

WELCOME TO CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CHURCH

Since we as a Church recognize, accept and trust fully in the inspiration of the Bible, it is right that we place great importance upon the Bible. We thank the Lord for it and pay special tribute to the Bible.



A TRIBUTE TO THE BIBLE

The Bible is not an amulet, a charm, a fetish or a book that will work wonders by its very presence. It is a book that will work wonders in every life, here and hereafter, if acted upon and obey in faith and sincerity. It is God's inspired revelation of the origin and destiny of all things, written in the most simple, human language possible so that most unlearned can understand and obey its teachings. It is self-interpreting and covers every subject of human knowledge and need, now and forever.

As a literary composition, the Bible is the most remarkable book ever written. It is a divine library of sixty six books, some of considerable size, and others no larger than a tract. These books include various forms of literature such as history, biographies, poetry, proverbial sayings, hymns letters, directions for elaborate ritualistic worship, laws, parables, riddles, prophecy, allegories, drama and others. They embrace all manner of literary styles in human expression.

It is a book that reveals the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts binding, its histories true and its decisions immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe and

practice it to be holy. The Bible contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword and the Christian's charter. Here heaven is opened and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand subject, our good is its design and God's glory to its end. It should fill your memory, rule your heart and guide your feet in righteousness and true holiness. Read it frequently and slowly. Read it prayerfully. Read it meditatively, read it searchingly and devotionally and study it constantly, study it perseveringly and industriously. Read it through and through until it becomes part of your being and generates faith that will remove mountains. The Bible is a mine of wealth, a source of health and a world of pleasure. It is given to you in this life, will be opened at the judgement and will stand forever.

It involves highest responsibility, will reward the least to the greatest of labour and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.





OUR GUIDE BOOK THE BIBLE, THE TRUE WORD OF GOD.

The Bible is not just another book, or even a wonderful book, but it is a miraculous book. In the formation of the Bible, it was written over a time span of 1500 years. In its unity, its authors numbered some forty people ranging from kings to shepherds to fisherman, a medical doctor and a converted Pharisee.

In its subject matter it is amazing. It covers a wide range of materials and is without contradiction. In its influence it is still a life changing force and in its preservation it remains the in-errant Word of God, in spite of many efforts to destroy it, discredit or to change it.

In one lesson it will not be possible to handle everything important about the Bible as an inspired and accurate work, but we can touch on a few verses and some truths that will give us confidence in the Bible as God's Word.

Reference to the Dead Sea Scrolls is important. In February or March of 1947, a Bedouin shepherd boy accidentally discovered some scrolls in a cave. This turned out to be the most significant find ever. Professor W.F. Albright, one of America's leading Biblical Archaeologists, after he had examined the photographs and reports of the scrolls, wrote,

"My heartiest congratulations on the greatest manuscript discovery of modern times. What an incredible find and there can happily not be the slightest doubt in the world about the genuineness of the manuscript."

What makes the discovery so incredible is not only the finding of parts of Old Testament writings but the Old Testament Book of Isaiah in its entirety and exactness to the 20th century Bible is fascinating. Professor F.F. Bruce comments,

"Isaiah 53 consists of 166 words. There is only one word in question, three letters. The spelling is not very accurate. However this error does not alter the meaning of the text."

There are many other positive comments concerning this find, but let me hasten to say that the quotations of Jesus made from the Old Testament have no shown the accuracy of both Testaments.

Luke 24:44-46, "Now He said to them, "These are my words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the scriptures and He said to them, "Thus it is written that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day."

In this statement Jesus refers to the entire Old Testament. What Jesus is doing here is giving His total approval to the Old Testament as the Jews had it. It is also interesting to notice that whenever Jesus made a reference to Word of God, His very learned opponents, the Pharisees and the Sadducees never tried to correct Him, neither did they challenge Him.

Some fulfillments of Old Testament prophecies concerning Jesus are *Micah 5:2, the Messiah Jesus to be born in Bethlehem. Zachariah 11:1-13, the Messiah Jesus sold for thirty pieces of silver.* The emphasis that the Jewish Council placed on the Old Testament Scriptures as the Inspired Word is also important. *John 7:42, "Has not the Scriptures said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?"*

We learn that all of the Bible is the inspired Word of God, *2 Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."*

We learn that it will give us faith, *Romans 10:17, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."*

It will also direct us to Jesus, *"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."*

Learn the following beautiful scripture:

Psalm 19:7-11, "The Law of the Lord is perfect restoring the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right rejoicing in the heart. The commandment of the Lord is pure enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean,

enduring forever. The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes than much fine gold. Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them Thy servant is warned. In keeping them there is a great reward."

If we can sincerely read the Bible and apply its teachings to our lives, we will discover that the Bible as we have it is God's full and final revelation to man. All we need is to learn how to read it simply and apply it to our lives, because it is so real.

1 Peter 1:16, "For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eye witnesses"



ARTICLES OF FAITH STATEMENT

1. We believe there is one living and true God, who is everlasting and of infinite power, wisdom and goodness, Maker and Preserver of all things, both visible and invisible. And in the unity of this Godhead are three persons of one substance, of eternal being, and equal in holiness, justice, wisdom, power and dignity; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.
2. We believe that the Son, Who is the Word of the Father, the very and eternal God, of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed virgin, so that two whole perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and manhood were joined together in one person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God and perfect man who actually suffered, was crucified, dead and buried, to reconcile the Father to us, and to make atonement not only for our actual guilt, but also for original sin.
3. We believe that Christ did truly rise again from the dead and took again His body with all things appertaining to the perfections of man's nature and ascended into Heaven and is sitting there until He shall return to judge all men at the last day.
4. We believe the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is on one substance, majesty and glory with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God.
5. We believe in the verbal and plenary inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, known as the bible, composed of sixty six books and divided into two departments Old and New Testaments. We believe the Bible is the Word of God, the full and complete revelations of the plan and history of redemption.
6. We believe that eternal life with God in Heaven is a portion of the reward of the fully righteous; and that everlasting

banishment from the presence of the Lord and unending torture in hell are the wages of the persistently wicked, *Matthew 25:46, Psalm 9:17, Revelation 21:7-8.*

