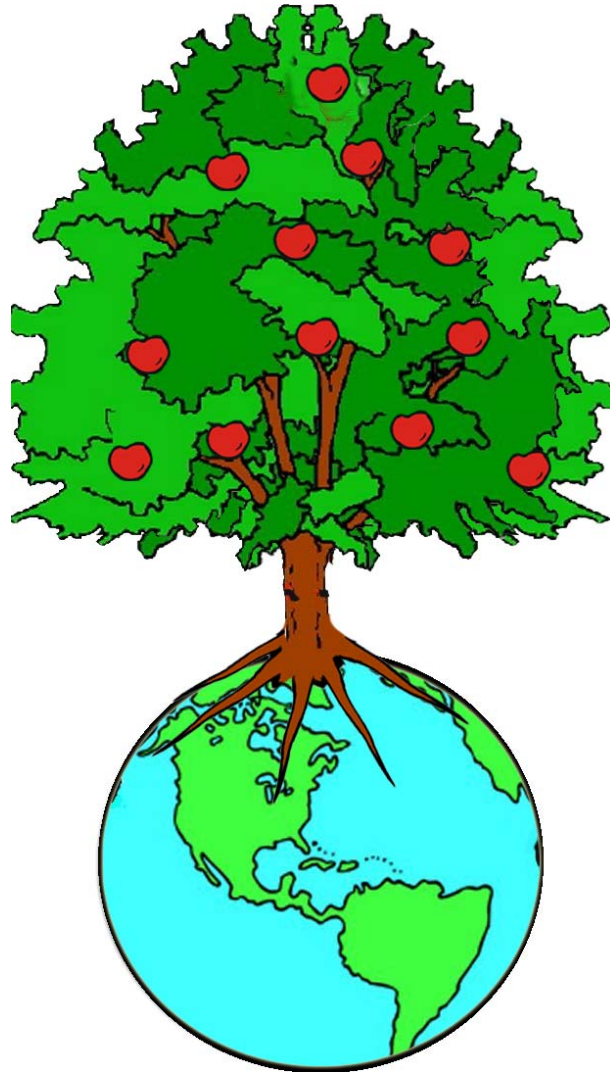


TREE OF LIFE



TRAINING MANUAL

Proverbs 11:30

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Introduction

Tree of Life Training

Tree of Life training material was first developed in Bangladesh in 1997 while working with “poor farmers” trying to teach them basic discipleship principles in a simple format they could understand and reproduce. The material then encompassed what is now called “Level 2”. After transferring to India in January 2005 to work with tsunami victims, the additional levels of material were developed in the field as we trained believers in the affected 1500 kilometer coastline using church planting movement (CPM) principles. We had a desire to see churches and church planting movements started along the coastline where we were working. The material evolved as we found what “worked” through field testing material and finding out what was reproducible and adopted by those we were training where the average education level is around class 8. The material you have today is a result of many revisions after seeing and understanding what worked and didn’t work in the field. I expect the material will continue to change and evolve as we learn more as “practitioners of the Word”. After 23 months, **12,119 new believers** have come to faith in Jesus Christ through the witness of those trained (*II Corinthians 5:20*), **3671** followed Jesus in believer’s **baptism** (*Romans 6:3-11, Matthew 3:13-15, John 4:1-3, Matthew 28:19-20*), **463 house churches** and **931 house groups** (*Acts 2:46, Hebrews 10:25*) were started as the result of believers being obedient to the basic commands of Christ we have taught them to follow (*II Timothy 2:2*)— such as *go make disciples* baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Spirit, and teaching them to observe (follow/obey) all these things I have commanded you to do (*Matthew 28:19-20*). Our focus has not been on making converts but making disciples who reproduce Christ in others. We have also seen the initial work expand through national partnerships developed in the coastal areas to now include work in 12 states of India and 3 countries India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan engaging over **97 people groups** as we focus on seeing the gospel reach every nation, tribe, people and tongue (*Revelation 7:9-10, Acts 1:8*). I believe every strategy from the beginning should have built into it the ability to accomplish Acts 1:8 final vision of “reaching the ends of the earth” (*Matthew 24:14*) so Jesus can return as King of kings and Lord of lords of every nation, tribe, people and tongue (*Revelation 7:9-10, Revelation 19:16*). We do this as we progressively move believers from being hearers of the Word to faithful witnesses (*Matthew 4:19*) to disciples – doers of the Word (*James 1:22-24*) to disciple-makers (*Matthew 28:19-20, II Timothy 2:2*), to church

Tree of Life

planters (*Colossians 1:18-24, Hebrews 10:25*), to church planting facilitators (*Acts 2:42-47*), and finally becoming if possible cross cultural CPM facilitators (*Acts 1:8, Revelation 7:9-10*) – apostles (*I Corinthians 12:28-31*). Our training is designed to take each trainee to the farthest station they are willing to travel in their pilgrimage of faith (*Psalms 84:5*) but allows them to stop their journey anywhere along the way at the point which they are unable or unwilling to follow the new commands they have learned.

Before looking at the following material, I would like to share some principles that have made our work successful which encompasses not just the “*teaching material*” but basic principles we have found essential to our success and “*fruitfulness*” (*Matthew 7:16-20*). It is important to understand success requires much more than just “the right material” but an understanding of “*how to make disciples*” and an “*intimate relationship with God and men*” (*John 13:34-35, John 15:5-7, Matthew 5:16*) resulting in God working/speaking through us as ambassadors, King’s messengers, in His service (*II Corinthians 5:20*). Results are not just about numbers but building God’s DNA of reproduction into the leaders we are training (*Matthew 13:23*) so as they train others CPMs can continue and flourish long after our departure under the leadership of God’s Word (*Psalms 119:105*), His Son (*John 10:1-17*) and the Holy Spirit (*John 14:16-18, 26, John 15:26-27, John 16:13-15*). The best trainer is not just the one with the best training tools or material but the person who sees the world around them with the eyes of the Father (*II Peter 3:9*) and Son (*Luke 19:10*) and joins God in His work by becoming a useable vessel for His service (*Romans 9:21-23, II Corinthians 4:7, II Timothy 2:20-21*). The task is not ours to fulfill but do the will of our Father through whom all things are possible (*Matthew 19:26, II Chronicles 16:9*) as God completes His task using us as His approved workmen (*I Corinthians 3:5-15, II Corinthians 4:7, II Timothy 2:15*). We are to continue to strive to be faithful to the end of our race (*Hebrews 12:1-2, I Corinthians 9:24-27*) multiplying the laborers in the harvest field (*Matthew 9:37-38*) as we reproduce Christ and Christ-like obedience in others (*John 15:5-7, Galatians 6:6-10*) being found “good and faithful” servants (*Matthew 25:23*) committed to the task of seeing the kingdom of God spread to the ends of the earth (*Habakkuk 2:14*).

A fellow pilgrim in South Asia

How do I accomplish God's kingdom purposes?

(Your name)

Abiding = Knowing and doing the will of our Father.

John 5:19-20, 6:38-40, 7:16-18, 7:28-29, 8:28-29, 8:54-56, 10:14-18, 12:44-50, 14:10-11, 17:1-26

1. Abide in Father = What is impossible for men is possible for God!
Matthew 19:26
2. Abide in Son = Much fruit but apart from Him nothing.
John 15:5
3. Abide in Spirit = Fruits of the flesh vs. Fruits of the Spirit
Galatians 5:19-21 Galatians 5:22-23
4. Abide in Word = Leaves do not wither, bear fruit, and prosper.
Psalm 1:2-3
Your desires – one with God's are fulfilled.
John 15:7
Whatever you sow so shall you reap.
Galatians 6:6-10

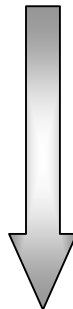


God uses us as His ambassadors
II Corinthians 5:20

Filtering based on “making disciples”

Matthew 28:19-20, II Timothy 2:2, Matthew 9:37-38

We are to reproduce Christ in others (DNA of reproduction)



Tree of Life Manual

Tool based on God's Word to be used
and evaluated based on its ability to
move disciples step by step toward
seeing God's end vision and purposes
accomplished.

God's Kingdom Purposes Accomplished

Matthew 6:33

Habakkuk 2:14, Revelation 7:9-10, Matthew 24:14

You shall know them by their fruits (Matthew 7:16-20, Matthew 13:1-23, Galatians 6:6-10)

10 Principles of Tree of Life Training:

1. Oral Teaching

For training to be reproducible in the South Asia context, orality is essential in order for semi-literate trainees to be able to reproduce what they have learned within the house churches they lead.

- (a) Training must be communicated through stories, word pictures, memorization, drawing, music, drama or other oral methods of communication which the trainees can remember and reproduce.
- (b) Repetition (*II Timothy 2:14*) is also crucial for oral learners to remember and reproduce key teaching points through monthly reviews which is done before new levels are taught.

2. High Level of Accountability (See training report form)

- (a) Quantitative reports of progress of trainees tied to names and locations. (*Mat 7:16-20*)
- (b) Qualitative reports which show progression of trainees to higher and higher levels of obedience. (*Matthew 13:23*)
Believer to Faithful Witness to Disciple to Disciple-maker to Church Planter
- (c) Gate builder/ organizer held to high standards of financial accountability (*II Timothy 6:6-10*).
- (d) Trainees are taught that faithfulness is evidenced by fruitfulness (*John 15:5, Matthew 7:16-20*).
- (e) After discipleship, if disciples within the house church have 2 or more believers they are encouraged to form their own house church (*Matthew 18:20*) where they will begin new training starting at Level 1 but the house church leader would still come to his previous house church for on-going, progressive discipleship at higher and higher Levels of training. This means most disciples would be in two house churches: one where they are being trained and can go to for answers and a second house church where they are leading new disciples at a level of training below their own. Everyone has someone above them and below them connected by accountability within the house church structure and hierarchy.

3. Progressive and incremental discipleship

- (a) Levels of training lead to increasing levels of obedience – Word based. (*James 1:22-24, 4:17*)
- (b) Trainees not taken to next level if no obedience to previous levels of training (*II Timothy 2:2*).
- (c) Address barriers which prevented trainees from not reaching the next level of obedience before moving forward. (*Proverbs 27:17, Hebrews 12:5-13*)
Example: High jump – Bar is not raised higher until jump over previous level with 3 attempts to jump any one level before being disqualified (*I Corinthians 9:24-27*).

4. Mentoring and Modeling for Trainees

- (a) Within each level of training “trainees” practice what they are being taught to do.
(*James 1:22*)
Jesus had his disciples doing baptism after he had modeled for them what to do.
(*John 4:1-3*)
- (b) Master Trainer will also lead trainees by example modeling the things they have asked the trainees to do - Paul to Timothy then Timothy to pastors/leaders
(*II Timothy 2:2*).
- (c) Trainees are expected to implement what they have learned each month even knowing there will be failures in some areas which will require further mentoring to overcome.(*Matthew 17:14-21, Mark 9:14-29, Luke 9:37-42, Matthew 14:28-33, Luke 10:1-24*)
- (d) Master Trainer should model by “servant leadership” what they want their followers to do. (*I Peter 5:3*)

5. Filtering

- (a) Master Trainer to trainees (local national trainers) – Barrier # 9 for more details
 - (1) Jesus filtered people based on right motives.

Example:	Fed 5000 men not counting women/children	<i>Matthew 14:13-21</i>
	Fed 4000 men not counting women/children	<i>Matthew 15:32-38</i>
	Refused to feed them and everyone left him	<i>John 6:26-27, 60-70</i>

Jesus knowing their real motives said; “*Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.*” *John 6:26-27*

Jesus said He was the “*Bread of Life*” to eat Him for everlasting life. *John 6:35*

Many disciples found this difficult to receive and left Him and walked with Him no more.(*John 6:60-66*) And He turned to the twelve (only ones left) and said do you want to leave me also and Peter answered why would we leave You, You have the words of eternal life but Jesus responded did I not choose the twelve of you and one of you is a devil. *John 6:70*

- (2) Jesus filtered people based on the condition of the listeners’ hearts. *Matthew 13:1-23* Jesus only explained the parable to the disciples and said the multitudes hearts had grown dull, their ears were hard of hearing, and their eyes were closed. *Matthew 13:10-17*
- (3) Jesus filtered people based on fruitfulness. *Matthew 7:15-20, John 15:1-6*

- (4) Jesus filtered people based on obedience. *Luke 6:46-47, Matthew 7:21-23*
Asked all of His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit
(*Luke 24:46-49*) after 3 ½ years of ministry only 120 disciples were obedient
(*Acts 1:15*).

- (5) Jesus filtered people based on stewardship. *Matthew 25:14-30*

- (6) Jesus filtered people based on leadership.

12 apostles *Matthew 10:2-4, Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6:13-16*

Filtered to 3 key apostles *Matthew 17:1, Mark 5:37*

Filtered to 1 main apostle *Matthew 16:18*

- (7) Jesus filtered people based on “genuine” faith.

Matthew 13:24-30, 47-50

- (b) Master Trainer to gate builder

- (1) Master Trainer should model “*servant leadership*” to gate builder. *I Peter 5:3*

- (2) Gate builder should also be a man of integrity who also models “*servant leadership*” to those they are leading. (*I Peter 5:1-4, I Timothy 3:1-3, Titus 1:5-9, Luke 22:24-3, I Timothy 6:6-10, John 12:4-6, Luke 16:10-13, Matthew 5:37, II Corinthians 10:12*)

- (c) House church leaders to members of house church

- (1) Must evaluate what are the house church leaders teaching and reproducing to the house church members. What aspects of your training are reproducible by them and what is not being reproduced? It is not just about what we are teaching but about what is being reproduced. (*II Timothy 2:2*)
- (2) Must evaluate if leaders of house churches are capable teachers and godly leaders. (*I Timothy 3:1-7, I Peter 5:1-4, James 3:1, Titus 1:5-9*)
- (3) Must evaluate if deacons of church are godly men able to lead as well. (*I Timothy 3:8-13*)

6. Built on the Foundation of God’s Word not traditions of men

- (a) All teaching and commands to follow must be supported by God’s Word. (*Acts 17:11*)
- (b) Any traditions not in line with God’s Word will be rejected. (*Mark 7:1-13*)

7. Principles of multiplication and delegation of authority built into training

- (a) Emphasis on reproducing disciples not making converts. (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
- (b) Teach leaders to quickly delegate authority to new disciples who have started their own house churches. (*Exodus 18:13-23*)
Authority is only given on the basis of fruitfulness of new disciples.

8. Multiple people group and multiple geographic focused

- (a) Casts vision for the nations, tribes, peoples and tongues but still allows God to lead them to where God is already at work (may mean crossing cultural, religion or even language lines). (*Revelation 7:9-10, Matthew 24:14, Luke 10:1-24, Acts 1:8*)
- (b) Helps trainees identify the people groups they have engaged.
- (c) At end of ten levels identifies “champions” for people group(s) who have already planted churches among the people group identified. The “champions” are then given additional training in Acts 29 and other trainings which will help them develop long term CPM strategies for the people groups they are working among.

9. Synagogue and house church are compatible with one another

- (a) The synagogue met once a week and was led by the apostles (elders) but house churches met daily throughout Jerusalem and the Lord added to the CHURCH daily. (*Acts 2:46-47*)
- (b) The elders addressed mature council on issues of heresy, conflicts unresolved locally, and provided vision and leadership to the church planting movement. (*Acts 15:1-29, Acts 21:17-26, Acts 5:1-11, Acts 6:2-4, Acts 11:1-18*)
- (c) If the synagogue concept does not exist in the place we are working we do not create synagogues but if there are established synagogues this becomes a solution to many questions asked by house church movements with central structures:
 - (1) Where and who will our children marry?
 - (2) Where and who will bury us?
 - (3) Who will be our advocate on government matters?Even if a “building synagogue” is not established a council of elders can help address the above concerns and provide mature direction and leadership to difficult issues which might not be possible to resolve at only the house church level. (*Titus 1:5, Acts 14:23, Acts 20:17, 1 Timothy 5:17, Hebrews 11:1-2, James 5:14, 1 Peter 5:1, Revelation 4:4, Acts 2:42-43*).

10. Follow-up, periodic evaluation and exit strategy part of overall strategy

- (a) Before every new training time is spent in following up, reviewing and evaluating what trainees have done the previous month (on the basis of reports turned in)
- (b) At level 5 field surveys are done to authenticate and evaluate house church progress and to identify issues which are not determinable by report forms such as:
 - (1) Possible heresy issues such as “prosperity gospel” – Come to Jesus and you will be healthy, wealthy and wise.
 - (2) Doctrinal issues such as belief one can lose your salvation.
 - (3) What are areas of weakness in the house church model which needs to be addressed by the Master Trainer over the next 5 levels remaining?
- (c) At level 10 field surveys are done to authenticate and evaluate church planting movement progress and potential champions to be further trained in national SC training.
- (d) Exit strategy is built into the program with 10 levels but follow-up training is done with champions for identified UUPG areas. (*Proverbs 19:18*)

10 Principles of CPM Strategy:

1. Church Planting Movements (CPMs) can only happen within the context of relationships.
2. CPMs require high levels of accountability:
 - a) Follow-up and evaluation of trainees' obedience and progress each month during review time before new class begins.
 - b) Not teaching new levels until there is obedience to previous teaching.
 - c) Focusing training on "faithful men and women". (*II Timothy 2:2*)
 - d) Stewardship and financial integrity with national partners.
 - e) Asking for details of work instead of "generalities" of what is happening.
 - f) After exiting follow-up to make sure groups stay on track.
3. CPMs are not just about numbers but developing the DNA of reproduction into trainees which will produce multiplying disciples and churches even after you have gone.
4. CPMs are not controllable but allow trainees to go where God leads them engaging in multiple geographic and multiple people group focuses as people are directed by God "to seek and save those who are lost" (*Luke 19:10*).
5. CPMs in the book of Acts tended to be heterogeneous instead of homogenous in nature. (*Acts 2:5-41, Acts 6:1-8, Acts 8:5-25, Acts 10, Acts 13:1-2, Acts 13:42-49, Acts 14:1, Acts 17:1-5, Acts 17:16-34, Acts 18:1-11, Acts 19:8-10, Acts 20:1-5, Acts 28:28-31*)
6. CPMs tended to incorporate not synagogue or house church but a blend of both approaches. (*Acts 2:46-47, Acts 3:1-4:4, Acts 5:12, Acts 5:42, Acts 8:1-4, Acts 13:1-5, 14, Acts 14:1, Acts 19:8-10*)
7. CPMs requires a level of orality which can be reproduced to some degree regardless of the level of the literacy of your audience.
8. CPMs are focused on the nations, tribes, peoples and tongues wherever they may be found. (*Matthew 24:14, Revelation 7:9-10*)
9. CPMs require flexibility to adjust to changing environments and conditions of those you are working with and adjustments to methodology as you learn from your mistakes.
10. CPMs are God controlled not man controlled. CPMs are not about the leader(s) of the movement but are focused on Christ, the Word of God and covered in prayer.

Level -1

How do I become a fisher of men?

Memory Verse: *Matthew 4:19*

How is this training different from other trainings?

Doers of the Word, not hearers only	<i>James 1:22</i>	Apply what you learn
Faith without works is dead	<i>James 2:17, 26</i>	Faith evidenced by works
If you know to do good and do not do it, it is sin	<i>James 4:17</i>	No application = sin
Hearers of law not righteous	<i>Romans 2:13</i>	Doers of law righteous
All will give account of what they have done	<i>Romans 2:6, II Cor 5:9-10</i>	Judge/Reward based on works
	<i>II Cor 3:12-15, Eph 2:8-9</i>	Salvation based on faith
Word (seed) planted; know heart (soil) by fruit	<i>Matthew 13:1-23</i>	Good soil (heart) = fruitful
Know a tree by its fruit	<i>Matthew 7:16-23</i>	Faithfulness = fruitfulness
If sow faithfully in Christ, guaranteed what?	<i>John 15:5, Galatians 6:6-9</i>	Abundant fruit over time
Must count the cost of obedience	<i>Luke 14:23-33</i>	Forsaking all to be disciples
Where do we spend time sowing Word of God	<i>Luke 13:2-9, II Timothy 2:2</i>	With fruitful, obedient people
Does God bless or curse unfruitfulness	<i>Mark 11:12-14, 20-24</i>	Are we being faithful?

