

INTRODUCTION TO PRINCIPAL BIBLICAL DOCTRINES

Christian Fellowship Church Ministries, International

L.R. Davis, Founding Pastor
Peter F. Paine, General Pastor
Edward J. Thomas, Associate General Pastor



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L.R. Davis, Founding Pastor
Peter F. Paine, General Pastor
Edward J. Thomas, Associate General Pastor



L.R. Davis, Founding Pastor
Peter F. Paine, General Pastor
Edward J. Thomas, Associate General Pastor

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Introduction to CFCMI

(Christian Fellowship Church Ministries, International)

In 1974, Christian Fellowship Church ministries International was founded by Pastor L.R. Davis, who passed away in 1999. Pastor Davis had great passion for the scriptures and this Study Guide was one of his dreams. So rather than rewrite a letter of introduction, I wanted to give you the original letter Pastor Davis wrote to be included in this Introduction to Principal Biblical Doctrine. It is my prayer that this is a blessing to you.


Peter F. Paine
General Pastor

Commission Letter from L.R. Davis, Founding Pastor

Psalms 34:1 I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Welcome to Christian Fellowship Church! My wife Hazel and I would like to extend to you our love, and express our appreciation of your decision to follow Christ. We started Christian Fellowship Church many years ago to provide a sanctuary of worship for all nationalities and cultures of people who "see no color." This church is a place where all Christians, regardless of color, original creed, social and economic stature, or age, can have Christian fellowship.

Christianity is a way of life. We come together to worship, and we leave to serve the Lord every day of the week. If you are seeking a ministry of spiritual power, come expecting the miracle that God has for you. As your love for God grows, always remember to keep him first in your life. God will not accept second or third place.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

My prayer is that you will continue to grow in the grace of the Lord as you join us in the work of the Master. Jesus said, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35). Allow God to minister to your heart as you complete this booklet. God bless and keep you in the center of his will.

Your Founding Pastor,



Introduction to Our Ministry

Christian Fellowship Church began in 1974 as the result of one individual, Pastor L. R. Davis, and his diligence to answer a call he was given by God to minister to lost souls not



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reached by the traditional church-house ministry. Pastor L.R. Davis, the Founding General Pastor of Christian Fellowship Church Ministries, International, was called into the ministry at the early age of 12 when he was baptized in Jesus' name December 18, 1947. The Lord called him to evangelize the West Indies and Mexico at the age of 13. He married Hazel Beck on November 17, 1954. With Hazel he began to pastor his first church when he was 20 years of age. Pastor and Mrs. Davis' work grew by the hand of God and prospered many congregations, some which started as new works. The Lord blessed all that Pastor Davis did for the glory of the Lord. His God-given views on human rights placed him at odds with many religious leaders in the south. He applied his convictions in the face of adversity, knowing the calling of God to be real in his life. After many years of building the Kingdom of God within the organization he was affiliated, the Lord called him and his family to the streets. Today, many of this ministry's leaders are men who came to know Christ while lost in drug and alcohol abuse, but were reached by Pastor Davis' street ministry.

Pastor Davis never compromised his convictions on Godly truth and human rights, and today, this ministry reaches to all cultures and peoples regardless of their background. Christian Fellowship Church remains freely open to all mankind, according to the charge, "whosoever will, let him come." Pastor Davis' legacy is strongly intact as Pastor Peter F. Paine has assumed the responsibility to continue the vision and direction of this ministry as General Pastor.

Revelation 22:17 *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

This visionary ministry has blossomed from a dream into a strong work for God, now worldwide in scope, with all manner of people working together for God across the globe in Christian Fellowship Church Ministries, International.



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Introduction to Your General Pastor

Psalms 51:10-12 *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

11 *Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*

12 *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

Pastor Peter F. Paine, was born in Sewickley, PA., in 1954 to George Allen and Mary Elisabeth Paine. He is the youngest of six children with his twin brother Paul. He joined the US Navy out of high school in 1972 and served until 1976. While stationed at Great Lakes he met Pastor L.R. Davis who shared with him the gospel. He was baptized in Jesus' name August 11, 1973.

He then met his wife to be, Debra, and was married in 1975. They have three children: Adam, Holly, and Heather.

One of his many goals includes his personal highest calling: to be the best father and husband he can be. Serving as an example to others around him, he continues to minister in the spirit of a servant's heart. Another vision he carries is for the educational outreach. As the ministry reaches into millions of homes and hundreds of congregations, Pastor Paine desires to see the Christian teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ reach into many different countries throughout the world.

He has assisted the Bishop and Founding General Pastor through the years and has been a full time pastor since 1986. As Pastor Davis has passed the leadership of the ministry to Pastor Paine, Pastor Davis' vision and legacy continue on with great passion. Noting that there is still much to be done for Christ in this ministry, we are on course and carrying out the mission.

Introduction to Your Associate General Pastor

Pastor Edward J Thomas, Jr. is the Senior Pastor of Christian Fellowship Church, Family Worship Center in Virginia, and serves as Vice President on the General Board of Directors of Christian Fellowship Church Ministries, International. He is also the Director of Foreign Missions, a position from which he coordinates all missionary work on foreign soil. He works from offices in Virginia Beach, VA., and at the Ministry's International Headquarters in Lake County, Illinois.

Pastor Thomas was born in Mentor, Ohio on January 20th, 1951 to Edward J. Thomas, Sr. and the former Elizabeth Ann Hawkins. At age nineteen he joined the Navy, and served for 8 years at various posts, including a tour in Vietnam. It was during his time in military service that he met Founding General Pastor L.R. Davis, who shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with him. He then accepted the Gospel, and the Lord changed his life.

In March of 1975, Pastor Thomas married the former Pamela Jean Davis. In October 1979, at the request and blessing of the General Pastor, Pastor Thomas and his wife moved to Norfolk, Va. to start a church. With God's blessings and many prayers, the church grew from humble beginnings to a vital and dynamic congregation, with an array of outreaches in the community.

Today, in addition to pastoring an ever-growing congregation, Pastor Thomas maintains an active voice all around the Hampton Roads communities: he has served in the PTA's of area schools, on Norfolk District School Improvement Team, and CINCH (Consortium for the Inoculation of Norfolk's Children). He has been involved with organization of the nationally recognized Police Assisted Community Enforcement (PACE) program, having co-chaired one of



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the primary committees and participated in the program's overall governing board. He was also a part of a committee appointed by the City to draft a new police chaplain-corps program.

Pastor Thomas resides in Moyock, NC., with his wife, Pamela, and their two daughters, Christine (Thomas) Sanders and Katherine (Thomas) Jackson.

Additional Information about What Is Available to You

- A complete online Resource Center to meet all your needs:
- Group and individual Bible studies
- DVD, CD and VHS cassette tapes of worship services and Bible studies
- Statement of Faith
- Christian Fellowship Church Ministries, Intl. Web site: www.cfcmi.org
- Fellowship opportunities for people of all ages and levels of Biblical understanding.

In Our Future

- Intermediate and Advanced Bible study courses



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The Purpose of This Booklet

This booklet is designed to teach the foundation of Christian doctrine, as described in the word of God and upheld by Christian Fellowship Church Ministries, International. This booklet is formatted into seven Goals, with outlines, which are intended to provide the newly baptized Christian with an introductory study that is challenging yet achievable. Though it has a monthly schedule, it is meant to be self-paced. Each individual enrolled in this Study is responsible for receiving Bible studies from their pastor and for independently studying the scriptures necessary to meet the objectives outlined in this booklet. Again, the time required to complete each lesson might vary.

Matthew 28:19-20 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

20 *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

The textbook used in this document is the Authorized King James Version Bible. None of the studies included herein are designed to be exhaustive, but merely a common base that every newborn Christian should understand. Successful completion does **not** authorize or endorse a person to be a minister, teacher, or lay leader. This document is in no way a replacement for a Biblical teacher or pastor. It is, however, a positive step of guidance in the growth and development of any new Christian, that he may study to “show himself approved unto God” (2 *Timothy 2:15*). A Mentor will be assigned by your pastor to assist you, and verify your understanding of the subjects. The successful completion of this sequence of studies will result in a certificate of completion signed by your pastor.

God bless you and your studies as you continue in seeking God and all that he has for you.



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Goals of a Newborn Christian

This outline, if followed, will enable new Christians to be strong, powerful, and knowledgeable servants of God, able to teach others of the rightness of God.

2 Timothy 2:15 *Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

Because we will be judged by the words of Christ, it is very important to study and understand his words. The New Testament section of the Bible contains his words, as well as the writings of his disciples, and also shows the fulfillment of the lessons of the Old Testament for all people. This is why we are starting our studies in the New Testament.

John 12:44-50 *Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.*

45 *And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.*

46 *I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*

47 *And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.*

48 *He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

49 *For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.*

50 *And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.*

NOTE: The order of these studies is for easy flow of subject knowledge. The student may find it beneficial to work with his/her Mentor on pulling a study or two out of order.

OUTLINE —

Goal #1 – First Month:

Learn How to Use a Concordance

Read All the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

Display Understanding in the Following Topics:

Baptism in The Name of Jesus

The Godhead

The Power and Authority of the Word of God

Pastorship



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Goal #2 – Second Month:

Read and Study the Book of the Acts of the Apostles
Display Understanding in the Following Topics:
Faith and Works
Repentance
Tithes and Offerings

Goal #3 – Third Month:

Read and Study First and Second Corinthians
Display Understanding in the Following Topics:
Security of the Believer
Fellowship
Communication
Prayer and Fasting

Goal #4 – Fourth Month:

Read and Study Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians
Display Understanding in the Following Topics:
Newness of Life
Resurrection of the Dead
Eternal Judgment
Rewards of a Christian

Goal #5 – Fifth Month:

Read and Study First Thessalonians through Hebrews
Display Understanding in the Following Topics:
Framework of the Ministry
The Holy Ghost
Grace and Forgiveness
Charity / Brotherly Love

Goal #6 – Sixth Month:

Read and Study James through Jude
Display Understanding in the Following Topics:
Living Sacrifice / Daily Devotion
The Christian Example
God's Commission / Warn the People

Goal #7 – Seventh Month:

Read Revelations
Consult with your Pastor for further instructions

Explanation of Studies and Worksheets:

1. You will notice in the following Bible studies that the scriptures listed contain the reference only, and not the text. This is so you will learn to look up scriptures on your own.



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2. Read the required reading corresponding to the **Goals of a Newborn Christian** outline, referenced earlier in this booklet.
3. The following series of Bible studies are provided with references, which should also be studied.
4. **After** you have prayerfully read over the topic, complete the corresponding worksheet.
5. Your pastor (or someone he assigns – the mentor) will review your worksheet. The final review rests with your pastor.
6. Your Mentor may require you to include additional notes and scripture reading before he/she signs under the “completed” line on the bottom right of the worksheet. In this case, he/she may sign the bottom left corner where it says “Mentor.” When the Mentor signs the “completed” line, your worksheet is satisfactorily completed.
7. Continue on to the next step according to the outline described earlier in this booklet.
8. This will prove to be a valuable guide in sharing God’s word with others.
9. **By design**, the answers of many of the worksheet questions may not be found word-for-word in the study sections. This will ensure that the person completing the worksheets can explain the answer in their own words and avoid a simple ‘copy-paste’ response.



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Goal #1-First Month after Baptism:

Learn How to Use a Concordance and Study the Bible.

Learn how to find scriptures using key words within a passage (also see the prepared study on *How to Use a Concordance*).

Read all the Gospels

GOSPELS – The first four books of the New Testament are referred to as the Four Gospels. They are the harmonious and accurate depictions of the life of Christ and were written in the First Century.

The Gospel of Matthew – Written (most likely) by Apostle Matthew, probably while in Phoenicia; in Hebrew first, then translated into Greek sometime between 60 and 95 AD. This Gospel often uses Old Testament references to prove Jesus Christ as the long awaited Messiah. It has some of the most detailed accounts of the Lord's ministry, and shows us Christ as a great teacher—full of wisdom and authority.

The Gospel of Mark – Written by the disciple Mark (also known as John Mark), a close companion of Apostles Peter and Paul, while at Rome between 60 and 70 AD; generally accepted as the account of Jesus' life according to Peter. This Gospel is very action-oriented, describing the deeds and actions of Christ's life, and shows us Christ as a man of great action and power.

The Gospel of Luke – Written by the physician Luke, a traveling companion of Apostle Paul, around 60 AD, probably while with Paul during his imprisonment in Caesarea. This Gospel was originally written to a high ranking Roman dignitary, Theophilus, in order to tell the accurate story of Jesus, and is therefore more narrative in style than the others. It shows us Christ as a great minister—full of compassion and love.

The Gospel of John – Written by Apostle John, possibly in Hebrew first, then translated into Greek around 90 AD. This Gospel often goes beyond facts and events, and provides great explanation and deep insight into the eternal purposes of Christ. It shows Christ as the power of God—with miracles and wonders done by his hand.



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Display Understanding in the Following Topics:

Baptism in The Name of Jesus

1. Explain the commission or commandment of baptism in the plan of salvation.
2. Explain the function of water in the obedience of baptism.
3. What words must be spoken by the person performing the baptism (“I now baptize you...”) and why?
4. Explain the difference between baptism in the name of “Jesus Christ” and baptism in the titles “Father”, “Son”, and “Holy Ghost,” and why it is important to know the difference.
5. Give five examples (using scriptures) of actual accounts of baptisms.
6. Explain the requirement of belief and repentance prior to baptism.
7. Explain how the blood of Christ, shed at his death, is applied to a person’s life when they are baptized in Jesus’ name.
8. Explain the spiritual association of baptism to death, burial, resurrection, and circumcision (use scripture references).
9. Give three examples of events in the Old Testament that relate to water baptism; explain.
10. Explain why the commandment of baptism is referring to submersion in water, not spirit.
11. Explain the difference between sprinkling and total immersion in water baptism.