7. We believe that Jesus Christ shed His blood for the remission of sins that are past, for the regeneration of penitent sinners and for salvation from sin and from sinning, *Romans 3:25, 1 John 3:5-10, Ephesians 2:1-10.*
8. We believe, teach and firmly maintain the scriptural doctrine of justification by faith alone, *Romans 5:1.*
9. We believe that Jesus Christ shed His blood for the complete cleansing of the believer from all indwelling sin and from its pollution, subsequent to regeneration, *1 John 1:7-9.*
10. We believe that entire sanctification is an instantaneous definite second work of grace, obtainable by faith on the part of the fully justified believer, *1 John 15:2, Acts 26:18.*
11. We believe that the Pentecostal Baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire is obtainable by a definite act of appropriating faith on the part of the fully cleansed believer, and the initial evidence of the reception of this experience is speaking with other tongues as the Spirit give utterance, *Luke 11:13, Acts 1:5, 2:14, 8:17, 10:44-46, 19:6.*
12. We believe in divine healing as in the Atonement, *Isaiah 53:4-5, Matthew 8:16-17, Mark 16:14-18, James 5:14-16, Exodus 15:26.*
13. We believe in the imminent, personal, premillennial second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, *1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, Titus 2:13, 2 Peter 3:1-4, Matthew 24:29-44*, and love and wait for His appearing, *2 Timothy 4:8.*
14. We believe that it is the responsibility of every believer to dedicate his life to carrying out the work of the Great Commission, *Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20, Acts 1:8.*



1. REPENTANCE

This is the doctrine of the new birth and it includes water baptism. Although water baptism is a separate study, it should follow the act of repentance since the Bible says, "*Repent and be baptized*".

2. SANCTIFICATION

This is also known as Personal Holiness and will be studied as such, later.

3. BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

This will be extensively studied under the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

4. DIVINE HEALING

From the Book of Exodus to the book of Revelation, we find Scriptures that encourage us to trust the Lord for our physical healing. The verse below is one of the many examples that allow us to believe God for our healing:

Isaiah 53:5, "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed".

5. SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

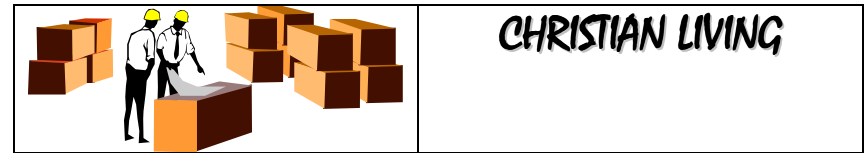
The Christian Heritage Church believes the Pre-Tribulation Return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His Church. This involves two appearances of the Lord. Firstly, for His Church and secondly, with His Church.

- a. *1 Thessalonians 4:16, "For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the*

archangel and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord”.

- b. Jude 1:14, “And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, ‘Behold, the Lore comes with ten thousands of His saints”.

Thank the Lord for this blessed hope of the coming of our Saviour.



In order for any person to experience the will of God or the life of God in our lives we must do the following:

1. BELIEVE

John 3:36, He who believes in the Son has eternal life, but he who does not obey, shall not see life . . . “

2. REPENT

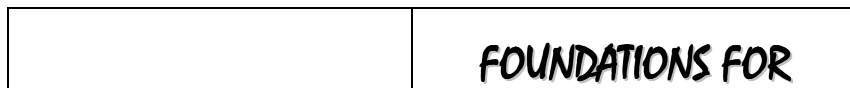
Matthew 3:2, “Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand”.

3. SURRENDER – our lives to Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:9, “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”.



There are a few words used for the experience of repentance, e.g. – the new birth, - being saved, - regeneration, etc.



We must understand that regardless of what we think or say, we are sinners:

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

There are a few simple things that I believe we should know about repentance.

Whenever the Gospel is presented, Jesus Christ is the pivot around which the entire message revolves. It is important to understand that a church or church membership cannot save us.

Acts 2:36, “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified”.

Acts 3:12, “There is salvation in no-one else, for there is no other Name given among men, by which we must be saved”.

John 14:6, “Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth and the life, no man comes to the Father except he come by me”.

The initial aspect of the Gospel is the call to repentance.

In the Old Testament:

Isaiah 45:22, “Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth, for I am God and there is no other”.

See *Isaiah 22:12, Jeremiah 3:12-14 and Jonah 3:1-6.*

John the Baptist, *Matthew 3:2. “Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand”.*

Jesus Christ, *Matthew 4:17, “Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand”.*

The Early Church, *Acts 2:38, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”.*

Also see *Acts 3:19 and 17:30.*

Every person needs to repent in order to be born again. It involves our turning from sin and ungodliness (*se cannot be unregenerate and be godly at the same time*) and believe in Jesus Christ. The word “believe” is a very active word, and it means to “trust in” to “rely upon”.

When man sinned he trusted in himself, (*covered himself with fig leaves*), *Genesis 2:7*. Basically man has never changed. He still trust in himself and in his personal efforts. The basic need is repentance. Read *Isaiah 64:6*.

When God begins to open our eyes and convict us of sin, we move into the act of Repentance and we are then saved or born again, *Ephesians 2:8-9*).

HOW DO WE REPENT?

Acknowledge that we are sinners, *Romans 3:23*

Repent of our sin, *Luke 13:3, 15:17-19*.

Believe in Jesus Christ, *Acts 16:31*. Invite Him into our lives, *Revelation 3:20*.

TO SUMMARIZE.

Before we came to Christ, we lived in darkness. We were responsible for the state that we were in and quite helpless to do anything about it except to turn to Christ in repentance/ This fact demonstrated by what the Bible teaches about our circumstances. *Romans 10:9-17*.

OUTSIDE OF CHRIST WE WILL BE:

DEAD - *Ephesians 2:1*. It means that we are unable to respond to God, to obey His Word or to remotely please Him.