Faithfulness is measured by Fruitfulness

A. Why Fish?

God's Plan:

Habakkuk 2:14

Jesus' Plan:

Matthew 24:14

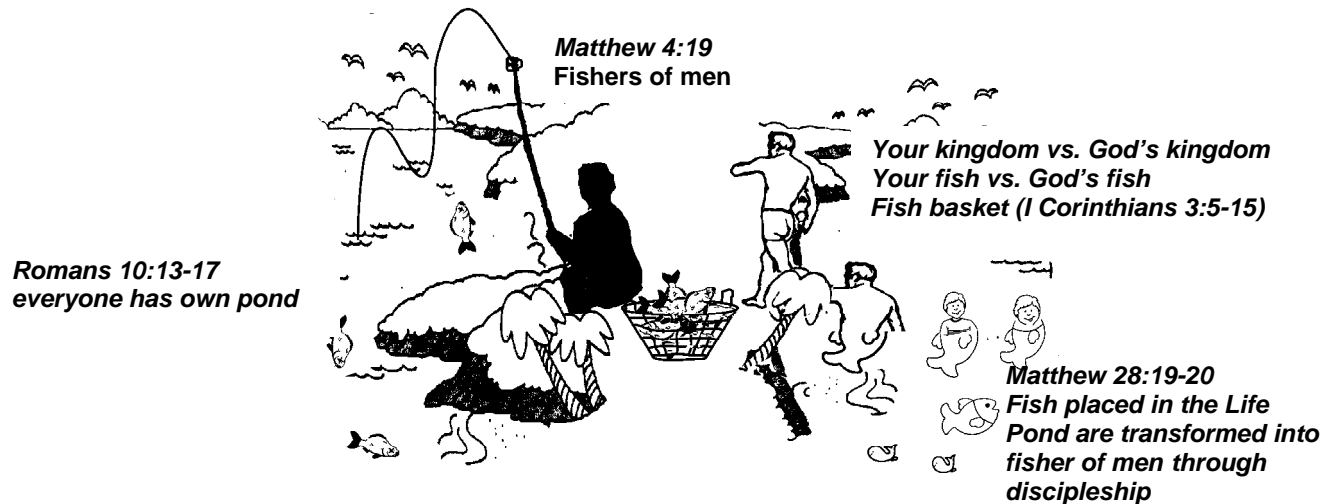
End Plan Accomplished:

Revelation 7:9-10

Way to Reach End Plan:

II Corinthians 5:20, Matthew 4:19

(God has called us to be fishers of men)



Death Pond

Satan = Steal, kill, destroy

Romans 6:23

John 10:10

Life Pond

Jesus = Gives life (abundantly)

India Pond = 1,200,000,000 (i.e. population)

World Pond = 6,000,000,000 compare to 9,035,786,448 (*Habakkuk 2:14* accomplished)

No **one** fisherman can catch enough fish (converts) to make a difference? **Matthew 9:37-38**
We must be disciple-makers, not convert makers (turn caught fish into fishers of men),
then we can succeed.

Matthew 28:19-20, II Timothy 2:2 Jesus **command** and **plan** was exponential
disciple-making

1 st Generation	12 disciples X 12 disciples	=	144 disciples
2 nd Generation	156 disciples X 12 disciples	=	1872 disciples
3 rd Generation	2028 disciples X 12 disciples	=	24,336 disciples
4 th Generation	26,364 disciples X 12 disciples	=	316,368 disciples
5 th Generation	342,732 disciples X 12 disciples	=	4,112,784 disciples
6 th Generation	4,455,516 disciples X 12 disciples	=	53,466,192 disciples
7 th Generation	57,921,708 disciples X 12 disciples	=	695,060,496 disciples
8 th Generation	752,982,204 disciples X 12 disciples	=	9,035,786,448 disciples

Drowning Man Analogy

A man was swimming in a pond and started to drown while a person who had a life preserver and rope for saving people stood close by on the shore watching the person drown. However, the person on the shore did nothing, assuming maybe the drowning man was only playing. The drowning man went under for the 2nd time, but struggled to the surface once more. The person on the shore decided I am very busy right now; I will keep watching and maybe I will help later. The drowning man went under again and with much struggle got to the surface a 3rd time, but the person on the shore began to think, “What if the man gets angry at me for trying to help?”, so again, the person on the shore did nothing. The drowning man then went under 4th and last time and died. What kind of person do you think the person on the shore was? **Good or Bad???**

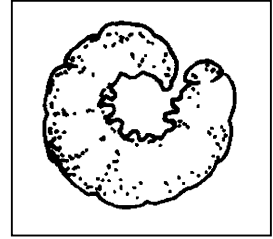


The person on the shore is me and you. Men and women are drowning in sin all around us, but we are standing by, watching and doing nothing, even though we have the message of salvation that can save them. Some of us think it is only a game, and no matter what we do in the end, God will let everyone into heaven (*John 14:6, Acts 4:12*). Some of us give excuses; we are too busy with our jobs and families to have time to try to save those dying in sin around us (*Matthew 13:22, Ephesians 5:15-16*). Some of us are afraid to share the gospel because of fear of persecution from those we are trying to save (*Matthew 13:21, John 15:18-27*). Meanwhile, men and women around us are drowning and dying in sin, going to hell for eternity, while we watch and do nothing. Who will tell your family, friends, and neighbors the way of salvation if not you? (*Romans 10:13-17*) What will you say to your loved ones on judgment day when they are going to hell and turn to you and ask, “Why didn’t you tell me how I could be saved?”. (*Ezekiel 3:18-19*) I can not fish in your fish pond, only in my own pond, but in India 250,000 people are dying every month and going to hell. What will you do to make a difference? It is time to stop watching and doing nothing to begin the work of sharing the gospel of salvation to those drowning in sin around us. (*II Corinthians 5:20, II Peter 3:9*)

B. How to fish?

I. Bait – Attracts fish (I Corinthians 9:19-23)

Nothing should repel fish except the gospel
Use different baits for different fish
The bait which you use to attract fish is the bait which
will keep them.
(Do not use worldly baits: money, etc. which will not last)



(1) Testimony (Two Parts to every testimony)

a) Works (Deed) *Matthew 5:16* Works without Word= Hopelessness (*Matthew 16:26*)

b) Word (Verbal) *Acts 1:8* Word without Works = Hypocrisy (*I Corinthians 9:27*)

(2) Dreams and Visions *Acts 2:17*

(3) Signs and Wonders *Acts 2:18-19*

(4) Camel / Five Pillars *Acts 17:16-31* (see Camel/ Five Pillars outlines)

Many times when we share our testimony we take ½ hour to 1 hour but people's attention span is only 3 to 5 minutes. How can we share a 3 minute testimony? Is that long enough to be effective?

Three parts to a Testimony: (1) *Life Before Christ*
(2) *How Met Christ*
(3) *Life After Christ (change)*

Who of us has a greater testimony than the Apostle Paul? *Acts 26:4-23*

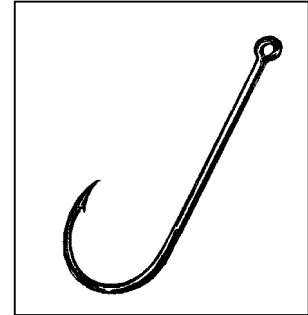
(Reading time: 3-4 minutes)

Power of short testimony *Acts 26:28-29*

Have trainees write out and practice their 3 minute testimony.

II. Hook = Gospel – Catches fish (Romans 10:17)

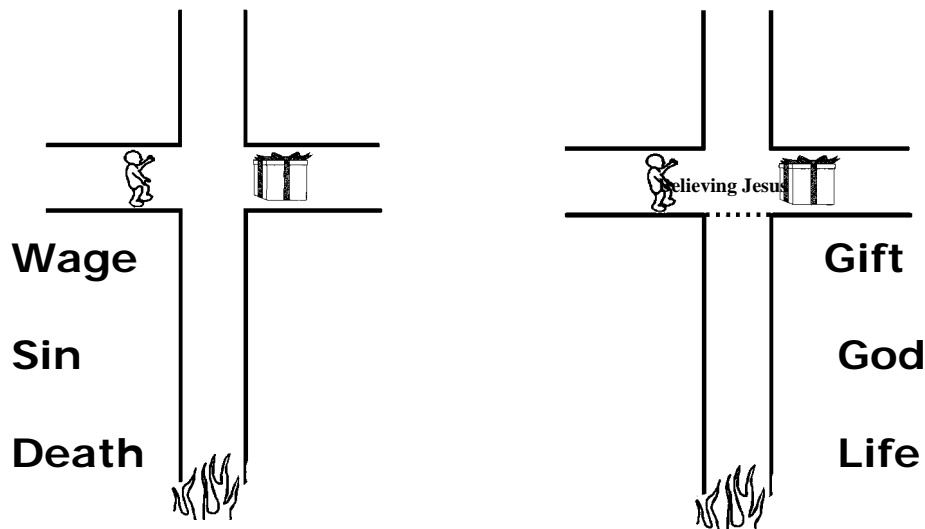
Bait attracts but it is only the gospel which can catch the fish. If bait looks good, smells good, taste good then fish swallows bait and hook.



One story: Creation and Fall of Man

One verse: *Romans 6:23* (10-12 minutes to share + 3 minute testimony = 15 minutes total)

“For the wage of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Romans 6:23 (Memorize)



Wage	=	Something earned as a result of work
Sin	=	Any work of sin (even one – Adam) earns the wage of death How can a clean God mix with unclean men? Example: Mineral water mixed with dirt, Is the mineral water still clean?
Death	=	Wage of sin
But	=	Good news
Gift	=	Free based on love/grace not work
God	=	Holy (pure) but loving
Eternal Life	=	Restored relationship with God
Through Jesus Christ	=	Sacrifice whose shed blood was sufficient to pay price of all mankind's sin
Lord	=	Give Jesus control of our life

To receive gift of eternal life believe and receive Jesus as Lord and Savior - through prayer of confession. After presentation **give invitation** for anyone who wishes to accept Christ (*Romans 10:9*).

C. Where to fish?

1. Where God has placed you *Acts 17:26-27*
2. Where you find open doors *Luke 10:2-11, Revelation 3:8*
3. Where you find open hearts *Revelation 3:20*

Man of Peace/ House of Peace Acts 8:26-39, 10:1-48, 16:11-15

A man or house of peace is a person or household where God has prepared their hearts to be receptive to you before you ever arrived (John 16:8-11). The person will bring others to you who he/she knows is also like-minded (searching for the Truth) and this household can become your starting house church.

Send out 2 X 2 to share faith return for testimony time and homework.

D. What do we do after we have caught the fish?

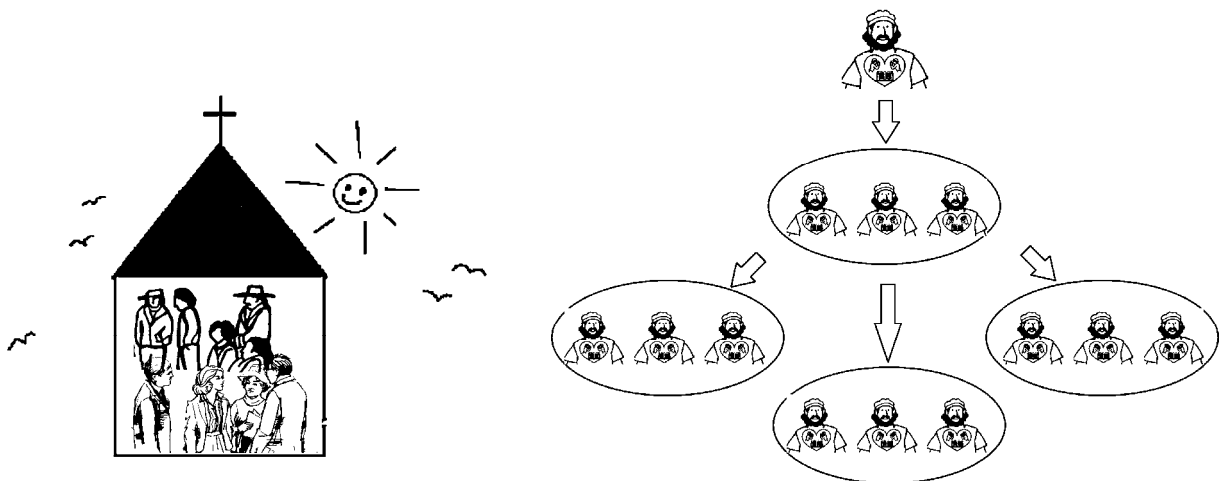
House Church Formation

Once we lead two or more people to Christ, what do we do? *Acts 2:46-47*

Not only meeting in synagogue weekly, but house to house daily worshipping, fellowshiping, breaking bread, receiving teaching, preaching, and accountability (*Proverbs 27:17*)

Example: Lord adding to their numbers daily.

Is the body of Christ a “building” or people gather together in His Name? *Mathew 18:20*
Buildings cost too much to reproduce but fellowship(s) of believers are free to reproduce.



When to form house church? When there are at least 2 new believers. Begin to teach them what you have learned.

Math $1 + 1 = 3$ (God's Math = *Matthew 18:20*)

Begin making disciples (*Matthew 28:19-20*) / doers of the Word (*James 1:22-23*).
Teaching them to obey all the things you have learned and are doing (*II Timothy 2:2*)

Was not either synagogue (temple) or house church but BOTH together!!!! (*Acts 2:46-47*)

Homework

Commands to follow in the up-coming month:

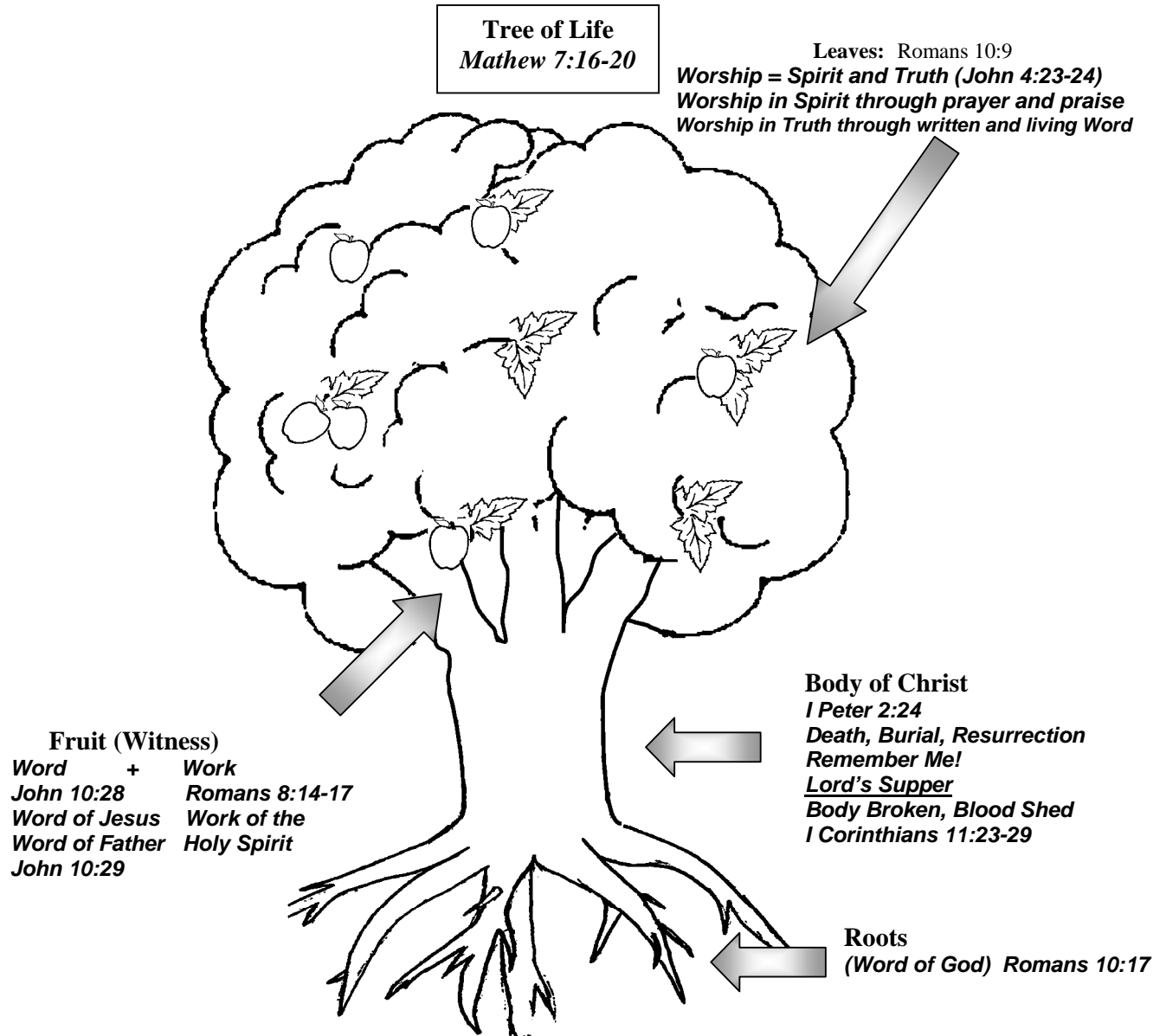
1. Share your faith (*II Corinthians 5:20, Matthew 4:19*)
- Make list of 5 people to share with every week
2. Teach (*II Timothy 2:2*) and make disciples (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
- After leading them to Christ teach them what you have learned so far.
3. Form house churches (*Acts 2:46-47*)

<p>On return, we will start with accountability evaluated by your fruit. (Matthew 7:16-20)</p>
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How do I produce the fruit of the “Tree of Life”?

Memory Verse: *Proverbs 11:30*

I. Assurance of Salvation / How do I know the fruit of my salvation is genuine?



Can you produce healthy and plentiful fruit with only 1 or 2 parts of the tree healthy? If any of the 3 integral parts of the tree is unhealthy, then you will not have “good” fruit. Just like you need roots, body, and leaves working together to produce fruit, likewise we need “the Word of God”, “the Body of Christ”, and “Worship” working together in our lives to produce healthy and plentiful spiritual fruit. (*Galatians 6:6-10*)

A. Roots (Word of God)

Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Word of God proclaims salvation is available to everyone who believes and receives Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Lord = Master and Savior = Delivers us from death and bondage of sin

*Wage of sin is death but free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
(Romans 6:23)*

God has provided salvation as a free gift (it can't be earned) *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Whoever believes in His Son will be saved *(John 3:16)*

Anyone can receive this gift through faith in Jesus Christ *(Romans 5:1)*

This gift is received by believing in Jesus as Lord and Savior by receiving Him into our hearts by prayer of confession of faith.

B. Body (of Christ)

Christ died, was buried and rose again on the third day to pay the price of our sin in full.

The wage of our sin (death) was paid in full by Jesus bearing our sins in His physical body on the cross so we might die to sin and live for righteousness. *(I Peter 2:24)*

*Without the physical death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, we have no hope of salvation.
(I Corinthians 15:12-28)*

His resurrection proves He had conquered sin, death, hell, and Satan. He has the power to give us victory over sin, death, hell and Satan. *(I Corinthians 15:51-58)*

Through Jesus' death on the cross, we now have hope of eternal life, as well as the power to live a victorious Christian life *(II Corinthians 5:21)*.

C. Leaves:

Worship = Spirit (Prayer + Praise) and Truth (Living & Written word) *John 4:23-24*

If you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord (**prayer**) and believe in your heart God has raised Him from the dead (**praise**), you shall be saved. (Romans 10:9) Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Promise of God's Word claimed in obedience – Lord).

To receive the gift of salvation we must:

a. Spirit

Pray = Make requests known to God

(1) Confess – Admit that we are sinners. (*Romans 3:23*)

(2) Call upon Jesus to be our Savior and Lord. (*Romans 10:13*)

(a) Savior – Ask Jesus to forgive us and to save us from our sins. (*Romans 5:7-10*)

(b) Lord – Ask Jesus to be Lord of our life. (*Romans 10:9*)

Praise = Acknowledge God for who He is and what He does.