The Godhead

1. Describe what God is and is not, according to the assigned scriptures.
2. Explain God’s relationship with his creation: the heavens, the earth, mankind, all the creatures.
3. Explain where God dwells, and the difference between spiritual and natural boundaries.
4. Describe the Biblical oneness of God.
5. Give the Biblical definition of The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
6. List four of the manifestations of God that have been physically seen, and/or are accounted for, in the Bible.
7. Provide scriptural explanation about the name of God, and how the name changed from Old to New Testaments.
8. Explain why the teaching of Trinity is not Biblical.



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The Power and Authority of the Word of God

1. What is the power and authority of God's word?
2. Explain how to submit your soul to the authority of God's word.
3. Give three Biblical examples that demonstrate the power in the name of Jesus.
4. Explain how Christians can access the power and authority of Jesus' name.
5. Using scripture, describe how the word of God will be used on the final judgment day.
6. Explain how a person can hide the word of the Lord in his heart that he might not sin against the Lord.

Pastorship

1. Explain with scriptures the responsibility of the pastor within the congregation.
2. Who is your pastor and why?
3. Explain the responsibility of the pastor to the faithful and growing Christian.
4. Explain why a member of the congregation should communicate and submit unto the Pastorship in spiritual matters.
5. Explain why the pastor is accountable for the format, content, and operation of all the ministries within the church body.
6. Explain a Christian's responsibility to their pastor, and why.
7. Explain the responsibility of the pastor to the backslider.



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Baptism in The Name of Jesus

God commissioned water baptism for the remission of sins (*Mark 1:4, Luke 3:3, Luke 24:47, Acts 2:38*). When we are baptized, all of our past sins are removed (Remission of sins) (*Colossians 2:12-14, Romans 6:6*). Although water alone will not bring the remission of a person's sins, obedience to Jesus' commission—placing the believer into the water—will bring the remission. (*Mark 16:16, Matthew 28:19, 1 Peter 3:20-21*). The first message ever preached by the Apostles after Christ's ascension showed the people they needed to act on the commission of baptism (*Luke 24:47, Acts 2:38, Acts 8:14-16, Acts 10:47-48, Acts 19:1-5*).

When we accept our need for baptism, we are accepting our need to be "dead" from our sins. Godly repentance (reversal) is from this world's dead works to God's eternal fruits (*2 Corinthians 7:9-11, Romans 6:23, Hebrews 5:9*). The blood that Jesus shed at his death on the cross was for the remission of sins (*Hebrews 9:22-28, Hebrews 10:18-22*). This blood is applied to one's life, through belief, when he "puts on" Jesus Christ by water baptism (*Galatians 3:27, Colossians 2:10-15*). Christ's death, burial, and resurrection brought about our victory over sin. When we go down under the water in total submersion, we apply the power of Christ's burial over our own sins. When we come up out of the water, we are then in the likeness of Christ's resurrection to walk in newness of life. (*Romans 1:4-6, Romans 6:3-6, Philippians 3:8-11, 1 Peter 3:20-21*). All of the above points show that baptism is essential for salvation; without it we still have our sins.

It is essential that the person performing (or doing) the baptism administers the name of Jesus—not the titles "Father", "Son", and the "Holy Spirit". This administers the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ by name to the person being baptized (*Romans 6:3-6, Galatians 3:26-27*). The Father, and the Holy Spirit did not die, get buried, then rise from the dead for our sins, Jesus Christ did. Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life (*John 14:6*). To baptize in the titles "Father," "Son," and "Holy Ghost" will not apply the name of Jesus to the person being baptized. Those that call upon the **name of** the Lord—and Jesus is Lord—shall be saved from the wrath of God to come. (*1 Corinthians 1:12-16, Colossians 3:17, Matthew 28:19, Romans 10:9-13, Acts 4:12*)

Every account of an actual baptism in the New Testament references the name of Jesus Christ. Baptism using the titles started in the early Fourth Century¹. There is no reference in the Bible of any person being baptized in the titles "Father," "Son," and "Holy Ghost," but rather in the name of "Jesus." The difference is important to understand. God has many titles, but only the name of Jesus has been given for salvation, and baptism is certainly a part of salvation. (*Acts 8:12-16, Acts 2:38-41, Acts 4:10-12, Colossians 3:17, Philippians 2:9-11, Acts 8:35-39, Acts 16:14, Acts 19:1-5, 1 Corinthians 1:13-16, Acts 16:32-34*).

Baptism without belief and repentance towards God is not baptism in the eyes of God; it is just getting wet. As long as a person believes the gospel, there is no minimum time limit (or requirement) on when you can be baptized. There are no waiting periods described in the Bible (*Mark 16:16, Acts 8:35-39*). Personal faith in operation is what counts in the eyes of the Lord (*Luke 24:47, Acts 2:37-38, Colossians 2:11-14, John 14:15*). Some take or view baptism to be only spiritual, and not involving water at all. But Jesus said to be born "of water and the spirit" (*John 3:5*). We see from scripture that water baptism, when done in faith, is bringing water and spirit together (*Hebrews 10:22, Colossians 2:11-12, Titus 3:5*). Any other reference to a spiritual baptism refers to

¹The New Catholic Encyclopedia (Volume II, Pg. 59)
The New Catholic Encyclopedia (Volume X, Pg. 433)
Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th Edition (Volume III, Pg. 366)
Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th Edition (Volume III, Pg. 368)
Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th Edition (Volume VII, Pg. 395)
Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics (Volume IV, Pg. 190)
Dictionary of the Bible, by Scribners (volume 1, Pr. 241)
The New International Standard Bible Encyclopedia (Volume 1, Pg. 395-396)



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the overwhelming experience in personal worship, manifested by speaking in unknown tongues (see study on *Tongues* for more information). This is a totally separate occurrence from the commanded first obedience of baptism.

Biblical baptism is total submersion in water. The word “baptize” comes from a Greek word *baptizo*¹ meaning ‘to make whelmed, fully wet.’ The word “sprinkling” comes from a Greek word *rhantizo*² meaning ‘to render besprinkled, asperse.’ The mode of baptism in the religious world was changed again in 1311 AD³, to allow sprinkling of water as valid. Again, no man has the right or authority to change God’s word and judgment. They didn’t have the right or authority to do it in 325 AD, yet many people will believe and accept these changes and submit their souls to them in error.

The significance of water in baptism is better understood when one sees the historical use of water in the Bible. Several places throughout the Bible, water is used as part of renewal, sanctification/separation from sin or evil, and even birth/rebirth, which are all elements of baptism (*Genesis 1:6-10, Genesis 6:5-8,12-22, Exodus 1:22- 2:10, Exodus 14:15-17, 1 Corinthians 10:1-2, 2 Kings 5:10-14, Ezekiel 36:24-25*). We can see by this that the water of baptism is the spiritual fulfillment of all these other uses of water (*John 3:3-7, John 19:32-35, 1 John 5:5-8*).

For an in-depth look into this topic, see the booklet called “*Truth About Water Baptism*” by L.R. Davis, General Pastor. It is highly suggested reading for those who are having trouble accepting the truth about baptism and or the Godhead.

¹ Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance – Greek 907

² Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance – Greek 4472

³ The New Catholic Encyclopedia (Volume II, Pg. 56-57)
The Interlinear Greek – English New Testament
Encyclopedia of the Lutheran Church (Volume I, Pg. 118)
Catholic Biblical Encyclopedia (Pg. 61, Par. 2)
World Book Encyclopedia (Volume II, Pg. 70)



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Baptism in The Name of Jesus – Worksheet

(Please use scriptural references when explaining your answers)

1. Explain the commission or commandment of baptism in the plan of salvation.

2. Explain the function of water in the obedience of baptism.

3. What words must be spoken by the person performing the baptism (“I now baptize you...”) and why?

4. Explain the difference between baptism in the name of “Jesus Christ” and baptism in the titles “Father”, “Sc” and “Holy Ghost,” and why it is important to know the difference.

5. Give five examples (using scriptures) of actual accounts of baptisms.

6. Explain the requirement of belief and repentance prior to baptism.

7. Explain how the blood of Christ, shed at his death, is applied to a person’s life when they are baptized in Jes name.

8. Explain the spiritual association of baptism to death, burial, resurrection, and circumcision (use script references).



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9. Give three examples of events in the Old Testament that relate to water baptism; explain.

10. Explain why the commandment of baptism is referring to submersion in water, not spirit.

11. Explain the difference between sprinkling and total immersion in water baptism.

Mentor: _____,
Date: _____

Completed
Mentor: _____
Date: _____



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The Godhead

The word of God says that God is a Spirit (*John 4:24*). He is the Creator, the Father of all that exists, from the heavens to the humans, down to the simplest life form. (*Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 45:18, Revelation 4:11, John 1:1-3*, Fills His creation: *Jeremiah 23:23-24, Philippians 2:9-11*, God of all flesh: *Jeremiah 32:27, 2 Corinthians 5:19-21, Colossians 2:8-9, Job 38:1 – Job 39:30*, Father of spirits: *Hebrews 12:9, Mark 12:29, Matthew 22:31-32*). God is not a man, nor limited to the physical form of a man, so we cannot think of God like a natural father (God is not a man: *Numbers 23:19, Isaiah 55:8-11, Romans 1:20-23, Acts 17:29-30*). In the Old Testament, God used many ways to manifest Himself. In the New Testament, God is described primarily in three manifestations (Father, Son of God, and the Holy Ghost) (*1 John 5:6-8, John 1:14, John 14:26, John 15:26*).

God is one (*Mark 12:29, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Ephesians 4:5-6, 1 Timothy 2:5, James 2:19*), yet there are many scriptures that refer to different manifestations of God in the natural (walking in the garden: *Genesis 3:8*, one of the three that meet Abraham: *Genesis 18:1-3*, The burning bush: *Exodus 3:4-6*). A manifestation is seen and heard with our carnal senses, such as through sight, touch and sound (*Luke 7:22, 1 John 1:1-3, Exodus 3:2-6, Hebrews 7:1-3, Daniel 3:24-25, Isaiah 9:6, 1 Timothy 3:16, Acts 10:45-47, Acts 3:19-20, 1 Corinthians 12:4-10*). God uses these manifestations to relate to mankind in man's level of understanding (*Hebrews 1:1-3*). Though God is in the spiritual realm, yet He can live and abide with us in our heart.

God is everywhere at all times and even dwells within the heart of his saints (*John 14:16-23*). The Spirit of God cannot be seen with the carnal eyes, nor heard with carnal ears; it is spiritually discerned (*2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 1 Corinthians 2:9-16, Hebrews 5:14*).

There is a religious teaching called "Trinity" which has been used to describe the Godhead. This teaching says that God is three in person: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, which are all three co-equal, co-majesty, co-eternal. This teaching is false and has no Biblical foundation¹. In fact, most scriptures directly contradict a trinity godhead. The word "trinity" is not found in the Bible. One supposed proof of the trinity is the Bible's reference to the Son of God "at the right hand" of the Father. If we recall the scriptural truth that God is a spirit (*John 4:24*), and realize that spirits have neither "hands" nor even a right or left side (*Luke 24:39*), we understand that this is not an actual description. We see that the "right hand" is merely another way to describe God's power and authority (*Exodus 15:6, 12, Deuteronomy 33:2, Psalm 16:8, 11, 17:7, 89:13*).

Throughout the Bible, God is always shown to be one in all aspects: as Lord, as Father, as king, as creator, as savior, and as judge (*Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 43:10-11, 40:28, 54:5, Malachi 2:10, Romans 3:30, Ephesians 4:5, 1 Corinthians 15:24-28*). The Father (creator of all things), the Son (the Messiah, the Word, the Lamb of God), and the Holy Ghost (the Spirit

¹ New Encyclopedia Britannica, 15th Edition (Volume X, Pg. 126)
The World Book Encyclopedia, (Volume 16, Pg. 7270)
Canney Encyclopedia (Pg. 53)
Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics (Volume XII, Pg. 458 [b])
Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics (Volume XII, Pg. 461 [5])
Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics (Volume XII, Pg. 461 [b])
Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics (Volume XII, Pg. 461, 462 [f])
New International Encyclopedia (Volume 22, Pg. 476)



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of God) and all descriptions of how the One Almighty God has manifested Himself in the New Testament (*1 John 5:7, John 1:1-14, Matthew 1:18-23, Isaiah 9:6, 1 Timothy 3:16*).

God's name, referred to as "Jehovah" in the Old Testament, is now referred to as "Jesus" (*Exodus 6:3, Psalms 83:18, Isaiah 9:6, Matthew 1:23, Ephesians 3:14-15, John 5:43, John 17:11-12, Philippians 2:10-11*). The word "God" comes from the Hebrew word "Elohiym," which refers to the sum of all majesty and power (*Genesis 1:1*). There are many names and titles that God prophesied and referred to, but in the New Testament there is only one name that will bring salvation to a sinner, which in English is "Jesus" (*Acts 4:12*).



