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True Steps

100 Level Curriculum

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Pastor Brandon Ball
GENERATIONS CHURCH

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True Steps Overview

How to be a Thriving Member

1. Never put yourself under unrealistic expectations.
 - a. We were never called to perfection, but we were called to pursue holiness.
2. Be a Godly example.
 - a. You are the Gate Keepers for the culture of Generations Church.
 - b. Attitudes you allow, conversations you participate in, etc.
3. Your personal salvation and relationship with God is primary!
 - a. You prioritize daily prayer, fasting and reading/studying of God's Word.
4. You prioritize church attendance (services & events)
 - a. No one service is less important than another, but God moves differently in each.
 - b. This means you rob yourself of different moves of God.
5. You support, love and encourage spiritual leadership
 - a. Pastor Ball
 - b. Never engage in negative conversation about a Pastor or Leader in the church.
 - c. No negative conversation should be entertained.
 - d. We will never be about "drama" at Generations Church.
6. You engage in Worship Services.
 - a. Clap hands, sing, raise hands, etc.
 - b. Always participate in altar call.
 - c. Actively seek out guests or "newer" people and sit by them.
 - d. Include and engage in others in church throughout the week.
 - e. Tithe and give offerings.
7. Be a Disciple Maker
 - a. Teach someone else about Jesus Christ
 - b. The greatest asset you have is your testimony (story) – Perfect it and it will become easier to share!
 - c. Teach Bible Studies
 - d. Love people
 - e. Do like with your disciples outside of church

Welcome to Generations Church

Welcome! We want you to feel like Generations Church is your church! This lesson is designed to let you know what our goal and vision is as a church as well as what our goal and vision is for you as an individual. We are also including some information and FAQs for new members. We will have time for questions at the end.

Love God- Love People- Grow Together

Love God

At Generations Church we love Jesus passionately. We pray because effectual fervent prayer changes things. We read His Word because when we read, we are literally hearing the voice of God. We work because leveraging our gifts and talents to advance God's kingdom is simply our calling.

Love People

Everywhere we go we intentionally allow the unconditional love of God to be felt by others. We work to create a welcoming environment in which everyone feels valued. We serve people because it is one of the greatest expressions of love. Serving others is important to our Lord, so it is important to us!

Grow Together

Generations Church exists for the purpose of reaching the souls of the lost. We believe personal salvation is the first step. God desires for us to grow in a relationship with Him and growth happens better together! Every time we gather, we know God has something special for each person.

The highest purpose and privilege of every true follower of Christ is to show the love of Jesus Christ. Sharing God's love with others is essential to a healthy Christian life.

Jesus said in John 13:35: *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another.”* (KJV)

We take our mission seriously and encourage you to adopt it as your own mission. Generations is a healthy church. Healthy things naturally grow. If you plant yourself firmly in this house, you will grow. No one said that it would be painless; sometimes there are growing pains and facing things we have been avoiding. Jesus said “Follow Me.” He didn't say there was no cost, but He did say to cast your cares upon Him. He also said that if you are weary and heavy laden to come to Him for rest.

“⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:6-7 NKJV)

“²⁸Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30 NKJV)

Servant Leadership

If you have come here from a different church, you may have noticed that we do some things differently here. We are here to serve. Those who do not approach ministry with a heart to serve, lacks humility. At Generations, we are intentional about making careful selections of people who aspire to service. When Jesus’ disciples were arguing for position in the Kingdom, Jesus set them straight immediately.

“Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.” (Mark 10:43 NKJV)

Jesus did not come to be served; He came to serve. That is our philosophy of leadership at Generations. We are here to serve. We are here to serve you and we will help you to find your place of service in the Kingdom. Our pastoral staff and leadership team are not here to rule, but to help.

We strive for unity as a church. If you aspire ministry, aspire to serve. We are here to serve you, but we need you! You are vital to the Kingdom and to us as a local church body! God made you with a purpose in mind and if you’re not serving or giving in some way, you cannot be complete in Him. We are created in God’s image. He is a generous God and we are meant to be the same.

FAQs

Most of your questions can be answered by the Front Office. Bethany Harris is our Administrator and can help with your questions. The office hours are Tuesday – Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. You can also email her at b.harris@generationschurchwi.com. Bethany will answer your questions or forward it to the correct contact person.

How do I join the database to receive texts from the office?

Download our church app and select the notification button to receive updates from our church.

How do I book an appointment with Pastor Ball?

To book an appointment with Pastor Ball, contact Bethany.

All other pastors and leaders make their own appointments.

How do I Inform the Church?

If you want to let the church know that you are having surgery, would like visits in your convalescence or jail visits, please let Bethany know. One of our pastoral staff would be happy to come and pray with you before a surgery or visit you during your recovery period.

Church Website

www.generationschurchwi.com

Requesting Prayer

Prayer Requests can be submitted through the office. It is rare we will address this need across the pulpit; however, our staff will personally pray over these needs.

Giving

Tithe and Offering envelopes are at Guest Services. You can also give via the website, or text to give. We also have black boxes in the back of our sanctuary that you may drop off your offering as well.

Text to Give:

Text #: 97000

Text: give2gc

You will receive a link. Click the link and follow the promptings.

Generations Church App

A lot of what happens around Generations is available on our app. We also send out push notifications regarding church announcements, service announcements, special happenings & more. You can select different groups such as Men's, Ladies, & Impact Weekend to receive exclusive information about what is going on.

Inclement Weather

Living in Wisconsin means occasionally snow or cold weather interferes with our scheduled events. When it is necessary to cancel a service, we will post an announcement (Facebook & Instagram). We will also send out a mass text & a push notification.

Bringing a Guest

If you bring a guest, please make sure they receive a Connections Cafe Complimentary Coffee Card. They can check off their order, drop the card in the offering box or hand it to a person on the Host Team and pick up their coffee from the Connections Cafe following service.

Our Generations Services

We have all heard the saying “I have church at home, just me and God.” While some rely more on the church than on God, we need both God and the church body to have a healthy spiritual life. We are the church. You can’t be the church without gathering. There are 30 commands in the Bible that we cannot obey without being part of a local church body.

“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25 NKJV)

Jesus gathered with others for the purpose of worship: *“So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.”* (Luke 4:16 NKJV)

- Note that going to the synagogue was not occasional – it was custom.
- The verse says that Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. Jesus was brought up in a worshipping community. A worshipping community will bring you up!
- If Jesus went to church, how much more should we?
- We are blessed to be part of a church that has powerful transformational church services. The music, preaching and the unified spirit will cause you to leave the service encouraged and even changed.
- While it is true that our church services only supplement our relationship with God, they are still indispensable and irreplaceable. You can’t keep going along with God if you intentionally stop going to church.
- Sunday Church consists of
 - 10:00 a.m. Table Talk
 - 10:00 am True Steps

- 10:00 am Elements
 - 10:00 a.m. Connection Kids Sunday School
 - 10:00 am Youth Class
 - 11:15 a.m. Corporate Worship
 - Our Sunday services are designated to help people discover Jesus Christ in a deeper way and be encouraged in their journey.
 - Sunday services are highlighted by powerful worship and evangelistic preaching.
- Wednesday Small Group begins at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Nights also have a powerful worship time and incorporated Bible based teaching that will ground and mature believers.

Core Values

Love God

At Generations we love Jesus passionately. We pray because effectual fervent prayer changes things. We read His Word because when we read, we are literally hearing the voice of God. We work because leveraging our gifts and talents to advance God's kingdom is simply our calling.

Love People

Everywhere we go we intentionally allow the unconditional love of God to be felt by others. We work to create a welcoming environment in which everyone feels valued. We serve people because it is one of the greatest expressions of love. Serving others is important to our Lord, so it is important to us!

Grow Together

Generations Church exists for the purpose of reaching the souls of the lost. We believe personal salvation is the first step. God desires for us to grow in a relationship with Him and growth happens better together! Every time we gather, we know God has something special for each person.

Elevate Your Church Experience

Praise Passionately

Generations is blessed with incredible music and praise moments. One of the top responses from new attenders relates to the powerful time of singing and praising God.

