



**Matthew 28:18-20**, Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 **Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.** And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

At TC we will strive to **CONNECT** people with God and with one another, to **GROW** in our relationship with God, to **SERVE** God by serving others and to **HONOR** God with our lives.

I. God **warns** us to avoid **negative** influences if we want to grow spiritually. **Psalm 1:1**

**Psalm 1:1-2**, Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;  
<sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. **NKJV**

**Psalm 1:1**, Blessed is the man Who **walks** not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor **stands** in the path of sinners, Nor **sits** in the seat of the scornful. **NKJV**

1. If we want to grow in our faith and experience the blessings of God, we must beware of the allure of Satan and his subtle tricks.
2. When we insist on friendship with those who scoff at God and mock His Word, we will be drawn into sin and become indifferent to God’s will.
3. The more we allow the dark influences of scoffing sinners to overshadow us, the more we separate ourselves from the very source of God’s joy and blessings.
4. If you want real joy and blessings, you will only find them in the presence of God and His Word.

II. God wants us to **soak** up His Word to grow in our faith. **Psalm 1:2-3**

**Psalm 1:2**, But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. **NKJV**

**Psalm 1:3**, *He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.* **NKJV**

### **III. God wants us to discipline ourselves to become like Christ.**

**1 Timothy 4:8-12; 1 Corinthians 9:25-27**

**1 Timothy 4:8-10**, *“Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come.” 9 This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it. 10 This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers.*

**1 Timothy 4:10**, *This is why we work hard and continue to struggle, for our hope is in the living God...*

**1 Timothy 4:12**, *Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.*

**1 Corinthians 9:25-27**, *All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it*

*for an eternal prize. 26 So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. 27 I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should.*

**John 14:15**, *If you love me, obey my commandments.*

#### **A. Accountability with another believer.**

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**, *Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up.* **NKJV**

#### **B. Connecting in God’s Family.** **Hebrews 10:25**

**Hebrews 10:25**, *And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

#### **C. Sharing the Good News.** **Acts 1:8**

**Acts 1:8**, *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

#### **D. Scripture memory.** **Psalms 119:11**

**Psalm 119:11**, *I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

**E. Prayer and Journaling.** Jeremiah 33:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**Jeremiah 33:3**, *Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.* **NASB**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**, *Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.* **NASB**

**F. Faithful Stewardship.** Malachi 3:8-10

**Malachi 3:8-10**, *“Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! “But you ask, ‘What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?’ “You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!*

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**, *Now I say this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each one must do just as he*

*has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* **NASB**

**APPLY GOD’S TRUTH**

1. How much have you grown in your faith recently?
2. How can you better discipline yourself to be more like Christ?
3. Are you certain of your salvation?