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The Godhead - Worksheet

1. Describe what God is and is not, according to the assigned scriptures.

2. Explain God's relationship with his creation: the heavens, the earth, mankind, all the creatures.

3. Explain where God dwells, and the difference between spiritual and natural boundaries.

4. Describe the Biblical oneness of God.

5. Give the Biblical definition of The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost."
Father: _____
Son: _____
Holy Ghost: _____
6. List four of the manifestations of God that have been physically seen, and/or are accounted for, in the Bible.
1: _____
2: _____
3: _____
4: _____
7. Provide scriptural explanation about the name of God, and how the name changed from Old to New Testament.



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Explain why the teaching of Trinity is not Biblical.

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Additional Notes:



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The Power and Authority of the Word of God

The power and authority of God's word will be made known to all men in the Final Judgment (*Revelations 20:11-12*). The power of God is available to us through Jesus Christ (*1 Corinthians 8:6, 1 Corinthians 1:24*). God's power—His word—can also be *in us* (*Psalms 119:11, John 15:1-8, 1 Corinthians 1:17-25*). We learn how to obtain this power through God's word (the only authority to describe God's ways). God's word will be the authority for our individual judgment. This judgment minister's to us today from *within* us through conviction (*John 12:44-50, 2 Peter 1:19-21, 1 Peter 4:17*; the Word has the ability to discern the soul and spirit: *Hebrews 4:12*).

The Bible is the representation of God's Word in ink and paper. This church will use only the King James Version Bible to represent God's word in the English language (see the prepared study *King James Version* for complete explanation). There is no contradiction anywhere in the word of God from Genesis to Revelations when taken in context. Scriptures taken by themselves alone, can appear to contradict. Yet when we see them in the light of each other, they do create perfect harmony. For example, one scripture can not be used to support the "Trinity" doctrine, or baptism in the titles of the "Father, Son and Holy Ghost" while the rest of the word of God supports only the "Oneness" of God and baptism by total submersion in "Jesus name." When any scripture is used, it must be in harmony with the whole word of God.

When people align themselves to the word of God, they allow His word to guide their life (*Psalms 119:9-10, 33-35, 105, 2 Corinthians 7:1, 1 Timothy 4:16*). But when people try to align God's word to their preconceived understanding, they are just fooling themselves (*Proverbs 14:12*). If any person has an idea contrary to what the scriptures say about a topic, then that person must change, in order to submit to God's authority and align themselves and their understanding to God's word (*Psalms 19:7-11, 2 Timothy 3:16-17*). The Bible warns us about adding to, or taking away from, the word of God (*Revelations 22:18-19, Proverbs 30:5-6*). When we impose our own ideas or interpretations on scripture—without support of other scriptures—we are doing just that: either adding to, or taking away from the word of God (*2 Peter 1:20*).

Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh (*1 Corinthians 1:24, John 1:1, 14*). This is why the name of "Jesus" carries great power when administered in faith. It is the Word of God that was made flesh. It was then through Jesus Christ (flesh) that God (spirit) gave salvation to man. By acknowledging Jesus Christ, we are acknowledging God and his salvation plan (*1 John 5:8-12*). There is no other name greater than the name of Jesus (*Colossians 3:17, Acts 4:10-12, Proverbs 18:10, Luke 10:17, Philippians 2:10-11*). We receive this powerful name into our lives as individuals when we by faith get baptized in Jesus' name (*Galatians 3:26-27*). Then it is a matter of continuing and abiding in Christ (*John 15:4, John 8:31-32, Act 2:46-47, Hebrews 10:23-25*).

The word of God can spiritually abide in our hearts. The spirit of conviction can guide and direct our walk in a positive direction, but only as we submit to it (*John 16:13-14, Romans 8:14*). When we are tempted, we can understand the right path to choose by following the word of God (*James 1:12, James 3:17-18, Matthew 4:1-10*). To effectively hide God's word in our heart, we must be continually studying, meditating, and living what we read in the Bible (*Psalms 119:11, James 1:22-25*).

There is a seed of the Spirit that gets planted into your heart when you are baptized in Jesus' name (*Galatians 3:26-27*). The seed of God is his Word and Spirit (*1 John 3:9-10*). You



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should not choose sin while you are being tempted because of the love and appreciation you have for the rewards of faithfulness. You also must keep in mind, sin and its rewards (*Romans 6:23*). There is a study on this topic in the study on Repentance (see page 30). It is this spirit planted into your heart that gives you that power to overcome all things, when you submit your will to it. It is the power and authority of the word of God alive in your heart.



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The Power and Authority of the Word of God

Worksheet

1. What is the power and authority of God's word?

2. Explain how to submit your soul to the authority of God's word.

3. Give three Biblical examples that demonstrate the power in the name of Jesus.

a. _____

4. Explain how Christians can access the power and authority of Jesus' name.

5. Using scripture, describe how the word of God will be used on the final judgment day.

6. Explain how a person can hide the word of the Lord in his heart that he might not sin against the Lord.

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Additional Notes:



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Pastorship

Pastor: literally, *a shepherd*, the spiritual leader accountable for a Christian congregation.

A pastor has the responsibility to feed the congregation “with knowledge and understanding” (*Jeremiah 3:15*). He is accountable to God for the spiritual state of each person in his congregation and must feed them what they require in order to stand as a holy child of God in the eternal judgment (*1 Peter 5:1-7, Ephesians 4:11-16, Acts 20:28*). Therefore, each member of the congregation should respect and take heed to the teachings of their pastor.

Everyone needs a pastor (*Proverbs 14:12*). All baptized people are under the guidance of a pastor (*Romans 13:1-7, Hebrews 13:7&16-17*). God provides us with pastors, so that no one is their own pastor (*Jeremiah 3:15, Romans 10:14*). The pastor is anointed of God to assist us in fulfilling our calling. When we fail to recognize and follow God’s guidance when He speaks to our hearts, God may use his pastors (a manifestation of his judgment) to reveal to us what we were not receiving directly from God (*2 Samuel 12:1-4*). If a person goes astray and does not have someone to catch him when he goes astray, he will fall into self-justification, and then deception, and be in an unsaved state (*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*).

The pastor is accountable to God to minister to those who start to go astray (backslide) from God’s truth, also known as backsliders (*Luke 13:6-9, Luke 15:4-7, 1 Timothy 5:20-22, 2 Peter 3:15-18, 1 Thessalonians 3:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14*). Likewise, those who have gone astray are accountable to accept any Biblical counsel given by the pastor; to be sure that repentance is complete according to God’s Word. The pastor is also responsible to correct and even rebuke (firm, open, strong correction) a person when he or she falls into sin. But a pastor doesn’t use correction without serious prayerful consideration, for he must be a truthful representation of God’s word and judgment (*2 Corinthians 10:8-11; 13:10*). A pastor’s job is not to do the easy or popular thing, for he answers to God for his decisions and actions (*Romans 13:4-6, Hebrews 13:17*). His job is to guide people to be ready for the final judgment day (*2 Corinthians 11:1-6*).

There are many that will assist the pastor in his work, and God gives him wisdom to help assign the right people for the job, but he himself answers to God for the overall results. One example is the worship service: though many people will be involved, the pastor is ultimately the one accountable for the format of a worship service. Just as the priest in the Old Testament was responsible to see that the ordinances and sacrifices were acceptable to God, so the pastor is responsible to see that the sacrifices of praise and worship of the congregation are pleasing to God (*Acts 6:3-4, Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Corinthians 14:26-32, Acts 15:5-7, Acts 20:28-31, Romans 16:17-19, Ezekiel 3:17-21, 1 Corinthians 14:40*).

The true God-called pastor has a job that carries a greater responsibility than a mere position, for he answers to God for the well being of those in his care— the congregation. This kind of pastor is what we find in the Bible and in ministries of truth today: men that have a life-long burden to serve the people and give them what they need to be the best possible Christians. Those that are pastors have a great responsibility and need to be respected
(*1 Timothy 5:17-20*).



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Pastorship - Worksheet

1. Explain with scriptures the responsibility of the pastor within the congregation.

2. Who is your pastor and why?

3. Explain the responsibility of the pastor to the faithful and growing Christian.

4. Explain why a member of the congregation should communicate and submit unto the Pastorship in spirit matters.

5. Explain why the pastor is accountable for the format, content, and operation of all the ministries within the church body.

6. Explain a Christian's responsibility to their pastor, and why.

7. Explain the responsibility of the pastor to the backslider.

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Additional Notes:

I have reviewed and acknowledge that Goal #1 has been successfully completed.

Pastor _____ Date _____



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Goal #2-Second Month after Baptism:

Read and Study the Book of Acts (the history of the Early Church), and understand the history of Christian Fellowship Church.

The Acts of the Apostles – Written by the physician Luke, probably while with Paul during his imprisonment in Rome, in the mid-First Century as a sequel to the Gospel of Luke (of the same author). This book is an historical account of the start of the early church, starting at the ascension of Christ into heaven. The ‘acts’ this book records includes the first account—after the ascension—of Jewish conversion, Gentile conversion, and the conversion of Paul.

Christian Fellowship Church – This ministry began in 1974, as the result of the diligence of one individual (Pastor L. R. Davis) to answer a call he was given by God to minister to souls that were not reached by the traditional church-house ministry. Pastor Davis and his family turned from the security of the Pastorship of a congregation to street evangelism. From the humble beginnings of this ministry, to what we see now, God has always been, and remains, in control. Christian Fellowship Church Ministries, International is one church, one part of the body of Christ; a ministry that strives to be as the early church (*1 Corinthians 12:12-14,25-26, Acts 4:32*). As the Bible says they had “all things common”, and distribution was made to all as they had need, so too in Christian Fellowship Church Ministries International: there is no congregation left to struggle on their own (*Romans 15:26*). The commission of Jesus Christ to the believers is true for us today: Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature (*Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:38-39*).



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Display Understanding in the Following Topics:

Faith and Works

1. What is Faith? Use scripture references.
2. Using scripture, explain what it means to walk by faith.
3. Using scripture, explain how a person can increase his faith.
4. What does it mean to release your faith? Explain using scripture examples.
5. Using scripture, explain how faith pleases God.
6. Using scripture references, explain the relationship between faith and works.
7. Explain the status of one's faith if there is no works along with it.

Repentance

1. Using scripture, define repentance.
2. Explain the value of a repentant heart.
3. Explain, using scripture, the signs of repentance.
4. Explain the relationship between godly sorrow and forgiveness of sins.
5. Explain how a repentant person can confess their sins to God.
6. Explain the difference of being sorry you got caught, and being sorrowful before God for displeasing him; give one Biblical example of each.

Tithes and Offerings

1. Using scripture, define tithes and offerings.
2. Explain the difference between Old Testament tithing and New Testament offerings.
3. Explain how tithes and offerings reap rewards in heaven.
4. Using scripture, describe why a person is hindered in their ministry when they do not put God first in their giving.
5. Discuss the importance God places on tithes and offerings, using an example from both Old and New Testaments.
6. Give three scripture examples of people giving their tithes and offerings.
7. Explain ways that your pastor can know that you are giving tithes and offerings.



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Faith and Works

Faith is defined in scripture as the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen (*Hebrews 11:1*), because faith is what allows us to believe in something we cannot physically see. As we walk in faith, and exercise it, we can then pass faith on to others (*Romans 1:17*). The scripture teach us that works are the evidence of our faith (*Matthew 5:16, Ephesians 2:10*). An example of faith is having a victory over a battle from the very start of it (*Jude 3, Romans 10:17, Romans 4:20-21, Romans 8:38-39*).

To walk (one step at a time) by faith is to be able to take each step of your life with Christ (one victory after another), according to his word and Spirit. No matter what the circumstances may be (*2 Corinthians 5:7, 2 Corinthians 4:18, Proverbs 3:5-7, Luke 5:5-6*). You may hear people talking about “releasing their faith” but, what is holding their faith back that it needs to be released? What is keeping them back from wholly giving unto the work of God (*Hebrews 12:1-2, Judges 6:36-40*). This describes the walk of faith in action. It is one thing to talk about walking by faith, but it is a totally different thing to do it (difference between intentions and actions) (*Matthew 14:28-31, Proverbs 3:5-7, Mark 11:20-23, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Matthew 21:21-22*). Walking in faith must have a manifestation of works (deeds). Faith without works makes faith meaningless and dead (*James 2:14-26, Matthew 5:14-16, 1 Timothy 5:9-10, Titus 2:7, 3:8*). Having faith is more than having knowledge of what *could* happen, it means having self-motivation to *act* on that knowledge (*Mark 11:20-23, Mark 9:19-24*). It also means having belief that, with God’s help, this action will ensure the best possible outcome (*John 4:34, Hebrews 6:10, Mark 9:19-24, Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 2:12, 1 Corinthians 3:13*).

God will “increase” our faith, when we are faithful to do the things that we should do for God, not when we just say that we believe and yet do nothing about it. (*Luke 16:10-13, Luke 17:5-10, Mark 12:30-31, Ecclesiastes 9:10, 1 Samuel 17:34-36*). When we learn to exercise our faith more, it will bring an increase of victories over harder battles.

God is well pleased when we grow or increase in our faith in him. It is an opportunity for God to prove himself powerful (*2 Chronicles 16:9*). It is also a judgment towards those around us that go through the same things we do (we are just as human as they are), but do not stay faithful (*Hebrews 11:1-6, Hebrews 11:13-16, Hebrews 4:2, Matthew 24:45-51, Luke 12:31-32, Colossians 1:10, Hebrews 13:21*).