Acknowledge/believe Jesus died for your sins, was buried, and was raised from the grave on the third day, conquering death and delivering you from the bondage of sin. (*I Corinthians 15:12-28, II Corinthians 5:21*)

b. Truth = Claim the promise of salvation in faith and obedience to the Word of God (*Romans 10:13, 17, John 8:31-42, John 15:7*)

D. Fruit of Salvation:

Word

(1) Promise of Jesus (*John 10:28*)

(2) Promise of God (*John 10:29*)

Work

Work of the Holy Spirit

Comes to dwell inside of you to give witness you are a child of God and help you grow.
(*Romans 8:14-17, John 14:16-18*)

II. **Lord's Supper:** Remember Me! Body Broken, Blood Shed (*I Corinthians 11:20-30*)

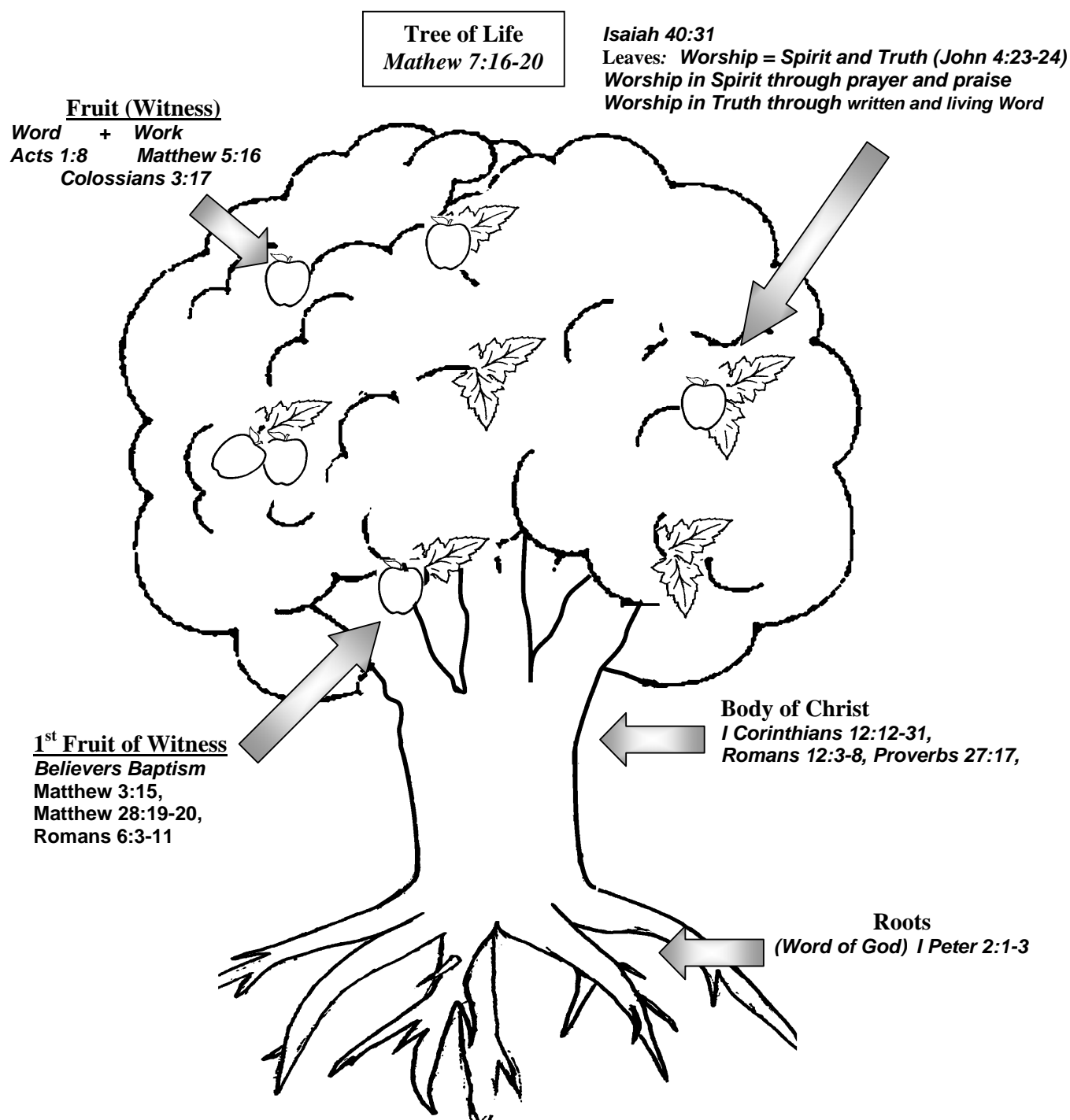
Our salvation was purchased with a high price: the broken body and shed blood of our Savior. Jesus asked every believer to remember the price of our salvation through the practice of the Lord's Supper. We should remember the price paid to break the bondage of sin in our lives and therefore die to sin and live to righteousness. (*I Peter 2:24, II Corinthians 5:21*)

- (1) Lord's Supper is to be practiced regularly when the Body of Christ (church) comes together. (*I Corinthians 11:20-22, 33-34*)
- (2) Before taking Lord's Supper we are to examine ourselves. (*I Corinthians 11:27-30*)
 - (a) Lord's Supper is only for believers. (*I John 5:11-13*)
 - (b) Lord's Supper is practiced by obedient disciples – }
include command of baptism. (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
 - (b) Are we right with our fellow man? (*Matthew 6:14-15*)
 - (c) Are we right with God? (*Isaiah 59:1-2*)
 - (d) Do we have the right attitude? (*Philippians 2:5-8*)
- (3) Follow the example given by Jesus for practice of the Lord's Supper.
(*I Corinthians 11:23*)
- (4) Took bread and after giving thanks broke it and said;
"Take eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."
(*I Corinthians 11:24*)
- (5) In same manner took the cup and said;
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." (*I Corinthians 11:25*)
- (6) This ordinance is to be done in remembrance of the Lord's death until His return.
In other words, this is to be regular practice of the Body of Christ (church) until Jesus returns again. (*I Corinthians 11:26*)

Have two people (who are not ordained but leading house churches/groups) lead the group in practicing the Lord's Supper according to the guidelines given above. Ask them to make this a regular practice of their House Church in obedience to the commands of Christ and as Disciples of Christ. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Encourage Lord's Supper participation to be for believers who have followed Jesus in believer's baptism. If we have not obeyed the Lord's command for immediate baptism, then we are disobedient and not ready for participation in the Lord's Supper.

III. How do I produce the fruit of a disciple (one who follows and obeys Jesus)?



Can you produce healthy and plentiful fruit with only 1 or 2 parts of the tree healthy? If any of the 3 integral parts of the tree is unhealthy, then you will not have “good” fruit. Just like you need roots, body, and leaves working together to produce fruit, likewise we need “the Word of God”, “the Body of Christ”, and “Worship” working together in our lives to produce healthy and plentiful spiritual fruit. (*Galatians 6:6-10*)

A. Roots (Word of God):

When we accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, we were born again into the family of God not as adults but as “new born” babies. (*John 1:12-13, John 3:3-8, I Peter 1:23, Romans 8:14-17*).

Our spiritual parent(s) (*II Corinthians 12:14, Hebrews 12:5-12*) are responsible for feeding us the “milk of God’s Word” (*I Peter 2:1-3*) and training us in righteousness (*II Timothy 3:16-17*) so we reach maturity and are able to feed ourselves the “meat” of God’s Word. Then, we will know right and wrong (*Hebrews 5:12-14*) and become obedient to the Word of God (*James 1:22-23*) reproducing our own spiritual children in due time/season (*Matthew 13:23, Matthew 7:16-20, Galatians 6:6-10, Psalm 1:2-3*).

Unless we feed ourselves daily from the Word of God we cannot grow to maturity but will remain immature (*I Corinthians 3:1-3*) and we will become spiritually dead and disqualified. (*I Corinthians 9:27*) Our lives will remain unchanged and will look like the “old dead sinner” we once were before Christ. Whoever is a teacher of these children will face a stricter judgment. (*James 3:1*)

B. Body (of Christ):

Apart from the physical body of Jesus Christ nailed to the cross for our sins, Christ also said His church is the “Body of Christ” (*Colossians 1:24*). Christ is the head of the body (*Ephesians 1:22-23*) and believers worshipping together make up the Body (*I Corinthians 12:12-31, Hebrews 10:24-25*). The Body has many members but each has different functions making the Body whole and complete when the members work together in unity (*Romans 12:4-5*).

If we cut ourselves off from the “Body of Christ”/church, it is like a hand severing itself from a human body. The hand is no longer alive and functioning and the body is handicapped. A believer separated from the “Body of Christ” will become spiritual dead in time and the “Body of Christ” will be handicapped in its ability to serve as a whole and complete church.

C. Leaves: Worship = Spirit (Prayer + Praise) and Truth (Meditation + Obedience) *John 4:23-24*

A tree's leaves are the source of power converting sunlight into energy for the tree. Likewise as we wait upon the Lord we find strength and guidance to be able to serve the Lord in spirit and in truth.

In Isaiah 40:31 it says; "But those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength and mount up with wings like eagles and run and not be weary and walk and not be faint."

A mother eagle teaching young eaglets to fly drops them from the sky. The young eaglets trying to fly flap their wings until they are weary with no more strength. As they stop struggling and open their wings it is then they learn their power is in the wind that fills their wings. As we wait upon the Lord we are filled with His power and have His heavenly perspective and guidance to do "all things through Christ who strengthens us" (*Philippians 4:13*) If we flap our wings in our own strength we will grow weary and faint and will fail in all of our spiritual endeavors.

D. Fruit of Discipleship: When our tree is strong in Word, Body and Spirit we produce the fruit a disciple.

Two Fruits of Discipleship:	Word	+	Works
	<i>Acts 1:8</i>		<i>Matthew 5:16</i>

IV. First Fruit of Repentance = Baptism

Jesus began His ministry with baptism in the Jordan River. When John the Baptist was unwilling to baptize Him at first Jesus responded;

"Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness".
(*Matthew 3:15*)

Jesus began His ministry with baptism because it was the right thing to do.

Jesus ended His ministry on earth with a final command to His disciples;
"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age."
(*Matthew 28:19-20*)

Jesus ended His ministry with a command for all of His disciples to be immediately baptized upon becoming believers.

After accepting Christ baptism in the most importance next step because:

- (1) Accepting Christ as Lord means following our Lord's commands (*Luke 6:46*)
- (2) When we are baptized we are identifying with Christ's death and the putting to death of our sinful past. (*I Corinthians 15:56-57*)
- (3) When we are baptized we are identifying with Christ rising from the dead as we rise from the water we acknowledge our desire to have a "new life" through faith in Jesus Christ. (*II Corinthians 5:17*)

This is described and explained in *Romans 6:3-11*

Believer's baptism is demonstrated as we are submerged below water, symbolic of dying to our sinful self, and raised up again from the water, symbolic of rising in "newness of life" in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit.

Have you followed Jesus in believer's baptism?

What is a disciple of Jesus? One who obeys/follows His commands and example.

Other Marks of a Disciple

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Not only hears but obeys Lord | - | Luke 6:46-49 |
| 2. Count cost of following Jesus | - | Luke 14:26-27, 33 |
| 3. Love others | - | John 13:34-35 |
| 4. Abide in Word of God | - | John 8:31-32 |
| 5. Fruitfulness as result of abiding | - | John 15:7-8 |
| 6. Reproduces other disciples | - | Matthew 28:18-20 |
| 7. Bold in faith when rejected by world | - | Matthew 10:24-28 |
| 8. Servant Leadership | - | Luke 22:24-30, John 13:1-17 |

Homework

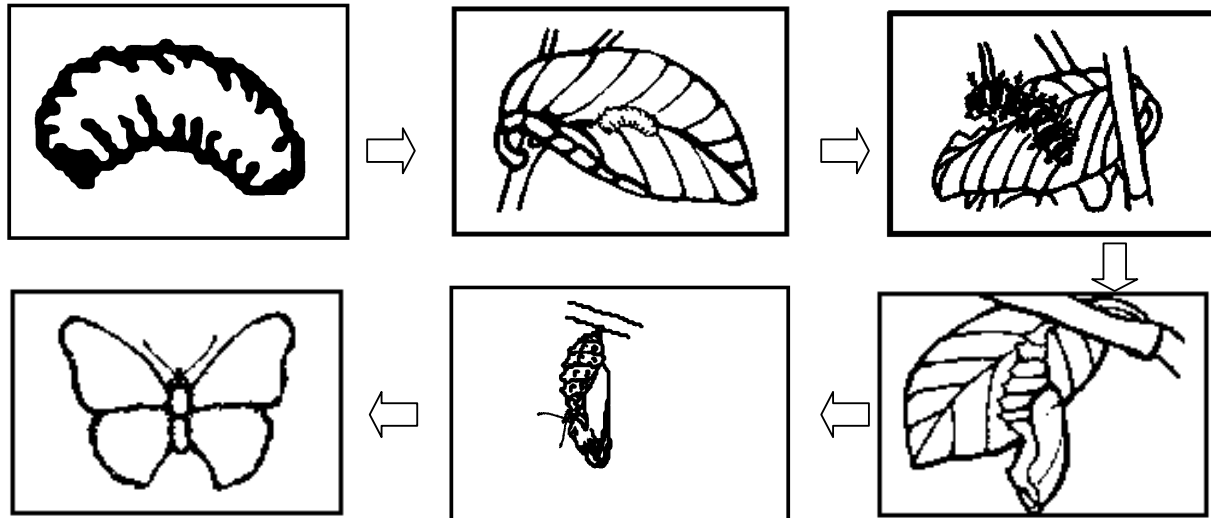
Commands to follow in the up-coming month:

1. Share your faith (*II Corinthians 5:20, Matthew 4:19*)
2. Teach (*II Timothy 2:2*) and make disciples (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
3. Form house churches (*Acts 2:46-47*)
4. Baptize (*Romans 6:3-14*) / practice Lord's Supper (*I Corinthians 11:17-34*)
5. Hold one another accountable. (*Proverbs 27:17*)

How do I produce the fruit of a good testimony/witness with God and man?

Memory Verse: *II Corinthians 5:17*

Analogy of Transformation from Caterpillar to Butterfly



A caterpillar is ugly, harmful (destroys leaves), hurtful (can sting) and is only concerned about filling its own belly no matter what the cost to others. During its life cycle, it begins to make a cocoon of silk with an opening only large enough for its head to go through. To complete its transformation it must push through the hole removing the excess flesh from its body until it exits as a slender twig of a body which as it is filled with blood begins to expand into its new being of a butterfly. Any outside attempts to help in this transformation by cutting open the cocoon would only result in a misshapen body neither caterpillar or butterfly. It is the struggle of life necessary to complete its transformation. Once the transformation is complete the result is a butterfly which is beautiful, helpful (pollination), and capable of flying to new heights.

Before we became believers we were the ugly, hurtful caterpillars and only concerned with our own needs at the expense of others. But when we are born again we are to become new creations putting off the old flesh and transforming into new creations that are Christ-like as we love and serve others. The problem is many times we are calling ourselves butterflies but we still look like the old caterpillars. People watching us say if that is what “Christians” are then they are no different from me and that my faith is as good as theirs. We have called ourselves Christian but the light of Christ is hidden so people still see only darkness (*Matthew 5:14-16*) and we are viewed as hypocrites. This change will not happen overnight but we must daily crucify our flesh (*Luke 9:23*) and let the blood of Christ flow through our lives so we can be transformed into the new creations God want us to be. This change requires us to follow and obey Christ being diligent in the Christian disciplines of worship in prayer and praise, Bible study, and fellowship with the Body of Christ. Our labors will produce increasing “good” fruits as our old nature passes away and our new nature takes control (*II Timothy 2, Galatians 6:1-10*). When people see our changed lives then they know how Christ can make a difference in their lives as well. We must work at becoming new creations. This change will not take place without time and struggle but the end result is a fruitful life with the light of Christ shining through us to bring people back to God and eternal life (*John 14:6, John 10:10*).

Tree of Life

Three branches: Faith, Love, and Hope

I. **Faith** = Putting off the “old” man (nature) and putting on the “new man” (nature). *Colossians 3:5-17*

Imagine if you were to wear the same clothes day after day without ever changing them. People would start to avoid you because of the smell. Our old lives were covered with the stink of sin which repelled people but when we were cleansed by Jesus we were changed into new, clean born again babies in Christ. But this cleansing is a on-going daily process we must continue just like we change our clothes everyday we must also cleanse ourselves of the daily sins that build up in our life by daily confessing our sins (*I John 1:9*) and allowing God to control our lives that day (*Luke 9:23*). If we do not daily clean our lives by prayer and confession, then this sin will accumulate, and starts “stinking” our lives up again so people are repelled.

A. **Putting off**

Read *Colossians 3:5-11* which talks about the “old man or nature”

List on a piece of paper some of the sins of your old life you need to put off. Spend time with God asking the Holy Spirit to show you the sins you need cleansed (*John 16:8-15*). Then confess these sins before God (*I John 1:9*) with the intention of changing what you do in the future giving evidence of the fruit of repentance (*Matthew 3:8*) which is shown as we turn away from sin (*Acts 3:19*) and make restitution for what we have done wrong (*Luke 19:8-10*).

Have group bring their list of sins and symbolically (use candle) burn them before God (*I John 1:9*) asking God to cleanse them of all unrighteousness. Ask God to create in them a clean heart (*Psalms 51:10-12*) and be prepared to put their flesh on God’s altar every day so God can give them a new attitude of love and service (*Romans 12:1-2, Luke 9:23*).

B. **Putting on :**

Read *Colossians 3:5-17* which talks about the “new man or nature”

If we only have a clean house but do not fill our house with “good” habits and activities, when Satan will return he will find our house empty and he will re-establish his presence and the strongholds will be worse than before. (*Matthew 12:43-45*) We must not be idle if we clean up our lives of 4 hours a week of bad activities and habits we need to replace those 4 hours with good activities and habits that will result in good fruit.

Make a list of activities you can pursue to fill your lives with good habits and activities (i.e. prayer, Bible study, witnessing to friends, house fellowship meetings).

II. **Love** = Transforming our relationships to be Christ-like *Colossians 3:19 – 4:16*

<i>Col. 3:18-19</i>	Husband (Love)	Wife (Respect)	<i>Ephesians 5:22-23</i>
<i>Col. 3:20-21</i>	Parents (Not Provoke)	Children (Obey)	<i>Ephesians 6:1-4, Hebrews 12:5-15</i>
<i>Col. 3:22-4:1</i>	Employer (Fair)	Employees (Serve God)	<i>I Peter 2:18-25, Ephesians 6:5-9</i>
<i>Col. 3:9-17</i>	Believers (Love)	Believers (Serve)	<i>Galatians 6:1-5 & 10, Romans 10:12, John 13:34-35</i>
<i>Col. 4:2-6</i>	Believers (Debt of Love)	Unbelievers (Minister to)	<i>Romans 13:8, I Corinthians 15:33, II Corinthians 6:14, Proverbs 27:7</i>
	Believers (Obey/Honor)	Authorities (From God)	<i>Romans 13:1-7, I Peter 2:13-17, Matt. 22:21</i>

If you have a broken relationship with someone then here are some guidelines for “repentance” and “reconciliation”:

Steps to Repentance (*II Chronicles 7:14, Acts 8:18-24*):

1. Confession: A clear statement of specifically acknowledging what you have done wrong toward the other person.
Example: NOT if I sinned or I am sorry, but “I committed (the following wrong) against you please forgive me.
2. Repent: A clear intent to “turn away” and change the patterns of behavior which lead to the wrong being committed.
Example: *Exodus 9:27-35*
Pharaoh’s words/confession did not match his intentions of continued wrong doing therefore no forgiveness or repentance (heart hardened).
3. Atonement: Making right what you have done wrong by monetary or other means.
Example: Confession of wrong doing does not exempt us from restitution for loss. Without restitution our words are empty and the other party still harbors a grudge in their heart. Zacchaeus recognized and confessed his sins but also made it clear he would not only make restitution but give back more than he had stolen. (*Luke 19:8-10*) The laws of God in *Exodus 21-23* give Old Testament guidelines for restitution from 20% above what was stolen to double to even the death penalty. Atonement requires making amends or our words are empty and without value.
 - a) Going to others you lied to or misinformed and correcting what you told them.
 - b) Making financial restitution plus 20% for what you have stolen, damaged, etc. (*Leviticus 6:1-7*) Even God required a sin “offering”.
 - c) If unable to make financial restitution then make it up with your labor and/or service to the other person for a pre-determined period of time agreed to by both parties.

Steps to Reconciliation (*Matthew 18:15-17*):

1. Go to the person privately and try to make things right.
Pursue peace actively with all men (*Hebrews 12:14*).
2. Bring one or 2 or more neutral intermediaries to help you resolve the disagreement.
3. If still unresolved or repentance has not taken place then bring before the church.
4. Until repentance occurs, person is treated as unbeliever.
In other words you do not ignore the person, we love and minister to unbelievers but we are not to have fellowship (*I Corinthians 15:33*) with them or being “yoked” (*II Corinthians 6:14*) with them until repentance has occurred.

III. **Hope** = Confidence if we are faithful fruit will come in due season.

II Timothy 2:3-6

Galatians 6:6-10

Psalms 1:2-3

John 15:4-8

IV. **Evidence of fruits of a changed life**

A.	Character	-	Fruits of the Spirit	<i>Galatians 5:22-23</i>
B.	Ministry	-	Deeds/Works	<i>Matthew 5:16</i>
C.	Witness	-	Words	<i>Acts 1:8, John 15:5</i>

Homework

Commands to follow in the up-coming month:

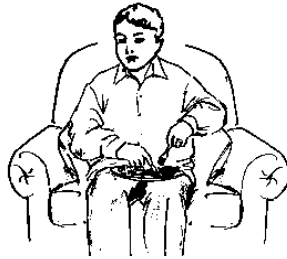
1. Share your faith (*II Corinthians 5:20, Matthew 4:19*)
2. Teach (*II Timothy 2:2*) and make disciples (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
3. Form house churches (*Acts 2:46-47*)
4. Baptize (*Romans 6:3-14*) and practice Lord's Supper (*I Corinthians 11:17-34*)
5. Hold one another accountable. (*Proverbs 27:17*)
6. Daily cleansing (*I John 1:9*) and work on relationships (*John 13:34-35*)

How do I bear the fruit of God's Word in my life and church?

Memory Verse: *I Peter 2:1-2*



Being Fed
I Peter 2 :1-2



Feed Yourself
Hebrew 5:12-14



Work Yourself
James 1:22-24



Reproduce Yourself
John 15:5, Mat 13:23

When we are born again, we are born as “babies in Christ” in order for us to grow up and lay aside our old nature we need to be fed constantly by the Word of God. As babies mature we no longer crave the “milk” of God’s Word but as we come of age we are able to feed ourselves with “solid food”. We give birth to babies who can only take “milk” and we must teach them until adulthood when they can eat the “meat” of God’s Word, feed themselves, and reproduce their own families.

We are no longer immature (*I Corinthians 3:1-3*).

We are mature believers able to discern “good” and “evil”. (*Hebrews 5:12-14*)

We are doers of the Word not hearers only. (*James 1:22*)

In the beginning we need good parents/ teachers until we are able to understand and teach others. Are we being good parents to our children we have birthed in Christ (*James 3:1*)? In order for new believers to grow up we must train them in how to study and apply God’s Word to their lives.

MUSLIM EMPHASIS

The Word of God is without error given directly by God through His Holy Spirit to men (II Peter 1:20-21). The Word of God is living and powerful able to penetrate and change our hearts and minds with God’s truth for our lives (Hebrews 4:12). There is no written revelation from God after the Bible (Kitabs) Revelation 22:18-19

How do we bear the fruit of God's Word?

