that I might not sin against You.

5. **Meditation** is the inward process that accompanies the other four methods of Scripture intake. This is why meditation is assigned to the thumb. Only the thumb can touch all the other four fingers. By meditating on God's Word as we hear, read, study, and memorize, we discover its transforming power at work in us.

Psalm 1:2-3 (NIV)

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on His law he meditates day and night.
3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

6. **Apply**. Down the middle of your palm write the word "APPLY."

James 1:22-24 (NIV)

22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says
is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror
24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

- By doing all six, you will get a better **GRASP** on God's Word!

Luke 9:44-45 (NIV)

44 "Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men."45 But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask Him about it.

Ephesians 3:18 (NIV)

may have power, together with all the saints,
to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

PRAYER

“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work;
prayer is the greater work.”
Oswald Chambers

James 5:16 (NIV)

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Romans 12:12 (NIV)

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

2 Important Prayer Principles

1. Be REAL.

Matthew 6:5 (NIV)

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.

- **Don't try to impress others.**
- **Don't try to impress God.**

Matthew 6:6 (NIV)

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

2. Be RELATIONAL.

Matthew 6:7-8 (NIV)

7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans,
for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

**“Prayer is communications with God: a dialogue -
God talking to you and you talking to God.”**

Anonymous

“Prayer is the breath of life to our soul;
Holiness is impossible without it.”

Mother Teresa

Getting a GRIP on Prayer!



There is probably no better “barometer” for indicating the depth of our relationship with God than our prayer life. And yet, many believers struggle more with this spiritual discipline than any other. Most of the time our prayers are just one-dimensional. Too often asking God for “stuff: is as far as our prayers go. No relationship can grow if it is one-dimensional.

1. **Confession**: This type of prayer keeps us honest and humble before God. We acknowledge our sin and agree with God that what we’ve done is wrong. This restores our relationship with God.

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

2. **Petition**: This aspect of prayer focuses on asking God to meet our specific needs. It is a heartfelt acknowledgement of our dependence on God to meet our needs.

Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

3. **Intercession**: This kind of prayer is “others-focused” and emphasizes asking God to meet the needs of others.

Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

4. **Thanksgiving**: Telling someone “thank-you” is critical in any relationship. This kind of prayer gratefully acknowledges what God has done for you.

Psalm 118:1 (NIV)

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever.

Ephesians 5:20 (NIV)

always giving thanks to God the Father for everything,
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5. **Praise**: This aspect of prayer allows us to voice our wonder and awe about who God really is. It is completely God-focused. It is our chance to delight in God.

Psalm 146:1-2 (NIV)

1 Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul.
2 I will praise the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Psalm 34:1 (NIV)

I will extol the LORD at all times; His praise will always be on my lips.

6. **Apply**: We must never talk to God and walk away and live life like we haven't met with Him. After spending time with Him, we should live transformed lives!

Matthew 7:21 (NIV)

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

“Prayer changes me so that God may bring change through me.”

Matt Craig Morris

PART 3 – SERVICE

Week 7

“Surrendering to The Lord”

A lot of times in churches, we sing songs but don't mean what we sing. I have witnessed churches singing, “I am standing on the Promises” while sitting down. They were singing, “I am Standing on the Promises”, but all they were doing were “Sitting on the Premises.” We also sing, “I Surrender All.” We might need to change that song to “I Surrender Some.” But that doesn't sound as good does it? But is it true? Have we surrendered all to Jesus?

John 6:26-27 (NIV)

²⁶ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for Me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. ²⁷ Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On Him God the Father has placed his seal of approval."

John 6:51 (NIV)

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

John 6:66 (NIV)

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed Him.

In his book, **Not a Fan**, author and Pastor Kyle Idleman brings up some pretty good questions about surrendering to the Lordship of Christ. Below are some quotes from his book.

“The biggest threat to the church today is fans who call themselves Christians but aren't actually interested in following Christ.