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Faith and Works - Worksheet

1. What is Faith? Use scripture references.

2. Using scripture, explain what it means to walk by faith.

3. Using scripture, explain how a person can increase his faith.

4. What does it mean to release your faith? Explain using scripture examples.

5. Using scripture, explain how faith pleases God.

6. Using scripture references, explain the relationship between faith and works.

7. Explain the status of one's faith if there is no works along with it.

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Repentance

Repentance is the careful clearing of one's heart and soul from any action or intention that is not perfect in the sight of God (*Acts 8:20-24*). True repentance always includes some fear and zeal, which comes from godly sorrow (*2 Corinthians 7:11*). We truly have godly sorrow when we see our sin the way God sees our sin; and we are repelled by it as God is (We must see through the eyes of God, because he is the Judge. God will always judge righteously without partiality *2 Timothy 2:25-26, 2 Peter 3:9, 2 Kings 17:13-15*).

Notice the humility and sincerity of King David (*Psalms 34:18, Psalms 51:7-17*) as he teaches us the value of a heart of repentance in his salvation, and in the salvation of others (*Isaiah 57:15, Isaiah 66:2, Luke 20:17-18, 1 Peter 3:4, Matthew 5:5-9*). God will always honor a broken and contrite heart. He will always resist the proud.

Jonah was a man of God that made mistakes that landed him in the belly of a great fish (*Jonah 1:15-17*). God still sought him out by placing conviction and harsh affliction upon Jonah, to get him to the point of repentance (*Jonah 2:1-2*). When Jonah repented, he acknowledged God as his salvation (*Jonah 2:3-10*). Jonah acknowledged that God was true and he was wrong). God even at this point was merciful to Jonah, because Jonah repented. We must also never give up hope that repentance will come about – in ourselves and also in others. It is easy to write off people and ourselves. It is God that continues to seek the soul that is in error.

It is God that judges repentance, and not man (*Matthew 7:1-5, Romans 14:12-13*). It is the very goodness of God that leads us to repentance (*Romans 2:4*). If a person has a heart of repentance they will bare fruit as a result (*2 Corinthians 7:8-10, Galatians 5:17-24, Ephesians 4:22-32, 2 Corinthians 5:17*). There is a difference between godly sorrow and being sorry you got caught. Godly sorrow leads to repentance, but a man that is just sorry he got caught will likely commit that sin again. We can be very sorry about something and yet do nothing about it (*Matthew 3:5-8*). The wages of sin, unrepented of, is death (*Hebrews 12:16-17, Roman 6:23, 1 John 1:9*). We must seek after God with repentance to have our sins covered in the blood of Christ (*Psalms 32:2-5, 1 John 1:9*). (If a person does not confess their sins before God, the sins are still staining their soul. All sins must be repented of and covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.

It is healthy and safe for us to keep our hearts always ready to be led by the spirit of conviction (*Galatians 5:16*). This requires fear and great submission to the will of God in your life. We are never good enough to be saved (*Psalms 39:5*). This is why we maintain a humble and repentant heart before God.



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Repentance - Worksheet

1. Using scripture, define repentance.

2. Explain the value of a repentant heart.

3. Explain, using scripture, the signs of repentance.

4. Explain the relationship between godly sorrow and forgiveness of sins.

5. Explain how a repentant person can confess their sins to God.

6. Explain the difference of being sorry you got caught, and being sorrowful before God for displeasing him; give one Biblical example of each.

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Tithes and Offerings

Abraham started the practice of tithing when he gave a tenth of his spoils to Melchisedec (*Hebrews 7:1-6*). Jacob also vowed a vow unto the Lord, that if God would deliver him, he would give God a tenth of all (*Genesis 28:20-22*). In the Levitical priesthood, God commanded that the people would give a tenth of their first fruits unto him; therefore, their tithes were brought to the priests who ministered in the house of God (*Leviticus 27:30-34*). In the New Testament, God has fulfilled the carnal commandment of “tithing” with the concept of natural and spiritual “offerings”. An offering is that which is above and beyond a simple tithe (*Exodus 25:1-8, 1 Corinthians 16:1-3*). These offerings now include all of a person’s resources. This is a total giving of one’s life unto God (*Mark 12:29-31*). Now God is asking for the best, in the first fruits of income and in complete spiritual dedication (*Romans 12:1-2*).

Giving tithes and offerings is more than just a carnal commandment: it is a way to reap treasures in heaven (*Luke 6:38, 2 Corinthians 9:5-15, Hebrews 6:10, 1 John 3:17, Matthew 25:34-40*). It is the quality of the offering and not the quantity that pleases God. It is also the attitude in which it is given that will decide whether God will bless the offering or not. And offerings are most often considered to be money, but we should offer our whole self— time, talents and money (*Romans 12:1-2*).

Just like any other commandment of God, not obeying the commandment of giving can yield sin before the eyes of God (*Malachi 3:8-9, 1 Timothy 6:10, Matthew 19:16-22*).

God places great importance on this giving. God expects his people to contribute of their substances, thus enabling the church to minister (it was God that gave it to his people to start with) (*Malachi 3:10, Mark 12:41-44, Acts 2:44-45, Acts 4:33-37, Acts 5:1-11*).

Giving of tithes/offerings is a subject that has been greatly abused by many modern-day preachers. Some people are reluctant to give to a ministry because they think it is going straight to the minister’s wallet. This is understandable when one looks only at the physical aspects. The giver must understand that there is a difference if his giving is truly unto God. Once we freely give our offering, it belongs to God, not man; and we receive our reward from God (*Matthew 6:3-4*). Every person that has responsibilities to deal with that money, after it is offered, will give account to God, as the stewards of God (*Luke 12:33-43, Titus 1:7*).

There are many examples in the scriptures of people giving their tithes and offerings (*Mark 12:41-44, 2 Kings 12:2-5, Acts 2:44-45, Acts 4:33-37*).



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Tithes and Offerings - Worksheet

1. Using scripture, define tithes and offerings.

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Mentor: _____
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Additional Notes:

I have reviewed and acknowledge that Goal #2 has been successfully completed.

Pastor

Date



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Edward J. Thomas, Associate General Pastor

Goal #3-Third Month after Baptism:

Read and Study First and Second Corinthians (letters to an early church congregation that apply to us today).

1 Corinthians – Written by Apostle Paul while in Ephesus, in Spring 57 AD; a letter to a church in the city of Corinth, Greece, about three years after visiting the church; delivered by a delegation of Corinthian church leaders, who had sought out Paul about problems in the church. Paul defines, analyzes, and gives his advice about these problems, as their founding pastor. It is a very straightforward letter, and even gives today's Christian clear direction on many issues fundamental to our faith.

2 Corinthians – Written by Apostle Paul while in Macedonia, around 57-58 AD; another letter to the church in Corinth; delivered by Titus. Paul again gives answers to problems within the church, specifically concerning his authority over the church as its Apostle, showing how and why God has put him over the church. The letter gives great instruction to the church today – for we serve the same God, and fight the same devil. This letter could very well have been written to the churches of Christian Fellowship.

Display Understanding in the Following Topics:

Security of the Believer

1. Using scripture, explain the value of having assurance in your salvation.
2. Prove your salvation within the scriptures.
3. Describe the difference between feeling and being saved.
4. Using scripture, prove the power and ability of God to save.
5. Explain by scriptures, how a person can be in an “unsaved” state after they have been baptized.
6. Using scripture, explain the relationship between repentance and security in Christ.



L.R. Davis, Founding Pastor
Peter F. Paine, General Pastor
Edward J. Thomas, Associate General Pastor

Fellowship

1. Define Biblical fellowship.
2. Explain how fellowship helps support true Christians.
3. Briefly describe and give three scripture references on good fellowship.
4. Briefly describe and give three scripture references on bad fellowship.
5. Explain the difference between friendship and fellowship.
6. Explain how we have fellowship with God.
7. Explain what happens when we don't seek out fellowship.

Communication

1. Explain how we communicate with God.
2. Explain why communication with the Pastorship is vital.
3. Explain the importance of communication throughout the body of Christ.
4. Using examples, explain how communication makes the church more effective.
5. Explain why everyone is responsible for communication in the ministry and give three examples from the Bible, and from daily life.
6. Give two examples of how communication benefits both the individual, and the church body.

Prayer and Fasting

1. Briefly explain the four basic types of prayers.
2. Explain how to communicate one's thoughts in honesty towards God.
3. Explain what happens to a person with a slack prayer life.
4. Explain fasting from God's point of view.
5. Explain how fasting helps one's prayer life.
6. Describe the difference of earning and obtaining a blessing.
7. Decide and then explain how you will fast before the Lord, and what you will fast about.
8. After you have fasted about question 7, what did you learn from it?



L.R. Davis, Founding Pastor
Peter F. Paine, General Pastor
Edward J. Thomas, Associate General Pastor

Security of the Believer

God has given us many promises throughout the Bible. One of these is the hope and security of knowing that God is able to save us to the uttermost, as long as we desire to be kept (*Hebrews 7:25, 1 Thessalonians 5:8-9, Hebrews 3:14, Hebrews 10:35-39, Romans 8:38-39*). Notice that none of these scriptures state that a believer has given up his choices. Until the Lord takes us home, we will all have a choice to nurture the desire to stay unspotted from the world and be saved (*James 1:27, 1 Peter 2:1-2, 2 Peter 3:16-18, Matthew 5:6, 2 Corinthians 6:17-18*), or we can neglect that desire and let it become cold (*Matthew 24:11-12, Hebrews 2:1-4, 1 Thessalonians 5:14-23, Revelations 3:15-21*).

The word of God judges us all (*John 12:48*). We have the opportunity to examine ourselves and receive our judgment now, instead of the last day with those who reject God (*2 Corinthians 13:5-6*). With knowledge of judgment and salvation, we are able to prove our salvation to ourselves, and to anyone, according to his word (*Acts 24:24-25*). There are many scriptures that are salvation specific, and they must be taken together as a whole; one scripture is not lesser or greater in importance than another, and no scripture voids out any other (*Mark 16:16, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 10:9-13, Mark 13:13, 1 John 1:9*).

There is a difference between “feeling saved” and “being saved.” Our flesh is not going to make it to heaven; therefore it does not always feel saved. Our salvation is based on the obedience to God’s word and doing that which we know to be right in His sight. Satan will use our feelings (which are carnal) against us if we let him (*Romans 7:14-25, Romans 8:1-10, Hebrews 4:15-16*).

It is against our nature to trust in something that we cannot see, feel, or touch. Yet, by the spiritual senses, we can know that God’s word is true, and we can stake our soul on it (*John 20:29, 2 Peter 1:19-21, Hebrews 7:25, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Matthew 28:18, Hebrews 4:12-13*).

It is possible for a saved, born-again people to get himself into an unsaved state (see the study *Grace and Forgiveness*, page 77, for in-depth study on this). The grace of God, that covers our shortcomings while we earnestly contend for the faith in God, will not cover willful sin left without repentance (*Acts 8:18-24*). There is also a sin referred to as ‘blasphemy of the Holy Ghost,’ which will never be forgiven (*Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-29, 1 John 5:16-17*). See your mentor or pastor for a more in depth discussion on this topic.

Keeping a repentant heart will keep us in the love and merciful grace of God. This kind of respectful submission will keep us secure in God’s hands as we do all that he requires (*John 10:28-30, John 14:15, John 15:4-6, 2 Timothy 1:12-14, 2 Corinthians 7:1, Jude 20*).



L.R. Davis, Founding Pastor
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Edward J. Thomas, Associate General Pastor

Security of the Believer- Worksheet

1. Using scripture, explain the value of having assurance in your salvation.

2. Prove your salvation within the scriptures.

3. Describe the difference between feeling and being saved.

4. Using scripture, prove the power and ability of God to save.

5. Explain by scriptures, how a person can be in an "unsaved" state after they have been baptized.

6. Using scripture, explain the relationship between repentance and security in Christ.

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Fellowship

Godly fellowship is the giving and receiving of the Spirit of God from faith to faith, from person to person (*Romans 1:17, 1 John 1:7*). Fellowship will support every Christian that applies himself to it (*Hebrews 3:13, Matthew 18:20*). We all get spiritual strength and encouragement when we draw from the strengths of each other (*Hebrews 10:24*). We also learn from each other's good works and bad (*John 15:4-7, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Ecclesiastes 4:9-11*).

Fellowship will make a new Christian strong in a short time (*1 John 4:17-21, 1 Peter 4:8; Proverbs 27:17*). Forsaking fellowship will spiritually kill us, by our own negligence (*Hebrews 10:25*). When we come together to a worship service, we not only hear the sermon that feeds our needs, we should also enjoy the fellowship of others around us (*Malachi 3:16; Romans 1:17*). There are those that may not have the opportunity to fellowship. God keeps those that are separated from the fellowship (e.g. out to sea) until the next opportunity comes available for fellowship (*2 Timothy 1:12*).

We should not seek our fellowship (co-participation) with those that are not walking in the light and truth of God (*1 John 1:6, Amos 3:3, Psalms 133:1-3*). We can be friends with them, but, we cannot fellowship with them (*2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 1 John 2:15-17, Titus 1:16, Ephesians 5:11, 2 John 9-11, Matthew 7:15-20, 1 Corinthians 10:20-22*). To be someone's friend (to be kindly interested with goodwill) is how you see him, or her, get saved. Yet, to receive what they spiritually have to offer may not be good.