DEFILED – *Titus 1:15*. Because of sin and uncleanness, the mind and the conscience are corrupted.

ENSLAVED – *John 8:34, Titus 3:3.* We are unable to free ourselves because we are enslaved by all kinds of passions and selfish pleasures.

BLINDED – *2 Corinthians 4:4.* It is amazing how hard it is for man to see the truth as stated in the Word of God.

UNDER GOD’S JUDGEMENT - *Ephesians 2:3b.* *The threat of divine judgment is over us because God is angry at our sin.*

CUT OFF FROM GOD – *Ephesians 2:12,13, Luke 15:13.*
Separate

IN THE NEW BIRTH THE NEW BELIEVER HAS BECOME:

FORGIVEN – *1 John 1:9, Isaiah 43:25, Romans 8:1.*

JUSTIFIED - *Romans 3:24, made to be righteous before God.*

CLEANSED – *1 John 1:7, the mind, the conscience and the life of the new believer has been purified by the blood of Jesus.*

RECONCILED – *Romans 5:10, once we were separated from God, now we are reconciled by faith.*

The word “**REPENTANCE**” means the “change of mind”. This action will result in the change of heart. The Greek word is “metanoia” and it implies, “something that is done with the whole mind, or a change that has come about in the life of a person as a result of a conscious decision made on hearing and receiving the Gospel”.

We have learned that the word “Repentance” basically means a changing of our mind. We also need to understand that the action

will result in a change of heart. If we want to enjoy and understand our “new birth” experience to the maximum, we must develop a good, healthy and sound relationship with our Father by reading His Word and develop a fellowship in prayer.

JUSTIFICATION – This is the cornerstone of the Protestant faith. *Romans 5:1, Therefore since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”.*

It is the act of God, He pronounces the penitent free from any condemnation of His righteous law. As we turn to the Lord in the act of regeneration, He forgives us of our sins. Forgiveness then removes the guilt of sin and justification lifts the condemnation caused by our sins, and we are set free.

Romans 8:1-2, “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death”.



It is very important for us to understand that water baptism is not an optional extra, but that it is a command of Jesus Christ that has been

clearly stated in scripture to be obeyed and carried out by the believer as soon as possible after conversion.

Most people who are converted to Christ in our churches have been “baptized” as infants. This presents a serious problem which will be shown as this study progresses.

SOME OF THE SCRIPTURAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISM ARE:

REPENTANCE – *Acts 2:38*

FAITH – *Acts - 26-40*

DISCIPLESHIP – *Matthew 28:18-19*

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

Before I tell what water baptism is, I need to tell you what water baptism is not.

- It is not INFANT SPRINKLING
- It is not JOINING THE CHURCH
- It is not GETTING SAVED
-

If Infant sprinkling is not water baptism, what is it? Infant sprinkling is one of Satan’s strongest and most powerful deceptions to be taught in the Church. It has been adopted as an alternative for TRUE BAPTISM.

- Infant sprinkling is compromising the Word of God and it has no scriptural foundation.
- Infant sprinkling is a false teaching. It has thousands of people in delusion and it is a deviation of the truth.
- It is nothing more than a heresy that has placed thousands of people in a false security.

- It is obvious from the very meaning of the term that water baptism cannot be “joining the church”.
- The Bible is also very clear that Salvation and Baptism are two separate and distinct experiences in the life of the new believer. Water Baptism is being obedient to the Word of God after the experience of salvation

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

The word does not have any origin in the English language. The Greek word “Baptiso” (verb), has not been translated, but transliterated into English. By doing this, violence has been done to the true meaning of the purpose of baptism. W.E. Vines Expository on New Testament words says,

“Baptism consists of a process of immersion, submersion and emergence. A logical examination of the scripture will prove that baptism was never infantile or that sprinkling was never intended to be”.

This is proved in:

The baptism of Jesus, *Matthew 3:3-17*.

The baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch, *Acts 8:36-38*.

The concept of burial, *Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12*.

WHO MUST BE BAPTIZED

People who submit to baptism must be responsible enough to make a decision.

- New disciples, *Matthew 28:19*
- Holy Spirit convicted people, *Acts 2:37-38*
- Those who have received and believe the Word, *Acts 8:12*
- New Born Again Believers regardless of their religious background, *Acts 9:18*

Sincere people who want the fullness of the Spirit. *Acts 19:1-6*. The Bible is very clear that baptism is only for those who have consciously repented and believed. *Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:41, Acts 8:36-38, Acts 9:17-18, Acts 10:47-48, Acts 16:14, Acts 16:31-34,*

Acts 18:8, Acts 19:4-5. In every recorded instant, the appeal is made to a responsible person who is capable of making a decision. This is why we call it "Believer's Baptism".

WHY SHOULD WE BE BAPTIZED.

Because it is a direct response to the command of the Lord Jesus. In *Matthew 28:19-20*, Jesus told His disciples to do three things:

1. Go and make disciples of all nations
2. Baptize these disciples in the Name of the Father and son and Holy Spirit.
3. Teach them the Word of God.

A popular teaching is the **"HOUSEHOLD BAPTISM"** theory, we read about **HOUSEHOLDS** in *Acts 10:1-48, Acts 16:13-15, 25-34, Acts 18:4-7*. In each of these instances it is logical to conclude that only responsible people were baptized after they made the decision to accept the message of the Gospel. If this is not true, then the entire concept of responsible personal choice is non-existent. The appeal is to people who are able to decide for themselves and follow the Lord accordingly.

In conclusion, baptism is not an optional extra. Baptism is a definite command of the Lord Jesus. If Jesus is indeed Lord, we will have no problem in submitting our lives to His teaching.

John 14:15, "If you love Me, you will keep my commandments".



THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A SUPERNATURAL LIFE

From our parents we receive a natural life, but in order to become Christians we need a "birth from God", the results of which we have looked at under "Repentance". Water baptism signifies that our old life has been cut off and we are united with Jesus in His resurrection.