“²³But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:23-24 NKJV)

Praise is what we do because of our awe and admiration for Jesus Christ. Praise is an expression of adoration to God. The expression can be verbal, musical and physical.

Praise is an Offering

Praising God is a special kind of offering. We do not reserve praise only for our private times with God; it is especially powerful when we praise God with our church family.

“Oh, magnify the Lord with me, And let us exalt His name together.” (Psalm 34:3 NKJV)

Praise is a Command

The praise and worship that you see at Generations is not just a cultural thing, but an absolute command from scripture.

“Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.” (Psalm 150:6 NKJV)

Praise is a Blessing

Our praise and worship times are God’s time to be blessed in our church service.

“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.” (Psalm 34:1 NKJV)

God is not blessed by preaching; He will not hear anything that He doesn’t already know. But God is blessed by your sincere offering of praise.

Praise is Verbal

We speak of God’s great attributes and acts in our lives.

“Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!” (Psalm 150:2 NKJV)

We shout. When the Packers run onto the field, the fans shout! When Jesus honors us with his presence – we shout!

“Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!” (Psalm 100:1 NKJV)

Praise is Physical

We lift our hands: “...*I will lift up my hands in Your name.*” (Psalm 63:4 NKJV)

We clap our hands: “*Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples!...*” (Psalm 47:1 NKJV)

We dance: “*Praise Him with the timbrel and dance;...*” (Psalm 150:4 NKJV)

We bow: “*Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.*” (Psalm 95:6 NKJV)

Praise is Musical

We play instruments: “³*Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp!* ⁴*Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!* ⁵*Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals!*” (Psalm 150:3-5 NKJV)

We sing: “*Sing praises to the Lord...*” (Psalm 9:11 NKJV)

We dance: “*Let them praise His name with the dance...*” (Psalm 149:3 NKJV)

The Power of your Praise

Praise is irresistible to God.

“*But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.*” (Psalm 22:3 KJV)

Praise is a welcome mat for God. God enters when we praise.

Praise Impacts the Atmosphere of the Service

God moves in the atmosphere before He acts in power.

In creation, God moved in the atmosphere first, then He acted in power (Genesis 1:1).

On the first day of the church age, the day of Pentecost, God moved in the atmosphere first, then acted in power (Acts 2:2).

Praise will invite the movement of the Spirit in our service and proves an opportunity for our congregation to experience the power of God.

Our praise will ultimately invite the Spirit of God to manifest in the service. We will experience His presence, His power and His glory.

Praise prepares our heart to receive from the Lord.

Praise moves us past the barriers of the cares of our busy lives. Praise gets us into the courts of God where we can receive from God (Psalm 100:4).

Our Praise Impacts Everyone

Praise can open a guest's heart to God.

Praise can strengthen the preacher before he stands to deliver the Word.

Caution: If we are not careful, we can love the atmosphere, melody of a song, the crowd and the emotion and overlook the reason for all of these elements – Jesus.

We can simply watch our favorite worship leader or listen to the artistry of the musicians. Being impressed by talented people and feeling good through the force of their musical performance is not enough, we must have true heart-level praise to our Lord.

Actively Pray

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31 NKJV)

Praying together with fellow believers is one of the most powerful activities on planet Earth. In Acts 4:31 the early church had a prayer meeting. The results were phenomenal; the place where they were meeting was shaken and everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit. In addition, they were given a supernatural boldness to speak God's Word.

Pre-Service Prayer

We invite all of our attenders to gather in the Worship Center for a time of pre-service prayer 30 minutes before service begins.

Pre-service prayer harmonizes our hearts so that God can create a masterpiece church service through us.

Remember what the writer James said in James 5:16 *“...The effective, fervent (Passionate) prayer of a righteous man avails much.”* (NKJV)

What is the Purpose of Pre-Service Prayer?

It prepares our hearts.

“if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV)

Notice that in the previous verse, it called us to humble ourselves and pray and seek the face of God and turn from our own wickedness. It is not until we personally seek God and return to Him that we will see the results we need and our nation needs.

Often, we come to church with the cares of the world heavy upon our shoulders. We need time to recover our focus and prepare ourselves for worship and hearing the preached Word.

Pray for the Preaching of God’s Word

We can intercede for guests, members, the preacher and the entire worship service!

“You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Timothy 2:1 NKJV)

Pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray that they would be strengthened and renewed in the Spirit.

Pray that the guests will have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to them. Pray for their salvation. Pray against binding spirits and loose the power of the Holy Ghost upon their lives. Pray that they would be healed, delivered and set free.

It is important to cover in prayer the person who will be preaching. Pray for a strong anointing to rest upon that person. Pray against any attack of the enemy upon their life.

Pray for the hearers of the Word. Pray for God to prepare the soil of their heart. Pray that the preaching will fall upon good soil in the hearts of the people instead of stony soil.

Pray that both condition and comfort will come thorough the preaching.

We Bind and Loose

“Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 18:18 NKJV)

Take authority over any resistance of the enemy by the authority of the Word of God and the power that is in the name of Jesus Christ.

Loose or release the presence, power and glory of God into our service.

It will unify our hearts.

“¹When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4 NKJV)

The first outpouring of the Holy Spirit was preceded by a pre-service prayer meeting. About 120 followers of Jesus Christ had gathered together and prayed. They were all anticipating a supernatural experience with God, but the Holy Ghost was not poured out until they were in unity. It is important that we harmonize our hearts in pre-service prayer.

Prioritize the Altar Call

It is the custom of Generations Church to invite people to come forward to pray at the conclusion of the preaching. Prayer is optimal after preaching. The heart has to be opened, God has spoken and it is time to pray that message into our hearts.

Leaving church without responding to the altar call is a missed opportunity you will never get back.

We Respond to the Sermon

“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” (James 1:21 NKJV)

After hearing a message delivered from the pulpit, ask yourself what the action items are for your life that you need to pray about.

Preaching / Teaching

Some messages will convict your heart and you will feel the need to repent; others will inspire or challenge you to change.

Remember that the implanted word is able to save your soul. Praying after preaching is a wonderful way to plant the seed of God’s word into your life.

We Repent

“He who covers his sins will not prosper, But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.” (Proverbs 28:13 NKJV)

Altar calls are a perfect moment to ask God to search your heart and to repent of attitudes and carnality that have collected in your spirit.

The practice of crucifying our sinful nature should not be an occasional practice. Every altar call should be anchored in repentance.

We Surrender

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.” (Romans 12:1 NKJV)

Romans 12:1 informs us that we are a living sacrifice. Because of this, we can get to the altar anytime we want. We describe our prayer time after preaching as an altar call. Our coming forward is symbolic of laying our lives upon the altar to offer our lives to God. We must continually pray for God’s will to be performed in our lives while we surrender our will to God.

We Seek Guidance

“In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:6 NKJV)

Don't make decisions without first consulting with Jesus.

Seek God's guidance in ALL of your ways. If you do this, you have the promise that God will provide you with the direction you need for life.

If we are to seek God in ALL of our ways, then we should always have a reason to respond to the altar call.

We Seek Healing, Strength and Supply

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 4:19 NKJV)

There is no end to our needs. We must ask God, however, if we are going to receive anything from Him.

The altar call is a perfect time to pray with expectation for the needs in your life.

We are Renewed in the Holy Spirit

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

Our Holy Ghost fire can fade from an inferno to embers.

The altar call is the perfect time to break through spiritual resistance and apathy.

We can blow on those embers, put more fuel on the fire and be “filled”.

We Can Pray for Others

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,” (1 Timothy 2:1 NKJV)

One of the beautiful facets of our altar calls is that we have the opportunity to pray with one another and minister to one another.

You may feel directed to give a word of encouragement or wisdom to someone praying in the service.

We may also feel directed to pray for people who are not at church or who are not yet born-again.

Get the Most from Preaching

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14 NKJV)

Preaching is a uniquely powerful gift that God has given to His people. The same preached message has the power to convict one person and comfort the next. There is no way of measuring the importance and impact of preaching in our lives. Every message can feed your soul and some messages will even change your life.

Although there are many great sermons and church services online, there is no substitute for the message God is delivering to us at Generations Church.