They want to be close enough to Jesus to get all the benefits, but not so close that it requires anything from them.”

“In teaching people what it means to be a Christian, we spend much of our time and effort bringing them to a point of belief without clearly calling them to follow. We have taken “believe” and we have written that in capital letters with bold print: BELIEVE. But everything that has to do with following has been put in small print: follow.”

“So in case someone left it out or forgot to mention it when they explained what it meant to be a Christian, let me be clear: There is no forgiveness without repentance. There is no salvation without surrender. There is no life without death. There is no believing without committing.”

Luke 9:23 (NIV)

Then He said to them all: “If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”

3 Questions about Surrender

1. Is the relationship one of convenience, or is it committed?

Luke 9:57-58 (NIV)

⁵⁷ As they were walking along the road, a man said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." ⁵⁸ Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head."

2. Is the relationship one of procrastination, or is it a priority?

Luke 9:59-60 (NIV)

⁵⁹ He said to another man, "Follow Me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

3. Is Jesus one of many, or is He your one and only?

Luke 9:61-62 (NIV)

⁶¹ Still another said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-by to my family." ⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

**“Saying Yes to God isn’t about perfect performance,
but rather perfect surrender to the Lord day by day.”**

(Lysa Terkeurst, “What happens when Women Say Yes to God” pg. 19)

The Test of Surrender

Malachi 3:6-10 (NIV)

6 "I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.
7 Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD Almighty. "But you ask, 'How are we to return?' 8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob Me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob You?' "In tithes and offerings. 9 You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing Me. 10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

The only time God ever says to test Him is in the area of the [Tithe](#).

1. Tithing is a [Test](#).

2. Tithing is [Biblical](#).

Genesis 14:18-20 (NIV)

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, 19 and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. 20 And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Genesis 28:22 (NIV)

and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give You a tenth."

Leviticus 27:30 (NIV)

"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

Deuteronomy 26:13-15 (NIV)

13 Then say to the LORD your God: "I have removed from my house the sacred portion and have given it to the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow, according to all you commanded. I have not turned aside from Your commands nor have I forgotten any of them. 14 I have not eaten any of the sacred portion while I was in mourning, nor have I removed any of it while I was unclean, nor have I offered any of it to the dead. I have obeyed the LORD my God; I have done everything You commanded me. 15 Look down from heaven, Your holy dwelling place, and bless Your people Israel and the land You have given us as You promised on oath to our forefathers, a land flowing with milk and honey."

Matthew 23:23 (NIV)

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.”

Hebrews 7:8 (NIV)

In the one case, the tenth is collected by men who die; but in the other case, by him who is declared to be living.

3. Tithing is a Blessing.

2 Chronicles 31:4-10 (NIV)

4 He ordered the people living in Jerusalem to give the portion due the priests and Levites so they could devote themselves to the Law of the LORD. 5 As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously gave the firstfruits of their grain, new wine, oil and honey and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything. 6 The men of Israel and Judah who lived in the towns of Judah also brought a tithe of their herds and flocks and a tithe of the holy things dedicated to the LORD their God, and they piled them in heaps. 7 They began doing this in the third month and finished in the seventh month. 8 When Hezekiah and his officials came and saw the heaps, they praised the LORD and blessed His people Israel. 9 Hezekiah asked the priests and Levites about the heaps; 10 and Azariah the chief priest, from the family of Zadok, answered, "Since the people began to bring their contributions to the temple of the LORD, we have had enough to eat and plenty to spare, because the LORD has blessed His people, and this great amount is left over."

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV)

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

- **10% is a Starting point, not a Stopping place!**
- **It has more to do with your Faith than it has to do with your Finances. Giving has more to do with your Trusting than with your Tithe.**

PART 3 – SERVICE

Week 8 “S.H.A.P.E.”