When we are "Born Again" we do receive the Holy Spirit into our lives. He gives us the witness that we are "Children of God". This is the aspect of the Holy Spirit that allows us to produce "the Fruit of the Spirit" which is, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, *Galatians 5:22-23*.

The Holy Spirit does for us what the Lord Jesus did for the disciples, *John 20:22*. He was with them to teach them how to live for God. The Holy Spirit comes into us to do the same. As we live our daily lives, the Holy Spirit will teach us to say, "yes" to God and to righteousness and "no" to sin.

There is an additional experience that Jesus called "The Promise of the Father". This is identified as "The Baptism of the Holy Spirit" and is received after salvation.

As we read the word, we see how God supernaturally and powerfully equips us to serve Him. We nearly always feel that we are not worthy of the Lord and that we are not worthy to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This is not new and not untrue. We are not worthy of any blessing from the hand of the Lord in ourselves, we do however have the promises of God that make us worthy of Him, *2 Corinthians 5:21*, "God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God".

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is in direct response to the promises of the Word of God, *Luke 24:29*, "And behold I am sending forth the promise of my Father upon you but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with the power from on high".

There are people who are puzzled by what "The promise of the Father is".

Jesus said, “the promise of the Father is the Holy Spirit”. *Acts 1:4-5, ‘And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised, which He said, “You heard from Me; for John did baptize with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now”.*

They would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them, *Acts 1:8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth”.*

So then this promised gift of the Holy Spirit would empower them and equip them to witness for the Lord Jesus Christ. Was it for the first disciples only, or for all God’s children? *Acts 2:38, “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and let each of you be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself”.*

There are five occasions recorded in the Book of Acts where people received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit after they had become believers in the Lord. Three of them specify that when they received, they spoke in other tongues, two of them indicate that there must have been a similar pattern.

- On the day of Pentecost, *Acts 2:4.*
- In Samaria, *Acts 8:14-20*
- The Conversion of Saul, *Acts 9:17-18, 1 Corinthians 14:18.*
- At Caesarea, *Acts 10:44-48*
- At Ephesus, *Acts 19:1-6*

From this scriptural pattern it is obvious that when the believer is Baptized in the Holy Spirit, there will be the manifestation of Speaking in other tongues.

HOW DO BELIEVERS RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

By receiving the Word. *Acts 10:44-48.*

By the laying on of hands. *Acts 19:5-6.*

By thirsting for the Holy Spirit. *John 7:37-39.*



-FOUNDATION FOUR - EXERCISING THE GIFTS (MANIFESTATIONS) OF THE SPIRIT.

The Holy Spirit is the One who equips God's people for service in the Church. We do not need great intellectual or natural talents we need the anointing of the Holy Spirit of God.

In 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 it tells us of various ways in which the Holy Spirit uses God's people. These gifts are nearly always manifested in the gathering of people together to worship. It must be understood that these gifts arise as specific needs are present in lives of people, e.g. Healing, and they are not permanently resident in the particular believer who is used by the Holy Spirit to exercise the gift at the time.

These Gifts or Manifestations as they are known are found in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 and are listed below:

A word of wisdom. A word of knowledge. Faith. The Gifts of Healing. Working of Miracles. Prophecy. Discerning of Spirits. Diverse or various kinds of Tongues. Interpretation of Tongues.

In 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 we read the biblical framework for the operation and function of the gifts of the Spirit, 1 Corinthians 12:28 lists two types of Spirit gifting for the church.

Equipping ministry gifts. Also found in Ephesians 4:11-13.

Body ministry gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:28b. Romans 12:3-8.

It is clear that the equippers are to equip. That means that the Pastors and other local church leaders appointed by the Pastors are responsible to teach, exhort and admonish the church to such a degree that the equipping will take place and body ministry gifts can emerge in the church with as many as possible active in the work place, home, in the church, etc, for the glory of God

Body Ministry gifts are:

1 Corinthians 12:28b. ".....Apostles, second prophets, third teacher then workers of miraclesthen gifts of healing

Another listing of body ministry gifts is Romans 12:3-8. In this we find, Prophesying. Serving. Teaching. Encouraging. Giving. Leading. Mercy.

All of the body ministry gifts that are listed in these scriptures are for the church and we should allow the Lord to use us in the GIFT MINISTRY. We are all very different, thus the statement: diversity in unity, notice one body, many parts, one church, many members, one purpose, many functions.

CHARACTERISTICS OF BODY MINISTRY GIFTS.

Body ministry gifts are permanent, each believer is given a gift or gifts, for the purpose of equipping the church for the work of ministry. Body ministry gifts can be related to natural talents. An example of this is being musical, these natural talents need to be laid on the altar in submission for the anointing of the Spirit to enable them to function powerfully in the church.

Body ministry gifts determine the position of the believer in the church, if the gift is teaching, then the person will minister as a teacher and not as an evangelist or a prophet.

Each believer has a gift(s), these gifts must be identified and developed. Many people receive a gift but never open the parcel to find out what the Lord has entrusted to them, there are to many undiscovered and undeveloped gifts dormant in the church, this will make any church the poorer and less effective.



When Jesus commissioned His disciples in Matthew 28:18-20, His command had a two pronged thrust:

- a. The disciples were to teach the people the Word of God.
- b. They were to share a lifestyle in a relationship which had the effects of a consistent walk with God.

There are two important truths here:

- a. The disciples of Christ were to be teachers of the lifestyle, **informing** the new believers about its truth.
- b. They also had to be living examples of this truth in their experience and the result of this would be, **informing** the new believers through teaching and then **forming** new lives by their lifestyle of a living example. This forming a new life is vitally important and our future relationship with the Lord depends upon it.

The experience has a few theological titles by which it is known. SANCTIFICATION is one of them, HOLINESS is another, the great Andrew Murray called it CLEANSING as he understood it in the context of "**A Beginning**" and there are a few more, but no matter what it may be called, it is essential to our overcoming the indwelling sin problem that is so much a part of our lives.