If someone has walked away from the fellowship, you should pray for that person, but not fellowship with him. The issue that led him astray could lead you astray also (*Romans 16:17, 2 Peter 3:17-18, 1 Corinthians 10:12; 2 Peter 2:18-22*). It is better to live the testimony in front of him faithfully, than to concede to his level of negativity (*2 Thessalonians 3:14-15*).

Likewise, a person should not fellowship with those who walk in the same carnal things from which he has escaped (*1 Peter 4:1-4, Ephesians 4:14, Ephesians 5:11, James 4:4, 2 John 10-11*). For example: If a person just escaped the world of drugs, it is foolishness for them to fellowship with the same. Where is the delivering power of God if that person doesn't change the way they live? What's more, God has commanded that his sons and daughters come out from the world and be separate (*2 Corinthians 6:14-18*).



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Fellowship - Worksheet

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3. Briefly describe and give three scripture references on good fellowship.

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5. Explain the difference between friendship and fellowship.

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L.R. Davis, Founding Pastor
Peter F. Paine, General Pastor
Edward J. Thomas, Associate General Pastor

Additional Notes:



L.R. Davis, Founding Pastor
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Edward J. Thomas, Associate General Pastor

Communication

Communication is a two-way interaction between two entities. God and man communicate through prayer and his word (*John 6:63*). God gave us his Spirit to pray within so that we may know and understand His will (*Psalms 19:14, 1 Corinthians 2:10-16, Matthew 6:6-7, Romans 8:26-27*).

Communication with our pastors is vital, when it comes to spiritual matters in people's lives, or in the function of the ministry (*Jeremiah 3:15, Ephesians 4:11-12*). The pastor is the man that God holds accountable for the perfecting of each soul within his Pastorship. Each person should, therefore, maintain a healthy channel of communication with his respective pastor (*Romans 13:1-6*).

A healthy body has a good coordinated flow of all its needed supplies. The body of Christ likewise needs a good coordinated flow of information and understanding to edify itself in Christ (*Ephesians 4:14-16, 1 Corinthians 3:6-9, Philippians 1:27*).

When someone is not working within a ministry, they are working alone. When someone is working in the collective effort of a ministry, then everyone's strengths are added to that person's work. Thus, the overall effectiveness increases (*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, 1 Corinthians 12:14-23, Philippians 4:13-19, Hebrews 3:13, Romans 12:5-13*).

When a person misses a church service, his input into the body of Christ is missed. The pastor may communicate to ask of this person's spiritual state, or he may ask another to inquire of that person's welfare. This communication should be 'two-way:' people should communicate with the pastor when they are sick, going on vacation, or any other thing that would affect their involvement and availability for worship and the work of God's ministry (*Hebrews 13:16-17, Act 20:28, Hebrews 10:25, 1 Thessalonians 1:5-8*). If someone is doing something that may not involve the church but does effect his or her time and availability, it should not only be communicated, but also coordinated with their pastor (*1 Corinthians 14:40, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13*).

If a brother or sister has ill feelings towards another for whatever reason, there needs to be a communication of these feelings (*1 Peter 5:5, Matthew 18:15-18*). The other person may not know the hurt or the trouble that was caused. We all owe it to each other to communicate in all humility and honesty (*Proverbs 18:19*).



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Communication - Worksheet

1. Explain how we communicate with God.

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Additional Notes:



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Prayer and Fasting

Prayer is the private communication lifeline between a person and God. There are basically four different types of prayer: 1) Requesting 2) Praise & Thanksgiving 3) Repentance and 4) Intercession. These prayers can be explained as follows:

1) Requesting prayers, or “Lord I need ...” prayers are supplications and petitions of our heart before the Lord (*Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6*).

2) Praise & Thanksgiving prayers, or “Lord, I thank you for ...” prayers are prayers of gratitude and thankfulness for what God has done with our lives, and with the lives of others (*Colossians 3:17, Luke 2:36-38, Romans 16:3-4, Act 27:34-35*).

3) Repentance prayers, or “Lord, please forgive me for ...” are very specific and direct repentance from our hearts as we seek forgiveness (*Psalms 51:1-19, Luke 21:36, 1 Kings 8:28-40, Nehemiah 1:4-11*).

4) Intercession prayers, or “Lord, bless my friend ...” are prayers of needed support for others (*Jeremiah 42:1-4, 1 Thessalonians 5:25, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2, Hebrews 13:18-19*). People do not have to ask you for prayer to receive benefit from these prayers (*Acts 12:5, Romans 10:1-3*). When the disciples asked Jesus Christ how to pray, he responded with words we now know as The Lord’s Prayer (*Matthew 6:9-13*). All four types are suggested within the prayer.

Though God knows the thoughts and intents within our hearts even before we come to him in prayer (*Hebrews 4:12-16*), He still desires us to come to him (*Matthew 11:28-30*). Our attitude when we come to God in prayer is also important: King David prayed that the Lord would regard the meditation of his heart as acceptable (*Psalms 19:14*). We as God’s children come to him for cleansing from the weight of sin (*Hebrews 12:1-29, Psalms 32:1-6, Romans 14:11-12*). It requires great honesty to pour out our hearts unto God (*James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:5-7*). After baptism (the primary cleansing from sin), we must confess our sins in order to have them forgiven (*1 John 1:9-10*). When a person ‘slacks off’ in his prayer life, he starts to lose even the desire to pray; the longer a person avoids prayer, the worse it will get. Prayer is how and where we can find and receive forgiveness of our sins (*Romans 8:26-27*). Therefore, the person that is slack in his prayer life will eventually backslide and not think anything of it (the more you pray, the more you see the need to pray). Do not forget it is in prayer that we come in contact with the light of God’s judgments. If we stop approaching the light, we will then abide in darkness (*Revelation 3:15-18; John 3:19-21*).

Fasting is the withholding of something that our flesh needs. This voluntary and willful withholding serves us in great spiritual ways when we pray. Fasting without prayer is merely a diet. But if we pray, then with every hunger pain comes a reminder of the reason for the fast. Jesus showed how God desires us to fast (*Matthew 6:16-18*). God described for Isaiah the types of things he desires his people to fast about (*Isaiah 58:3-7*). Jesus also teaches us likewise, that we should feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, take in the stranger, cloth the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned (*Matthew 25:34-40; James 5:16-18; Luke 18:2-8*). Therefore, in order to accomplish this, we must maintain a life that is a service unto Christ and not just for ourselves (*Matthew 6:24, Romans 12:1-2*). There are other kinds of sacrifice and self-denial, which are discussed more in the *Living Sacrifice* Bible study, on page 88.



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Prayer and Fasting - Worksheet

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7. Decide and then explain how you will fast before the Lord, and what you will fast about.

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Additional Notes:

I have reviewed and acknowledge that Goal #3 has been successfully completed.

Pastor Date



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Edward J. Thomas, Associate General Pastor

Goal #4-Fourth Month after Baptism:

Read and Study Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians.

ROMANS – Written by Apostle Paul while he was in Corinth, Greece, just before returning to Jerusalem, in the winter of 57-58 AD; a letter to a church in the city of Rome, Italy, in response to his delay in coming to the church; delivered by a woman named Phoebe. It is a book about the basics: a Christian’s commitment to God, God’s judgment of mankind, the reality and blessings of our relationship with God, and the wonders of salvation, can all be found in this letter to the Romans.

GALATIANS – Written by Apostle Paul while in Antioch, Greece, or in either Ephesus, Macedonia, or Corinth, in 49 AD or 56-57 AD respectively; a letter to the churches in the region called Galatia, in what is now modern Turkey. This letter tells of Paul’s conversion from the bondage of law to the freedom of Christ, and how all Christians have this common freedom.

EPHESIANS – Written by Apostle Paul while in prison in Rome in 61-63 AD; though most manuscripts state “to the saints which are at Ephesus,” this is possibly a general letter meant to be circulated among churches in what is now modern Turkey; delivered by Tychicus and accompanying disciples. This letter provides great unifying strength between church congregations, and proof that the Christian church has always dealt with divisions—first between Jews and Gentiles—but has also overcome through upholding the “One faith”, and the leadership structure that God established.

PHILIPPIANS – Written by Apostle Paul (probably dictated to Timothy) while in prison in Rome, between 60-64 AD; a letter to a church in Phillippi, in what is now modern Greece; in response to a financial gift from the church; delivered by Epaphroditus. This letter shows that though Christ indeed suffered, he prevailed over the flesh. And so too shall all faithful Christians find victory, and obtain a great reward.

COLOSSIANS – Written by Apostle Paul while in prison in Rome, in 61-63 AD; a letter to a church in Colossae, Phrygia, in what is now modern Turkey; delivered by Tychicus and accompanying disciples. This letter tells us much about the purpose of the works of Christ, and that we should follow his example. The admonishment to hold to Christ’s teachings without extra philosophies is an important point for us today.



L.R. Davis, Founding Pastor
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Display Understanding in the Following Topics:

Newness of Life

1. Use scripture to describe what is meant by walking in newness of life.
2. Use scripture to describe what happens to us when we are baptized in Jesus' name, with reference to newness of life.
3. Describe the fruits of the spirit and how they apply to newness of life.
4. Explain the difference between the "old man" and the "new man".
5. Explain the role of daily repentance in maintaining a new heart before God.
6. Briefly list three of the promises of God for a person who walks in His spirit.

Resurrection of the Dead

1. Explain the meaning of the resurrection of the dead.
2. List, and explain with scripture, the different types of resurrections.
3. Explain where the Christian appears in the final judgment day.
4. Describe what kind of body we will have when we get to that heavenly city.
5. Explain how a person applies the resurrection of Christ to their life.
6. Explain how the resurrecting power of Christ continually dwells in those that have obeyed him.

Eternal Judgment

1. Explain who will be the Judge that people will face in the last judgment.
2. Describe the first resurrection and who will be in it.
3. Describe the second death and who will be in it.
4. What is the book of works?
5. Explain what each of us will give account for on our judgment day.
6. Explain the present states of the lost and saved people that have already gone to the grave.

Rewards of a Christian

1. Describe the concept and value of receiving a reward.
2. Explain the relationship between sowing and reaping spiritual things.
3. Explain the benefits of peace of mind as a reward for honesty before God.
4. Explain the relationship of persecution to Christianity.
5. Explain the prize for overcoming adversity in the face of the devil.
6. Explain the ultimate reward of hearing "well done."



L.R. Davis, Founding Pastor
Peter F. Paine, General Pastor
Edward J. Thomas, Associate General Pastor

Newness of Life

Christian's are by definition "like Christ". Before we were saved, we were not like Christ (*1 Peter 4:2-4*). Since we have been baptized in Jesus' name, we are saved from the wrath of God and walk in the newness of life (*Mark 16:16-18, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21*). Our "newness" comes from walking as Christ would have us to walk (*Roman 6:1-4, Mark 14:35-36*).

God desires us to live in holiness and do good works (*Hebrews 12:14, Ephesians 2:10*). Holiness and good works are called good fruits unto God. A person can tell if he is walking in the Spirit of God by the evidence of the "fruit of the spirit" that he does/does not bear (*Galatians 5:22-25, Ephesians 4:20-30, Matthew 7:16-20*). Christianity is more than a belief of mind: it is a way of life (*Galatians 2:20, Mark 12:30-31, Matthew 6:33, Colossians 3:17*).

Just like the bridge from the Old to New Testament was Jesus Christ, the bridge from the old man to the new man is also Jesus Christ. From the point that a person is baptized in Jesus' name, he is changed by the power of God into a new person (*Romans 6:6-8, Ephesians 4:22-24, Colossians 3:4-10, Ephesians 2:11-17*). This new man has new ways and habits to develop: new prayer, new fasting, new communication, and new relationships (*Luke 5:36-39, 1 Corinthians 5:6-9, Colossians 3:9-10*).

As Christ daily sought out the will of the Father, even so should we as Christians (*John 8:29*). Because Christianity is a way of life, we must continually seek to draw closer to God in Christ's ways (*Philippians 3:8-15*). In order to draw near to God, we must resist the Devil and all of his temptations (*James 4:7-8*). When we draw closer to God, we can see our shortcomings more clearly. This is why we must maintain a repentant heart before him (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 2 Corinthians 4:16, Ephesians 5:1-7*).

A religious person that has not been baptized in Jesus' name is not a new creature in Christ, but is still an old creature, still full of sin, just with some new ways. God's promises are for those who obey him (*John 14:15, Acts 5:32, Hebrews 5:9*). When the Lord comes back, he is coming for those who are walking as he walked: in spirit and truth (*Romans 8:1-15, John 4:23-24*).



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Newness of Life - Worksheet

1. Use scripture to describe what is meant by walking in newness of life.

2. Use scripture to describe what happens to us when we are baptized in Jesus' name, with reference to newness of life.

3. Describe the fruits of the spirit and how they apply to newness of life.

4. Explain the difference between the "old man" and the "new man".

5. Explain the role of daily repentance in maintaining a new heart before God.

6. Briefly list three of the promises of God for a person who walks in His spirit.

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L.R. Davis, Founding Pastor
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Additional Notes:



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Peter F. Paine, General Pastor
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Resurrection of the Dead

The resurrection of the dead is the raising to life again of someone who is deceased. Jesus is the resurrection and the life to all that believe in him (*John 11:24-45*). This hope of rising from the dead is the core of Christianity (*1 Corinthians 15:12-20*). This hope of eternal life is the reason we all desire to live in holiness (*Luke 20:34-38, 2 Corinthians 7:1*).