What God made me to BE determines what He intends me to DO. I will understand my PURPOSE I was created for when I understand the kind of PERSON He created me to be. This is the secret of knowing God’s will for my life. God is consistent in His plan for each of our lives. He would not give us talents, temperaments, spiritual gifts, and all sorts of experiences and then not use them! By studying these factors, we can discover the ministry God has for us . . . the unique way God intends for us to serve Him.

Spiritual Gifts

What am I gifted to do?

Hear

What do I love to do?

Abilities

What natural abilities do I have?

Personality

Where does my personality fit in service?

Experiences

What experiences have I had?

Psalm 139:13-16 (NIV)

13 For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,

16 Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be.

1. **Spiritual Gifts** – A Special ability given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:1 (NIV)

Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

(We will spend an entire lesson on Spiritual Gifts next week in Week 9.)

2. **Heart** – Physiologically, each of us has a unique heartbeat. Each person has a slightly different pattern. Likewise, God has given each of us a unique emotional “heartbeat” that races when we encounter activities, subjects, or circumstances that interest us. We instinctively feel deeply about some things and could care less about other things.

Psalm 37:4 (NIV)

Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart.

Deuteronomy 6:5 (NIV)

Love the LORD your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your strength.

**“Find out what you love to do
that God made you to do
and do it for His glory!”**

3. **Abilities** – The talent, skill, or proficiency to do something in a particular area.

1 Corinthians 12:6 (NIV)

There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

Exodus 31:1-3 (NIV)

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, 2 "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, 3 and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts--

You have heard the statement, “God doesn’t need your ability, He needs your availability.” Well a true biblical statement would be, “When you make yourself available, God will take your abilities and use it for His mission!”

4. **Personality** – The combination of characteristics or qualities that form an individual’s distinctive character.

Genesis 25:27 (NIV)

The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents.

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Romans 12:10 (NIV)

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.

“God uses all our differences to make a difference!”

Ephesians 4:1-7 (NIV)

1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called--5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.

5. **Experiences** – The things and events that we have encountered and occurrences that we have went through in our lives.

One of the most overlooked factors in determining the ministry God has for me is my past experiences, particularly my hurts and my problems I've overcome with God's help. Since our greatest life messages come out of our weaknesses, not our strengths, we should pay close attention to what we've learned in the “school of hard knocks.”

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

Philippians 1:12 (NIV)

Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.

“There is an appropriate way to use your story, not as an excuse but as a testimony to God's ability to free you from your past.”

Andy Stanley

PART 3 – SERVICE

Week 9 **“Spiritual Gifts”**

A spiritual gift is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the body of Christ.

1 Peter 4:10-11 (NIV)

- 10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.
- 11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Spiritual Gifts are NOT for my benefit, but for the benefit of others. You have gifts because God wants you to benefit others. If you want to take your gift and brag and make yourself boastful, that's not why God gave you that gift.

10 Truths about Spiritual Gifts

1. Only believers have spiritual gifts.
2. Every Christian has at least one spiritual gift, most have more than one.
3. No one receives all of the gifts.
4. No single gift is given to everyone.
5. You can't earn or work for a spiritual gift. It's through the grace of God.
6. The Holy Spirit decides what gifts I get.
7. The gifts I'm given are permanent. You have it and you can develop it.
8. I am to develop the gift that God gives me.
9. It is a sin to waste the gifts that God gave me.
10. Using my gifts honors God and changes me.

3 Gifts God Gives.

1. Eternal Life

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2. His Spirit

John 7:38-39 (NIV)

38 Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

39 By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

Acts 5:32 (NIV)

We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.

Colossians 1:27 (NIV)

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

3. Spiritual Gifts

Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.

If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.

7 If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;

8 if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NIV)

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,

9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,

10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines.

Gifts explain why Christians who believe the same things still see things differently. Have you noticed that even though we believe the same, Christians still disagree about a lot? Why? It's because of your giftedness. As a result, we see things differently. We tend to emphasize what we're gifted in.