Assume the sermon is for you!

“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” (James 1:21 NKJV)

We are called to be meek when receiving the Word of God; we should not be resistant.

Too often people are thinking about how perfect the sermon is for someone else; we must accept that what is being preached is perfect for us.

Be Supportive of the Preacher and be an Active Listener

At Generations Church, preaching is not a spectator sport. There are moments where the congregation will stand and clap because the preaching is inspiring them and they feel faith rising in their spirit.

Some will shout “AMEN!” which means “truly so, I agree.”

It is not uncommon for people to raise their hands during preaching as a sign of surrender to a particularly powerful or convicting statement in the message.

You can also be supportive by not disrupting the service such as by turning off your phone prior to service or by not using the restroom or getting a drink during preaching.

Lesson 1: Where You Are Now

God loves you right where you are. But the good news is that He loves you too much to leave you there.

God not only loves you; He understands you.

“..., *for God is love.*” (1 John 4:8 NKJV)

Jesus was a person just like you and me and He understands what you are going through.

“...*but was in all points tempted as we are,*...” (Hebrews 4:15 NKJV)

Jesus cannot love you anymore than He loves you right now.

It should be noted, Jesus loves all humanity (creation). He does not love any nation, race, color, or creed any more than the other.

However, though he loves all of us unconditionally, He has given us free will. Meaning, we possess the choice whether or not to serve Him.

His love does not save us but is an avenue through which we can find eternal life.

Begin Where You Are

The path begins where you are, not necessarily where you would like to be.

- We have all done things and said things that have hurt not only ourselves, but also others.
- We have all missed the path of peace with God and with each other.
- The Bible tells us that everyone has missed the path (sin). “*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*” (Romans 3:23 NKJV).
- The Good news is that Jesus is the God of another chance. He desires to restore relationships and even stolen blessings.

Let’s discover where you are on the path. Below, you will find a short questionnaire designed to help you gain a sense of “Spiritual Bearing”.

We cannot chart a course to where we want to go until we understand where we are.

Path Questionnaire Exercise

1. How did your journey on a spiritual path begin?

2. Who is the most influential person on your spiritual path? Why?

3. What has been your most significant spiritual experience?

4. How would you describe your present spiritual condition?

- a. Moving Backward
- b. Standing Still
- c. Moving Forward
- d. None of the above

If your answer is (d), please explain:

5. How would you describe your relationship with God?

- a. Distant
- b. More like an acquaintance
- c. Close

6. What have you done to influence your relationship with God and your spiritual position?

7. What do you think is God’s opinion of you? What do you think His plans are for you?

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

8. What is your greatest need from God?

9. If you could change one thing in your life today, what would it be?

10. What are the 3 most stressful things in your life right now?

11. What causes you the greatest fear in your life right now?

12. For what purpose in life do you believe you were born?

13. What do you think God has planned for you in this life and in the life to come?

14. Would you like to talk more about the path and His plan for your life sometime?

Jesus wants to help you right now. He does not want you to miss the path He has for you. In fact, He already made a way for you.

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” (John 14:6 NKJV)

If Jesus is the way, then you need to know more about Him and discover what He wants to do in your life. You can do this by learning how to pray and by reading the Bible – The “Word of God”.

We are here to help you on your path to what God has for you. We can find the answer by looking into the Word of God. That will be the focus the next time we meet together.

However, before we finish, what is something you need from God right now? Let’s pray!

Lesson 2: The Word of God

In the beginning was the Word

At the beginning of time, God's spoken word started everything. Then the Gospel of John chapter 1 confirms this truth saying, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.*" (John 1:1 NKJV) and "*And the Word became flesh...*" (John 1:14 NKJV)

Before God revealed Himself in the flesh as Jesus Christ, He first revealed Himself as the spoken Word.

Now He is the beginning of something new in you! It stands to reason that your new beginning will start with His Word.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105 KJV)

The phrase "*lamp unto my feet*" simply tells us that we can find our position and guidance in His Word. The most important focus of anyone's life should be their relationship with God. And that relationship should be influenced by salvation from sin through faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to God's Word.

But why should we trust the Bible as God's Word? How do we know it's even true? While having a relationship with Jesus Christ requires faith that supersedes "the facts," it's still great to know that the Bible has been validated time and time again!

Science Proves the Bible

Principals of Science

Many times, science is pitted against scripture in an attempt to prove the ignorance of biblical authors or worse, the absence of an all-knowing God. Consider just a few examples of the Bible's preeminence in declaring scientific discoveries.

Mankind: A celebrated English evolutionist and philosopher, Herbert Spencer, is best known for coining the phrase "survival of the fittest" after reading Charles Darwin's book: *On the origin of Species*. In the mid-1800's, Spencer presented five scientific principles by which man still studies the unknown: space, time, matter, motion, and force.

Bible: It's amazing how in the 1500's B.C., Moses documented these same principles in Genesis 1:1, "*In the beginning (time)...God (Force)...created (motion)...the heavens (space)...and the earth (matter).*" (NKJV).

Moses wasn't a scientist or a philosopher, but he recorded all five of Spencer's principles of scientific study in the first verse of scripture – some 3,000 years before Spencer!

Counting Stars

Mankind: Well into the 20th century, scientists unsuccessfully tried to estimate the number of stars in the heavens. David Kornreich, an Ithaca College professor and founder of “Ask An Astronomer” at Cornell University, said in 2014, “You can't count stars, generally, in a galaxy.”

Bible: In about 2100 B.C., God tells Abraham in Genesis 15:5 “... ‘*Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.*’” (NKJV). Or as Paul wrote in Hebrews 11:12 “*Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude...*” (NKJV).

In approximately 600 B.C., Jeremiah writes in chapter 33 verse 22 that “*And as the stars of the sky cannot be counted...*” (NLT). Abraham may have been a nomadic shepherd, but his God revealed to him a truth and placed it in His word thousands of years before scientists knew it!

Life in the Blood

Mankind: In 1838, the German medical doctor, Johannes Muller, published his revolutionary theory that blood itself had life giving properties and could even sustain cancerous tumors. Less than 100 years prior, doctors ignorantly used a process called “bleeding” patients (with small cuts for leeches) to cleanse their bodies of infection. Any patient deaths would later be attributed to blood loss and the “bleeding” process debunked as a scientific failure.

Bible: In Leviticus 17:11, Moses wrote 3,000 years earlier “*For the life of the flesh is in the blood.*” (KJV). The Hebrew people's regard for this truth was evident in their laws and customs from 1500 B.C. The rest of the world would have to wait until the 19th century for scientific acknowledgement of an ancient Bible truth.

Ocean Currents

Mankind: In 1855, Matthew Fontaine Maury, an American Oceanographer known as the Father of Modern Oceanography, published: *The Physical Geography of the Sea*. In this exhaustive work, Maury reveals the existence of specific, consistent currents and paths of the sea. His work revolutionized man's understanding of sea mammal migration and vessel navigation.

Bible: Maury credited the Bible as his inspiration for the discovery. Maury's father read him Psalm 8:8 as a child: “...*and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.*” (KJV). The Psalmist David was a shepherd and musician, but a song he penned under the influence of the Holy Spirit in 1015 B.C. held the key to a mystery that wouldn't be revealed by science for 2,800 years.

Archaeology Proves the Bible

Since the 15th century, many archaeologists have explored the land called Palestine or the Holy Land. While countless discoveries have confirmed scripture, there has never been an archaeological find that contradicted the Bible. Below are some examples which validate scripture.

The Rosetta Stone

In 1799, French Army Captain Boussard found a stone monument inscribed with a decree honoring Egyptian King Ptolemy (**tol-uh-mee**) written in three languages in 196 B.C. It became known as the Rosetta Stone and it unlocked key translations of hieroglyphics and Egypt's oldest language. Any of these translations confirm and illuminate Biblical history.