The soul (created in the image of God) will live forever somewhere. It is up to each individual to choose the lifestyle that will ultimately decide where he will spend eternity. There are two places that we can go after Christ's return: heaven or the lake of fire (*John 5:25-29, Daniel 12:1-4, Revelations 20:6, 11-15, Revelations 21:8*). There is an order to what will happen when Christ returns for the saints (this is the first resurrection):

- 1) the dead in Christ shall rise first,
- 2) then those that are still alive will meet Him with those that had gone on before them (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-17*).
- 3) There will be a "thousand year reign" of these saints with Christ (*Revelations 20:4-6*).
- 4) Then the second death of the sinners (those not in the first resurrection) will follow (*Revelations 20:6&11-13, Revelations 21:8*). They will stand before God and be judged according to their works. Then they will be cast into the lake of fire (*Revelations 20:14-15*).

There is a place of rest and a place of torment for those awaiting their final reward or damnation, respectively (*Luke 16:20-31, 1 Corinthians 15:18-23&35-44&53-55*). The timing of this coming final judgment is at a day unknown to any man (*Matthew 24:3-8&29-31&34-44*). In the final judgment day, the Christians will appear before the Lord dressed in the righteousness of God (*Matthew 25:31-46, Matthew 13:37-42, Matthew 22:1-13, Galatians 3:27*). It should also be noted that Christians shall not stand with the wicked before the "great throne judgement." They are waiting in a place of comfort and rest for the reward (*Luke 16:20-31*) while considered to be on His right hand. The way we apply the resurrection of Christ to our lives is by our obedience to the commandment of water baptism in His name (*Romans 6:3-5, Romans 8:11*).

Because man and woman were originally created with a soul in the image of God, we know that we will live forever as he does (*Genesis 1:26-27, Ecclesiastes 12:7*). After we pass from this carnal life and body, we will take on a spiritual life and body that will never die (*John 11:26, John 6:48-51*). Both in heaven and in the lake of fire, there will be no end of the soul's existence because we are in God's image (*Revelations 14:9-13*). Those in the lake of fire will seek to put an end to their suffering, but will not be able to find it (*Mark 9:43-48*).

When the righteous get to the heavenly city, they will have a body that can spiritually walk, talk, taste, and worship forever without any of Satan's distractions that appealed to the flesh that used to be (*Revelations 7:9-17, Revelations 21:3-6&16-27*). We will have a glorious body like the Lord's (*1 John 3:1-3*).

The power of the resurrection of Christ abides within a person when they get baptized in Jesus Name (*Romans 6:5*). When a person comes out of the water in the likeness of Christ's resurrection, they have the power of God that raised Christ from the dead applied to their life (*Romans 8:11*). It is the hope of us all to be a partaker of the first resurrection (*John 15:4-6, Philippians 3:8-11, Psalms 24:3-5, Matthew 5:8, 1 Timothy 1:5-7, 2 Timothy 2:22, James 1:27, 1 John 3:1, Philippians 3:8-14*).



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Resurrection of the Dead – Worksheet

1. Explain the meaning of the resurrection of the dead.

2. List, and explain with scripture, the different types of resurrections.

3. Explain where the Christian appears in the final judgment day.

4. Describe what kind of body we will have when we get to that heavenly city.

5. Explain how a person applies the resurrection of Christ to their life.

6. Explain how the resurrecting power of Christ continually dwells in those that have obeyed him.

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Additional Notes:



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Eternal Judgment

When the eternal judgment day comes, the sinners will stand before God and His word, and their works will be compared to it (*John 12:44-50, Hebrews 6:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10, 1 Corinthians 6:3*). The judgment of the righteous is being set now as we live (*1 Peter 4:17-18*). It is the sentence (or wages) of sin that will be measured out on that day (*Romans 6:23, Revelations 20:11-15*). Both ways, the judgment is final, and there is no appeal or repentance afterwards (*Ecclesiastes 8:5-8*).

Every day that we live, we are establishing our own judgment. How we treat and judge others is how we will be judged and rewarded in the eternal judgment (*Matthew 7:1-5*). The term “saved” refers to how we were destined to the lake of fire but, because of our repentance and obedience to God’s gift of salvation, we were granted grace through faith (*Ephesians 2:8*). We got baptized to avoid going to hell and in order to go to heaven (*Acts 22:16*). We are in a saved state, but, we can give up our status if we choose to live contrary to God’s word, which will judge us in the last day (*Ezekiel 33:7-20*). Baptism is only a part of salvation. A person must continue to abide in Christ (*Mark 13:13, John 15:6-10*).

All people will experience a resurrection — either to heaven, or to the lake of fire. Those who are found in a “righteous state” living in God’s will at the coming of Christ, or at their death, will be in the first resurrection (*2 Timothy 4:6-8, Revelations 22:11-14*). Those who are found in a “sinful state” living contrary to God’s will at the coming of Christ, or at their death, be in the second resurrection (*Romans 2:1-11,16, Jude 14-19, Matthew 25:8-13*).

A person will know from the moment they lift up there eyes on the other side of this life whether they will have a favorable judgment or not (*Luke 16:22-23*). There is a place of torment for those reserved for the lake of fire, and a place of comfort for those reserved for heaven (*Luke 16:24-25*). Jesus never spoke of a middle ground. There is no such thing in the scriptures as *purgatory*. A great gulf is fixed between the good and the evil (*Luke 16:26*). Those who have died and are awaiting judgment at Christ’s return are still able to hear the voice of the Lord (*John 5:28-29*). Therefore, God’s word is the eternal judgment of all.



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Eternal Judgment - Worksheet

1. Explain who will be the Judge that people will face in the last judgment.

2. Describe the first resurrection and who will be in it.

3. Describe the second death and who will be in it.

4. What is the book of works?

5. Explain what each of us will give account for on our judgment day.

6. Explain the present states of the lost and saved people that have already gone to the grave.

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Rewards of a Christian

God has rewards for those who will do what is required to obtain them (*Revelations 22:12*). Rewards are given to us by God proportionate to the service we have given to Him (*1 Corinthians 3:6-15, Matthew 16:27, 1 Timothy 5:18; Mark 10:28-30*). We must be careful to maintain our good works unto the Lord in order to receive a full reward (*Ephesians 2:10, 2 John 1:8*). There are also rewards for evil works (*Revelations 18:4-6, Galatians 6:7*).

What you get out of something depends upon what you put into it: if you plant wheat, you will reap wheat. This is true also in the spiritual things: if you sow spiritual seeds, you will reap spiritual fruits (*2 Corinthians 9:6, Matthew 10:40-42; 1 Corinthians 9:9-11, Galatians 6:7-9*). We read in God's word that if we put our best into something, doing it unto the Lord, we will get the best result (*Deuteronomy 4:29, Deuteronomy 10:12, Ecclesiastes 9:10, Hosea 10:12-15*).

When we sow to the Lord prayers of honesty, we will have peace of mind (*Philippians 4:6-9, Hebrews 13:18, 2 Corinthians 8:21, Matthew 6:16-18, Isaiah 26:3*). When we pray, we should tell God the exact way we feel (*Hebrews 4:13-16*). This way, we will keep our heart and spiritual ground bearing the most fruit possible by being honest (*Luke 8:15*).

There is another concept that needs to be understood: that some people love darkness rather than light (*John 3:19-21*). They will not go towards the light of God because their deeds will be judged (*1 Peter 4:3-6*). Also, if we bring light into the presence of those that love darkness, they will challenge us, even contend that we are wrong, because the light in our lives will manifest how evil their deeds really are (*Ephesians 5:10-13*). With this in mind, we know we will be persecuted because we are different (*John 16:1-4, Mark 10:28-31, 2 Timothy 3:12, Matthew 5:10-12, John 15:18-20, 2 Thessalonians 1:4-6*).

There is a reward from God for overcoming these persecutions and temptations (*Revelations 2:1-3, Revelations 3:5,12,21, Revelations 21:7, James 1:2,12-14*). God himself gives us, as his children, the power to overcome adversity (*John 16:33, 1 John 4:4, 1 John 2:13-14*). In turn, other people are depending on us to be strong and very courageous (*Joshua 1:9, Proverbs 24:10-12*). We can overcome evil by doing that which is right and good (*Romans 12:19-21, James 4:7-10*). The ultimate reward, of course, will be when we as faithful, enduring Christians hear, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (*Matthew 25:14-23, Revelations 22:14; Phillipians 3:12-15*).



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Rewards of a Christian - Worksheet

1. Describe the concept and value of receiving a reward.

2. Explain the relationship between sowing and reaping spiritual things.

3. Explain the benefits of peace of mind as a reward for honesty before God.

4. Explain the relationship of persecution to Christianity.

5. Explain the prize for overcoming adversity in the face of the devil.

6. Explain the ultimate reward of hearing "well done."

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Additional Notes:

I have reviewed and acknowledge that Goal #4 has been successfully completed.

Pastor _____

Date _____



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Goal #5-Fifth Month after Baptism:

Read and Study First Thessalonians through Hebrews

1 THESSALONIANS – Written by Apostle Paul while at Corinth, Greece, around 51-52 AD; a letter to a church in Thessalonica, Greece. This letter encourages Christians to endure trials and temptations, even severe persecutions, by stressing the importance of choosing righteousness over sin, and by keeping a lively hope of the Lord's return.

2 THESSALONIANS – Written by Apostle Paul while at Corinth, Greece, around 52 AD; another letter to the church in Thessalonica, Greece. This letter continues the themes of 1 Thessalonians, but with additional teaching that helps clarify what is necessary to be ready for the second coming of the Lord.

1 TIMOTHY – Written by Apostle Paul, between 64 and 67 AD; to Timothy at Ephesus, a man who had traveled with Paul on many journeys, and had been just recently placed by Paul as the leader of all the churches in this area. This letter gives many details of the responsibilities of all the different people within a church, and how they should conduct themselves while working and ministering together.

2 TIMOTHY – Written by Apostle Paul, possibly during his final days in prison, before execution in Rome, around 67 AD; another letter to Timothy at Ephesus; possibly the last letter of Paul. In this letter Paul admonishes Timothy to follow his example, and gives clear instructions about how to guide those under Timothy's care, which gives us insight about each person's individual responsibilities to the church and to Christ.

TITUS – Written by Apostle Paul before his second imprisonment in Rome, around 65 AD; a letter to Titus in Crete, a man who often traveled with Paul, and several times stayed afterwards to lead a new church that was established during these travels, such as this church in Crete. This book explains much about the qualifications and duties of all who minister within the church body, and provides encouragement for Christians to daily maintain their good works.

PHILEMON – Written by Apostle Paul while in prison in Rome, around 64 to 67 AD to Philemon at Colossae, a good friend of Paul's, and faithful man; delivered by Tychicus and accompanying disciples. This letter concerned a specific situation: the slave Onesimus had run away from his master, Philemon. By God's guiding hand, Onesimus found his way to Paul at Rome and was converted. This letter was sent with Onesimus as he returned to his master, and is a lesson to us in forgiveness and charity towards brothers and sisters in Christ.

HEBREWS – Although the author is unknown (speculations include Apollos, Luke, Barnabus, but most agree it was Paul), and the date is unknown (likely in the 60's AD, most feel while Paul was in prison in Rome); it is obviously directed to those with knowledge of the Jewish Law and Scriptures. With numerous references to the Old Testament, and the explained fulfillment in a new "better testament," this book gives a masterful and detailed defense of Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the Jewish laws and



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heritage.

Display Understanding in the Following Topics:

Framework of the Ministry

1. Describe what is meant by framework of the ministry.
2. Explain the five-fold ministry that God set up through the early Apostles.
3. Explain how, in the work of the gospel, individuals can get more accomplished by working as a team. Also explain how this team uses good communication.
4. Explain why the pastor is accountable for all the works within his Pastorship.
5. Explain the roles of a mentor and a teacher.
6. Describe the framework of the five-fold ministry within our church, and your role in this framework.

The Holy Ghost

1. What is the Holy Ghost?
2. How do we receive it?
3. What will the Holy Ghost do for a person?
4. Explain how a person gains knowledge by the Holy Ghost?
5. Explain how Spiritual Gifts comes to a person through the Holy Ghost.
6. Explain how a person bears Spiritual Fruit through the Holy Ghost.

Grace and Forgiveness

1. Explain what grace is and why it can only be free and not earned.
2. Explain how we are saved by grace and not by the Law of Moses.
3. Explain how a person can “fall from” grace.
4. Name and describe the only sin that will never be forgiven; give two Biblical examples.
5. Explain God’s power to keep us from the works of the devil.
6. Explain God’s ability to keep that which is committed into his trust and care.



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Charity / Brotherly Love

1. Describe charity.
2. Explain why charity is the greatest gift amongst faith, hope, and charity.
3. Explain the relationship between charity and brotherly love.
4. Explain how brotherly love keeps the work of God growing.
5. Describe how to deal with your enemies, give at least 5 examples.
6. Explain the relationship between personal sacrifices and charity.



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Framework of the Ministry

The 'framework of the ministry' is another name for the structure of the Biblical church (*Ephesians 2:19-22*). The ministry has resources of people, time, money, and buildings, all of which God wants to be used for seeing souls saved. The ministry's framework determines how the resources that are available to it will be used to accomplish the work of God (*Ephesians 4:16*, *John 21:15-16*, *Matthew 25:34-40*, *James 1:27*, *Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*).