Shallow Milk/Baby	Hearing	<i>Matthew 13:1-23</i>	Inward and Unfruitful Parenting needed
	Studying	<i>Acts 17:11</i>	
	Memorizing	<i>Psalm 119:11</i>	
	Meditating	<i>Psalm 1:2-3</i>	

Meat/ Adult Deep	Doing	<i>James 1:22</i>	Self taught / reproducing Outward and Fruit
	Preaching	<i>II Timothy 4:2</i>	
	Teaching	<i>II Timothy 2:2, James 3:1</i>	
	Discipline	<i>Matthew 28:19-20</i>	

We can do the good or do the best. God’s best is to be disciple-makers. *Luke 10:38-42*
Tree of Life

Ten Word Pictures of how the Word of God helps us:

1. Guides us like a lamp (flashlight) through the darkness. *Psalm 119:105*
2. Give us stability, the solid foundation upon which we stand. *Luke 6:46-49*
3. Word is the “milk” and “meat” we eat to grow up spiritually. *I Peter 2:1-3,*
Hebrews 5:12-14
4. Seeds of Word of God bear fruit in our lives when we obey. *Matthew 13:1-23,*
Galatians 6:6-10
5. Pierces our heart like a knife and convicts us of sin. *Hebrews 4:12*
6. The only weapon/sword we have to battle Satan/enemies. *Ephesians 6:17,*
Matthew 4:1-11
7. When spoken is like a “consuming fire” from our mouths. *Jeremiah 5:14*
Words can be used for both for good and evil. *James 3:1-10*
8. Meditation on nourishes us like a tree bringing maturity/fruit. *Psalm 1:2-3*
9. Words are seasoned like “salt” for preservation and peace. *Mark 9:50, Col. 4:6*
10. Word became flesh and dwelt among us as the “living” Word. *John 1:1-14*
“Living Word brought us salvation”

How can I personally apply God’s Word to my life and church?

The Word of God is like a two-edged sword (Hebrews 4:12). A sword is never taken out of the scabbard unless you plan to use it. The two edges of our sword are:

Written Word

Command to obey
John 14:15



Living Word

Example to Follow
John 10:4-5

Every time you open the Word of God you should ask what command am I to obey and what example am I to follow as a disciple of Jesus?

If we are only hearers of the Word (James 1:22-23) and do not obey or follow the command(s) and example(s) given to us from the Word of God then “Why do you call me (Jesus) Lord, Lord but do not do what I say?” If we fail to apply God’s Word to our lives then we are like a person building their house on sand when the storms (of life) come the house will fall and great will be its fall (Luke 6:46-47). Without application to our lives then Word of God has no value. Never open the Word of God without the intention of applying what you learn to your life!!!

When we are studying the Word of God we are not alone. The Word is “living” meaning the Holy Spirit resides with the Word guiding us (John 16:13), teaching/reminding us (John 14:26), helping us (John 14:16-18), bearing witness/testimony of Jesus (John 15:26-27) and convicting us of sin (John 16:8). God helps us to understand and apply His Word to our lives so we are without excuse?

Every time we read God’s Word He is trying to teach us Truth to deliver us from the bondage of sin (*John 8:31-32*), continue to help us “grow-up” spiritually (*I Peter 2:1-3, Hebrews 5:12-14*), and showing us how we can follow Him more closely and obediently so we are disciples (doers of the Word- *James 1:22-23*) so we are able to “make disciples” teaching them to observe (obey) all things I have commanded you (*Matthew 28:20*) bearing fruit for His kingdom and glory (*Matthew 6:33, John 15:5*).

Those who meditate on God’s Word will produce fruits of righteousness resulting in peace with God and man. (*Psalm 1:2-3, Romans 6:21-22, James 3:17-18*) God’s Word is living and active with the power to convict and change our lives through personal application. (*Hebrews 4:12*)

Inductive Bible Study

In our house churches we want to practice “participative” Bible studies where we involve everyone in the discussion and no one person dominates the discussion. As we study the Word of God we need to use our two-edged sword (*Hebrews 4:12*) and ask what command(s) and example(s) does the Word of God give me to follow and obey and then apply it to your life.

Spirit indwells within Word + Spirit indwells within us = Word driven Spirit filled life

If a person’s answers are not based on God’s Word, wait and see if the group corrects the mistake. If the mistake is not corrected then in the end point out where God’s Word shows what is right or go to someone you trust who can help you find the answers in God’s Word.

Today we will break up into groups and study what God has to say about His church.

Group 1:	<i>I Corinthians 12:12-31</i>	Body of Christ – Members of one another
Group 2:	<i>Romans 12:3-21</i>	Body of Christ – Members of one another
Group 3:	<i>Hebrews 10:24-25</i>	Do not forsake assembling of ourselves
Group 4:	<i>Malachi 3:6-12</i>	Tithing
Group 5:	<i>II Corinthians 9</i>	Giving
Group 6:	<i>Acts 2:41-47</i>	Practices of the Church
Group 7:	<i>Revelation 2 and 3</i>	Warnings to the Church
Group 8:	<i>I Peter 5:1-11</i>	Leadership of Church
Group 9:	<i>I Timothy 3</i>	Qualifications of Leaders
Group 10:	<i>Ephesians 5</i>	Example of the Church

Select any of the above most relevant to your trainees. Break into no more than 5-6 groups. Have them report as a group to everyone on what they found.

Homework:

Four Bible studies from *John 15*

Week 1	(1)	<i>John 15:1-11</i>	Relationship to Christ
Week 2	(2)	<i>John 15:12-17</i>	Relationship to one another
Week 3	(3)	<i>John 15:19-25</i>	Relationship to the world
Week 4	(4)	<i>John 15:26-27</i>	Relationship to Holy Spirit

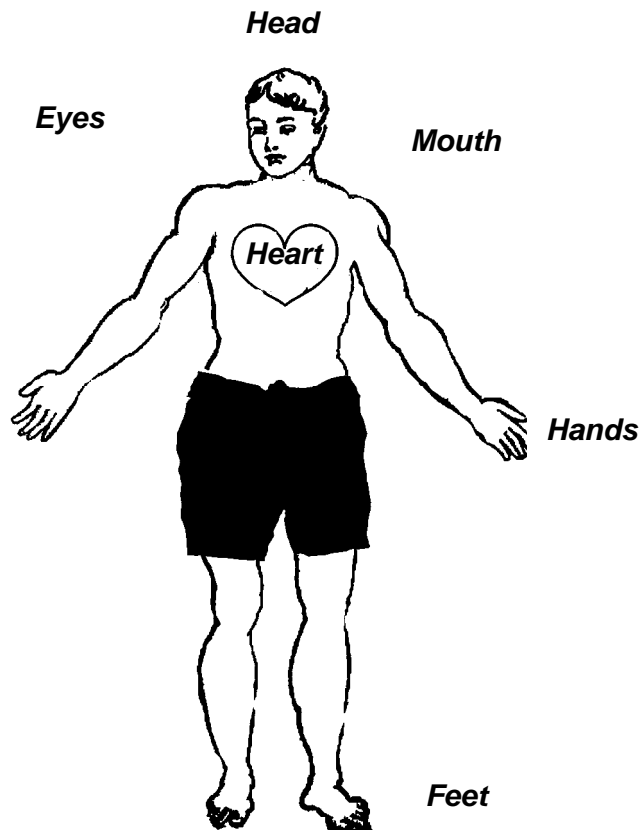
Commands to follow in the up-coming month:

1. Share your faith (*II Corinthians 5:20, Matthew 4:19*)
2. Teach (*II Timothy 2:2*) and make disciples (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
3. Form house churches (*Acts 2:46-47*)
4. Baptize (*Romans 6:3-14*) and practice Lord's Supper (*I Corinthians 11:17-34*)
5. Hold one another accountable. (*Proverbs 27:17*)
6. Daily cleansing (*I John 1:9*) and work on relationships (*John 13:34-35*)
7. Daily read and apply God's Word to your life and church so you can grow and mature in your spiritual life. (*I Peter 2:1-3*)

What is the fruit of a healthy Body (of Christ)?

Memory Verse: *Romans 12:4-5*

“For as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”



- I. **Head** (of Body) – Body turns to whatever direction the head is pointed (*Hebrews 12:1-2*)
 - A. Head of the Body is Christ. (*Colossians 1: 18-22*)
Christ alone is supreme and has pre-eminence over all things.
 - B. Christ is the Chief Shepherd and pastor(s) are the under-shepherds (*1 Peter 5:1-4*)
 - Pastor:
 - 1) Shepherd the flock
 - 2) Serve not by compulsion but willingly
 - 3) Serve not for dishonest gain but eagerly
 - 4) Serve not as lords but as examples to the flock (*Luke 22:24-30*)

Qualifications of pastor (I Timothy 3:1-7)

- 1) Blameless (Good testimony among those outside the church)
- 2) Husband of one wife / Able to rule his household (wife/children) well
- 3) Temperate (not quick tempered) / Not violent
- 4) Sober-minded (serious person)
- 5) Good behavior
- 6) Hospitable
- 7) Able to teach / Not a novice or inexperienced
- 8) Not give to wine (drunkenness)
- 9) Not greedy for money or covetous
- 10) Gentle and not quarrelsome

C. Elders/ Deacons provide leadership and service to the Body of Christ. (*Acts 6:1-8*)

Qualifications of elders/deacons (*I Timothy 3:8-13, Titus 1:5-9*)

- 1) Reverent / Respectful
- 2) Not double-tongued (hypocrites or liars)
- 3) Not given to much wine (drunkenness)
- 4) Not greedy for money
- 5) Pure conscience
- 6) Blameless (tested by church before selection)
- 7) Husband of one wife/ Able to rule his household (wife/children) well
- 8) Wife not a slanderer (gossip), temperate (modest), faithful
- 9) Good standing in community and bold in sharing their faith

Practical Exercise: Break into small groups and assign each group one of the above passages and based on that passage make a list of the qualifications for either pastor or elders/deacons.

II. Eyes (of Body)



Focus on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith

(*Hebrews 12:1-2*) and concentrate on His focus to seek and save that which is lost (*Luke 19:10*). If we focus on Jesus and the lost then Jesus will have His eyes on us and give us the strength and power to succeed (*II Chronicles 16:9*).

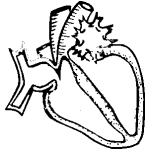
III. Mouth (of Body)

Ambassadors for Christ as though God was pleading through us. (*II Corinthians 5:20*)



Need to boldly proclaim the gospel (*Ephesians 6:18-20*).

IV. Heart (of Body)



= Heart for Discipleship (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
Witnessing (*Acts 1:8*), Disciple makers (*II Timothy 2:2*)

Equip for sharing gospel, being disciples, becoming disciple-makers and church planters.
Equip believers to also use their spiritual gifts for service within the Body of Christ.
Holy Spirits gives gifts to every believers as He wills (*I Corinthians 12:11*)

Proverb: "If everyone is busy rowing the boat, no one has time to rock the boat."

Romans 12:3-8

Prophecy
Ministry/Service
Teaching
Exhortation/Encouragement
Giving
Leadership
Mercy

I Corinthians 12:8-10

Wisdom
Knowledge
Faith
Healing
Miracles
Prophecy
Discernment of Spirits
Speaking in Tongues
Interpretation of Tongues

Ephesians 4:1-16

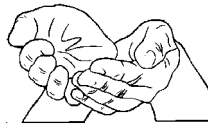
Apostles
Prophets
Evangelists
Pastors
Teachers

Hierarchy of Gifts (Earnestly desire the best gifts)

I Corinthians 12:28-31

1. Apostles
2. Prophets
3. Teachers
4. Miracles
5. Gifts of Healing
6. Helps/Service
7. Administration
8. Varieties of Tongues

Practical Exercise: Fill out a spiritual gifts work booklet to help determine your gift(s).



V. Two Hands (of Body)

A. Giving:

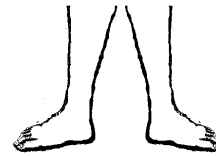
Financially support the work of the ministry/church

- (1) Tithe = Based on obedience to the law and fear of God
God commands giving 10% of gross income to the church.
If we steal from God's house we will be disciplined and rebuked by God.
(*Malachi 3:8-10*)
- (2) Offering = Based on loving God and Him being Lord
Once we recognize God is the owner of all (includes the remaining 90% of our income – (*Acts 4:32-37, Luke 12:22-34, Psalm 24:1, Romans 14:7-8*) then giving is what we do with grateful hearts above 10% for the work and ministry of the church. (*II Corinthians 9*)

B. Service:

When we demonstrate love by using our gifts to serve the needs of the lost and the body of Christ. (*I Corinthians 13, John 13:34-35*)

- (1) Serve with finances (*Acts 4:32-37, Proverbs 3:9-10, I Corinthians 9:1-14*)
Without the hand of giving the hand of service of the church is weak.
- (2) Serve with Time and Labor (*Matthew 5:16, Galatians 6:10*)
We serve by giving our time and labor to do the work of the ministry by exercising our gifts, abilities and resources to serve God, the church, and non-believers so God receives the glory.



VI. Two Feet (of Body)

True worshippers will worship in Spirit (prayer + praise) and Truth (Word) (John 4:23-24)

A. Spirit: Standing with the power of God (*Isaiah 40:31*)

- (1) Prayer
 - (a) Restore our fellowship with God. (*I John 1:9*)
 - (b) Exchange our weakness for His strength (*II Corinthians 12:9*)
- (2) Praise
 - (a) Acknowledge our right position to God. (*James 4:7-10*)
 - (b) Acknowledge when in the center of His will all things are possible (*Matthew 19:26*)

B. Truth: Standing on the foundation of God's Word (*Luke 6:46-49*)

- (1) Written Word (*Hebrews 4:12*)
The written Word reveals to us the right path to follow. (*Psalms 119:105*)
- (2) Living Word (*John 1:1-5, 14-18*)
The living Word guides us to follow Him on the right path. (*John 10:1-16*)

Homework :

Commands to follow in the up-coming month:

1. Share your faith (*II Corinthians 5:20, Matthew 4:19*)
2. Teach (*II Timothy 2:2*) and make disciples (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
3. Form house churches (*Acts 2:46-47*)
4. Baptize (*Romans 6:3-14*) and practice Lord's Supper (*I Corinthians 11:17-34*)
5. Hold one another accountable. (*Proverbs 27:17*)
6. Daily cleansing (*I John 1:9*) and work on relationships (*John 13:34-35*)
7. Daily read and apply God's Word to your life and church so you can grow and mature in your spiritual life. (*I Peter 2:1-3*)
8. Establish godly leadership within your Body of Christ (*I Peter 5:1- 4*)
9. Support your church in giving tithes and offerings. (*Malachi 3:8-10, II Corinthians 9*)
10. Support your church by exercising your spiritual gifts serving others. (*Ephesians 4:1-16*)

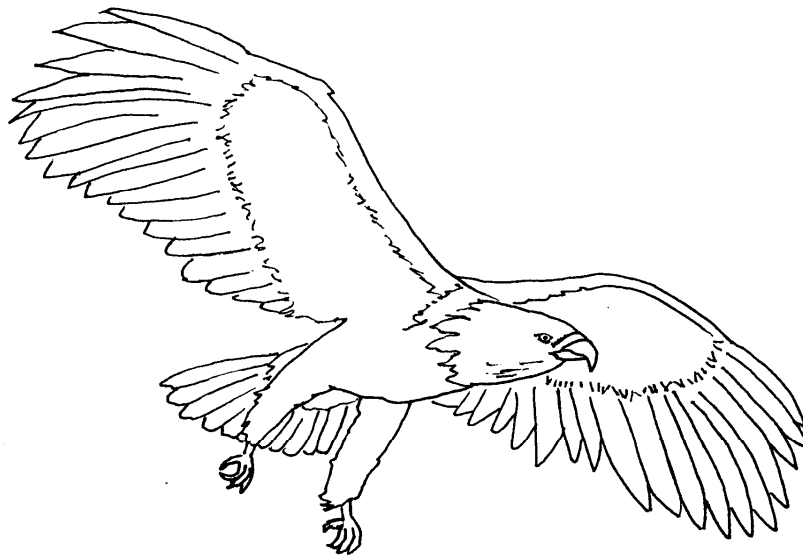
How do I bear fruit through worship in Spirit and Truth?

Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:31

“But those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength; they shall mount up wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

Analogy of the Eagle

When a mother eagle teaches her young eaglets to fly, she does so by taking them to the highest point in the sky and then drops them so they the young eaglet begins to freefall to the earth. The young eaglet will try to keep itself in the air by flapping its wings but as strong as it is all of its efforts are unable to keep the eaglet from falling to its doom. Right before crashing to the earth the mother eagle will again catch the young eaglet and bring it up to the skyline and release it once more. This will continue until the young eaglet becomes so weary it can no longer flap its wings and becomes still with its wings opened wide. Its then the eaglet realizes it is no longer falling to the earth but it is being lifted up by the wind which is filling its wings. As the young eaglet “waits” upon the wind it renews its strength and can fly up to speeds of 80 miles per hour with ease and power of the wind filling its wings.



Likewise, we many times begin our days without waiting upon the Lord to renew our strength. We go out into the world only to return weary and defeated, as we flapped our wings in our own limited power. God promises us, if we will wait upon Him each day He will renew our strength and give us all we need to succeed in the work of His kingdom.

Matthew 19:26

“With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

God takes all we lack and gives us all we need to do His will.

Pick 5 things from the list below to help explain benefit of waiting upon the Lord.

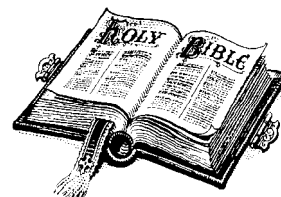
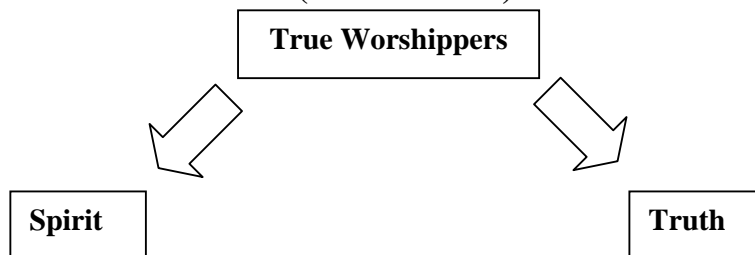
Our worst exchanged for His best

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. Weakness | Strength (<i>II Corinthians 12:9-10</i>) |
| 2. Doubts and Uncertainty | Wisdom (<i>James 1:5-8</i>) |
| 3. Fear | Courage (<i>II Timothy 1:7, John 16:33</i>) |
| 4. Worry | Peace (<i>Philippians 4:6-7</i>) |
| 5. Alone in tribulation/trials | Helper(s) (<i>Hebrews 13:5-6, John 14:16-18</i>) |
| 6. Uncertainty | Guide to truth (<i>John 16:13</i>) |
| 7. Grief / Suffering | Comfort/ Hope (<i>Matthew 5:4, II Corinthians 1:3-7</i>) |
| 8. Condemnation/ Sin | Righteous (<i>II Corinthians 5:21, Romans 8:1,31-34</i>) |
| 9. Defeat/ Death | Victory/ Life (<i>I Corinthians 15:51-58, John 10:10</i>) |
| 10. Loneliness/ No one loves me | Surrounded by love of Christ (<i>Romans 8:35-39</i>) |
| 11. Discontentment | Contentment (<i>Philippians 4:11-12</i>) |
| 12. Strongholds/Closed Doors | No barriers/ open doors (<i>II Corinthians 10:3-6</i>) |
| 13. Fruits of the flesh | Fruits of the Spirit (<i>Galatians 5:19-26</i>) |
| 14. Discouragement | Hope (<i>Romans 5:1-8</i>) |
| 15. Defenseless | Armor of God (<i>Ephesians 6:10-20</i>) |

Will you wait upon the Lord so He can take you worst and give you His best so you have the strength to be victorious through Christ Jesus (*Philippians 4:13*)?

We obtain power as we worship God in Spirit and in Truth

(John 4:23-24)



I. *Worship in Spirit*

A. Prayer = *Making our requests known to God.*

As we wait upon God in **prayer**, He cleanses us (*I John 1:9*), renews us (*Romans 12:1-2*), and empowers us (*II Corinthians 12:9-10*) to do His will (*John 15:7*).

(1) Barriers to Prayer:

1. Un-confessed sin toward God (*Isaiah 59:1-2*)
2. Un-confessed sin toward man (*Matthew 6:14-15*).
3. Selfish requests (*James 4:3-4*)
4. Pride (*Matthew 6:5-6, Luke 18:9-14*).
5. Lack of faith (*James 1:5-8, James 5:13-18*)

(2) Facilitating Prayer:

1. Pray within the will of God (*I John 5:14-15*).
2. Pray within the Word of God – Living and Written Word (*John 15:7*).
3. Pray seeking the kingdom of God (*Matthew 6:33*).

(3) Practical Considerations for Prayer

1. Quiet Place / Alone *Matthew 6:6, Luke 5:16*
Where you can hear the still, quiet voice of God?
I Kings 19:11-13, John 10:3-5
No distractions: children, cell phone (shut off), etc.
2. First thing in the morning *Mark 1:35*

Practical Exercise:

Have group find quiet place to examine themselves before God if there are any barriers to their prayer life.