Behistun Rock Deciphered (*bey-hi-stoon*)

On a cliff 300 feet above the base of the Zagreb Mountains in western Iran sits a billboard-like inscription half the size of a football field. The site, called the Behistun (*bey-hi-stoon*) Rock, features an inscription from 516 B.C. that remarkably advanced the deciphering of ancient writings from the Fertile Crescent. More importantly, it confirms the Bible's account of Darius I's rise to the Persian throne and does so in three languages: Babylonian, Elamite (*ee-luh-mahyt*) and Old Persian. Finally, the Behistun Rock enabled the translation of 22,000 other tablet inscriptions, the most of which confirm the Bible's accounts of major historical events!

The Hittite (*hit-ayht*) Criticism

For many years Bible critics sneered at the Bible's references to a people called the Hittites (Gen. 15:20; Ex. 3:8, 17; Num. 13:29; Josh. 1:4; Jud. 1:26). They believed that the Hittites were simply one of many mythical peoples fabricated by Bible writers. Other critics said they were just a small and unimportant tribe. New evidence proved them wrong.

At the end of the 19th century, Hittite monuments were uncovered in Syria, proving the existence of these ancient people. In 1906, excavations at Boghazkoy (*boy-ahz-koi*) in Turkey uncovered thousands of Hittite documents which revealed the Hittites as a real and formidable power. According to archaeologists, the once "imaginary" Hittites were actually one of the dominant nations of Asia Minor who exercised considerable control in Syria and Palestine.

Biographical Proof

King Jehu (*jee-hyoo*)

The Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III (*shal-muh-nee-zer*) (558-824 B.C.)

Shows Jehu, king of Israel, bowing before the Assyrian king.

King Jehoahaz “Ahaz” (*je-ho-haz*)

Tablets of Tiglath-Pileser (*tog-lath-pi-lee-zer*) (744-727 B.C.)

Proves that he received tribute from Jehoahaz of Judah as stated in 2 Kings 16:7.

King Belshazzar (*bel-shaz-er*)

The Cylinder of Nabonidus (*nab-oh-nahy-duh s*) (555-539 B.C.)

Shows Nabonidus as the last ruler of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. It also proves that his son Belshazzar was co-regent with him as stated in Daniel 5; 7:1; 8:1. Before this find, scholars scoffed at Belshazzar's existence.

Jesus Christ Himself

Roman Historian Tacitus (*tas-i-tuh s*) (1st Century)

Considered one of the most accurate ancient historians, mentions superstitious "Christians" who followed "Christus" who suffered under Pontius Pilate during the reign of Tiberius (*tahy-beer-ee-uh s*)

Suetonius (*swi-toh-nee-uh s*)

Secretary to Emperor Hadrian (*hey-dree-uh n*) (1st Century), wrote that there was a man named Chrestus (or Christ) who lived during the first century (*Annals 15:44*).

Flavius Josephus (*fley-vee-uh s*) (*Joh-see-fuh s*) (1st Century)

A Jewish historian hired by Rome, references James "the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ" in his book: *Antiquities*. Another reference says "*Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man. For he was one who wrought surprising feats...He was (the) Christ...he appeared to them alive again the third day.*"

Julius Africanus (*jool-huh s*) (*af-ri-kehy-nuh s*) (1st Century)

Quotes the historian Thallus on the season of darkness which followed the crucifixion of Christ (*Extant Writings, 18*).

Pliny (*plin-ee*) the Younger (1st Century)

A lawyer, author, and magistrate in Ancient Rome, wrote in his letters to Emperor Trajan about the earliest Christian worship practices, especially communion, as a memorial to the Last Supper of Christ. Pliny's account of the eruption at Mount Vesuvius is unquestioned, as should his account of Christ's teachings and followers.

The Talmud (*tahl-muh d*) (200 B.C.-500 A.D.)

The centerpiece of Rabbinical Judaism, references that Jesus was the son of Mary, that healing occurred in the name of Jesus, that Jesus was a Torah teacher, that He was a Jewish son who turned out "badly", that He was a frivolous magician, and that He was executed. There was no reason other than documenting historical fact for Jewish rabbis to record the existence of Jesus Christ.

The Gospels (Matthew 70 A.D., Mark 65 A.D., Luke 80 A.D., John 90 A.D.)

Offer eyewitness accounts of the life and times of Jesus Christ. For years, critics have considered the 35-year gap between Christ's death and His earliest gospel biography to be too long for

historical accuracy. They argue that too many things can be forgotten, even by eyewitnesses over a space of time.

However, these same scholars celebrate and teach the life and conquests of Alexander the Great as unquestionable fact even though the gap between his death and earliest biography, by Diodorus of Sicily, is nearly 300 years! In fact, modern historians Roisman and Worthington write, “*texts written by people who actually knew Alexander or who gathered information from men who served with Alexander were all lost.*”

The Gospel writers walked and talked with Jesus!

The Bible in Our Lives

As we have discussed earlier in our study, the Word of God (the Bible) gives us answers to what we need in life. One of the most important answers we find is to the question, “How can I be saved?” We are saved from our sins and the penalty of sin by receiving and obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ.

“¹Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ²By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. ³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4 KJV)

The “**Gospel**” is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The gospel means nothing to us unless we apply it to our lives through our obedience to the scripture. Our salvation from the penalty of sin (Romans 6:23) has been made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. We are saved by our hearing, believing, and obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In our next lesson, we’ll continue down the path by applying this Gospel in our lives.

Lesson 3: The Pentecostal Experience

Born for a New Path

We've been talking a lot about walking on a new path. Well, that means we must have been walking a different path until now. The old path is the one you've walked since you were naturally born. It may have been well-defined or it may have been the result of aimless wandering. It may have been charted by your family, by your own desires, or your path was just one you stumbled into. Regardless, a new path is ahead of you when you're born again!

You've probably heard the terms "new birth" or "born again" used in religious circles before. You may have wondered, "If that person has experienced a new birth, why are they still walking the same old path?" You were right! When we are truly born again, God gives us a new path to walk.

Today's lesson is going to explain how you can be sure that you've been born again! The first time we see this experience in the Bible is in Acts chapter 2 on the Jewish feast day called Pentecost. That's why some Christians identify as Pentecostal and why this "new birth" experience is also referred to as "The Pentecostal Experience". The great news is that this experience is for everyone. Let's begin.

Believing and Repentance

"¹There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: ²The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. ³Jesus answered and said unto him, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.' ⁴Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵Jesus answered, 'Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. ⁸The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.' ⁹Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? ¹⁰Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?" (John 3:1-10 KJV)

Jesus made some strong statements here.

*"...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 KJV)
"...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5 KJV)*

By our natural birth, we are born into this world's kingdom and under its wicked authority. But when we are "born again," we enter into God's Kingdom and live under His authority. This is commonly called being saved. In other words, we are saved from the world's oppressive rule and death and saved to Christ's merciful kingdom and eternal life! Jesus is clear; being born again is required to be saved from this world's kingdom.

Who Needs to be Saved?

Everyone; we are all sinners born into a sinful world.

"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." (Ecclesiastes 7:20 KJV)

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:" (Romans 3:10 KJV)

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:23 KJV)

What do we need to do to be Saved?

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16 KJV)

So, **believing** that Jesus is the Christ is a **must** for salvation.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6 KJV)

As a sinner coming to God, we must first believe that He *is* God and then seek Him diligently.

How do we seek Him?

"For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:10 KJV)

We must come to the realization that we are sinners and acknowledge Jesus as the Savior and **confess** our sins to the Lord, determining to **turn away** from sin. This is called **repentance**, which simply means to **recognize** we are sinners, **ask forgiveness** for our sins, and **forsake** our sins.

"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matthew 4:17 KJV)

Repentance

It is a very necessary and important part of Salvation. It prepares our hearts to be born again.

Jesus spoke very strongly about repentance, just as He did about being born again. You will not be born again without repentance.

“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3 KJV)

Because Jesus spoke so strongly about repentance and said all of us must repent, I should ask...have you ever repented of your sins?

Remember that repentance is more than an apology. It's confession, asking forgiveness, accepting forgiveness, and turning away from the things you confessed.

A Promise from God

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

Would you like to Repent now?

Prayer: Lord, I realize my life has not been pleasing to you. I realize that I have fallen short and sinned. I am asking right now for you to forgive me. I have faith in You and everything You've done for me. I confess to you every fault and failure I've had; and ask you forgive me. From this day forward, I pledge to strive to forsake my fleshly desires and live for You!