Confusion exists because of the lack of understanding of the truth of holiness, or better still a lack of understanding the root of an inner problem. The constant failure to achieve victory over sin in the lives of people causes frustration, this causes people to become discouraged and it results in the lack of seeking God for a deeper and victorious relationship with Him.

1 John 1:7,9. "But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"

The same Lord who forgives sin also cleanses from sin. Cleansing and victory over indwelling sin is a promise of God that is not less than forgiveness, **it is also the will of God** for your life.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:3 "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain..."

What is Cleansing, or Sanctification, or Holiness as taught in the Word of God. Forgiveness is something that is passed **on** to the sinner as asked for, and cleansing is something that takes place **in** the forgiven person as growth takes place. Forgiveness came **to** us, cleansing comes **in** us.

Cleansing is the inner revelation of the power of God whereby we are **liberated** from **unrighteousness**, from the pollution and working of sin. Through cleansing or sanctification we obtain a pure heart, a heart in which the Spirit can bring about His operations with the view to revealing God within us.

It is through the Blood of Jesus. Like in forgiveness, the Blood breaks the power of sin to condemn us, so in cleansing the Blood also breaks the power of sin to keep us captive.

It is through the Word of God. The Word testifies of the Blood and of the power of God. **ROMANS 6:14** teaches, "*For sin shall not have dominion over you*" that allows us to understand that even though we still perceive sin in the flesh, through the word we are cleansed from all unrighteousness. **EPHESIANS 5:26**.

2 Timothy 3:16. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness"

It is not complete sinlessness, it is not full maturity, but it is the result of the believer having the desire to be free, and by faith believing God for that victory in our lives. That's the starting point, it is a crises, a beginning, and it has a lot of room for development, for progress and for growth in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is important to remember that we have to **get into** the grace, before we can **grow in it**.

It is not "sinless perfection", it is "Christian perfection", in which the believer loves the Lord with all the heart, soul, mind and body, and our

neighbours as ourselves, in which we love His Word and keep His commandments, its a selfless life that is lived to the praise and honour of His name.

Informing people who desire to serve God about the deeds of the flesh and failing to **form** them in God is failing God and them.

For years the preachers have been trying to pick the bad fruit off the lives of untaught believers. What we need to do is to cut down the bad fruit tree by **informing** them about the teachings of Jesus and then by helping them to **form** a good and a healthy relationship between themselves, i.e., the new believer and God.

There are five very effective means that the Lord has given to us that will enable us to grow in our relationship with Him:

HEARING - Hearing the Word from godly pastors and teachers provides us insight into another person's study of the scriptures as well as stimulating our own appetites for the Word.

READING - Reading the Bible gives us an overall picture of God's Word. Each person should find a helpful daily reading program which takes them systematically through the Bible.

STUDYING - Studying the Scriptures leads us into personal discoveries of God's truths. Writing down these discoveries helps us organize and remember them better.

MEMORIZING - Memorizing God's Word enables us to use the Sword of Spirit to overcome Satan and temptations as well as to have it readily available for witnessing or helping others with a "Word in season"

MEDITATING - Only as we meditate on God's Word, thinking of its meaning and applying it to our lives, will we discover its transforming power at work in us.

2 Corinthians 5:17. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

DEVELOPING THIS RELATIONSHIP THROUGH THE QUITE TIME OR THROUGH YOUR PERSONAL BIBLE READING AND PRAYER TIME WITH GOD.

The Christian that spends time with the Lord, in Prayer and Bible reading in an attitude of persevering, steadily day by day, will become more and more like Jesus.

Abraham is an ideal example of a believer that had a "Quite Time"

GENESIS 19:27. "And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the LORD"

He got up early in the Morning.

He had a special place where he met with God.

He did this on a daily basis.

He stood Waiting for the Lord to speak to him.

PSALM 5:3. "My voice You shall hear in the morning, Oh LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up"

Jesus also went aside to pray.

MATTHEW 14:23. "And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on a mountain by Himself to pray. And when evening had come, He was alone there"

LUKE 9:18. "And it happened, as He was alone praying ,that His disciples joined Him...,"

MARK 1:35. "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed"

As you wait upon God in your quiet time, listen for His voice, expect Him to speak to you.

PREPARATION FOR THE QUIET TIME.

USE YOUR OWN BIBLE, GET ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR OWN WEAPON.

A GOOD SET OF MARKERS are very handy for in marking relevant scriptures in your Bible.

NOTE BOOK AND PEN OR PENCIL to record something from the Word or what you feel the Holy Spirit is saying to you.

PURPOSE OF THE QUIET TIME. Basically, for fellowship with God. He desires to fellowship with you on a daily basis. Have you observed how lovers enjoy being together. Fall in love with the lover of your soul.

Another reason for a quite time is, strength for the day. The Christian life is a battle or a war against, sin, the devil and the world. Ephesians 6:12 "we wrestle.....against spiritual forces of evil."

The quite time gives us the opportunity of systematic Bible Study and a good time of prayer.

PROBLEMS OF THE QUIET TIME.

Satan will see to it that your quiet time is opposed every day. It will be a daily battle to have a quiet time, but be determined to win this battle. If you miss a morning, do not allow yourself to come under condemnation, but determine to be more diligent.

Concentration can be a real problem. Keep your mind on what you are reading, studying or praying. Do not allow your mind to wander or drift into the activities of the day. Satan's entry into your life is through your mind, 2 Corinthians 4:4.

If you pray early in the morning, first wash your face and brush your teeth. If you become sleepy, walk around, and don't be shy to praise

God or to pray aloud. This type of praying will also allow you to become more self-confident.

A PLAN FOR THE QUIET TIME.

Have your quiet time at the same time each day, if possible. Have a systematic plan, e.g. reading a portion of the Bible, meditating, i.e. think deeply about what you have read and how it applies to your life, what God is saying to you, or what that scripture says about God. Then present your prayer and supplication with an attitude of prayer and praise.

Learn to pray out the scripture that you have been reading.

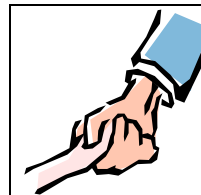
Use the Bible as a basis for praise and petition.