- (1) Do I have unconfessed sin before God?
- (2) Do I have unconfessed sin before men?
- (3) Has my prayer life been selfish requests?
- (4) Has my prayer life been prideful?
- (5) Has my prayer life been without faith in God.

B. Praise = *Acknowledging God for who He is and what He does.*

Likewise if an eagle is grounded it only sees the obstacles surrounding it leading to discouragement and defeat. But when the eagle is looking down with a heavenly perspective it has the world at its feet and unrestricted movement in any direction. Many times as believers we see the world around us only in our human perspective and say I can't succeed because there are too many obstacles hindering me from success (persecution, family problems, finances, etc.). But if we through **praise** begin to acknowledge who God is, then we see the world around us from His heavenly perspective then nothing is impossible for us because nothing is impossible for God.

1. Who He is (Acknowledge our position toward God)?

- (a) Everlasting God: God – *Malachi 3:6, Psalms 90:1-2*
 Jesus – *Hebrews 13:8, Revelation 1:8*
 Word – *I Peter 1:25, Isaiah 40:8*
 Never changes and endures forever.
- a. All-powerful *Psalm 135:6, Isaiah 46:9-11, Jeremiah 32:17, 27*
b. All-knowing *Psalm 147:5, I John 3:20*
c. Omni-present *Psalm 139:7-12*
d. Holy *Leviticus 19:2, Exodus 15:11*

(b) The Lord (*Luke 6:46-49*)

*“Why do you call me ‘**Lord, Lord**’ and not do the things I say?”*

Jesus has been made **Lord** over all things by God (*Colossians 1:15-18, Philippians 2:9-11*) and when we confess Him as **Lord** (*Romans 10:9*) we serve Him in way worthy and pleasing to Him so the fruits of good works are increasing evidenced in our lives (*Colossians 1:10*).

*“By their fruits you shall know them.” (*Matthew 7:20*)*

We are to love the **Lord** our God with all of our complete being (*Mark 12:30-31*):

- a. Heart = Emotions
b. Soul = Spirit
c. Mind = Intelligence
d. Strength = Physical actions

Jesus is **100% Lord** of our life and has entrusted us as stewards of what belongs to Him and one day He will return for an accounting of His servants. Our possessions, money, talents, abilities, our family, our lives all belong to Him. (*Matthew 6:19-34, Matthew 25:14-30, Luke 12:13-48*). To follow Jesus as **Lord** means counting the cost of following Him and being prepared to forsake everything to serve Him. (*Luke 14:25-33*)

*The Lord will never leave or forsake you. The Lord is our Helper. So you should not fear. What can man do to you? (*Hebrews 13:5-6*)*

*But as for me and my house we shall serve the Lord! (*Joshua 24:15*)*

2. What He does (Thanksgiving)?

- (a) Creator of the ends of the earth
- (b) Created all the heavens and earth for His glory (*Colossians 1:16*).
- (c) Created man for His glory and for fellowship with Him.
 - Created us and knows us intimately and completely (*Psalm 139:1-16*)
 - All our days recorded in His book (*Psalm 139:16*)
 - Knows your every thought (*Psalm 44:21*)
 - Knows the very number of the hairs of our head. (*Matt. 10:30*)
 - Determined the time and place where each of us would live. (*Acts 17:26-28*)
 - Determines the number of the days of our life. (*Hebrews 9:27, Luke 12:13-21*)
 - God reveals Himself to all of us. (*Romans 1:18-23*)
- (d) Created/Chose each of us for His purpose before we were even born. (*Jeremiah 1:5, Ephesians 1:3-6*)

II. ***Worship in Truth (Word of God)***

A. **Written Word**

- 1. Shows us the “*true*” path to follow.
Psalm 119:105, Luke 6:46-49

- 2. Frees us from the bondage of sin.
John 8:31-32, Hebrews 4:12

- 3. Gives us eternal life/abundant life.
Romans 10:17, II Timothy 3:16-17

- 4. Helps us bear “*spiritual fruit*” after being born again.
Psalm 1:2-3, Galatians 6:6-10

B. **Living Word**

John 14:6, John 1:1-5, John 10:1-17

*Galatians 2:20, I Peter 2:24,
I Corinthians 15:54-58*

John 1:1-5, John 10:10

John 15:5,7

Practical Exercise:

Examine our attitude toward God

- (1) Do we serve God or do we think God should serve us?
- (2) Do we acknowledge God as all-powerful and holy?
- (3) Do we obey God or serve our own interests?
- (4) Do we seek God’s guidance or do we try to guide God?
- (5) Do I see only obstacles and barriers to serving God or do I acknowledge with God all things are possible?

Homework

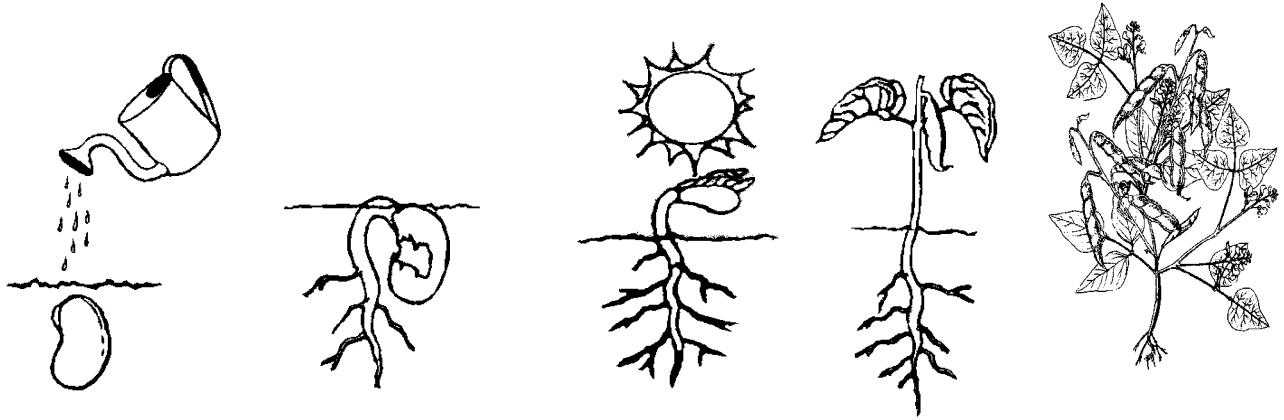
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8. Establish godly leadership within your Body of Christ (*I Peter 5:1- 4*)
9. Support your church in giving tithes and offerings. (*Malachi 3:8-10, II Corinthians 9*)
10. Support your church by exercising your spiritual gifts serving others. (*Ephesians 4:1-16*)
11. Daily wait upon the Lord for cleansing, renewal and power to do His will. (*Isaiah 40:31*)
12. Daily Meditate on God's Truth so His Truth can be your guide. (*John 10:1-16*).

How do I reproduce Christ in myself and others?

(Memory verse: *John 3:30*)

How do we reproduce and become fruitful?



1. He (Christ) must increase, but I must decrease in order to bear fruit. (*John 3:30*)
A seed once planted dies to self and as the plant grows and bears fruit nothing remains of the old seed.
If you dig up the plant, the old seed is gone only the evidence of its fruit remains.

In order to reproduce and be fruitful we must die to self and crucify our flesh. Only once a seed dies to self and is buried can it be fruitful. (*John 12:24-25, Galatians 2:20, Luke 9:23-24*)

In order to reproduce and be fruitful we must humble ourselves before God and recognize our need and absolute dependence on Him. As we submit ourselves to Him, He will lift us up for His glory and for His name's sake. (*James 4:6-10, I Peter 5:5-7, Proverbs 3:34*).

I Corinthians 3:5-17 About building God's kingdom not our kingdom

God is the owner of the harvest field (all is for His glory and honor and **not** ours)

God is the one who gives the increase.

We are only the servants/laborers in the harvest field.

Jesus is the only foundation upon which we can build.

All that we do will be tested by fire and only the work done for His name will be rewarded.

Other side references:

We belong to God bought at the price of His Son's blood. (*I Corinthians 6:19-20*)

Before we were born God chose us for His purposes (*Jeremiah 1:5, Ephesians 1:4*)

2. Must multiple servant leaders (Luke 22:24-30, John 13:1-17, Matthew 20:16)
Lead for Jesus **NOT** Leading for our own glory, honor, \$, or kingdom

Laborers = Work for profit or personal gain. Example: No pay = No work
Servants = Work to please Master who owns everything

Master not only owns what He initially invests in you but also owns any profits/benefits received from your labors. Matthew 25:14-30

In order to have growth in our ministry we must yield our authority to God and work to have every believer develop one or more of the five key leadership roles of the church needed for growth and multiplication of God's kingdom.

Five Key Leadership Roles Needed to Multiple God's Kingdom Ephesians 4:11-12

- (1) Apostle = Cross cultural proclamation of gospel and church planting
- (2) Prophet = Proclamation of God's Word (past, present, and future)
- (3) Pastor = Under-shepherd of God's flock I Peter 5:1-5
- (4) Evangelist = Bold proclamation of God's plan for salvation
- (5) Teacher = Training of believers from God's Word

3. I must abide in Father, Son, Spirit and Word to be fruitful. (4 Relationships)

a) I must abide in the Father.

We will be fruitful and reproduce to the degree we know and do the will of our Father in heaven. (*Matthew 19:26, John 8:28-29, 54-55, Matthew 26:39, Mark 14:36, Luke 22:42, Matthew 7:21*)

If we abide with the Father all things are possible within His will (*Matt 19:26*). As we seek the Father's kingdom and His righteousness all we need to be fruitful will be provided. (*Matt 6:33*)

b) I must abide in the Son.

Jesus is the vine and we are His branches as we abide in Him and He in us we will bear much fruit but apart from Him we can do nothing. (*John 15:5-6, John 10:10, John 14:6*)

c) I must abide in the Spirit.

As we abide and walk in the Spirit, we will bear the fruits of the Spirit likewise if we walk/abide in the flesh we will bear the fruits of the flesh. (*Galatians 5:16-25, Galatians 6:7-8, Romans 8:14-17*)

d) I must abide in His Word.

If we meditate and abide in His Word (doers of the Word) we will be like a tree by the rivers of water whose leaf does not wither, that brings forth fruit in its season, and will prosper. (*Psalms 1:2-3, John 15:7, Matthew 7:24-27, II Timothy 3:16-17*)

The Word of God is true, perfect, powerful and able to change lives but the degree of fruitfulness depends of the condition of our hearts reflected by our obedience to His Word. (*Matthew 13:3-23, Hebrews 4:12, John 15:7*)

3. I must sow the right seed, in the right way, and in the right place in order to bear fruit.
Matthew 7:15-20

- (a) The right seed is sowing the seed of a good testimony in Word and Deed.
(*Colossians 3:17*)

Word = *Acts 1:8, Romans 10:13-17* Deeds without Word is **hopelessness**. (*Mark 8:36*)

Deed = *Matthew 5:16, James 2:17*, Words without Deed is **hypocrisy**. (*I Corinthians 9:27*)

- (b) The right way to sow is to make disciples not converts.
Matthew 28:18-20, Matthew 9:37-38, Matthew 4:19, II Timothy 2:2

Remind them to reach the world we must be making disciples not converts.

No one fisherman can catch enough fish (converts) to make a difference?

Must be disciple-makers not convert makers (turn caught fish into fishermen)

1 st Generation	12 disciples X 12 disciples	=	144 disciples
2 nd Generation	156 disciples X 12 disciples	=	1872 disciples
3 rd Generation	2028 disciples X 12 disciples	=	24,336 disciples
4 th Generation	26,264 disciples X 12 disciples	=	316,368 disciples
5 th Generation	342,732 disciples X 12 disciples	=	4,112,784 disciples
6 th Generation	4,455,516 disciples X 12 disciples	=	53,466,192 disciples
7 th Generation	57,921,708 disciples X 12 disciples	=	695,060,496 disciples
8 th Generation	752,982,204 disciples X 12 disciples	=	9,035,786,448 disciples

Population of the world = 6,000,000,000 people

- (c) The right place is sowing where we find open doors/hearts, the “*person of peace*” and “doers of the Word. We sow the seed of the gospel everywhere (*Matthew 13*) but we evaluate where we invest our time based on responsiveness (*Matthew 7:6*). We must be invited in the door to be effective (*Revelation 3:20*).

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| (1) Open hearts and doors | <i>Revelation 3:20</i> |
| (2) Finding the person of peace | <i>Luke 10:2-11</i> |
| (3) Working with the faithful doers of the Word | <i>II Timothy 2:2, James 2:17, 26</i> |

4. I must work hard and faithfully so in due season with endurance I bear fruit.
We do not reproduce fruit overnight but as we faithfully labor day after day in the harvest field with perseverance and endurance doing the work of the gospel in due season we will bear fruit. (*Galatians 6:9, Psalms 1:3, II Timothy 2:6, Matthew 13:23, James 2:14-26*)

Note: **A good way to close this session is to have a foot-washing service where you wash the feet of those you have been training. Lead by example.**

Homework

Commands to follow in the up-coming month:

1. Share your faith (*II Corinthians 5:20, Matthew 4:19*)
2. Teach (*II Timothy 2:2*) and make disciples (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
3. Form house churches (*Acts 2:46-47*)
4. Baptize (*Romans 6:3-14*) and practice Lord's Supper (*I Corinthians 11:17-34*)
5. Hold one another accountable. (*Proverbs 27:17*)
6. Daily cleansing (*I John 1:9*) and work on relationships (*John 13:34-35*)
7. Daily read and apply God's Word to your life and church so you can grow and mature in your spiritual life. (*I Peter 2:1-3*)
8. Establish godly leadership within your Body of Christ (*I Peter 5:1- 4*)
9. Support your church in giving tithes and offerings. (*Malachi 3:8-10, II Corinthians 9*)
10. Support your church by exercising your spiritual gifts serving others. (*Ephesians 4:1-16*)
11. Daily wait upon the Lord for cleansing, renewal and power to do His will. (*Isaiah 40:31*)
12. Daily Meditate on God's Truth so His Truth can be your guide. (*John 10:1-16*).
13. Daily die to self so you decrease and Christ increases resulting in more fruit in your life and church. (*John 3:30, John 12:24-26, Galatians 2:20, John 15:5-7*)

How Do I Keep My Fruit (Testimony) from Being Stolen (Spiritual Warfare)?

Part A: Knowing the Enemy

Memory Verse: *I Peter 5:8*

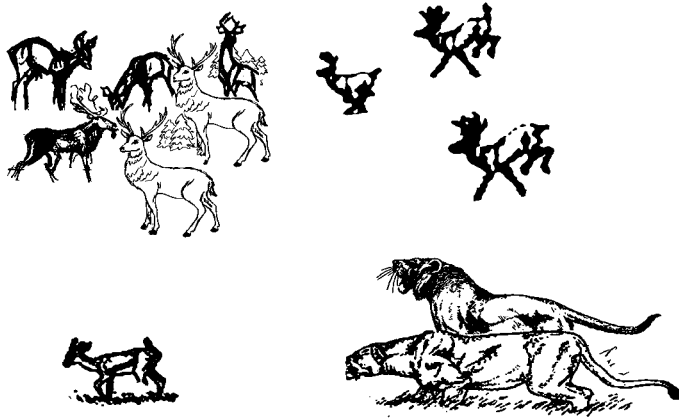
If Satan kills you he only creates a martyr who enters into the hall of faith (Hebrews 11) and becomes one of the great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1) but if robs you of your testimony he discredits you and your faith before others (I Cor 9:27, II Cor 13:5-7). Protect your testimony from being robbed or killed!

I. *Who is the enemy?* Satan

1. Before fall from grace, name was Lucifer (light-bearer, *Isaiah 14:12*) Downfall was due to pride and the desire to be ruler of heaven (*Isaiah 14:12-20*) thus we are admonished to beware of Satan who transforms himself into an angel of light. (*II Corinthians 11:14*)
2. Seal of perfection, full of wisdom, perfect in beauty, musical being covered in precious stones till he became corrupted in pride and became deceitful and rebellious. He was cast down with all the angels who followed him. (*Ezekiel 28:12-19*)
3. Serpent of old who deceived Adam and Eve in the garden to disobey God. (*Revelation 20:2, Genesis 3:1-5*)
4. Satan or the devil is the adversary of God and all who follow him.
Satan means “adversary” or “enemy of God” *Luke 10:18*
Devil means “slanderer” or also “adversary of God” (Hebrew word)
(*Matthew 4:1-11, Ephesians 6:11, John 13:2, 27, Revelation 12:7-9*)

I Peter 5:8-9

“Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”



Satan is like a lion seeking ways to devour your testimony (*I Corinthians 9:24-27, II Corinthians 13:5-7*) or kill you (*John 10:10*). A lion searches for those separated from the protection of the herd (church) or those who are young, old, weak, injured or are not watchful and therefore easy prey. (*Ephesians 6:10-13*).

- (a) If we stand alone (*I Corinthians 10:12*) apart from the herd (*Hebrews 10:25*) because of pride (*James 10:4-7*), confidence in our own strength (*Isaiah 40:30-31*) or our own wisdom (*Proverbs 11:14, Proverbs 27:17*), we will surely fall prey to the enemy (*I Peter 5:8*).
- (b) If we grow lukewarm or lose our first love as we become older Christians we will fall prey to the enemy. (*Revelation 2:4, Revelation 3:15-16*)
- (c) If we are spiritually weak and immature we are susceptible to the enemy's attacks. (*I Corinthians 3:1-4*)
- (d) If we are young in our faith, then we are vulnerable to attack from the enemy. (*I Peter 2:1-3*)
- (d) If we are not watchful or disciplined at all times we become easy prey for the enemy. (*I Corinthians 9:24-27, II Corinthians 13:5-7*)

5. Ten other names for Satan/devil

Name of Satan

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) | Father of all lies, murderer | <i>John 8:44</i> |
| (2) | Accuser of the saints | <i>Rev 12:10, Job 1:6-2:7</i> |
| (3) | Tempter | <i>Matthew 4:3</i> |
| (4) | Thief: steal, kill, & destroy | <i>John 10:10a</i> |
| (5) | Angel of the bottomless pit | <i>Revelation 9:11</i> |
| (6) | God of this age | <i>II Corinthians 4:4</i> |
| (7) | Ruler of the demons | <i>Matthew 12:24</i> |
| (8) | Ruler of this world | <i>John 14:30</i> |
| (9) | Wicked one | <i>Matthew 13:19</i> |
| (10) | Serpent of old, dragon | <i>Revelation 12:7-9</i> |

Overcome by Jesus

John 8:31-32,
I Corinthians 15:54-58
Romans 8:31-39
Hebrews 4:14-16,
I Corinthians 10:13
John 10:10b
Ephesians 4:8-10, Revelation 1:18
Revelation 1:8, 17-18
Luke 10:17-20, James 2:19,
II Peter 2:4
John 16:33, Colossians 2:15-18
I John 2:1-2, I John 3:7-8
Genesis 3:14-15, Revelation 20:1-10

Jesus will never leave or forsake us and is our Helper in our time of need (*Hebrews 13:5-6*). We have authority through faith in the name of Jesus over Satan and his demons (*Philippians 2:9-11*) but this authority can not be used by non-believers (*Acts 19:13-17*). We have no reason to fear if we walk in the power of God. (*II Timothy 1:7*)

II. ***How does he do battle?*** Satan's forces

1. Size
1/3 of the angels in heaven were cast down in rebellion.
Revelation 12:4-9

2. Organization
Under Satan's authority *Matthew 12:24-30*
Principalities *Ephesians 6:12*
Powers
Rulers of the darkness of this age
Spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places

3. Territorial: *Daniel 10:1-17*

Daniel prayed and fasted for 24 days before angel appeared because the angel was opposed by the prince of the kingdom of Persia (not an earthly king) who withstood him for 21 days until God sent Michael one of the chief princes (Jude 9) to overcome the kings of Persia the angel faced alone. Prince fought against prince or principality against principality. The angel was not able to enter the enemy's territory until the enemy had been overcome. Angels were sent on the basis of prayer and fasting.

>>Prayer Walking is about re-claiming territory in the name of the Lord.<<

4. Involved in earthly conflicts and demon possessions but overcome by the power of God through prayer, fasting, and the name of the Lord.
 - (1) Earthly Conflicts. *II Kings 6:13-23, II Chronicles 20:1-24*
"Do not fear greater are those who are with us than those who are with them." (Chariots of fire) *II Kings 6:16*

"Do not be afraid or dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's." *II Chronicles 20:15*

(2) Demon Possession leading to physical illness and mental illness.

(a) Physical Illness

Epileptic son possessed by evil spirit

Matthew 17: 14-21

“However this kind (faith) does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

i. Mute who could not speak *Luke 11:14-23*

ii. *“But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.” Luke 11:20 Binding the strongman*

iii. Healing all kinds of diseases (many demon related) *Matthew 4:23-24*

(b) Mentally Unstable

Demonic restored to “*right mind*” *Mark 5:1-20*

“sitting, clothed and in his right mind” Mark 5:15

III. ***What is at stake?*** Our testimony.

Protect our testimony by being sober, steadfast, and vigilant. Satan is looking for the weak and unprotected so he may devour them. If Satan takes our life he loses and a martyr is added to the hall of faithful (*Hebrews 11*) but if he succeeds in robbing our testimony then our faith is made to look false before men. (*I Peter 5:8-9*). Satan wants to steal our testimony so we are disqualified before men (*I Cor 9:27, II Cor 13:5-7*) and the name of Christ is discredited.