“...let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,” (Hebrews 6:1 KJV)

This does not mean we will never repent again. On the contrary, we will live a life of repentance and consecration. This scripture means that there is more to discover in the salvation journey. Faith and repentance now become our “foundation” from which we build our new life.

We see that **believing** is a must and **repentance** is a must. Jesus also tells us that being **born again** is a must. Let us now proceed to discuss what it means to be born again.

Born of the Water

A Closer Look at what Jesus said about being Born Again

Jesus wants everyone to be a “born again” believer, not just a believer.

“...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3 KJV)

Nicodemus wanted to know how to be born again...

“Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?” (John 3:4 KJV)

Nicodemus could not understand because he thought it was another natural birth; but Jesus explained that it is a **spiritual birth**.

“...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5 KJV)

Notice, there are two things that the new birth consists of: a birth of water and a birth of Spirit!

The Greek word for “born” in our text is *gennao*, meaning to be delivered of. The Greek word for “baptism” is *bapto* and *baptiso*, meaning to cover wholly, to immersion.

Jesus Spoke Very Strongly of Baptism

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:16 KJV)

Baptism is important to Jesus and therefore needs to be properly administered. Jesus himself set the example by being immersed.

“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: ...” (Matthew 3:16 KJV)

All biblical accounts of baptism are by immersion. We find no other methods (pouring, sprinkling, etc.) used in any accounts in scripture. In fact, that Greek word was used by ancient writers to describe the dipping of garments being dyed in a new color!

What does Baptism do for Us?

Baptism removes, remits/washes away our sin.

Ananias told Paul, *“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”* (Acts 22:16 KJV)

Peter told the crowd, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* (Acts 2:38 KJV)

Some preachers play down the importance of baptism, claiming it is just an outward sign that we have accepted Jesus Christ, even adding that baptism is not necessary to remit sins!

Others would tell us that the proper formula to pronounce over the baptismal candidate is to use the titles: Father, Son, Holy Ghost.

What is the Proper Formula for Baptism?

The Catholic Encyclopedia states the original formula that was used by the Apostles was in the Name of the Lord Jesus and the Trinitarian formula was developed later, being introduced at the Council of Nicaea in the year 325.

Jesus commissioned his apostles in Matthew 28:19 *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”* (KJV)

First, notice the word “name” which is singular. Next the words: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, which are titles. If each were to be used Jesus would have said: “names” or “titles” but He didn’t; He said NAME. **Because there is only one name that holds all power and one name by which we are saved!**

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12 KJV)

Let’s Look at another account of the Great Commission

“⁴⁵Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶And said unto them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’” (Luke 24:45-47 KJV)

Every account of Baptism in the New Testament was administered in the Name of Jesus.

“For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 8:16 KJV)

“And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.” (Acts 10:48 KJV)

“When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 19:5 KJV)

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” (Acts 2:38 KJV)

Baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ is so Important that Paul Re-Baptized Believers

“¹And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, ²He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. ³And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. ⁴Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. ⁵When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 19:1-5 KJV)

If you have not been baptized by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ, please consider being baptized or re-baptized using the only biblical formula. Jesus tells us to be born again is a must!

Born of the Spirit

Jesus Spoke of another Birth – Born of the Spirit

*“...Except a man be born of water **and of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5 KJV)*

To be “born of the Spirit” means to be **baptized by the Spirit** or immersed in the Spirit.

“I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.” (Mark 1:8 KJV)

“⁴And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, ‘which,’ saith he, ‘ye have heard of me. ⁵For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.” (Acts 1:4-5 KJV)

Jesus died on the Jewish celebration day of Passover and Rose Three Days Later

“To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:” (Acts 1:3 KJV)

Not many days later, in a seven-day prayer meeting that culminated on the 50th day after Passover, God baptized them with the **Holy Spirit**.

“Pentecost” means the 50th day. Therefore, Pentecostals are referred to as those who have received the same experience that the first church did on that special day.

What Happened on that Day?

“¹And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4 KJV)

While more Christian groups are open to Holy Ghost baptism than ever before, there are still a few religious leaders that claim this experience no longer occurs. However, according to the Pew Forum, there are nearly 300 million Pentecostals in the world today and that number continues to rapidly increase.

“¹⁶But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; ¹⁷And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:” (Acts 2:16-17)

If you have never been born again of the Spirit, this experience is for you!

False Teaching Regarding Receiving the Spirit

Some teach that you automatically receive the Spirit the moment you believe.

There is NO scripture that states this. In fact, the Apostle Paul asked some believers in Acts 19:2: “*He said unto them, ‘Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?’ And they said unto him, ‘We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.’” (KJV)*

Philip preached in Samaria and the people believed, but they didn’t receive the Holy Spirit until Peter and John prayed for them.

“¹³Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. ¹⁴Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: ¹⁶(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) ¹⁷Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 8:13-17 KJV)

These verses prove that a person does not automatically receive the Holy Ghost at believing. Receiving the Holy Ghost is a separate and distinct experience and is an essential part of our new birth!

Jesus gave Nicodemus a Secret about those who are Born of the Spirit

“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8 KJV)

Jesus said, you cannot tell where the Spirit comes from nor where it goes, but you will be able to **hear the sound of the Spirit.**

There was a distinct sound that happened on the day of Pentecost, and it happens every time someone is **born of the Spirit.**

“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4 KJV)

Tongues is the evidence that someone has received God’s Holy Spirit.

Jesus said in John 3:8 *“so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”* (KJV)

It was prophesied in the Old Testament:

“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.” (Isaiah 28:11 KJV)

Why Did God Choose to use Tongues as the Evidence of the Holy Ghost?

“⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. ⁷For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: ⁸But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.” (James 3:6-8 KJV)

The tongue is the most unruly member of the body. Man cannot tame it, only God can. The tongue is the last member of our bodies to yield to God.

Many people and religious leaders of today do not understand these things.

Nicodemus was a religious leader who did not understand either. He asked Jesus, *“...‘How can these things be?’”* (John 3:9 KJV)

Jesus said to him, *“... ‘Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?’”* (John 3:10 KJV)

Nicodemus was knowledgeable of the scriptures, but he did not know about being *born again of water and of the Spirit*.

Everyone needs to know about being born again – as the scripture teaches it! Because Jesus said that being born of the Spirit is a must to enter the kingdom of God (John 3:5).

What Does the Holy Spirit Do for Us?

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” (John 14:26 KJV)

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:...” (John 16:13 KJV)

“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” (Romans 14:17 KJV)

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

“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwellers in you.” (Romans 8:11 KJV)

Every believer in the Bible repented, was baptized in Jesus Name, and was filled with the Spirit.

If you truly believe that Christ loves you and died for your sins then demonstrate your faith by repenting of your sins and ask Him to forgive you and to fill you with His Spirit.

If you have not been baptized by immersion in the name of Jesus Christ, now is your chance to make a profession of your own faith and have your sins washed away.

If you have never been filled with the Holy Ghost, the promise is yours!

You are already walking The Path of Faith to Jesus. It’s time to take this life changing, soul saving step of faith to enter His Kingdom!

Lesson 4: Sharing Your Story

You're called to spread the good news.

In the Bible, everyone Jesus healed or forgave immediately spread the word and thousands responded to their testimonies by following Jesus! **You're first called as a disciple and to disciple others!**

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

Who is in “your world” to reach with the gospel?

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” (Matthew 28:19 NKJV)

This command is to **ALL** of us who believe and have become part of the Kingdom of God. We are commanded to share the love of Jesus Christ with others, just as we were commanded to obey biblical salvation.

Your Commission to “Go Make Disciples”

Every Disciple of Jesus Christ has a Mission

Your path of making disciples begins with sharing your testimony – ‘your story’.

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.” (Revelation 12:11 NKJV)

You can begin your mission by telling people your story of what Jesus did for you and how your life has been changed by Him. We are here to help you fulfill your mission of telling others your story.

You Have a Story

Your story about how God interrupted your life with the gospel of Jesus Christ is called your testimony. Your story will embolden you as you enter into His Kingdom and will help you become comfortable telling others what God has done for you.