Use this opportunity to ask the Lord for the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow through your life.

Pray in the Spirit.

JUDE 1:20. "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit"

1 CORINTHIANS 14:15. "...I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding"



**FOUNDATION SIX
-DIVINE HEALING-**

We believe that an important part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for His church is divine healing. Isaiah 53:4-5, Matthew 8: 16-17, Mark 16:15-18, James 5:14-16, Exodus 15:26, are only a few references that encourage prayer for the sick. We do not condemn or criticize the medical profession, we simply believe in and practice the anointing with oil and the laying on of hands for the sick who request and require it, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe that this practice is fully endorsed by the Lord himself who sent His disciples out to heal the sick, set the captives free and cast out demons.

It is estimated that one third of the ministry of Jesus was concentrated on the healing of the sick. He ministered extensively in this area of Divine Healing and He commissioned His church to do the same.

Mark 16:16. "And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues...they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."



The subject of the Return of the Lord has been the subject of controversy, confusion, debate and argument in every circle of Christianity since Jesus ascended into heaven ten days before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The Bible speaks about a period of time in the last days that is known as THE TRIBULATION PERIOD. From Daniel 9:27 we understand that it will last for seven years. This tribulation period is divided into two parts:

(a) The beginning of sorrows. Matthew 24:8. According to Daniel 9:27 this will last for three and a half years. It appears that this will be the start of the great tribulation and it will have as its beginning the signing of an interim peace treaty. This treaty is a document that will have seven years built into it, it will directly effect the future of the Middle East and Jerusalem and will introduce partial peace to the region.

(b) The Time of Jacob's Trouble. Jeremiah 30:7. This is when the author of the peace treaty breaks his own treaty and sets himself up as God to be worshipped and venerated by the Jews, they will reject this out-of-hand, then the wrath of this leader will be poured out upon the Jews. This will also last three and a half years. Daniel 12:1. Daniel 12:7.

There are three main time theories given to the Return of the Lord:

a. The Pre-Tribulation Rapture Theory. This theory holds that the Lord will remove His Church around about the time of the drawing up of the Peace Treaty.

b. The Mid-Tribulation Rapture Theory. This theory holds that at the time of the breaking of the treaty, mentioned by Daniel, the Lord will come to take His church, in doing this He will spare His church from the Great Tribulation.

c. The Post-tribulation Second Coming of Jesus Christ. This theory holds that the Great Tribulation will end with Jesus coming at the battle of Armageddon. The teaching is that the Lord will come and conquer the Anti-Christ and his armies at Armageddon, from there He will stand on the Mount of Olives in the city of Jerusalem.

As He appears on the clouds, His church will go up and meet Him in the air, the church will then escort their Lord to the triumph at Armageddon as well as to the city of Jerusalem.

We favour the Pre-Tribulation theory and therefore we believe that the Second Coming of Jesus has two important very aspects:

- a. The Return of Jesus for His church. 1 Thessalonians 4:13:18.
- b. The Revelation of Jesus Christ at His Second Coming with His church. Jude 1:14.

Daniel 9:24-27 speaks about "Seventy Weeks" specifically earmarked for the Jewish nation. Each of these "WEEKS" consist of periods of seven years, and the first sixty nine weeks were fulfilled exactly on the day that Jesus entered into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey in Luke 19:28-38.

With reference to the Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem it is interesting to see that Psalm 118 taught of this event, as one reads this now, the question is, "How did the Jews miss the Lord, the Messiah, when the details were so clearly predicted, and they were fully aware of the practice.

The Triumphal Entry is truly Triumphal in view of the fact that it was took place on the exact date predicted, this places the return of the Lord into focus as something that will take place very soon.

The seventieth and last week will begin at the time that a Middle East peace treaty is signed, it is a peace accord which will be drawn up by a person the Bible calls the Anti-Christ, keep in mind that the Middle East is the most sensitive and explosive locality on earth and peace in this region is vital to peace in the entire world. The treaty will have built into it certain precautionary clauses, one of them being that the treaty will last for seven years after-which it will be reviewed.

It will be such an ingenious document that its author will be acclaimed very highly by the entire world.

Revelation 13:3 "... and all the world wondered after the beast"
2 Thessalonians 2:7 speaks about a "Restraining Power" that will be removed before the author of this peace treaty is revealed for who he

really is. We believe that the "Restraining Power" is the Church. Jesus takes the Church, (Restraining Power) away, and Anti-Christ sets up his reign of terror for seven years, (the seventieth week) at the end of which Jesus comes with His church.

There are several scriptures that substantiate this truth:

Hebrews 9:28 says that only those that look for Him will he appear without sin unto salvation.

Revelation 1:7 says that every eye shall see Him.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-9 speaks about the taking of the church, the emerging of the Anti-Christ, the setting up of himself as God to be worshipped as God, just like Daniel 9:27 says he will as he breaks the same peace treaty that he was responsible for.

These are a few of the scriptures that teach "THE BLESSED HOPE"





Fellowship, (*koinonia*) is the intimacy of personal involvement and the heart to heart contact of people who love and serve Jesus Christ. It is not merely exchanging philosophical thoughts or stating some doctrinal truths.

Colossians 2:2. "That their hearts may be encouraged having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself"

This little poem spells it out beautifully:

"Do not walk in front of me
I may not follow Do not walk behind me I may not lead Walk beside
me and be my friend".

God desires that every believer be a functioning member of a local church body or family. We are to mutually care for each other and build each other up in the faith.

Although God has set leaders in the church, the ground level is at the foot of the cross. We are equal in the kingdom but we need leaders to teach us and to guide us and to admonish and correct us.

Fellowship (*koinonia*) is a growing up together into Christ. Ephesians 4:16 indicates that under His direction the whole body is fitted together perfectly and each part in its own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole body is growing up and full of love.