The five-fold ministry that God set up through the early apostles—and is still in operation today—is for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ (*1 Corinthians 12:12-20*, *Ephesians 4:12*). The five-fold positions of responsibility (*Ephesians 4:11*) are Apostles (*Matthew 10:1-20*), Prophets (*Revelations 19:10*, *Acts 15:32*), Evangelists (*2 Timothy 4:5*, *Philippians 2:19-22*), Pastors (*Jeremiah 3:15*, *Acts 20:28-31*) and Teachers (*Matthew 28:20*, *Titus 2:1-15*).

A ministry is more than a group of individuals doing what seems right in their own eyes (*Proverbs 30:12*); it is a collection of people's strengths framed together for the more effective work in the kingdom of God (*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*, *Nehemiah 4:16-20*). Through effective communication, the ministry is strengthened (*Amos 3:3*, *Philemon 1:6*, *Ephesians 4:16*). Through poor communication, the ministry becomes only a collection of individuals (*Judges 17:6*, *Proverbs 12:15*). The new Christian will often find it a struggle to 'fit in' but only because they are new. As the new convert observes the way the structure works, and communicates to his elders his questions and concerns, as well as sharing his ideas and vision of the future, he will begin to see how he too can be an effective part of this framework. The basic ways of contributing to the framework are easy to see within the first few months (learning skills and volunteering), but the more specific ways are understood only as one's calling develops over time (*Romans 12:4-8*).

The pastors are accountable to God for their congregation, as the shepherds are accountable for their sheep (*Ezekiel 3:17-21*, *Ezekiel 34:1-16*, *Luke 13:6-9*, *1 Corinthians 9:16-23*). Refer to the Pastorship study for more on the role of the pastor.

An Apostle is one that starts a new work for God, and is the foremost leader over that work. Our General Pastor is also our first Apostle, because God has used him to start and frame this work called Christian Fellowship Church Ministries, International, a new branch formed into the body of Christ (*1 Corinthians 9:1-2*, *2 Corinthians 12:11-12*). Pastor L.R. Davis is the founding pastor of our church (*1 Corinthians 4:15*). An Evangelist is a person that God uses to comfort and encourage the saints within the church (*Colossians 4:7-9*, *Philippians 2:19-22*). A Prophet is a person that, under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, speaks (audibly for God) and delivers direction of the ministry and people's lives (*Acts 13:1-4*, *Acts 11:27-30*). A Teacher is a person that works under the direction of God and the pastor in the spiritual education of the saints (*1 Timothy 1:3-4*, *2 Timothy 2:24-26*). These five offices are the leadership positions of the church, and are established by a calling from God (*Ephesians 4:11*).



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Framework of the Ministry - Worksheet

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3. Explain how, in the work of the gospel, individuals can get more accomplished by working as a team. A explain how this team uses good communication.

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6. Describe the framework of the five-fold ministry within our church, and your role in this framework.

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Additional Notes:



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The Holy Ghost

What is the Holy Ghost?

The Holy Ghost is the spirit of God that moves upon the face of the earth to lead and guide all mankind unto Himself

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

John 14:26,

John 16:13-15,

John 14:15-18,

1 Corinthians 12:3,

John 6:44

1 Corinthians 6:11

Romans 15:13

Romans 5:5

John 1:12-13

Romans 8:14

1 Corinthians 12:13

How does some one get the Holy Ghost?

We receive the spirit of God when we by faith, accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and are baptized in Jesus name as it says in:

Acts 2:38 – 39 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.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Galatians 3:26-27

John 3:5,

1 Corinthians 12:13.

What does it do for a person?

The Holy Ghost gives us the power to do the work that God has for us to do

Acts 1:8 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.

Christ told us that it was God in him that did the works and it will be God in us that will do the same thing.

John 14:6 – 26 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: *but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.*

11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: *or else believe me for the very works' sake.*

12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, *the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do;* because I go unto my Father.

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.



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- 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.
- 15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.
- 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;
- 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: ***but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.***
- 18 I will not leave you comfortless: ***I will come to you.***
- 19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.
- 20 ***At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.***
- 21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, ***and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.***
- 22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?
- 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: ***and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.***
- 24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.
- 25 These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.
- 26 ***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.***

Christ gave the "power" to his disciples enabling them to do His will.

Matthew 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Mark 6:7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

Luke 9:1 – 2 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Knowledge and wisdom comes by the Holy Ghost

1 Corinthians 2:9 – 13 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:



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1 John 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Spiritual gifts come by the Holy Ghost

Ephesians 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Romans 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

1 Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

1 Corinthians 12:4 – 11 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.



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Spiritual Fruit comes via the Holy Ghost

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:22 – 23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

NOTE: To properly deal with the related topic of tongues or speaking with other tongues, we will provide a separate study. At this point however, it is relevant to say that speaking in tongues is directly related to the gift of the Holy Ghost and while not essential to salvation, it is an important part of the body of Christ and the Christian life.



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The Holy Ghost - Worksheet

1. What is the Holy Ghost?

2. How do we receive it?

3. What will the Holy Ghost do for a person?

4. Explain how a person gains knowledge by the Holy Ghost.

5. Explain how Spiritual Gifts come to a person through the Holy Ghost.

6. Explain how a person bears Spiritual Fruit through the Holy Ghost.

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Grace and Forgiveness

So that there may be salvation available to every person's soul, God's gift to all mankind is grace (*Ephesians 2:8-9; Luke 12:31-32*). God freely gives this grace by his own will to those who obey him faithfully (*Titus 2:11-14; Romans 3:21-29; 2 Peter 3:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8*). Yet this free gift cannot be earned – not by any good deeds, nor works, nor any amount of great sounding words (*Romans 5:14-16*). No person can become good enough to obtain grace (*Mark 10:18; 1 Corinthians 1:29-31; Isaiah 64:4-7*). Grace came through Jesus Christ our Lord (*John 1:14-17*). The law was a pattern and shadow of things that were yet to be fulfilled in Christ (*Matthew 5:17; Hebrews 8:5-8; Hebrews 10:1-10*). Therefore, we now have the complete fulfillment of all God's plan in Jesus Christ, and we are complete and saved by him alone (*Acts 13:38-43; Romans 4:3-5; Colossians 2:6-12*).

We are saved by grace through faith (*Ephesians 2:8*). If a person falls from (or discards) their faith, they in fact no longer have access to grace (hence: grace **through** faith) (*Hebrews 3:12-14; 2 Peter 3:17; 1 Timothy 5:11-12; Galatians 5:1-10; 2 Corinthians 6:1-10; Hebrews 12:15-17; Romans 11:21-22; Revelations 22:18-19*). Jesus gave us a parable of a master calling his servants to "occupy" until he would return, at which time he would judge them. The servant that fell from the grace of his master was cast into outer darkness and had his talent taken from him (*Matthew 25:14-30*).

The devil will work to make us fail (*1 John 5:18; 1 Peter 5:8-10*). He will offer temptations that will appeal to our flesh (*John 12:3; 1 John 2:14-17*). If we listen to the Devil's vanities (*Jonah 2:8*), we will fall into sin (*2 Peter 2:20-22*). When we sin and fall short, we can obtain forgiveness from God by his powerful grace through Jesus Christ (*1 John 2:1-4; Ephesians 1:6-7; Colossians 1:10-20; Psalms 130:1-8*), but only if we have a repentant heart (*1 John 1:7-9*).

God is able to keep any person who is committed unto him, though we are all sinners saved by grace (*2 Peter 1:4-10; 2 Corinthians 9:8; Jude 24; Acts 20:28-32; 2 Corinthians 1:22; Romans 4:20-21; 2 Corinthians 12:9*). We are likewise able to do our part towards the Lord (*1 Corinthians 10:11-13; Hebrews 10:35-39*).

God is very forgiving and full of grace, but there is a sin that he will never forgive: blasphemy of the Holy Ghost. ¹Blasphemy is defined in the Westminster dictionary as follows:

¹ Blasphemy – *Dictionary of the Bible, Westminster* – [abusive language] Defamatory or wicked language directed against God (*Isaiah 52:5; Revelations 16:9 & 11 & 21; Matthew 12:30-32; Mark 3:22-30*).

All blasphemies should be avoided and certainly, blasphemy against the Holy Ghost (*Hebrews 10:29*).

Christian Fellowship Church Ministries International will never advise someone to stop seeking forgiveness from the Lord. Finding it "hard to get back" to the Lord is not the same as impossible to get back. We all must continually seek Lord as our soul depends on it.



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Grace and Forgiveness - Worksheet

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2. Explain how we are saved by grace and not by the Law of Moses.

3. Explain how a person can “fall from” grace.

4. Name and describe the only sin that will never be forgiven; give two Biblical examples.

5. Explain God’s power to keep us from the works of the devil.

6. Explain God’s ability to keep that which is committed into his trust and care.

Mentor: _____,
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Complete
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Additional Notes:



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Charity / Brotherly Love

Charity can be expressed as godly love from one person to another. We are nurtured in the love of God from faith to faith (*Romans 1:17, 1 Timothy 1:5*). Charity is God's love in action within our lives (*Galatians 5:22*). Charity is the fruit of a complete Christian (*Colossians 3:12-14, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13*).

God has given to us a commandment to love one another as he loves us (*John 15:12-13, Matthew 22:37-40*). This love is the greatest gift that we have and that we can share one with another (*1 Corinthians 13:13, 1 John 4:18-21*). It is also a way that other people will know without a doubt that we are children of God, because of this special love that we have for each other (*1 John 4:8, John 13:34-35*).

“Brotherly love” is a term used not just for ‘brothers,’ but all brothers and sisters in Christ, and is a necessary part of charity (*2 Peter 1:5-8*). If a person loves their brother from their heart—not from personality or appearance, but from a common love for God – then he can say that he has the love of God in his heart (*1 John 3:10-17,23, Mark 12:31, Proverbs 10:12, Proverbs 18:19, Romans 12:10, Romans 13:8-10, Philippians 2:2-4, 1 Peter 1:22*). When we have fervent charity it allows us to look past the trespasses of others and have a forgiving heart (*2 Thessalonians 1:3, 1 Peter 4:8-10, Ephesians 4:2-3*).

When we have a strong love for the brothers and sisters in the body of Christ, we will have a strong work for God (*Hebrews 10:24-25, Ephesians 4:16, 1 John 4:7-21*). We will then be the examples of godly love for others to see and emulate (*1 Timothy 4:11-12*).

When we love, we are willing to make the sacrifices required to get the will of God accomplished (*1 John 3:16, Hebrews 6:10*). All the work done for the glory of God will be done out of a heart of love (*John 15:13, 1 Corinthians 16:13*). If we are to have a perfected love, we must also love our enemies (*Luke 6:27-37, Psalms 74:12-22*). Before we were Christians, we were certainly all sinners. If Christ died for us while we were yet sinners (*Romans 5:8*), then we should seek to minister that unconditional love to others (*James 2:2-4*), and be willing to make the necessary sacrifices to see all others saved.



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Edward J. Thomas, Associate General Pastor

Charity / Brotherly Love - Worksheet

1. Describe charity.

2. Explain why charity is the greatest gift amongst faith, hope, and charity.

3. Explain the relationship between charity and brotherly love.

4. Explain how brotherly love keeps the work of God growing.

5. Describe how to deal with your enemies, give at least 5 examples.

6. Explain the relationship between personal sacrifices and charity.

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Mentor: _____
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Additional Notes:

I have reviewed and acknowledge that Goal #5 has been successfully completed.

Pastor

Date



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Goal #6-Sixth Month after Baptism:

Read and Study James through Jude

JAMES – Written by Apostle James “the Just,” natural brother of our Lord Jesus Christ, and a leader of the church in Jerusalem, around 60 AD; a general letter to Christians. This book tells much wisdom about many things: from resisting temptations, to mixing faith and works, to keeping control of the tongue, and thereby it shows clearly how we ought to evaluate our own actions, and motives, and speech.

1 PETER – Written by Apostle Peter (Cephas), possibly while at Rome, immediately after Paul’s execution (66-67 AD); delivered by Silas to comfort and encourage the churches that Paul had established, upon receiving the news of Paul’s death. This letter gives a very necessary understanding about the struggles, trials, and purposes God has for his people.

2 PETER – Written by Apostle Peter (Cephas), possible while at Rome, just before his execution around 67 AD; a general letter to the same churches that received 1 Peter. This letter provides a very important warning about false teachings, and details the dangers to the body of Christ.

1 JOHN – Written (most likely) by Apostle John, author of the gospel of the same name, while at Ephesus, around the end of the First Century, AD. This letter points out very strongly that Christ was indeed the manifestation of God in flesh, bringing salvation to all mankind; that any other teaching about Christ was false and must be rejected; and that to truly receive this truth we must follow the example he showed us.

2 JOHN – As with 1 John, this author is assumed to be Apostle John, and written towards the close of the First Century, AD. The greeting to “the elect lady and her children” refers to the church, not a family. This letter encourages a deeper spiritual life through obedience to God’s commandments while guarding against false teachings.

3 JOHN – As with 1 John & 2 John, this letter was probably written by the Apostle John, again around the end of the First Century. This letter gives a lesson in honor and acceptance: written to Gaius, an elder, to commend Demetrius to him—despite the actions of another man named Diotrophes.

JUDE – Written (most likely) by Jude, brother of the Jesus Christ; believed to have been written around the same time as 2 Peter, and to the same churches. Jude warned the Church of the existence of false teachers among the congregations, which is also a concern for us today.