If each of seven spiritual gifts were represented in a family and somebody dropped the dessert on the floor at the dinner table, here's what each person would say according to their giftedness:

- Mercy: "Don't feel bad, it could have happened to anybody!"
- Preaching: "That's what happens when you're not careful!"
- Serving: "Let me help you clean it up!"
- Teaching: "The reason it fell is because it was too heavy on one side."
- Exhortation: "Next time let's serve the dessert with the meal!"
- Giving: "I'll be happy to buy you a new dessert."
- Administration: "Jim, get the mop? Sue, pick it up. Mary, help fix another one."

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

List of Biblical Spiritual Gifts

1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28

- Wisdom
- Knowledge
- Faith
- Healing
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Discernment
- Tongues/Languages
- Interpretation of Tongues
- Helps
- Administration

Romans 12:6-8

- Prophecy
- Serving
- Teaching
- Encouragement
- Giving
- Leadership
- Mercy

1 Peter 4:10-11

- Speaking
- Serving

Some people also include Ephesians 4:12 that mentions apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. However, this passage specifically refers to these roles as offices rather than Spiritual Gifts.

PART 4 – SOUL WINNING

Week 10 **“Sounding the Call”**

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

18 Then Jesus came to them and said,
"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.
19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jerry Vines preached on this passage and entitled it, “Star-Gazers or Soul-Winners”. I like that title! Are we going to be people who just watch for His return or will we witness until He returns?!

“Whatever we do, we must not treat the Great Commission like it’s the Great Suggestion.”

Charles Swindoll

“The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed.”

J. Hudson Taylor

“If the commission to make disciples of all nations is rightfully called ‘The Great Commission,’ should it not be of the greatest importance to us who claim to be disciples of Jesus Christ?”

Timothy Jerry

“God did not direct His call to Isaiah – Isaiah overheard God saying, ‘... who will go for Us?’ The call of God is not just for a select few but for everyone. Whether I hear God’s call or not depends on the condition of my ears, and exactly what I hear depends upon my spiritual attitude.”

Oswald Chambers

2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity,
but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

The Calling Out from the Great Commission

(What are the 4 actions that Jesus is calling us to?)

1. Go

“The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity,
but it’s sending capacity.”

2. Make disciples of all nations

“Nowhere does God call us to make decisions.
He calls us to make disciples!”

3. Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

“Baptizing someone is just the starting place of discipleship.
We know we have come full circle when
those being baptized are leading others to Christ.”

4. Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you

PART 4 – SOUL WINNING

Week 11

“Seeing my Mission Field”

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;
and you will be My witnesses
in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Many Bible scholars see in this one verse a summary of the entire book of Acts.

- Acts 1-7 Tell of the witness in Jerusalem.
- Acts 8-12 Tell of the witness in Judea and Samaria
- Acts 13-28 Tell of the witness to the ends of the earth.

1. The Source is the Holy Spirit.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you . . .”

2. The Statement is an Emphatic.

“ . . . And you will be My witnesses . . .”

“His voice leads us not into timid discipleship but into bold witness.”

Charles Stanley

3. The Scope is Intentional

“ . . . in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, . . .”

