

## SESSION 2

FIVE PILLARS OF  
THE BELIEVER'S LIFE*Lee Venning*

Becoming a Christian is a life-changing event. It affects our priorities, choices, and morals – it changes our whole worldview. As believers, what can we do to help us live godly lives? The Bible shows us five things that should become pillars in the believer's life, and if we understand and commit ourselves to practising them then we will grow in our relationship with God and other believers. They are:

1. God's Word
2. Prayer
3. Fellowship
4. Worship
5. The Holy Spirit

### 1. God's Word

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NLT)*

The Bible is God's Word for us. Even though it was written over 2000 years ago, it is still relevant to us today. It sets out the truth of God, His plans and purposes, and instructions for godly living. It is a collection of 66 books across the New and Old Testaments. Some of the books are historical, some are poetic, there are books of wisdom and letters written to churches.

We should read and study the Bible on a daily basis. We go to church and listen to God's Word being preached and taught, and we should also develop the habit of reading the Bible in our own time. We can use devotionals to help us read in a more methodical way.

*For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. (Hebrews 4:12, NLT)*

*But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. (James 1:22, NLT)*

*How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. (Psalm 119:9, NLT)*

### 2. Prayer

*Jesus said, 'This is how you should pray: 'Father, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon. Give us each day the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation.' (Luke 11:2-4, NLT)*

Prayer is just talking to God. He wants us to talk to Him, to bring our thoughts, needs and desires to Him. It is not just about asking God for things, it is about nurturing our relationship with Him, it is a place where we can be honest about our deepest self and where we can listen to Him. We should develop a daily habit of prayer and pray for God's will to be done – for ourselves and for others – as

Jesus showed us in the Lord's Prayer. Consider the following scriptures:

*Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him. (1 Chronicles 16:11, NLT)*

*Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. (Ephesians 6:18, NLT)*

*Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. (James 5:13, NLT)*

*But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! (Matthew 5:44, NLT)*

### 3. Fellowship

*All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. (Acts 2:42, NLT)*

It is important for us to spend time together with other believers. In the Book of Acts we see how the early church developed and can see the importance of fellowship. Church is the focal point of the believer's life. It is a place to build lifelong relationships, to find and give support to others, to grow into maturity, and to share the ups and downs that life brings. Churches have a wide program of services and social activities to help people fellowship together. We should fully immerse ourselves in church life.

*So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:1, NLT)*

*As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend. (Proverbs 27:17, NLT)*

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. 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. (Hebrews 10:24-25, NLT)*

*Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2, NLT)*

### 4. Worship

*Sing to the Lord, for he has done wonderful things. Make known his praise around the world. (Isaiah 12:5, NLT)*

Worship is most obviously seen when a church gathers together and sings praise and worship songs. When we worship God, we are expressing a deep and profound love for Him. It is a way of acknowledging his lordship over our lives and showing those around us that our trust is in Him.

Worship is a way of recognising who God is, the Almighty creator of the heavens and the earth! As well as singing, you will often see people raising their hands, bowing down and even dancing in church services as a way of expressing their love for God.

However, worship is more than singing songs. A true worshipper will develop a lifestyle that shows a deep reverence, respect and love of God.

*Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker. (Psalm 95:6, NLT)*

*Around midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening. (Acts 16:25, NLT)*

*Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:18-20, NLT)*

### 5. The Holy Spirit

*'If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him,*

*because he lives with you now and later will be in you.' (John 14:15-17, NLT)*

Just before Jesus' death on the cross, He promised that we would not be left alone. Jesus said that the Father would send the Advocate who would never leave us. This Advocate is the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit is not a force but a person who is there, through relationship, to help us. So even though Jesus is not with us physically, we have the Holy Spirit who promises to guide us, empower us and give us joy and peace.

Seeing the Holy Spirit work in our lives is not a matter of following a religious formula, it is about our relationship with God. We all want to lead fruitful lives, but in order to produce fruit you have to concentrate on the plant. In the same way, if we concentrate on our relationship with God, we will see the Holy Spirit working in our lives and on our behalf.

*I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.*  
(Romans 15:13, NLT)

*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. (Acts 1:8, NLT)*

*Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your gracious Spirit lead me forward on a firm footing. (Psalm 143:10, NLT)*

*Then he said to me, 'This is what the Lord says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. (Zechariah 4:6, NLT)*