1. Devoted to one another. Romans 12:10.

2. Honouring one another. Romans 12:10.

3. Accepting one another. Romans 15:7.

4. Admonishing one another. Romans 15;14, Colossians 3:16.

5. Serving one another. Galatians 5:13.

6. Bearing one another. Ephesians 4:2.

7. Encouraging one another. 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

8. Speak the truth in love to one another. Ephesians 4:15.

With all of the above we must remember that we are baptized by one Spirit into the body of Christ, 1 Corinthians 12:13. This makes unity in the church a possibility and teaches us that it is essential. Romans 12:5, says "We are.... members of one another.

1 Corinthians 12:27. "Now you are Christ's body and individually members of it" (see Romans 15:5.) If we as a church can apply this level of fellowship and trust in one another and live in it, the Lord will bless and add to the church daily, such as should be saved, Acts 2:42-47.

A very important aspect of our Christian Fellowship is the need to talk to each other and not about each other. Churches have experienced the most unpleasant breaks because the words of Jesus were never taken seriously:

MATTHEW 18:15-18. "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, have gained your brother. But if he will not hear you, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

We will also be a living answer to the prayer of Jesus. John 17:20-22.

LEADERSHIP IN THE LOCAL CHURCH.

It is an accepted fact that Jesus is the Head of the local church and He will certainly build His church. Head of the church in scripture refers to Jesus as the source or the origin of the church, Ephesians 1:22, 4:15, 5:21-30, but we are taught that the church has a God given, anointed and appointed leadership,

From studying the Word of God, we need to see what church leadership is and what our responsibility to Biblically appointed leadership is and what its responsibility is to the church.

Acts 20:28. "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood"

LEADERSHIP ROLES.

Ephesians 4:11-13. "He gave some as apostles and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, to the building up of the Body of Christ. For the equipping of the saints, for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ. Until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ"

As we see, leaders in the church are essential. It is also very obvious that leadership can and should be plural, Hebrews 13:7, Acts 20:28. We read that Moses could not keep up with his style of leadership and was advised to select helpers, Exodus 18:13-27.

In our local church, leadership is not to be imposed upon the people. Our leadership must show the Spirit of Christ, people will then willingly and lovingly follow as we lead our church into its commitment, relationship and fellowship in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Three words stand out in the New Testament which identify local church leaders. They are Pastor, Elder, and Overseer and are always used interchangeably and refer to the same person or persons, e.g.

Titus 1:5 is to ordain Elders, *presbyters* and in Titus 1:7 the same Elders seem to be referred to as Bishop, *episkopos*.

Again in the Greek the word overseers in Acts 20:28, and the word Bishop in Titus 1:7 are the same words.

Leaders in the church of Jesus Christ are first and foremost servants, 2 Timothy 2:24-25. They should never forsake this role of servant because they are called to be servants for your sakes.

Servant leaders have indwelling qualities that demonstrate power to influence their people in Christ, 1 Timothy 4:16. Lifestyle and teaching in leadership must correspond.

Leadership in the church is responsible to the Lord to take the Word of God and use the word for the benefit of the people and of the church and not their own good. Titus 1:10-14.

Purpose of the Word is given to set up a faith life style and should be used as such by the leaders, Romans 10:17, 2 Timothy 3:16.

Responsibility of the Body or the Church to its leaders, Hebrews 12:7 and 17, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13.

The Pastors of the church have a great responsibility as seen in the scriptures emphasized in Jeremiah 3:15, 23:4. However if the Pastor is faithful and a person rejects leadership and teaching, etc, the Pastor is innocent then that person only has himself or herself to blame, Ezekiel 33:1-4.

We need prayer and support as we endeavour to lead guide and to direct people to Jesus Christ, Son and Saviour. If we fail, we read what will happen to the shepherds. Ezekiel 34:1-10.

In conclusion, your leadership should be committed to your spirituality and your individual growth in Jesus Christ. Pray for us, 1 Thessalonians 5:25, that Ephesians 4:12-13 may be the experience of our fellowship.

COMMITMENT

When we make any type of commitment, it automatically involves "promise", and an origin of promise is covenant. There are some

covenants recorded in the Bible. The Abrahamic covenant, Genesis 17:1-14, the Davidic covenant, 2 Samuel 7:7-17, are two of them.

What I would like to comment on is the covenant of God with the Nation of Israel in the Exodus which is mentioned in Deuteronomy 7:1-26 Here we have the Lord saying that He was totally committed to Israel on condition that they keep their side of the bargain.

When God entered into covenant with Israel, God and Israel were bound together. As long as the nation kept the covenant, there were no sick people. God was their physician, He was their strength and He was their protector. They were a people of covenant. Moses led them out of Egypt into the barren desert and on the grounds of covenant, God gave them water, manna and meat.

He brought them out by signs and wonders and this still remains a wonder and amazement to this day. God preserved them as a nation only because they were a covenant people. But when they disobeyed, judgment came upon them. (see Deuteronomy 28.)

Jesus Christ is God's provision of the new covenant. In the introduction of the communion service we read the following:

Luke 22:19-20. "And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them saying, This is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of Me. And in the same way He took the cup after He had eaten saying, This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."

Now we know that the Lord's supper is symbolic of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin etc. The book of Hebrews recognizes the everlasting covenant of God with man and teaches that through this new covenant:

Hebrews 10:19. "Since therefore brethren we have confidence to enter the Holy Place by the blood of Jesus Christ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us, through the veil, that is His flesh"

The Lord's covenant, His commitment and promise to us is total. As we become members of an earthly church that preaches and teaches the

Gospel, we too should not take it lightly. We join our efforts with the rest of the body in prayer, Bible reading, and study, Holy living and fellowship for the purpose of extending the Kingdom of God.

Some join the church in order to have a place to marry, or to dedicate babies or to be buried. I trust that yours is through the new and Living Way, for the purpose of worship and spiritual growth and fellowship.

JOINING THE CHURCH.

Becoming a member of the church organization will not ensure you a place in Heaven. Joining an organization should take place as a result of our being converted to Christ and it is an important part of our growth and development as Christians.

1. By requesting membership we are accepting as the truth, the doctrines as taught by the church.
2. We are committing ourselves to fellowship in, and worship with fellow believers in the "church".
3. We will endeavour to support the church financially, and with our presence to the best of our ability.