IV. ***How do we do battle?*** With spiritual weapons from God

II Corinthians 10:3-6 Weapons mighty in God

Ephesians 6:10-20 Spiritual Armor, praying always, alert & vigilant

II Corinthians 6:1-10 Righteousness, love, truth, endurance

I Peter 4:1-6 Mind of Christ

I John 5:4-5 Faith

I Corinthians 9:23-27 Discipline of the body

I Thessalonians 5:6-8 Faith, love, and hope of salvation

Homework

Commands to follow in the up-coming month:

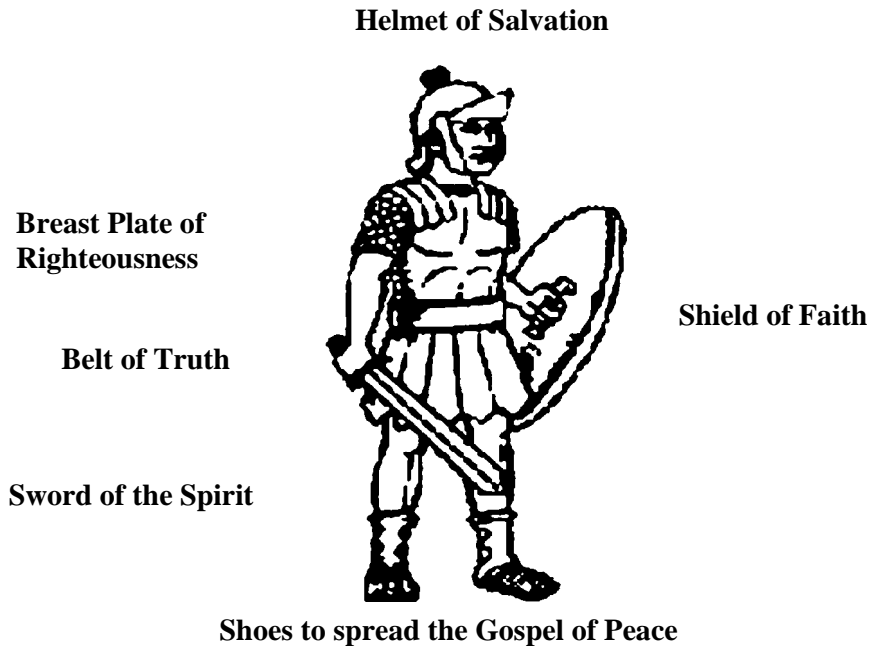
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13. Daily die to self so you decrease and Christ increases resulting in more fruit in your life and church. (*John 3:30, John 12:24-26, Galatians 2:20, John 15:5-7*)
14. Be watchful and diligent staying close to the Herd (church) so you are not easy prey for the enemy. (*I Peter 5:8*)

How Do I Keep My Fruit (Testimony) from Being Stolen (Spiritual Warfare)?

Part B: Doing Battle with the Enemy- The Armor of God

Memory Verses: *Ephesians 6:10-11*

If we are to do battle with the enemy successfully, we must put on the whole armor of God so we can stand firm against the wiles (schemes) of the devil.



- I. ***Battle for Mind*** uses Helmet of salvation (Helmet protects head and mind)

Stages of Battle leading to Sin or Righteousness: Eyes/ Ears to Mind to Heart to Action in Word and Deed

1. Control your thought life by controlling where your eyes linger.
Battle for mind begins with the eyes.
Matthew 6:22-23 “*Lamp of the body is the eye*”
Do not covet with your eyes what does not belong to you.



- (1) Do not covet by letting your eyes linger on a woman/man. *Matthew 5:27-28*
To look at a woman with lust = same as adultery
- (2) Do not covet by looking/desiring worldly things above your means or belonging to someone else. *1 Timothy 6:6-10, Matthew 6:19, James 4:1-2, Hebrews 13:5a*

2. Control what enters your mind through your ears.

Satan is the accuser of the brethren (*Revelation 12:10*) through lies (untruth – *John 8:44*), slander (malicious talk where we spread damaging information about someone (*Romans 1:29-30, Titus 2:3, II Timothy 3:3*), gossip (indulge in idle talk or rumors about others- *I Timothy 5:13*), and use of busybodies (causers of division by collecting/spreading “confidential” information for self-gain or self-importance - *I Peter 4:15, Romans 16:17-18*). When we listen to lies, gossip, slander, or associate with busybodies we assist Satan in his work of accusing the brethren and in bringing strife and disunity to the Body of Christ. We are doing the work of the enemy.

“Without wood a fire goes out, without gossip a quarrel dies down” Proverbs 26:20-22.
Don’t be fuel for a gossip’s fire at the expense of someone else.

“With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbor” Proverbs 11:9

“A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends.” Proverbs 16:28

- (1) Do not listen to lies, gossip, slander, or backbiting.
If someone starts to malign someone else stop them (*I Timothy 5:22*) and ask them to take their complaint directly to the individual (*Matthew 18:15-17*) in the right spirit (*Galatians 6:1-2, II Timothy 2:24-26*) for correction and restoration (*James 5:19-20*).
- (2) Do not listen to unsubstantiated accusations.
 - (a) Do not listen to accusations made in “secret” confidence.
Psalms 64:3-6, Deuteronomy 19:15-20
Insist the person first talk with the person about the matter.
Matthew 18:15-17
 - (b) Do not permit an accusation against an elder except by the testimony of 2 or 3 witnesses in their presence. (*I Timothy 5:19*)

Shun profane and idle babblings for they will increase to more ungodliness.” *II Timothy 2:16*

- (3) Do not listen to false teaching not based on God’s Word lest you go astray.
II Timothy 4:3-4, Acts 17:11
- (4) Do not listen to counsel from ungodly people.
Psalms 1:1, I Corinthians 15:33, II Timothy 3:1-3, Proverbs 20:19
- (5) Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry. *James 1:19*
Understand what has been said before you react.

3. Do not be anxious over what you cannot control (peace of mind).

(1) Do not worry. *Matthew 6:25-34, Philippians 4:6-7*

(2) Do not fear. *Matthew 10:28-31, John 16:33, Hebrews 13:5-6, II Timothy 1:7*

4. Do not be idle allowing your mind to wander to worldly desires.
Ephesians 5:16, Colossians 4:5, Philippians 4:8

In the battle for our mind we must daily:

(1) Crucify our flesh (*Luke 9:23, Romans 12:1*)

(2) Renew our minds (*Romans 12:2, Ephesians 4:23, Psalm 51:10*)

(3) Focus on the kingdom of God and His righteousness
(*Matthew 6:33, Philippians 4:8*)

(4) and have the mind of Christ (*Philippians 2:5-8*)

Do not let Satan rob you of your peace of mind!

II. ***Battle for Heart*** uses Breastplate of Righteousness (Protects heart)

Every person's heart is devoted to someone or something which determines how we spend our time, energy and money. Wherever we lay up our treasures, this is where our heart is committed (*Matthew 6:19-21*). We either will love the world or we will love God but one will be our master (*Matthew 6:24*). In the battle for our heart we must not lose our first love (*Revelation 2:4, Mark 12:30*). The breastplate of righteousness covers our heart. As we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness all these things (to do the work of the kingdom – parenthesis mine) will be added unto you (*Matthew 6:33*).

The love of the world is comprised into three main categories (*I John 2:15-17*):

1. **Lust of the flesh**

2. **Lust of the eyes**

3. **Pride of life**

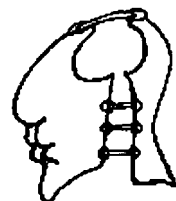
1. **Lust of the flesh** (ungodly appetite for worldly and sinful things)

(1) Flee and avoid immorality (*I Corinthians 6:12-20*)

(a) Do not be alone with another man/woman who is not your spouse. Joseph caught alone with another man's wife with his coat and testimony left behind for all to see. (*Genesis 39:11-20*)

(b) Do not even give the appearance of evil.
(*I Thessalonians 5:22, Romans 14:16*)

(c) Do not be deceived bad company corrupts good morals.
(*I Corinthians 15:33, II Corinthians 6:14*)



- (2) Do not be gluttons (*I Corinthians 10:31*).
 - (a) Lead to laziness and poverty. *Proverbs 23:21*
 - (b) Leads to death. *I Corinthians 11:21-22, 29-30*
 - (c) Do not let your food become an offense to others.
Romans 14:15-21, I Corinthians 8:8-13
 - (d) Do accept hospitality in whatever form given. *Luke 10:7*
- (3) Do not be lazy (*Ephesians 5:16*)
 - (a) Do not be lazy in worldly responsibilities.
Proverbs 6:6-11, Proverbs 18:9, II Thessalonians 3:10
 - (b) Do not be lazy in spiritual responsibilities.
Matthew 25:24-30, I Thessalonians 2:9, Colossians 4:5

2. Lust of the eyes

- (1) Do not covet (greed- desire more than you need or can have).
 - (a) You will work trying to get things that do not last.
(*Proverbs 23:4-5, Luke 12:13-21*)
 - (b) You will go in debt trying to have what you can't afford.
(*Proverbs 22:7, Romans 13:8*)
- (2) Control your eyes/mind so you are untainted by the world.
Philippians 3:17-21, Philippians 4:7-8
- (3) Be content with what you have.
Hebrews 13:5, I Timothy 6:8, Philippians 4:11-12

3. Pride of life (*Philippians 2:5-8*)

- (1) Do not think more highly of yourself than you should.
Romans 12:3, Luke 18:9-14, James 4:6-10, Proverbs 18:1
- (2) Do not depend on yourself to the exclusion of God.
I Corinthians 10:12, Isaiah 40:30-31
- (3) Do not try building your kingdom instead of God's kingdom.
Matthew 16:26, I Corinthians 3:5-15, Matthew 6:33

III. **Battle for Integrity:** Gird your waist with Truth.



“We need to be men and women of integrity.”

1. Be completely truthful and trustworthy. Let your Yes be Yes and No be No.
Matthew 5:37
2. Do not talk evil about others.
Ephesians 4:29-31, Galatians 6:15, I Timothy 5:13, Proverbs 20:19, Romans 1:29-30, II Corinthians 12:20
3. Do not steal (including taxes from government, and tithe belonging to God).
Romans 13:6-7, Ephesians 4:28, Malachi 3:8-10

IV. **Battle for Witness before men:** Shod your feet with preparation of the gospel of peace
Called to be faithful witnesses to men:



1. Share gospel of peace (witness in word)
(Acts 1:8, II Corinthians 5:20; Romans 10:13-17; John 15:5-8)
2. Pursue Peace with Men (witness in word and deed)
We must pursue peace with all men. (*Hebrews 12:14, I Peter 3:11*)
God tells us to pursue peace with all men. Satan is able to steal your testimony when our hearts hold the root of bitterness (*Ephesians 4:23-32; Hebrews 12:14-15*).
The longer you let bitterness take root, the harder it is to uproot.

V. **Battle for Faithfulness** Put on the Shield of faith



1. Be doers of the word not only hearers lest we deceive ourselves.

Faithfulness is measured by fruitfulness.

(Matthew 7:15-27, John 15:5-8, James 1:22, James 2:17, 26, James 4:17)

2. Count the cost of following Jesus faithfully.

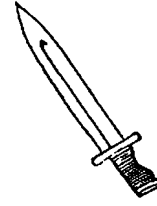
(Luke 14:25-33; Matthew 24:45-51; Luke 8:18; Luke 19:26, Matthew 13:12, Matthew 25:29)

3. We must persevere faithfully even in trials.

Fruit does not come overnight and character is not built without adversity.

(Galatians 6:9, II Timothy 2:3-6, John 16:33, James 1:1-4, Romans 5:3-5, II Corinthians 6:1-10, Hebrews 12:1-2)

V. ***Battle for Authority*** taking up the Sword of the Spirit



We have a two-edged sword (*Hebrews 4:12*):

1. Living Word (*John 1:1, 14; Revelation 19:11-16, Philippians 2:9-11; Jude 1:8, 9*)
2. Written Word (*Psalms 119:11; Hebrews 4:12; II Timothy 3:16,17; Matthew 4:1-11*)

We have no authority if our name is not written in the book of life as a child of God. (*Acts 19:13-17*). In the name of Jesus, we have all power and authority at which the demons tremble. (*James 2:19*). Therefore, attack with the name of Jesus (Living Word) and the Word of God (Written Word), a double-edged sword. (*Hebrews 4:12*).

Is there any excuse we can give for losing a spiritual battle with the enemy?

Jesus has faced every temptation that we have faced and he will show us the way of escape. (*I Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 4:15-16*).

God does not want us to fail! He will never leave or forsake us so we can boldly say;
“*The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?*” (*Hebrews 13:5-6*)

Jesus has all authority in heaven, the earth and under the earth. Our victory is in Jesus, the name above all names (*Philippians 2:9-11, John 16:33, I Corinthians 15:54-58, Ephesians 1:20-22*) and His Word (*Matthew 4:1-11, II Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12*).

To put on the armor of God we need to examine ourselves and “be ready to punish all disobedience when our own obedience has been fulfilled.” *II Corinthians 10:6*

<p>What areas of disobedience do we have which is preventing us from being victorious in Jesus?</p>
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Home Work:

Commands to follow in the up-coming month:

1. Share your faith (*II Corinthians 5:20, Matthew 4:19*)
2. Teach (*II Timothy 2:2*) and make disciples (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
3. Form house churches (*Acts 2:46-47*)
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14. Be watchful and diligent staying close to the Herd (church) so you are not easy prey for the enemy. (*I Peter 5:8*)
15. Put on the whole armor of God so you can stand firm against the schemes of the devil. (*Ephesians 6:10-11*)

How to stay on “track” to a Church Planting Movement (CPM)?

Memory Verse: *Acts 1:8*

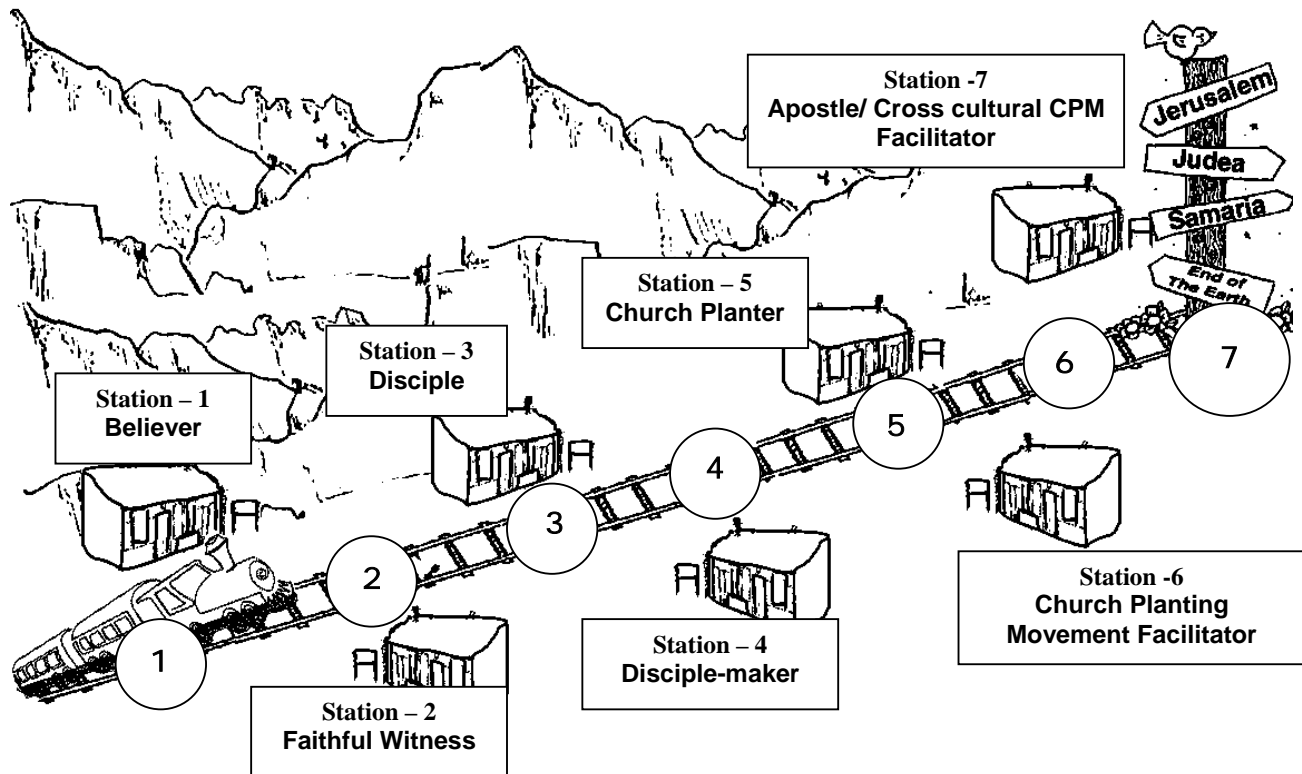
As believers we are all in race which will be finished when we reach heaven. But believers can reach different levels of “fruitfulness” and receive different levels of “rewards” based on how faithfully and with what kind of discipline we run the race set before us. At each level of increased fruitfulness, more faithfulness and discipline is required of the part of the believer in order to succeed. Not everyone will receive the same prize and some believers will enter heaven empty handed with only their salvation intact. How will you run the race set before you? (*I Corinthians 9:24-27, I Corinthians 3:7-15, Romans 2:6, II Corinthians 5:9-10, Galatians 6:6-10, Matthew 7:20, Matthew 13:23, Matthew 25:14-30*) Are you laying aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of your faith to help you complete your race? (*Hebrews 12:1-2, II Corinthians 13:5-9*)



Let’s look at this closer using the analogy of a train ride. Every train ride has a starting point and requires a ticket in order to get on board. There is always a final destination but with many stops along the way. If the passenger finds the journey too difficult then he or she can get off at any station along the way. The passenger can choose to re-board the train using the unused ticket portion if they so desire but the journey will not continue until they re-board the train.

Likewise we as believers upon accepting Christ received a ticket to heaven when we received Christ as Lord and Savior. This ticket resulted in us boarding a train where we begin our pilgrimage of faith growing in the knowledge and obedience to the commands of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (sanctification). There are many stations along the way in our pilgrimage requiring increasing faithfulness and obedience and our journey stops at the point we are unfaithful or disobedient. This doesn’t mean we lose our salvation (we have a one-way ticket) but that we failed to experience the joy of completing our journey to its fullest because of our choice to get off the train along the way. As long as we live we still have the opportunity to re-board the train through renewed obedience and faithfulness resulting in us experiencing new levels of fruitfulness (*Matthew 13:23*). This journey continues until the day we die and join Jesus in heaven. What will our Savior say to us when we enter heaven? My good and faithful servant well done! Or will we be found “lacking” in our journey of faith (*Matthew 25:14-30*)?

Below I have outlined some of the stations we cross in our pilgrimage of faith with apostleship and becoming a facilitator of cross cultural church planting movements being the final station (prize) we should all strive to obtain (*Habakkuk 2:14, Revelation 7:9-10*).



- | | | | |
|------|----------------|--|---|
| I. | Station One: | Believer: | Hears and responds to gospel |
| II. | Station Three: | Faithful Witness: | Faithfully sharing the gospel of salvation to lost |
| III. | Station Two: | Disciple: | Begins to follow Jesus by obeying His Word |
| IV. | Station Four: | Disciple-maker: | Training new believers to be followers of Christ |
| V. | Station Five: | Church Planter: | Establishing New Churches |
| VI. | Station Six: | Church Planting Movement Facilitator: | Churches starting churches |
| VII. | Station Seven: | Apostle/ Cross cultural Church Planting Movement Facilitator: | Churches starting churches in a cross-cultural context. |

I. Station One: Believer who hears and responds to the gospel.

We board the train in our pilgrimage of faith when we receive the free “gift” (ticket) of salvation (*Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 6:23*) through confessing we are sinners (*Romans 6:23*) acknowledging Jesus Christ died to pay the price of our sins on the cross through his shed blood (*Romans 5:8, I Peter 2:24*) and inviting him into our heart as Lord and Savior (*Romans 10:9-10*) resulting in our salvation (*Romans 10:13*) and the beginning of our pilgrimage of faith of laying aside our old nature and becoming new creations in Christ as we abide in Him and His Word (*II Corinthians 5:17, John 15:5, I Peter 2:1-3*).

II. Station Two: Faithful Witness who shares the gospel with the lost around them.

Jesus said He came to seek and save that which is lost (*Luke 19:10*) and that anyone who followed Him would become fishers of men (*Matthew 4:19*). God desires none to perish but all to come to repentance and knowledge of Him (*I Peter 3:15*) but this requires for His followers to be faithful witnesses of the way of salvation (*II Corinthians 5:20*). God’s method of having men and women hear the gospel is through faithful witnesses sharing the Word of God of how men can be saved (*Romans 10:13-17*) and the Holy Spirit convicting the hearer of the Truth of Jesus being the only way to heaven (*John 16:8-15, I John 5:6-13, John 14:6*). God expects us to be bold in our witness (*Ephesians 6:18-20*) and if we are not sharing the gospel with the lost around us we are being disobedient to His commands (*John 15:5-6*) and will not grow further in our faith. Sharing the gospel facilitates spending time in God’s Word and prayer (*John 4:23-24, John 15:7*) as we depend more and more of God’s power to do what is not possible for men in their strength alone (*Matt 19:26, Phil 4:13 II Corinthians 12:9-10*).