Sharing your story makes your faith strong and will encourage others. Your testimony will give hope to your family and friends that they can have Kingdom peace just like you.

Constructing Your Testimony

Writing your testimony will help you remember all the good things the Lord has done, the moments when the Lord began to invite you to follow Him.

What Do You Tell Them?

- Tell them everything about your entire experience.
- Begin by writing down every memory, event, and experience along the way.
- Tell them about the mess you were in and what God did to help you out of it.
- Your friends and family are experiencing their own messes right now.
- Share your story with sincere transparency and they will be inspired to change too.
- Be real about what God has done – they need to hear it!

Your Testimony

We have prepared a simple exercise to get you started on building your testimony.

Begin by telling them from a perspective of “What Jesus did for me.” Begin with a “big picture” summary sentence – what happened overall. (Ex: I have experienced something that has changed my life in a way I never thought possible.)

Next, 2-3 sentences of defining how you were then (before Jesus). (Ex: Before this experience, I was walking a destructive path of addiction, depression and unhappiness. I was searching for something I could not find in earthly pleasures.)

Then, 2-3 sentences of how you are now. Describe the changes along the way. (Ex: Now I am so happy. I have real peace for the first time in my life. I no longer need the pleasures I was seeking to fill the emptiness in my life.)

Finally, describe your encounter with Jesus in 3-4 sentences. (Ex: A friend invited me to a special church service. I felt the Spirit of God like I never had before. The preacher told me I needed to repent, to be baptized in Jesus’ name, and receive the Holy Ghost. This message spoke to my heart and I went to the front of the church to pray. By the time the service was over, I had obeyed everything the preacher showed me in the Bible regarding the salvation plan. Encountering Jesus was the greatest experience of my life and you can have the same experience.

Who Needs to Hear Your Story?

Identifying Who You Should Tell and When?

- Who would want to hear your story?
- Who is the Lord leading you to?
- Who already knows their life is messed up and wants a change?
- Who have you already earned friendship and trust with through kindness?
- When and where should you tell them without embarrassment or interruption?

Pray before you share your story. Ask God to love them through you and give you influence.

Ways You Can Share Your Story

- Scheduling a personal meeting for this specific purpose (i.e. coffee, dinner, lunch)
- Taking advantage of routine “hangout” time with family and friends.
- Share your story on social media (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
 - Also, I would like to add be sure you are being a good witness of Jesus Christ and not a poor witness on social media.
- Text friends and family when they are going through a tough time.
 - Be encouraging and supportive; never judgmental or superior.

You can even begin below. Pray about 7 names who you can immediately begin to reach with your testimony of what God has done for you. Now, write their names down and ask God to remind you of needs they have in their lives right now. Finally, invest in them by “depositing” acts of love, support, and prayer into their lives.

The goal isn’t to push church attendance, it’s to show Christ’s love with “no strings attached.” The door will open to invite them to worship in God’s time! In fact, they will likely fellowship with you privately and even attend your Discipleship Team activities before coming to church.

Lesson 5: Holiness

The Holiness of God

“¹The Lord reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved. ²The Lord is great in Zion; and he is high above all the people. ³Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy.” (Psalm 99:1-3 KJV)

What is Kadosh?

Nature of God

- Omnipotent (all powerful)
- Omniscient (all knowing)
- Omnipresent (Fills all space and time)

VS.

Nature of Men

- Anger
- Pride
- Jealousy

“¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.” (1 John 2:15-16 KJV)

Is it any wonder why the psalmist said...

“What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?” (Psalm 8:4 KJV)

Many times, we come into the church as part of our routine and can totally disregard the fact we serve a Holy God!

Separated unto Him (This is Holiness)

“For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy (separate) place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” (Isaiah 57:15 KJV)

Our hearts as men are made holy/revived when we allow his spirit to HUMBLE us and make us CONTRITE.

Justification

Sanctification

Glorification

The Train and God's Holiness and our Response

“¹In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. ²Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. ³And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. ⁴And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. ⁶Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: ⁷And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. ⁸Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.” (Isaiah 6:1-8 KJV)

Isaiah's response demonstrates three attributes of holiness:

Recognition... Worship... Commitment

Commitment

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;” (1 Peter 2:9 KJV)

“²¹If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: ²²That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; ²³And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; ²⁴And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” (Ephesians 4:21-24 KJV)

Lesson 6: Gifts of The Spirit

“⁷But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ⁸for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.” (1 Corinthians 12:7-10 NKJV)

Word of Wisdom

Word of Knowledge

Also known as the “Knowing Gifts”

“For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.” (Luke 12:12 NKJV)

Word = Logos: Living Word, Word of Life.

Wisdom = Sophia: Broad intelligence dealing with diverse areas/skilled management of affairs.

Devout and proper prudence in intercourse (communication) with men who are not disciples of Christ; skill and discretion in imparting Christian truth.

- An example of the opposite of a Word of Wisdom would be
 - “The End is Near” guy
 - “You’re going to hell”
 - “God hates gay people”
 - All of which I have seen/heard “Christian” people do
- A positive example of a Word of Wisdom is a Believer’s ability to help non-believers or guests understand our beliefs/worship services

Knowledge = Gnosis

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

Thayer Definition: knowledge of general intelligence/understanding; more advanced knowledge of the things of God; things lawful and unlawful for Christians; moral wisdom such as is seen in righteous living.

Gift of Faith

Faith = Pistis: A conviction of truth, belief; faithfulness. It is the joining of belief and action.

For someone to possess this gift, they have the ability to “raise” or “elevate” faith (pistis).

Gifts of Healing

charis = Gifts

Thayer Definition: A favor with which one receives without any merit of his own; the gift of divine grace.

Iama = Healing: The power to heal.

One Important Note:

- The difference between healing and miracle.
 - **Healing is an ongoing process whether physical/emotional etc.**

Working of Miracles

dunamis = Miracles/Power

Thayer Definition:

- 1) strength power, ability
 - 1a) inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth
 - 1b) power for performing miracles
 - 1c) moral power and excellence of soul
 - 1d) the power and influence which belong to riches and wealth
 - 1e) power and resources arising from numbers
 - 1f) power consisting in or resting upon armies, forces, hosts

A Miracle is instantaneous whereas a healing is a process.

Gift of Prophecy

prophēteia

Thayer Definition:

1) prophecy

1a) a discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproving and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden; especially by foretelling future events

1b) Used in the NT of the utterance of OT prophets

1b1) of the prediction of events relating to Christ's kingdom and its speedy triumph, together with the consolations and admonitions pertaining to it, the spirit of prophecy, the divine mind, to which the prophetic faculty is due

Prophecy is not only foretelling of events; it is also forth telling or exhortation.

Gift of Discerning of Spirits

diakrisis

Thayer Definition:

1) a distinguishing, discerning, judging

Judging people is wrong, but judging spirits is wise.

Judging the person is condemned by Christ but judging the spirit of the person is biblical.

pneuma

3c1) used of demons, or evil spirits, who were conceived as inhabiting the bodies of men

3c2) the spiritual nature of Christ, higher than the highest angels and equal to God, the divine nature of Christ

Gift of Tongues

“²⁷If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. ²⁸But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.” (1 Corinthians 14:27-28 (NKJV))

“²⁸And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? ³⁰Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?” (1 Corinthians 12:28-30 NKJV)

Paul made it clear that the Gift of Tongues was not for everybody (1 Cor 12:7-10). Notice the phrases "to one is given" and "to another" (1 Cor 12:30).

Yet in 1 Corinthians 14:5 Paul said he wanted all the Corinthians to speak in tongues. Why would Paul wish for something that could not be done? There seems to be a difference in the tongues he was talking about.

In 1 Corinthians 12:30, he was talking about the Gift of Tongues for Interpretation that only some could have, while in 1 Corinthians 14:5, he was talking about the tongues that everybody spoke in when they received the Holy Ghost. This is the only logical explanation. Otherwise the Scripture would be contradicting itself.

Genos = Kinds/Diverse

The aggregate of many individuals of the same nature, kind, sort.

Many different people unified and identified as ONE.