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Display Understanding in the Following Topics

Living Sacrifice / Daily Devotion

1. Describe how a person is considered “dead in Christ,” and yet “alive.”
2. Explain what was meant by “not my will, but thine be done.”
3. Explain the importance of putting God first in ALL that we do.
4. Explain why it is important to pray and offer spiritual sacrifices unto God daily.
5. Explain how “self-righteousness” compares to sacrifices that are acceptable to God.
6. Describe the sacrifice and devotion that God accepts as righteous.

The Christian Example

1. Explain the value of a “Like-Christ” (Christian) testimony.
2. Explain the need to maintain a Christian example.
3. Describe some of the attributes that we as Christians need to display.
4. Explain what is meant by the scripture that says “must be first a partaker”.
5. Explain how the fruits of the spirit manifest the spirit of God.
6. Explain how a Christian handles mistakes and repentance.

God’s Commission / Warn the People

1. Explain what God intends for you (within Christian Fellowship Church Ministries) to do.
2. Explain the commissions that God has given to ALL Christians.
3. Explain the role of an ambassador for Christ.
4. Explain what is meant by warning the people.
5. Explain what it means to have an “open door” to share with someone.
6. Explain what the outcome will be for those who do not obey the word of God.



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Living Sacrifice / Daily Devotion

As Christ sacrificed himself for us and yet lives in our hearts, we must die to the desires of the flesh in our hearts, and daily live the sacrifices of Christ (*Romans 12:1-2, 1 Peter 2:5*). We crucify the desires of our will when and where we allow Christ and the ministry to come first in our life (*Mark 10:28-30*). Apostle Paul spoke of how he died daily (*1 Corinthians 15:31, John 12:24-25*); his priority was always the will of God over his own.

Jesus gave us an example of being fully given over to the will of the Father, as he prayed in the garden saying, “not my will, but thine be done” (*Luke 22:41-44*). He spoke of daily taking up our cross (sacrifice) and following God (*Luke 9:23-26*). We apply this to our lives when we seek God, following his perfect will for every decision throughout the day (*Colossians 3:17, Philippians 4:6*).

Part of a Christian’s sacrificial living is being alert to the impact of his testimony, and whether or not it is showing forth the principles as Jesus taught us (*1 Thessalonians 4:1-7, 5:21-22*). This is done by daily devoting ourselves to placing God and his will ‘number one’ in our thoughts and actions (*Matthew 6:33, Proverbs 3:5-7*). Other people see our testimony and judge the God we serve by the lifestyle and examples they see in us (*1 Peter 2:9-11, Matthew 5:14-16, 2 Corinthians 4:1-6, Daniel 3:23-29*). It is also important to keep God first in all we do so that we will be ready to meet the Lord in peace (*2 Peter 3:11-14*).

We must continually offer our sacrifices and vows to God on a daily basis (*Psalms 61:8, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18*). We must also pray without fainting, or we will fall into Satan’s cunning traps (*Luke 22:40*). There are pastors and worship services to feed our soul and to make us strong (*Jeremiah 3:15, Ephesians 4:12, 2 Timothy 2:1-7*). If we do not make the personal sacrifice to communicate with our pastors and attend these services, we will be deceived (*Hebrews 10:25, Hebrews 3:13, Luke 21:36*).

There are prayers that God accepts and those that he does not (*Luke 18:9-14, Matthew 23:14*). The prayers of self-righteousness are a stink in the nose (or sight) of God (*Isaiah 58:1-4*). The term self-righteous means that we are trusting in our own righteousness and not God’s. There is no sacrifice of Christ in self-righteousness. However, the prayers of the righteous are “sweet-smelling” incense (*Revelations 8:3-4*). Our devotion to God will pay off when Jesus comes to take us home to be with him forever (*Hebrews 6:10*).



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Living Sacrifice / Daily Devotion - Worksheet

1. Describe how a person is considered “dead in Christ,” and yet “alive.”

2. Explain what was meant by “not my will, but thine be done.”

3. Explain the importance of putting God first in ALL that we do.

4. Explain why it is important to pray and offer spiritual sacrifices unto God daily.

5. Explain how “self-righteousness” compares to sacrifices that are acceptable to God.

6. Describe the sacrifice and devotion that God accepts as righteous.

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Additional Notes:



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The Christian Example

To be called a Christian (*Acts 11:26, Acts 26:28, 1 Peter 4:16*) means to be “like Christ.” When we maintain a “like-Christ” example, we are living the life of Christ before others, that they may see that God is real and that they also need him (*Philippians 2:15-16, 2 Corinthians 4:1-4*). They will know that God is able to keep them by the effective testimony that we live in front of them (*1 Corinthians 2:1-5, John 13:15, James 2:21-26*).

A Christian will shine in the midst of the darkness around them (*1 Peter 3:15, Matthew 5:14-16*). It is a strong example of God’s grace and ability to keep us when two people are going through the same things and one of them endures by Christ and the other gives up (*2 Timothy 2:3-5*). We must be faithful to God: other people are counting on us to continue with Him and maintain His example within us (*1 Timothy 4:11-13*).

Every Christian must be a partaker of Christ before he can share Christ’s power with others (*1 Corinthians 9:13-14, 2 Timothy 2:6-7*). Every person who grows in God will grow in his respective ability to minister, but he must first be **ministered to** before he can minister to others (*Romans 12:4-8, 2 Timothy 2:2*).

The fruits of the spirit will manifest the spirit of God by shining forth from our lives. Every fruit seen is a testimony (evidence given) to the spirit of God (*Galatians 5:22-25, Ephesians 5:9, Matthew 7:17-20, Matthew 12:33, John 15:2-8, Matthew 13:3-9*).

It is required that all Christians remain faithful to God as Christ did (*1 Corinthians 4:1-2, 1 Timothy 4:16*). If we do not maintain our Christian example, not only will we die out of the will of God, but we may also hinder those who looked to us as an example (*Matthew 24:13, 1 Corinthians 9:12, Galatians 5:7*).

Another part of the Christian example is how we handle mistakes and repentance among us: this may be other people’s mistakes and repentance, which involve us (*Luke 17:3-4, Matthew 18:21-35, Galatians 6:1*), or our own mistakes, which involve others. If we cannot forgive others their trespasses, our heavenly Father will not forgive us ours (*Matthew 6:14-15*).



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The Christian Example - Worksheet

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6. Explain how a Christian handles mistakes and repentance.

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God's Commission / Warn the People

God's Commission is the commandment that we minister to others. Jesus Christ gave this commission to his disciples (*Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 24:47-48, John 21:15-17, John 15:16*). He gave it also to all Christians that he would call, including us today (*Hebrews 13:8, Acts 2:38-39, John 4:34-36, Matthew 5:13-16, Romans 10:13-15, 2 Timothy 4:5, 2 Timothy 2:24-26, Luke 14:16-23, Matthew 24:3-4*). The Apostle Paul was not yet a disciple when Jesus spoke the Great Commission (*Mark 16:15-16*), but he claimed it as his license to minister (*Colossians 1:23*).

Along with this commission, we are ambassadors for Christ (*2 Corinthians 5:18-20*). We are the messengers sent to represent Christ and his word (*1 Corinthians 4:1-7*). God's gift of salvation has appeared to all peoples, and he does not want any person to perish (*2 Peter 3:9, Matthew 24:14, Amos 8:11-12, Proverbs 11:30*). Therefore, we should be ready to minister to anyone, at any time that the door of opportunity opens (*1 Peter 3:15*). To be an ambassador for Christ is to do the work of God, even if it is not an easy mission (*Acts 21:10-14, Romans 13:1-6, 2 Timothy 4:16-18*).

There is a judgment to come that many people are not ready to face. We, as the commissioned Christians, must warn them of the impending damnation for those who do not obey the truth (*1 Peter 4:17-19*). If we don't, it directly affects how we will be judged (*Colossians 1:23-29, 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10, Ezekiel 3:17-20, Ezekiel 33:1-9, Matthew 10:32-33, Mark 8:38*). Even in the church, the pastors must warn the congregation and feed them the true judgments of God (*1 Thessalonians 5:14, Acts 20:28-31, Romans 13:4*).

The outcome for those who do not obey the truth will be severe (*James 1:22, Romans 11:21-22, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10, John 15:6, Matthew 24:48-51, 2 Corinthians 4:1-4*). We as the ministers of the gospel must take heed and live, according to the warnings we preach concerning obedience to the truth (*James 4:17, Matthew 7:21, Exodus 4:24-26*).

We, therefore, must seek every opportunity to share the gospel wherever the door opens for us (*Luke 10:1-12*). To have an open door to share means that God has provided an opportunity for us as his witnesses, to proclaim his saving grace to someone who needs to know about it (*Luke 21:12-15*). These opportunities are sometimes open to share the entire message of baptism in Jesus' name, but sometimes just to share a friendly "hello." We must be diligent to spiritually seek for these opportunities (*1 John 4:1, James 3:17-18*), but we must keep in mind that just because there is an open door to be friendly, it may not be open enough to share the gospel. If we overstep the opportunity, we could drive people away from Christ. When we keep in mind that every person is different, and therefore should be treated differently, we see how important it is to seek the Lord's wisdom and guidance when witnessing to them. And this emphasizes that we must carry out our godly commission with the anointing of God upon us (*Matthew 10:11-16, 1 John 2:27, John 14:26*).



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God's Commission / Warn the People - Worksheet

1. Explain what God intends for you (within Christian Fellowship Church Ministries) to do.

2. Explain the commissions that God has given to ALL Christians.

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Additional Notes:

I have reviewed and acknowledge that Goal #6 has been successfully completed.

Pastor Date



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Goal #7-Seventh Month after Baptism: Read Revelations.

REVELATION – Written by the Apostle John, between the years 81-96 AD. This book records a series of visions, which God gave to John about the work of Christ and the church, and the fulfillment of all things, bringing the end of the world. Because it covers so much – things referenced throughout the whole rest of the Bible – it is not the first place to look for understanding. For those desiring to study the fulfillment of prophecy, the study of the gospels will provide the best foundation (*Matthew 24:3-31, Luke 17:20-32, Luke 21:7-36*). Revelations by itself may raise more questions than answers. But, in light of all the rest of the books of the Old and New Testaments, it provides great insight.

Additional Notes:

I have reviewed and acknowledge that Goal #7 has been successfully completed.

Pastor

Date



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Congratulations on completing the Introduction to Principal Biblical Doctrines! This is cause to celebrate, and thank God for revealing His marvelous truth to your heart, and to rejoice in the good fruits of your labors!

To receive your Certificate of Completion, be sure to tell your mentor and your Pastor when you have completely finished all portions of this study.

To understand the best direction of personal Bible study for you to now take, consult your pastor for further instructions.

- 1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,*
- 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.*
- 3 And this will we do, if God permit.*

Hebrews 6:1-3



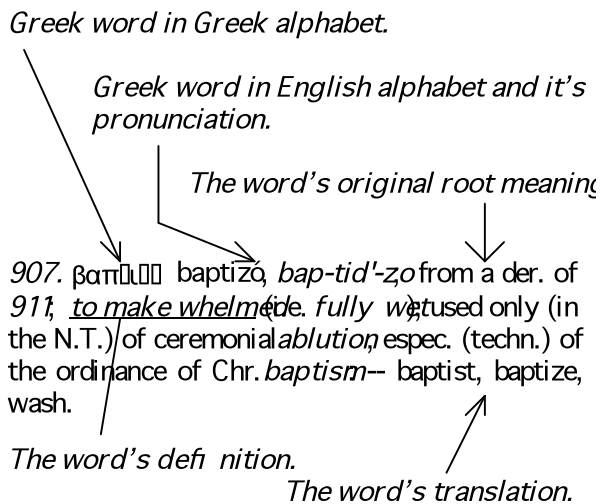
How to Use a Concordance

A **concordance** is a book of scriptural references. It shows a word used and lists the scriptures in which it appears in biblical order. These word groups are listed in alphabetical order. Here is an example of the word *baptized*:

- 1) Find the word as if this were a dictionary -- **baptized**
- 2) Find the scripture reference: Say for an example, you are thinking of a scripture that said something like, "Jesus, when he was baptized..." Yet, you can't remember where it's at. (Picking a good key word will help make this even faster.) This is how to find it and find the key word's meaning in it's application.

BAPTIZED				Hebrew or Greek (<i>Italic</i>) Reference #
Mt	3:6	And wereb. Of him in Jordan,	907	
Mt	3:13	Jordan unto John, to beb. Of him.....	907	
Mt	3:14	I have need to beb. Of thee, and.....	907	
Mt	3:16	Jesus, when he wash., went up.....	907	
Mt	20:22	I shall drink of, and to beb.,	907	
Book	Chapter / Verse	Scripture Text		#

- 3) After finding the scripture verse you are looking for, using the Hebrew or Greek reference number, you may then continue to find the meaning of that key word in its usage. The reference numbers are in numerical order. The Hebrew dictionary is usually before the Greek dictionary.





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Application for Certificate of

Completion

Introduction to Principal Biblical Doctrine

(Please print)

Name

Date

Address

Date completed section one

Date completed section two

Date completes section three

Date completed section four

Date completed section five

Date completes section six

Date completed section seven

Mentor's name(s), and the respective studies given: _____

Pastor's name

Date

[] certificate created [] certificate sent – date: ____ / ____ / _____