III. Station Three: Disciple who begins to follow Jesus through obedience to His Word.

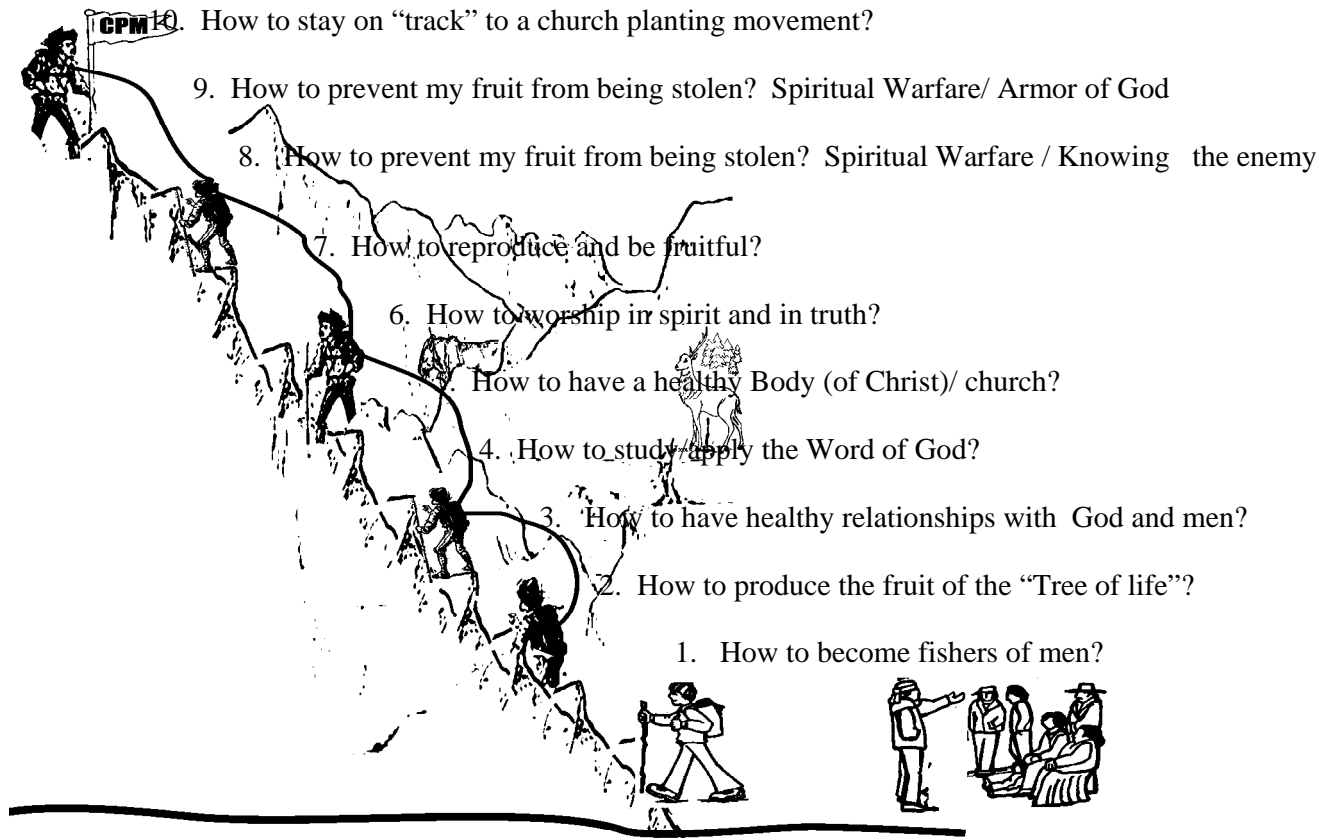
God does not desire for us to be just hearers of His Word but doers of His Word (*James 1:22-24*). When we confessed Jesus as Lord (*Romans 10:9,13, Luke 6:46*) this meant we are His servants and we have given our lives 100% to Him and are prepared to obey the commands of our new Master. Some of the first commands we are given are:

- (1) Follow Jesus in believer’s baptism (*Matthew 3:15, Matthew 28:19-20, Romans 6:3-9*)
- (2) Practice the Lord’s Supper (*Luke 22:19-20, I Corinthians 11:23-34*)
- (3) Share our faith with the lost around us (*Acts 1:8, II Corinthians 5:20, I Peter 3:15*)
- (4) Abide in His Word (*John 15:7, Psalm 1:2-3, Psalm 119:9-11*).
- (5) Love one another (*John 13:34-35, Mark 12:31, Romans 13:8-10*).

The further we travel in our pilgrimage of faith the more commands we learn to follow and the more Christ-like we become as we obey and follow His Word and His commands. Disobedience results in an immediate breaking of our fellowship with God and stops our journey from going forward (*Isaiah 59:1-2, Luke 6:46-49, Matthew 13:10-23*) until we have submitted to His Word and become obedient to His commands (*John 15:5-7*). Confession, repentance and renewed obedience (*I John 1:9*) allow us to get back on the train to continue our pilgrimage of faith to new levels (stations) of fruitfulness.

IV. **Station Four:** Disciple-makers who teach others to be followers of Christ.
(*Matthew 28:19-20, II Timothy 2:2*)

Plant flag of CPM



To climb the mountain of a church planting movement we must become disciple-makers. Imagine a team of climbers climbing Mount Everest. You have a lead climber (team leader) who is experienced and has climbed the mountain before and then you have climbers on the team at various levels of experience underneath. All the climbers are connected together by a rope which binds them together for safety. But it is still not possible for the team leader to pull up everyone by himself or herself. The team leader helps the person directly below them who then helps the person below them and so on. Everyone except the team leader (but in our case the team leader keeps his focus on the author and finisher of their faith –*Hebrews 12:1-2*) has one person above them helping them get to the next step and someone below them they are helping to get to where they are. No one is teaching above the level to which they have already climbed and have experience but everyone who is climbing is helping someone below them.

The Word (Truth) and Spirit are the rope which binds us all together (*John 4:34-35*). Do not forget the climbers are few but the watchers at the bottom of Mount Everest are many (*Matthew 9:37-38*). Part of our job is to always encourage new people to begin their climb of faith instead of only sitting and watching (*Psalms 1:1*)?

V. Station Five: Church Planter – Establishing New Churches

We must never forget the Body of Christ is the church (*Colossians 1:18-24, Ephesians 1:22-23*) and we are the “new priesthood” serving within the Body of Christ (*I Peter 2:4-10*). We are not to forsake the assembling of ourselves but to encourage and help one another toward good works (*Hebrews 10:24-25, Galatians 6:1-2*). The Body of Christ should have capable and responsible under-shepherds who help guide the flock (*I Peter 5:1-4, I Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9*). The work of the church is to seek and save that which is lost (*Luke 19:10*) and to help believers not only experience life but the “abundant life” of following Jesus and His commands (*John 10:10, John 14-18*). The church should be bold in its witness for Christ (*II Corinthians 5:20*) even in the midst of persecution (*Ephesians 6:18-20*). The church is the place for discipleship of new believers (*Matthew 28:19-20, II Timothy 2:2*). The church is where tithes and offerings (*Malachi 3:8-10, Proverbs 3:9-10, I Corinthians 9:1-14, II Corinthians 9*) are received to do the work of the ministry in and outside the church (*Matthew 5:16, Galatians 6:10*). The church must stand upon the solid foundation of the Word of God (*Matthew 7:24-27, II Timothy 3:16-17*) as we worship in Spirit (prayer + praise – *Isaiah 40:31, Matthew 19:26*) and in Truth (*John 4:23-24*). We should strive to have a healthy and productive Body of Christ (*John 15:5-7*).

VI. Station Six: Church Planting Movement Facilitator – Churches starting churches

But even more than this, growth and reproduction takes place within the context of the church (*Acts 2:42-47*). When a parent has a new child the parent raises the child to maturity measured by its ability to “feed” itself (*Hebrews 5:12-14*) and reproduce their own children/fruit (*Matthew 13:23*). When a person becomes a “grandfather, grandmother” or even a “great grandfather, grandmother” with children who are productive members of society then the person is able to have peace of mind they have raised their children well. Likewise when we see our churches produce 2nd and 3rd generation churches which are spiritually and Biblically sound and producing their “own children” we can have confidence we have raised our offspring well. Our goal should not be satisfied to have “a” church but churches reproduces churches so the gospel can reach the ends of the earth and Jesus can come again (*Matthew 24:14*) as King of kings and Lord of lords (*Revelation 7:9-10, Philippians 2:9-11, Colossians 1:18-24, Ephesians 1:15-23*).

VII. Station Seven: Apostle/Cross-cultural witnessing with Church Planting Movements

Acts 1:8 states,

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Many of us are faithful witnesses in our Jerusalem (local community), and our Judea and Samaria (surrounding areas), but the ultimate ends of our witness should also include the “ends of the earth”. The 12 apostles were selected by Jesus and their positions ended in their generation but the highest spiritual gift according to God’s Word is the spiritual gift of the “apostle” sometimes called the “missionary gift” (*I Corinthians 12:28-31*). This is the greatest of the “gifts” most likely because this gift most closely mirrors the heart of God to see “the knowledge of the glory of God to cover the whole earth as the water covers the sea.” (*Habakkuk 2:14*) This gift is related to taking our witness cross culturally beyond the boundaries of our native tongue and country. But this is exactly what must happen for Jesus to return. The gospel must be preached in all the earth as a witness to all the nations and then the end shall come (*Matthew 24:14*). When Jesus returns as King of kings and Lord of Lords there will be men and women who acknowledge Him as Lord and Savior from every nation, tribe, people and tongue (*Revelation 7:9-10*). The person with the “gift of the apostle” will be burdened to see every nation, tribe, people and tongue know Jesus as Lord and Savior. This requires intentional planning on the part of the believer. As we identify “un-reached” nations, tribes, peoples and tongues we must target them with culturally appropriate strategies which may differ from the ones which were effective in our own cultures and languages. But we must become all things to all people so that by all means we might reach some (*I Corinthians 9:22*). We must find bridges to share the gospel in culturally appropriate ways which people will understand in their heart language and culture as Paul did on Mars Hill (*Acts 17:16-34*). Our goal should then be to see indigenous development of disciples, disciple-makers and church planting movements among the nation, tribe, people or tongue we have targeted. The gospel becomes most effective which it is shared in the face and the language of its own people. We cannot do this it is the work of God and the Holy Spirit (*Matthew 19:26, II Corinthians 4:7*) but we can be useable vessels (*II Timothy 2:20-21*) of service for God to do His work among the people He desires to know Him (*II Corinthians 5:20, Romans 9:20-26, Romans 10:13-17, II Peter 3:9*). Has God given you a Macedonian call to reach the “nations” (*Acts 16:6-10*)?

To better understand this call we have training available called “**Acts 29**” where you can learn more about how to be an effective cross cultural witness and church planter to the nations.

What station has your pilgrimage of faith brought you up to? Are you prepared to lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us and look unto Jesus the author and finisher of your faith so He can show you the next step you must take to move forward in your pilgrimage of faith (*Hebrews 12:1-2*)

Home Work:

Commands to follow in the up-coming month:

1. Share your faith (*II Corinthians 5:20, Matthew 4:19*)
2. Teach (*II Timothy 2:2*) and make disciples (*Matthew 28:19-20*)
3. Form house churches (*Acts 2:46-47*)
4. Baptize (*Romans 6:3-14*) and practice Lord's Supper (*I Corinthians 11:17-34*)
5. Hold one another accountable. (*Proverbs 27:17*)
6. Daily cleansing (*I John 1:9*) and work on relationships (*John 13:34-35*)
7. Daily read and apply God's Word to your life and church so you can grow and mature in your spiritual life. (*I Peter 2:1-3*)
8. Establish godly leadership within your Body of Christ (*I Peter 5:1-4*)
9. Support your church in giving tithes and offerings. (*Malachi 3:8-10, II Corinthians 9*)
10. Support your church by exercising your spiritual gifts serving others. (*Ephesians 4:1-16*)
11. Daily wait upon the Lord for cleansing, renewal and power to do His will. (*Isaiah 40:31*)
12. Daily Meditate on God's Truth so His Truth can be your guide. (*John 10:1-16*).
13. Daily die to self so you decrease and Christ increases resulting in more fruit in your life and church. (*John 3:30, John 12:24-26, Galatians 2:20, John 15:5-7*)
14. Develop servant leaders so your house church can multiple and God's kingdom can grow. (*Matthew 13:23, Ephesians 4:11-12*)
15. Be watchful and diligent staying close to the Herd (church) so you are not easy prey for the enemy. (*I Peter 5:8*)
16. Put on the whole armor of God so you can stand firm against the schemes of the devil. (*Ephesians 6:10-11*)
17. Lay aside every weight and sin in your life hindering you from moving forward in your pilgrimage of faith (*Hebrews 12:1-2, Psalm 84:5, I Corinthians 9:24-27*)
18. Develop a master plan for each of the unreached, unengaged people groups in your ministry area of how you are going to engage them. (*Matthew 24:14, Revelation 7:9-10*)

Barriers to CPM

During accountability time while listening to testimonies and reports we need to listen for barrier(s) which will prevent the CPM from moving forward. These barrier(s) need to be addressed right after accountability time and depending on the barrier(s) may indicate addressing only the barrier(s) instead of presenting the next level of lessons. Address barrier(s) before lunch and depending on response then either continue with tearing down barrier(s) and/or proceed to the next level of lessons. Stronghold(s) must be torn down and obedience fulfilled before moving forward (*II Corinthians 10:3-6*) otherwise we are only teaching material not facilitating obedience and faithfulness to God's Word. Each of these barrier(s) can be evaluated based on the fruit of the trainers reports (*Matthew 7:16-20*). Trying to build a house/CPM on any less foundation than understanding and obedience to God's Word will lead to the collapse of the house/CPM (*Matthew 7:24-27*).

1. Not sharing faithfully or boldly/ not bearing fruit

Evaluate? Low number time sharing/ decisions for Christ

Farming/sowing analogy

II Corinthians 9:6,

Sow abundantly, reap abundantly if sow sparingly reap sparingly

Galatians 6:6-10

God is not mocked whatever a man sows so shall he reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me and I in Him will bear much fruit for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Matthew 7:16-20

You will know a tree by its fruit. Good tree produces good fruit. Bad tree produces bad fruit. (You will know you trainees by their fruit/words without deeds is dead)

Matthew 13:1-23

Failure to produce fruit 30 fold, 60 fold, 100 fold because of:

- (1) Hard heart (Romans 1:18-22, Mathew 13:10-15, Romans 10:16, Luke 10:10-16)
- (2) Fear of persecution (I Timothy 1:7, Acts 5:28-32, 40-42, John 16:31-33)
- (3) Love of world/money and cares of this world Mathew 6 : 19-24, I Timothy 6:6-10)

2. Not applying what you have learned from God's Word each month (accountability).

Evaluate? Not implementing what you taught in previous month(s)/ level(s).

Matthew 13:10-18 Disciples not from “hearers” (hard/unfertile hearts) but “doers of the Word.

James 1:22 Be doers of the Word not hearers only least you deceive yourselves. *If you hear but do not do you are lying to yourself.*

James 2:17, 26 Faith without works is dead.

James 4:17 If you know to do good (God's Word) and do not do it is sin.

Matthew 7:24-27 If you hear God's Word but do not apply it to your life you are like a man who builds his house on sand which will collapse when the storms come but if you are a doer of the Word you are like a man building a house on the rock which does not fall when the storms come.

3. Not forming house groups/house churches right away.

Evaluate? Have believers with 2 or more converts but not forming new house churches

If house churches/groups are not being formed as soon as 2 or more have been won to Christ then accountability and opportunity for discipleship is lost. We always use the word house church even when we know according to our criteria the group may only be currently a “**house group**” because we want to instill in the leaders the importance of moving toward a “**house church**”.

How many people are required to form a “body of Christ”?

In God's math $1 + 1 = 3$

Where 2 or more are gathered together there I am also (Matthew 18:20).

You have a “body of Christ” where 2 or more believers are gathered together for worship because they are joined by Christ automatically.

If do not immediately form house churches there is no avenue for accountability to one another. (*Proverbs 27:17, Hebrews 10:24-25*)

If do not immediately form house churches there is no avenue for teaching and modeling for others how to be followers of Christ. (*II Timothy 3:16-17, II Timothy 2:2*)

If you do not immediately form house churches beginning at level 1 training then not laying your foundation on Jesus Christ before building house (*I Corinthians 3:11, Ephesians 2:20, I Peter 2:4-10*)

4. Not baptizing immediately.

Evaluate? Ratio of new believers to baptized believers is very low.

In basic discipleship Level 2, we teach baptism as an act of following the example and commands of Jesus with baptism being symbolic of burying our old sinful life (or dying to self) and being raised again in new life with Christ and that this should be done immediately after confession of faith as a fruit of repentance (follows evidence of disciple in word and deed in Level 2: Week 4). One of the biggest barriers we face is trainers delaying baptism because of one or more of the following reasons:

- a) They wait until they feel the new believers reach a certain maturity level.
- b) They wait until an ordained person/leader can do the baptism.
- c) They wait until they feel the baptism will not result in persecution.

A. Acts Hammer (10 passages from Acts)

Heard, believed, confessed, and were immediately baptized.

- (1) *Acts 2:41* 3000 baptized in one day after confession of faith
- (2) *Acts 8:6-13* Samaritans, former demon-possessed/sorcerers/sick
- (3) *Acts 8:36-38* Ethiopian eunuch as traveling on road
- (4) *Acts 9:18-19* Saul (arrested and murdered believers)
- (5) *Acts 10:47-48* Gentiles, Peter commanded Jews not to wait
- (6) *Acts 16:13-15* Women by riverside
- (7) *Acts 16:33* Roman jailer (enemy of Jews), Disciples open wounds
- (8) *Acts 18:8* Ruler of synagogue (possible spy)
- (9) *Acts 19:1-5* John's baptism not enough
- (10) *Acts 22:14-17* Why are you waiting? (Ananias speaking to Saul)

B. Five Questions

- (1) Why? Command of Jesus *Matthew 28:19-20*
Symbolic of dying to sin/ born again to righteousness *Romans 6:1-6*
- (2) When? Immediately *Acts 8:36-38*
- (3) Where? Water *Mark 1:9-11*
- (4) Who? Disciple *John 4:1-2, Matthew 28:19-20, I Corinthians 1:10-17, Acts 10:47-48*
- (5) How? Immersion *Mark 1:9-11*

C. Plant the seed

If have a bag of seed but never planted then no chance of the seed bearing fruit and over time the "good" seed will spoil because it was not planted.

John 12:24 Seed planted, dies to self, bears multiple seed(s)
Bury new believers in baptism

Matthew 13 Not all seeds planted will bear fruit but cannot measure until planted

Matthew 10:32-39, Luke 14:25-33 If ashamed or unwilling to be planted after counting the cost then Jesus will be ashamed of us.

5. **Not delegating authority to house church leaders (pastor trying to lead all groups).**

Evaluate? House group(s) stop multiplying after 5 to 7 groups because pastor is only able to lead one per day (7 days in a week) so growth stops at the limit of the pastor/evangelist.

Exodus 18:13-23 Leadership must be delegated so do not bog down.

Shepherds I Peter 5:1-4,8

- (1) Every flock needs a shepherd
- (2) Shepherd lives with or nearby his sheep
- (3) Shepherd loves/guides his sheep
- (4) Flock without a shepherd will lose its way and open to enemy's attacks.

What happens when the flock gets large?

Needs more shepherds so all of the sheep are being watched and accounted for.

Failure to delegate authority when the flock is larger than you can manage alone means injury, illness, and death of sheep is happening because you are trying to do everything yourself to the detriment of your flock.

6. **Not training disciples, only making converts not “fishers of men”.**

Evaluate? Not seeing 2nd generation fruit because only converts are being made and no training/equipping of new disciples is taking place.

Matthew 28:19-20 Make disciples not converts

Matthew 4:19 Make “fishers of men”

II Timothy 2:2 Train other faithful men/women to make disciples

7. **Not maintaining “accountability” to one another.**

Evaluate? New believers are not regularly attending house church, accountability missing in house church (not implementing what teaching)

Proverbs 27:17 Like iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens another

Hebrews 10:24-25 Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves

Proverbs 3:7 Do not be wise in your own sight, fear the Lord

II Timothy 2:2 Pass on what you know to faithful men and women.

8. **Not following God's teachings but "traditions of men".**

Evaluate? Not obeying Scripture following denominational/men's traditions

Mark 3:1-5, Matt. 12:9-13, Luke 6:6-11, Luke 13:10-17

Traditions on healing on Sabbath

Mark 2:23-28, Luke 6:1-5

Traditions on working on the Sabbath

Mark 7:1-13

Traditions which contradict God's Word are not to be obeyed.

Matthew 15:1-20

Traditions result in following rules of men instead of having our heart completely committed to God.

Acts 17:11

Searched the Scripture daily to see if these things were so
(Standard is God's Word not words of men)

9. **Not disciples but multitudes coming to training for wrong motives.**

Evaluate? Believers keep coming to training for food, fellowship and novelty of a "foreigner" teaching but are not practicing anything you are teaching them. They are NOT turning in report sheets meeting after meeting but keep coming anyway.