(OT sign of covenant or sealing) – Marked by circumcision

(NT sign of covenant or sealing) – Marked by Holy Spirit/Tongues

“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” (Ephesians 1:13 NKJV)

glōssa = Tongues

Thayer Definition:

- 1) the tongue, a member of the body, an organ of speech
- 2) a tongue
 - 1a) the language or dialect used by a particular people distinct from that of other nations

Interpretation of Tongues

Interpretation NOT Translation!

hermēneia

Thayer Definition:

- 1) interpretation
 - 1a) of what has been spoken more or less obscurely by others

glōssa

Thayer Definition:

- 1) the tongue, a member of the body, an organ of speech
- 2) a tongue
 - 1a) the language or dialect used by a particular people distinct from that of other nations

Tongues and Tongues and Interpretation

God is a God of order, plans, structure. Look at the tabernacle plan in Old Testament.

God who does not change.

1 Corinthians 12:8-11

- Word of Wisdom
- Word of Knowledge
- Faith
- Gifts of Healing
- Working of Miracles
- Prophecy
- Discerning of spirits
- Different (diverse) kinds of Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues

“*For I am The Lord, I do not change;...*” (Malachi 3:6 NKJV)

- Old Testament sacrificial system?
- Ceremonial Law?
- God NEVER changed from OT to NT
- He simply fulfilled it.
- Played by His own rules.

3 Reasons Why Some Don't Believe in Speaking in Tongues

1. Tongues' NEVER happened!
 - a. Yet it is ALL OVER the Bible.
 - b. There is NO scriptural support for this (atheist or agnostic)
2. Tongues ceased (I Corinthians 13:8)
 - a. Belief that tongues was poured out for a season of time during the early church, but is not for the church today.

“²⁸And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. ²⁹And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.” (Joel 2:28-29 NKJV)

“¹¹For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, ¹²To whom He said, “This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,” And, “This is the refreshing”; Yet they would not hear.” (Isaiah 28:11-12 NKJV)

- Old Testament prophecies mention the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- But there is no mention of the Holy Spirit ceasing at a certain time.
- Furthermore, as the New Testament begins, further prophecies occurs regarding the outpouring of the Holy Ghost:

“⁵Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:5-8 NKJV)

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

“¹⁷And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” (Mark 16:17-18 KJV)

- Again, notice no timeline is given regarding the Holy Spirit being cut off.
- Tongues being cut off? (I Corinthians 13:8-10)
 - If tongues did indeed cease, why not knowledge and prophecies?

3. Tongues are ONLY appropriate if there is an ‘interpreter’ (I Corinthians 14:26-28)

- Note especially verse 26 “for edification”.

Distinction Between Tongues and Tongues and Interpretation

Gift of tongues/interpretation is for **Edifying the Church**.

VS.

Tongues as evidence of the infilling of the Holy Spirit and for **Personal Edification**.

If there was no difference between the two and they were one in the same, then everyone who spoke in tongues in Acts would be out of order because **No Interpreter** was present.

“¹When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4 NKJV)

- **Utterance = apophtheggomai:** to speak forth, to say
- There was no interpreter present!

“¹⁴Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, ¹⁵who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, ¹⁹saying, ‘Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 8:14-19 NKJV)

- No interpreter present!

“⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.” (Acts 10:44-46 NKJV)

- No interpreter present!

Context and Historical Background

- Sexual immorality of Corinthian culture/church
- Corporate worship times were chaotic
- Gifts of the Spirit in operation without order
- Shouting out in the corporate worship services (ladies)
- Gifts centered, not love centered unlike other churches

“For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints,” (Ephesians 1:15-16 (NASB)

- Church at Ephesus

Gifts of Spirit must operate from love

1 Corinthians 13

Tongues for Personal Edification

“¹Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. ²For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. ³But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. ⁴He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.” (1 Corinthians 14:1-5 NKJV)

“¹³Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.” (1 Corinthians 14:13-14 NKJV)

Tongues as a Sign to Unbelievers (evidence / sign of Holy Ghost)

“²¹In the law it is written: “With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,” says the Lord. ²²Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.” (1 Corinthians 14:21-22 NKJV)

Tongues Can either be Confusion or a Sign for Unbelievers

“Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?” (1 Corinthians 14:23 NKJV)

Tongues w/ interpretation for Corporate Church Edification

When the church comes together, it’s about edifying one another.

“How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.” (1 Corinthians 14:26 NKJV)

Guidelines for Tongues and Interpretation

“²⁶How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. ²⁷If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. ²⁸But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God. ²⁹Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.” (1 Corinthians 14:26-29 NKJV)

Key Guidelines:

- At least two messages in tongues, no more than three
- One interpretation
- Interpretation NOT Translation
 - Translation= a perfect rendering of one text to another
 - Interpretation= representation/explanation

“³²And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. ³³For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.” (1 Corinthians 14:32-33 NKJV)

- Subjection and oversight
- If it's confusion, it's most likely not of God

Closing

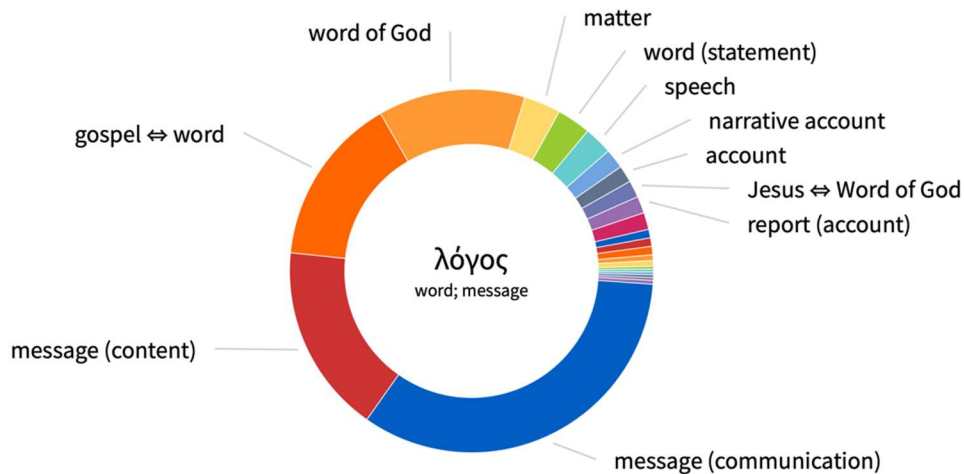
“³⁹Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. ⁴⁰Let all things be done decently and in order.” (1 Corinthians 14:32-33 NKJV)

- Do not forbid speaking in tongues!
- Again, be mindful of your surroundings.
- Be decent and in order.

Lesson 7: The Logos, Ethos and Pathos of the Minister

The Logos

“¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not [a]comprehend it.” (John 1:1-5 NKJV)



The term **Word** (logos) would have been familiar to the Greeks. Their understanding centered on ultimate reason or the rationale of the universe rather than the personal God revealed to Abraham and his descendants. John claimed that the God of creation, the ultimate mind of the universe, had taken on human form; he had become incarnate. ¹

Logos was not just a familiar concept to the Greeks, but also to the Jews. John opens his book by essentially quoting the opening words of Genesis.

“¹In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.” (Genesis 1:1-3 NKJV)

The concept of creation through the divine Word reflects Yahweh’s act of speaking the universe into existence in Genesis 1:3–26. Jesus’ preexistence and role as Creator and sustainer of all things is also seen in Colossians 1:15–20. ²

¹ Gangel, K.O.

² Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., ... Bomar, D

Jesus is the Logos

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

“¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.” (Colossians 1:15-18 NKJV)

“⁸Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” (Colossians 2:8-10 NKJV)

Our logos or The Logos

Where will your dependence be placed? As a minister, one of your greatest temptations will be operating from your own logic.

The eternal commitment as ministers is forsaking our logos for The Logos. This one commitment separates you from the majority of Christ followers.

Commitment to this *road less traveled* is critical because we are leaders. Leaders of:

- Ourselves
- Our families
- Others

“²⁰But behold, you will be mute and not able to speak until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words which will be fulfilled in their own time.” (Luke 1:20 NKJV)

It is important for the minister to note that both “deafness” and “blindness” were the result of not trusting the Logos of God. Zacharias trusted in his logos rather than The Logos.