4. The Span is Total

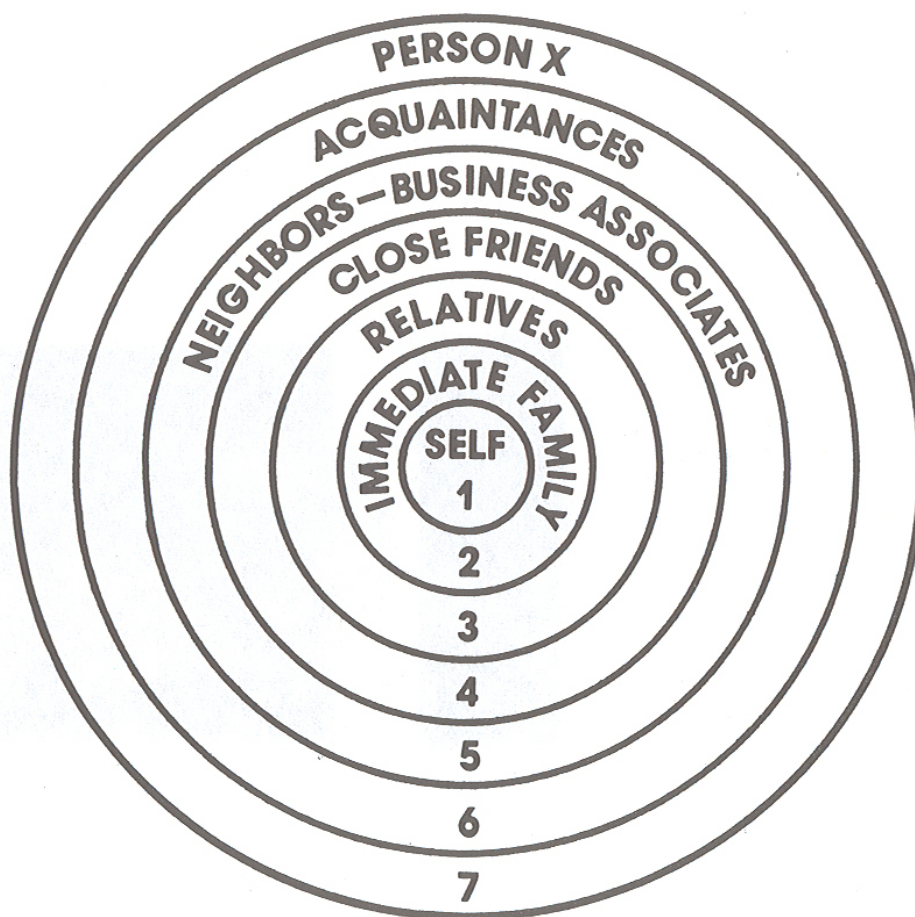
“ . . . and to the ends of the earth.”

“I do not know anything that would wake up Chicago better than for every man and woman here who loves Him to begin to talk about Him to their friends, and just to tell them what He has done for you. You have got a circle of friends. Go and tell them of Him.”

Dwight L. Moody

Concentric Circles of Concern by Oscar Thompson

In Thompson's book, he contends that relationships are the most important aspect of the human life, stating that the root cause of all problems facing humankind is "ruptured relationships" (pg. 10). The premise of his book is to understand that evangelism can only be real and effective when it flows out of a proper vertical connection with God and through a proper horizontal connection to others. We have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit empowers us to become ministers of reconciliation. (see 2 Corinthians 5:18) The Holy Spirit can freely flow through us to others in our relational circle.



“Most of our lives are crucified between two thieves, yesterday and tomorrow. We never live today. But the time to live is now. It is today.”
(W. Oscar Thompson)

PART 4 – SOUL WINNING

Week 12 “Sharing my Faith”

W.D.J.D. What Did Jesus Do?

W **Would** you consider yourself a good person?

D **Do** you think you have kept the 10 Commandments?

J **Judgment** – If God were to judge you by the 10
Commandments, would you be innocent or guilty?

D **Destiny** – Do you think you would go to heaven or
hell?

James 2:10 (NIV)

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

C.C.R.A.F.T.

C Concern Does that Concern You?

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C Cross Jesus suffered on the cross for our sins, died,
and rose from the dead!

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NIV)

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

R Repent Confess and forsake all sin.

Acts 3:19 (NIV)

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

2 Timothy 2:19 (NIV)

Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

A AND

F Faith More than belief, it is trusting in Jesus for salvation.

John 3:16 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

T Truth The truth is that Jesus is the Way.

John 14:6 (NIV)

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Based on the truths above . . . what should you do now?

Turn from your Sin and Trust in Christ to save you.

Romans 10:9-10, 13

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

. . . for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."