Life in the church is build on the Word of God, this life finds itself intimately involved around the Lord Jesus, in the faith and communion of the Holy Spirit. Remember Jesus is Lord.

THE CHURCH HAS TWO ORDINANCES.

1. **Believers' baptism**, as already studied.
2. **Holy Communion, (The Lord's Supper)**. Christians have shared in this simple yet wonderful "meal" for nearly two thousand years. Luke 22:7-20 and corresponding references in the Gospels, and 1 Corinthians 11:23-34, teaches us what the communion service is about. This memorial service forms part of the worshipping life of God's people when they come together to remember the Lord. This can be

conducted in a church building or in house groups and can also be observed by shut-ins.

There is no rigid pattern or order laid out in the scripture, the emphasis is not on the way in which the ceremony is carried out, but it is on the heart attitude of the believer who is participating.

There are four key words which will help us to understand more about the Lord's supper:

REMEMBRANCE.

Jesus said, *"Do this is remembrance of Me"*. Jesus is the most important person in this worship. We are to remember His great love and His sacrifice for our sins which He gave at Calvary. The broken bread and the poured out wine or grape juice are vivid pictures of His sufferings for us and of His life that was given for us, *Luke 22:19-20* "...body given for ..." "... blood which is poured out for...."

COVENANT.

The Word speaks of a promise which cannot be broken. *"The blood of the New Covenant"* tells of God's promise to save, forgive and redeem. His believing people will never be disappointed and this covenant that God made will never be broken. We on our part need to see ourselves as God's covenant people and endeavour to live uprightly and righteously, i.e. not to live in known sin in defiance of the Word of God. It is a serious matter to take the Lord's supper and, *1 Corinthians 11:27-30* tells us what happened when the early Christians became careless about their lives and the table of the Lord.

FELLOWSHIP.

The Lord's supper is a service that God's people partake in together. Communion (Greek: *Koinonia*) means sharing together. It is a corporate meal. We need and enjoy expressing our love to the Lord and to each other.

HOPE

One day we will share this meal with the Lord in Glory. The hope that it is to be observed by the believers until Jesus comes. He will come again. Then we shall see Him as He is, and will be as He is. Until then, we will remember.

GIVING TO GOD AND HIS WORK FINANCIALLY.

Money matters? Of course money matters. It is obvious from the scriptures that the Lord has a lot to say about money. Money itself is not evil, it is the love of money that is the root of all evil, *1 Timothy 6:10*. Jesus said that the way man handled his money was an indication whether he could be trusted with true spiritual riches, *Luke 16:10,11*. It is evident that in the Kingdom of God money is important.

God's servants need to be released from spending their time in secular employment so that they can devote themselves fully to the work of the ministry. Needs among the people of God are to be met. The poor need to be cared for. Church buildings need to be paid for and maintained, etc. The way to meet these needs is by the people of God giving into the work of God, it has been so in the Old Testament and the New Testament and it is so in this dispensation of grace.

2 Corinthians 8:3. "For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord"

2 Corinthians 9:7. "Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudging or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"

Luke 6:38. "Give and it will be given to you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For whatever measure you deal out to others it will be dealt to you in return"

1 Corinthians 16:2. "On the first day of every week, let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper, that no collection be made when I come"

Malachi 3:10. "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be good in My house, and test me now in this, says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open the windows of Heaven and pour out for you a blessing until there is no more need."

The Israelites gave a tithe (a tenth) of their income for the support of the religious leaders, the Levites, so that they could be free to concentrate on their spiritual ministries in the tabernacle, and in teaching the people of God. This should be a guide to us of what we should be doing. In days of financial difficulty one may be tempted not to give, but God has established a principle of faith, *"Give and it shall be given unto you"*

In the church here in Krugersdorp, the giving of the Lord's people is to, pay the salaries of the full-time Pastor/s, to minister to those who have financial needs, Maintain the church buildings, pay the wages of domestic workers, cover the cost of such items as printing, stationery, postage, heating, lighting, and bond repayments. All operating costs of the church.

This church has a mission giving support programme. Finances are given to various mission projects, to organisations who feed the poor and who house the homeless, to township pastors, to homes for the aged, Bible for Believers, etc. on a monthly basis. Regular contact is maintained with these support areas, and we give to wherever the church is able to assist in spreading the Good News of Salvation through faith in Jesus.

Giving financially into the work of God has great blessings for the people, those who give and those in need, in fact the Bible has a specific promise of provision for a cheerful giver:

Acts 4:34. "Neither was there any among them that lack....."

SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS.

A healthy financial programme in the church is healthy for the church, it stimulates faith, and increases involvement, and it can be the means of ministries emerging in the church for the community. This is certainly true of a mission minded church.

Finances generate activity, activity results in souls being saved, new churches can be started, and the responsibility of reproducing believers is the outcome of an active church.

HOW DO WE SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS?

We can spread the by our life style. The joy, love and righteousness of Christian and the church is a powerful witness to the world around us and can be a strong introduction to Jesus, (see John 13:34-35.) By sharing our faith. The Apostle Peter urged the Christians to:

1 Peter 3:15-16. "...always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have"

In school, work, social occasions, questions will arise, there will sometimes be opposition, but opposition will be countered, there will be opportunities to share the good news.

By taking part in, praying for, and being involved with the evangelistic and missionary outreach of the church. As Timothy, Titus and others, and indeed whole churches were swept up in Paul's missionary outreach, so you will be able to by praying, giving, going, being involved in spreading the Good News, Acts 13:1-3.

BECOMING COMMITTED TO THE CHURCH (FELLOWSHIP)

If you have repented of sin and you have believed on the Lord Jesus and know that you are a child of God, then you need to be a part of the local church of the Lord Jesus. By now you should have a good idea of what is involved in commitment to the church here. We encourage you to seek the Lord in prayer, and then place your name with ours as we serve the Lord Jesus Christ together in the Christian Heritage Church in Krugersdorp.