“¹²There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.” (Proverbs 14:12 NKJV)

The Assurance of The Logos

“³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.” (Matthew 24:35 NKJV)

“⁴And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:4-5 NKJV)

“¹⁵However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. ¹⁶So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.” (Luke 5:15-16 NKJV)

The Pathos

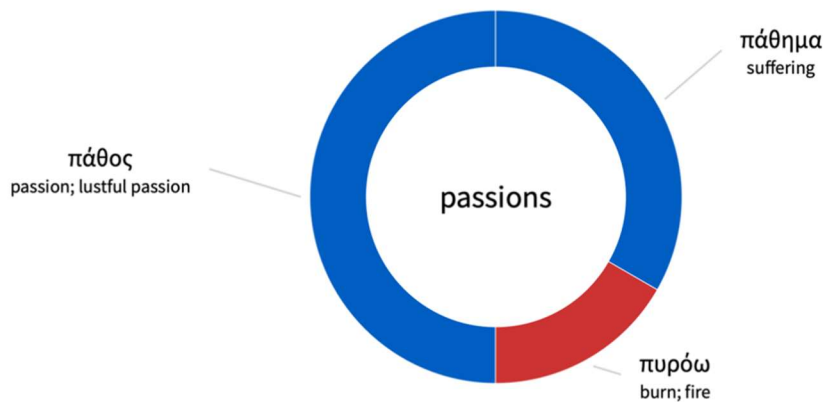
Pathos as a Moral Compass

The term *Pathos* is best understood as *passions* and *emotions*.

“²⁴And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” (Galatians 5:24 NKJV)

Refers to homosexual activity, which does not reflect God’s original created order.²

The specific context with which Paul wrote to the church in Galatia was in regard to homosexuality. The biblical principal, however, is how a misguided *pathos* will lead you away from God’s creative order.



Whatever the mind burns for or is passionate about leads your life like a moral compass. There is a connection between a misguided *pathos* and *idolatry*.

Idolatry is where we get the word *idol* from.

- Idols were created images.
- Image is directly tied to imagination.
- Imagination is directly tied to our mind.

Idolatry was one of Israel’s most common sins and still exists today. We may not place physical images before us, but we must ask what consumes our imagination.

In this sense, *pathos* is linked with our minds. For the minister it becomes incumbent to prayerfully allow the work of the Holy Spirit to renew and transform our *pathos*.

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1-2 NKJV)

You cannot walk in the perfect will of God if your *pathos* is misdirected.

You cannot have dysfunctional moral compass and walk in God’s perfect plan.

Pathos in Ministry

Pathos does not only represent misguided passion. Emotion and passion also have a fitting place in a minister’s life. Ministers should exude both passion and emotion.

Minds are moved with information, but hearts are moved by emotion.

“⁴¹Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, ⁴²saying, ‘If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.’” (Luke 19:41-42 NKJV)

“³⁶But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.’” (Matthew 9:36-37 NKJV)

Jesus ministered with both information and passion.

- Sermons
- Parables

The Manipulation of Pathos

Pathos should serve only the purpose of pointing people to Christ.

One of the words connected with the word *pathos* is *path*.

- Emotions and passion should only point people to The Logos.
- We minister to point people toward God’s purpose not our purpose!

Pathos is not a sufficient substitute for Logos.

- Preaching
- Singing
- Counseling
- Teaching

It is easy to allow ourselves to be tempted to conform to a certain “style” or “expectation” of ministry, many of which leverage a somewhat preferred pathos. Pathos certainly has a place, we must always be careful however, never to use emotion to generate a specific response.

“²²For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; ²³but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” (1 Corinthians 1:22-25 NKJV)

The Ethos

Ethos is a Greek word best describing the guiding beliefs of an individual, group, or institution. For the purpose of this training, we are exploring the ethos of the ministry, otherwise known as ministerial ethics.

The Personal Ethic

“¹⁶I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control.” (Galatians 5:16-23 NKJV)

In regard to the spiritual man and the fleshly man, whichever one is fed more becomes stronger.

Statistics

- 68% of church-going men and over 50% of pastors view porn on a regular basis. Of young Christian adults 18-24 years old, 76% actively search for porn. ³
- Gamers 26-35 years old play for eight hours 12 minutes per week. This increased more than 25% in the last year. ⁴
- Obesity has become a public health crisis in the United States. The medical condition, which involves having an excessive amount of body fat, is linked to severe chronic diseases including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure and cancer. It causes about 1 in 5 deaths in the U.S. each year – nearly as many as smoking. ⁵
- Estimates suggest that in 2019 U.S. adults will spend an average of three hours and 35 minutes watching TV each day. ⁶

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

³ Charisma News

⁴ Limelight

⁵ USNews

⁶ Statista

The minister's ethics should not reflect the statistics of the world.

*“¹This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a **bishop**, he desires a good work. ²A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; ³not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; ⁴one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence ⁵for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); ⁶not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. ⁷Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.*

*⁸Likewise **deacons** must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, ⁹holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. ¹⁰But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. ¹¹Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. ¹²Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. ¹³For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 3:1-13 NKJV)*

*“⁵For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint **elders** in every city as I commanded you— ⁶if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. ⁷For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, ⁸but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, ⁹holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.” (Titus 1:5-9 NKJV)*

Biblical Qualification of the Minister

- I. **Blameless:** 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6-7
- II. **Husband of one wife:** 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6
- III. **Vigilant:** 1 Timothy 3:2 (sound and sensible judgement)
- IV. **Sober:** 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8
- V. **Of Good Behavior:** 1 Timothy 3:2
- VI. **Given to Hospitality:** 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8 (lovers of strangers and guests)
- VII. **Apt to Teach:** 1 Timothy 3:2; 2 Timothy 2:24
- VIII. **Not Given to Wine:** 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7
- IX. **No Striker:** 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7
- X. **Not Greedy of Filthy Lucre:** 1 Timothy 3:3; Titus 1:7
- XI. **Patient:** 1 Timothy 3:3; 2 Timothy 2:24
- XII. **Not a Brawler:** 1 Timothy 3:3; 2 Timothy 2:24
- XIII. **Not Covetous:** 1 Timothy 3:3
- XIV. **A Godly Family:** 1 Timothy 3:4-5
- XV. **Not a Novice:** 1 Timothy 3:6
- XVI. **A Good Report Among the Unsaved:** 1 Timothy 3:7

The Social Ethos of the Minister

- I. **Stature:** 1 Corinthians 6:19, Ecclesiastes 9:10, Galatians 5:22-23. This involves proper diet, exercise, and rest.
- II. **Etiquette:** Opening doors for others (ladies and gentlemen), proper handling of silverware, not over-talking etc., minding your children, etc.
- III. **Personal Appearance:** Minister's and their wives ought to be careful of their personal appearance, keeping themselves neat and clean (Daily showers, deodorants, mouth wash, mints/gum, fingernails kept, hair done neat, clothes ironed etc.)
- IV. **In Our Talk:** We sin more easily with our tongue than any other part of our body. Our speech should be thoughtful, non-interruptive, undivided attention, avoiding arguments, always uplifting the mission/vision of your pastor and the church!
- V. **Punctuality:** BE ON TIME! Many of the engagements we attend involve other people who made proper arrangements to be there on time. It is disrespectful of others time and effort if they have to wait on you. Tardiness should be a rare exception not the norm.
- VI. **Prefer your Brethren:** In dealing with other ministers, the utmost respect should be given. Refer to other ministers as: Bro, Sis, Pastor, etc.; do not assume to call them by their first names. Be mindful of others' personal convictions (**1 Corinthians 8:13; Romans 14:21**).
- VII. **Always assume to Position and Attitude of a Servant**

Closing Scriptural Thoughts

“¹But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant.” (Matthew 23:11 NKJV)

*“²with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,
³endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”* (Ephesians 4:2-3 NKJV)

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7. Unless otherwise indicated all Bible references in this paper are to the *Holy Bible, New King James Version* (NKJV) (New York, NY: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1982).