(1) **Jesus filtered people based on right motives.**

Example: Fed 5000 men not counting women/children
Fed 4000 men not counting women/children
Refused to feed them and everyone left him

Matthew 14:13-21

Matthew 15:32-38

John 6:26-27, 60-70

Jesus knowing their real motives said; "*Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.*" *John 6:26-27*

Jesus said He was the "*Bread of Life*" to eat Him for everlasting life. *John 6:35*

Many disciples found this difficult to receive and left Him and walked with Him no more.
(*John 6:60-66*)

And He turned to the twelve (only ones left) and said do you want to leave me also and Peter answered why would we leave You, You have the words of eternal life but Jesus responded did I not choose the twelve of you and one of you is a devil. *John 6:70*

If people are only coming for food then they will NOT become disciples and this is a waste of your time. We should only spend our time on "faithful men and women who are obedient to the Word of God" (*II Timothy 2:2, Matthew 13:10-18, Matthew 9:37-38, Matthew 25:31-46*).

Jesus said man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. (*Matthew 4:1-4*)

Jesus said His food was to do the will of the Father and finish His work. (*John 4:34*)

Jesus said a man can not serve two masters: God and His flesh/stomach/worldly desires. Jesus told us not to be busy seeking what you will eat, drink or wear. (*Matthew 6:24-25*).
 Paul said to be content in whatever state you are in when you stomach is full or empty be content for we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. (*Philippians 4:11-13*)
 Paul said whether you eat or don't eat do all for the Lord giving thanks.
 (*Romans 14:6-8, I Corinthians 10:31*)

If people are only coming for food, after Level 3 allow people to come by invitation only and only invite those who are doing the work of the gospel. Do not allow anyone else to come.

- (2) **Jesus filtered people based on the condition of the listeners' hearts.** *Matthew 13:1-23*
 Jesus only explained the parable to the disciples and said the multitudes hearts had grown dull, their ears were hard of hearing, and their eyes were closed. *Matthew 13:10-17*
- (3) **Jesus filtered people based on fruitfulness.** *Matthew 7:15-20, John 15:1-6*
- (4) **Jesus filtered people based on obedience.** *Luke 6:46-47, Matthew 7:21-23*
 Asked all of His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Spirit (*Luke 24:46-49*) after 3 ½ years of ministry only 120 disciples were obedient (*Acts 1:15*).
- (5) **Jesus filtered people based on stewardship.** *Matthew 25:14-30*

- (6) **Jesus filtered people based on leadership.**

12 apostles	<i>Matthew 10:2-4, Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6:13-16</i>
Filtered to 3 key apostles	<i>Matthew 17:1, Mark 5:37</i>
Filtered to 1 main apostle	<i>Matthew 16:18</i>

- (7) **Jesus filtered people based on “genuine” faith.** *Matthew 13:24-30, 47-50*

10. Not having integrity, stewardship or spiritual leadership from “gate builder” or organizer.

Evaluate? Meeting expenses are “out of control” (allowing whoever wants to come to attend just to add numbers) or dishonest in accounting. Your “gate builder” is in charge of the meeting not you. You are under his/her control even though the organizer is not being faithful. They are not being accountable in follow-up to those coming to meeting (letters of invitation sent out, etc.). They are inconsistent on a regular basis in maintaining meeting times, places and venue resulting in trainees finding you unreliable.

- (1) Poor stewardship or dishonesty with finances.
(*I Timothy 6:6-10, John 12:4-6, Luke 16:10-13*)
- (2). Failure to accept ownership/responsibility of their role in the work.
(*Matthew 25:14-30, Matthew 13:12*)
- (3) Inconsistency in their words and deeds.
(*Matthew 5:37, Romans 2:21-24, I Corinthians 9:23-27*)
- (4) Poor leadership on the part of the organizer.
(*Proverbs 29:18, I Peter 5:3*)
- (5) Fails to see themselves as a co-laborer in the work.
(*II Corinthians 8:23, Ephesians 3:6, Philippians 4:3, III John 8, Revelation 19:10*)
- (6). Only concerned with what is in it for him/her (self-promotion).
(*Matthew 6:19-34, I Peter 5:2, Luke 22:24-27*)
- (7) Unwilling to be a contributor to the program only receiver.
(*II Corinthians 8:1-5, II Corinthians 9:6-15*)
- (8) Unwilling to change their ideas even when they are not in line with Scripture.
(*II Corinthians 10:12, Romans 1:18-22, 28-29*)

If possible build in strong accountability measures and focus on the “trainers” not the organizer. If unable to work around the organizer then see if changing organizer is possible. If this is not possible, may have to change training location (try using addresses of trainees to invite them to new location, if they are willing to start over from the beginning with you).

House Church Leader:

Trainer's Name:

Lesson Taught:

Village:

State:

Serial No	Member Name	New Believer/ Old Believer/ Seeker	Baptized Y/N	Lord's Supper Y/N	Fruits	Next Generation house church started yet?
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						

House Church Leader's Signature:

Date:

Old Believer: Is a person who accepted Christ and confessed with his mouth the lord Jesus and believed in his heart that God has raised him from the dead before T4T.

New Believer: Is a person who accepted Christ and confessed with his mouth the lord Jesus and believed in his heart that God has raised him from the dead as a result of T4T.

Seeker: Is a person who has not confess with his mouth the lord Jesus and does not believed in his heart that God has raised him from the dead.

Nehemiah Strategy

“Without vision the people will perish”

Proverbs 19:18

1. The city of Jerusalem was destroyed and the people of Israel were brought to their knee because of their rejection and disobedience to God. (*Nehemiah 1:1-3*)

The coastal areas of southern India had been destroyed and the people brought to their knees that once had rejected and disobeyed God. The people who rejected the prophets and priests (evangelists and preachers) now sought them out for aid and assistance. Coastal leaders were asking Christian leaders for help in their time of need.

2. The priests and prophets interceded on behalf of the people of Israel for healing and restoration and for the people to repent and return to God. (*Nehemiah 1:4-11, Nehemiah 13:30-31*)

Intercession by believers on behalf of the coastal people affected by tsunami was needed for healing and restoration to take place.

- a. Prayer for spiritual strongholds, arguments, and ideas contrary to God to be torn down. (*II Corinthians 10:3-6*)
 - b. Prayer for doors of opportunity to be opened as believers ministered to non-believers. (*Revelation 3:20, Luke 10:2-11*)
 - c. Prayer as the seeds of the gospel were sown so fertile ground (hearts) were found and would multiply. (*Matthew 13:3-23*)
 - d. Prayer for protection of those sharing the gospel and that the gospel spread swiftly. (*II Thessalonians 3:1-3*)
 - e. Prayer for strength (*II Corinthians 12:9*), wisdom (*James 1:5*) and peace (*Philippians 4:6-7*) for the workers in the harvest field.
3. Nehemiah with a few select men surveyed the city in the night so the enemies of God were not alerted (*Nehemiah 2:12-16*).
We were surveying the affected villages undercover (no registered NGO) so the enemies of God were not alerted. We were also looking for gate builders whose desire was to see the gospel penetrate their city (villages).

4. The priests and the Levites were used to build the gates (*Nehemiah 2:1-4*) because the noblemen would not put their hands to the work (*Nehemiah 2:5b*).

There were many organizations in India doing tsunami work but the majority of the Christian organizations were only interested in social ministry and had no desire to put their hands to the work of building God's kingdom. They were busy raising their banners in the name of men and promised the government they would not share the gospel anywhere they worked.

We sought out pastors, evangelists and laypeople that had a desire to reach their targeted villages for Christ with a holistic approach. We helped them build their influence and testimony so they could build a gate into the village they had chosen.

Each gate builder had to meet the following criteria:

- a. Close: Within 3 kilometers of the targeted village so they are able to visit the village on a daily basis and build their influence.
Incarnational Witness (national, indigenous and local witness)
- b. Concentrated: Committed to one village/community where the gate builder could spend enough time to know the changing needs of their village/ community and were helping that village not only to get back on its feet but to be transformed over the next six month to one year.
We only concentrated on villages where we had like-minded gate builders so we could concentrate our resources and time where we had the possibility of seeing our end-vision of CPM being accomplished.
We focused on developing networks of faithful, indigenous "fishers of men" spanning the 1500 kilometer of affected coastline where little Christian influence previously existed.
- c. Community: We only worked with gate builders who have a commitment to the whole community and not just their congregation. Our efforts were inclusive of everyone affected by tsunami in the targeted villages regardless of their background or religion

i.e. If 900 families in village 900 families received aid.

d. Church Planting Movement (CPM):

We worked with gate builders who had believers in tsunami villages in their area of influence. Our strategy was to develop networks of trained “disciples” every 25 kilometers where we had gate builders so the whole 1500 kilometers of the tsunami coastline was covered by “fishers of men”. As trained disciples planted house churches we desired for a wall of evangelism to be created along the 1500 kilometers of coastline linked together by the sharing of the gospel from one end of the coastline to the other.

We progressively trained believers to be:

1st Fishers of men (*Matthew 4:19*)

2nd Disciples – Doers of the Word (*James 1:22-24*)

3rd Disciple-makers (*Matthew 28:19-20, II Timothy 2:2*)

4th Church Planters (*Colossians 1:18-24, Hebrews 10:25*)

5th Church Planting Facilitators (*Acts 2:42-47*)

6th Apostles- Cross cultural CPM Facilitators (*Acts 1:8, Rev. 7:9-10*)

5. The walls were built after the gates in 52 days because the people had a mind to work. (*Nehemiah 4:6, Nehemiah 6:15*)

The task seemed overwhelming at times as we covered a 1500 kilometer area which took over 2 days by car to cover from one end to the other (Andhra Pradesh to the southern edge of Tamil Nadu) and travel consumed much of our days and nights. We would do relief work and training of believers during the day and pack up at night and move on to the next “network”. Limited volunteers played a vital role such as Vernon Muzny who setup networks and work in Andhra Pradesh for 3 months.

But the real work of the gospel laid with the lay people trained and equipped to share their faith and multiplying their groups as they shared with their “oikos” (family, friends, neighbors and co-workers).

What does “bridging” the gospel mean?

A bridge is something used to get you over a hurdle or obstacle preventing you from moving forward to your final destination. Once you have crossed a bridge you don't look back but move forward to the destination where you were originally headed. The bridge is only as important to the degree it facilitates more people reaching their final destination. A bridge is simply a proven tool to help you get over a difficult hurdle or obstacle which might otherwise not be overcome. A bridge results in many more people getting to the other side than would have been possible without the bridge.

In the case of Muslims we have discovered “bridges” in the Koran which help us reveal Christ (Isa) as the crucified, buried and resurrected savior of mankind who died to pay the price of our sins (Korboni). This method starts with the worldview where people are at but ends with them becoming believers (Isais) who are also taught the meaning of being followers/disciples (omuts) of Jesus Christ to the point they are willing to lay down their lives for their new faith in obedience to Christ's commands to be faithful witnesses.

Why use “bridging” when sharing the gospel with Muslims?

1. We have the example of Paul in the effective use of “bridging”.

Acts 17:16-34

In Paul's sermon on Mar's Hill we see Paul using “bridging” effectively when he begins his message by using an idol to the “unknown god” as his beginning point of reference and states this is the true God who is the Creator of the heavens and earth who does not dwell in temples nor is He worshipped by the hands of men (vs. 23-25).

Paul continues by referencing Greek philosophers in his gospel presentation by saying, “for we are also His offspring” so the Divine Creator God cannot be contained in stone, silver or gold or anything shaped by the hands of men who He has created (vs. 28-29).

Paul spent time learning the worldviews and philosophies of those he was preaching to so he could use “bridges” to help them understand the gospel in the context of where they were and what they believed. This became his starting point to “bridge” to the complete and full understanding of who God and Jesus really was without a distorted view of the true gospel.

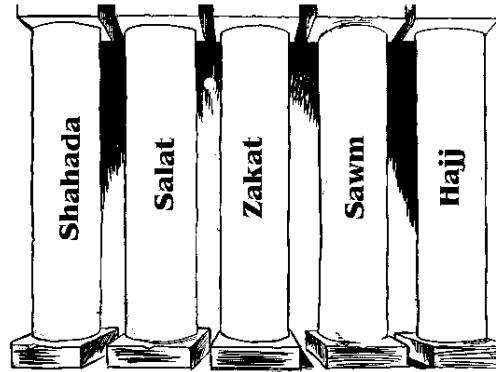
2. We have Scripture which exhorts us to modify our worldviews, appearance and language in order to facilitate the gospel.
I Corinthians 9:19-23
Paul said he became all things to all people that by all means he might save some.
He became a Greek to the Greek, a Jew to a Jew, weak to the weak.
How would Paul have taken this principal in becoming a Muslim to a Muslim? We know as a devout Jew he would eat whatever was put before him including “pork” which was taboo for a Jew when dwelling among Gentiles so as not to give offense. Paul’s desire was that nothing would give offense or be a barrier to the gospel except the cross a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Greeks.
(I Corinthians 1:23-24)
Paul adapted his language, and customs to blend with the people around him so as not to give offense and to open doors to the gospel.
Muslims understand sacrifice in terms of “korboni”. They know Jesus as Isa and God as “Allah” which was derived from the root word of “Yahweh”. The Koran does have our story of original sin and does present Isa in some places accurately as the Messiah. While the Koran is also contradictory and is absolutely not held by us to be holy it can be used as a “bridge” to truth so that Truth can set Muslims free of the bondage of sin (John 8:32) and the stumbling block for Muslims is still the “cross” or Isa as the korboni for their sins which becomes their point of acceptance or denial of Isa Mosi (Jesus Christ) as their Savior.

3. We have the evidence of fruitfulness showing us “bridging” is a proven best practice.
Matthew 13:23, Matthew 7:16-20, John 15:5, Galatians 6:6-10

Having been in South Asia for 15 years, I have used both traditional and “bridging” in sharing the gospel with the difference being a handful of decisions over 12 years with Muslims using traditional methods and over 2200 Isaies in a period of less than 10 months using “bridging”. These Isaies are still persecuted for their faith and those around them know them as followers of Isa. They hold to the Kitabs (Before Books = Bible) as their Holy Book and are being baptized and taught to obey all the commands of Christ as His disciples. They retain many of their old forms of worship (i.e. upheld hands in prayer, Bible on stand) but with new meanings attached in their new belief system.

4. When “bridging” has been combined with follow-up and discipleship there is very little support for “syncretism” in the new followers of Christ. Matthew 28:19-20, II Timothy 2:2, Hebrews 5:12-14
- With “bridging” early on Muslims are still unclear on Trinity and sometimes on whom the prophet Mohammed is but with discipleship over time they know and understand the truth on all of these matters. This is no different from having to take a Western believer and disciple them on “being in the world but not of the world” (Matthew 6:19-34) so that the love of the world (I John 2:15-17) or the love of money (I Timothy 6:10) does not prove their downfall.
- Salvation becomes a beginning point of “making disciples” and “teaching them to observe all these things I (Jesus) have commanded you to do”. In the beginning new believers are like “newborn babies” needing the milk of the Word to grow in their understanding (I Peter 2:1-3) and who need spiritual parents to teach them so they can grow in the knowledge of the Word be able to discern both good and evil (Hebrews 5:12-14) for themselves.

Five Pillars Presentation



Introduce yourself as an *Isai Muslim* to start conversation. Lead conversation so are able to explain what being an *Isai Muslim* means. Are we “good” or “paka” Muslims? How do we know for sure if we are going to heaven?

Five Pillars of Koran

1. *Statement of belief or creed of faith*
“There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is His prophet.”
2. *Praying five times a day.*
Are you able to pray every day five times a day without fail?
3. *Giving alms to poor.*
Are you able to give alms to every poor person who ask you for money without fail?
4. *Ramadan- 30 days of Fasting*
Do you keep the fast from morning sunrise to evening sunset for 30 days every year without fail?
(Koran forbids even the swallowing of saliva during this time.)
5. *Hajj (or pilgrimage) to Mecca if possible once during lifetime*
Have you made a Hajj to Mecca?

Most Muslims believe there is certain numbers of years spent in Hell for each of the five pillars not followed for example Bangladeshis who miss a prayer time believe (360 or 370 years in hell for each time missed). Let them do the math on how many years they will be in hell based on the five pillars.

Besides the five pillars what does the Koran say about lying, stealing, lust, and greed? Have you always obeyed these commands without fail?

Is Allah holy? Holy means completely pure and a pure Muslim should follow all of the commands of Allah. If we break any of the commands of Allah, we have sinned against Allah and become “unclean”. If I take “pure” mineral water and add 1%, 10%, or even 25% dirt to the water is the water still clean? It does not matter how much or little dirt I add any amount of dirt makes the clean water unclean. When we have broken so many of the laws of Allah, how can “pure” Allah have fellowship with us when we are “unclean”? If Allah mixes with unclean man we would make Him unclean.

The price of sin is separation from Allah and we are all dead under the “law”.

Does Allah love us? If Allah loves us will He not provide a way to make things right? Why do we do Korboni (animal sacrifice)? Both the Koran and the Kitabs agree without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin. (Ingel: Hebrews ruhu 9 ayat 22) When we do Korboni we ask for our sins to be transferred to the innocent and clean animal sacrifice as payment for our sins. If we must offer animal Korboni every time we sin, how many times would we have to do Korboni everyday?

An animal sacrifice is not enough? A greater sacrifice is needed. We need a pure sacrifice to pay the price of all of our sins.

In the Ingel, Romans ruhu 6 ayat 23, we are told the price of our sin is death but the free gift of Allah is eternal life through Isa Masi our Lord. God has provided a free gift through Isa Masi so all men can be saved. But how can Allah provide us with salvation and remain holy Himself? Someone is going to have to die to pay the price of our sin. But the problem is we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of Allah (Ingel Romans ruhu 3 ayat 23).

God created Adam holy and without sin and gave him a test of his faith by forbidding him to eat from the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” but Adam disobey Allah and ate of the fruit and his nature became corrupted (Taha Surah 20 ayat 121). Mango trees produce mangos and we are all from the tree of Adam and have inherited his sin nature. The only other person who was also born without an earthly father and by the Word and Spirit of Allah was Isa (Ali-Imran 3:42-55). The difference between Adam and Isa is Isa never disobeyed the Word of Allah. Isa is holy!

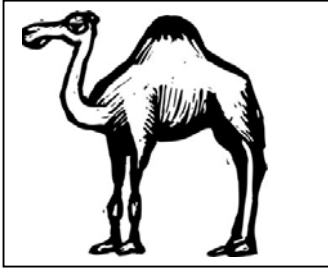
If you were standing before a judge and he had found you guilty of a crime and he sentenced you to either life time imprisonment or 20 lakh rupees. If you did not have the money you would go to jail. But if I came up to the judge and said judge I love this person and if he will let me I will pay his debt in full. If you let me pay your debt then the judge can say “You are free to go your debt has been paid in full.” But your debt was paid by someone else who was innocent.

Allah sent Isa Masi (which means the anointed savior of mankind) to pay the price of our sins. When Isa allowed Himself to be sacrificed on a cross for our sins, He paid the price of the sins of all mankind. He proved He was holy because He rose from the grave on the third day proving Isa had not earned the wage of sin and had conquered sin and death. Isa was the perfect sacrifice to pay the price of all mankind’s sins once and for all. Allah says “If anyone confesses with his mouth that Isa is Lord and believe Allah raised Him from the dead he shall be saved.” (Ingel Romans ruhu 10 ayat 9). The judge of all the universe can say, “Your debt has been paid in full you are free to go.”

To receive a free gift you must do two things believe the gift is yours and take it.

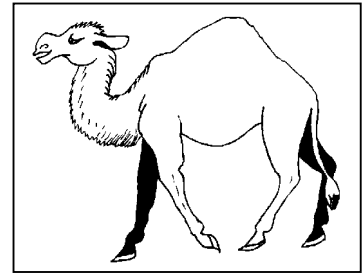
Allah says to receive the free gift of eternal life He offers through Isa we must confess we are sinners and believe Isa has paid the price of our sins and then take Isa into our hearts as Lord and Savior by asking Him to forgive us of our sins and be the Lord of our life.

There are only two paths to heaven either by the law or by the free gift of Allah. Which path will you choose? Under the law we are dead in sin. Do you want to receive the free gift of Allah of eternal life by receiving Isa in your heart today or try to get to heaven under the law?



Camel Outline

Camel Outline
Surah Al-Imran 3:42-55



Introduction verses
ayat 42-44

Marium chosen as birth mother for Isa Masi
Asked to humble herself and obey the will of Allah

I. ISA IS HOLY

A. Evidenced by His names (ayat 45)

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|
| (1) Isa Masi | = | Isa means “Allah is salvation” and
Masi means “Anointed One”
Anointed by Allah for the salvation of men |
| (2) Isa Kalimatullah | = | Word of Allah dwelled within Isa
Purified by the Word of Allah |
| (3) Isa Ruhullah | = | Spirit of Allah dwelled within Isa
Purified by the Spirit of Allah |

If Allah’s Spirit was within Isa where was Allah?

Isa is also shown as Word and Spirit in Surah The Women 4:171. ***Be careful with this reference which also states Isa is only a prophet and not the Son of God.***

B. Evidenced by His character – “one of the good ones”. (ayat 46)

(Additional reference: Marium Surah 19 ayat 19)

- (1) Poor (never coveted money) Injel Matthew Surah 5 ayat 3
- (2) Pure of heart (never married because did not lust after women)
Injel Matthew Surah 5 ayat 8, ayat 27-30
- (3) Peace (advocate for love and peace even toward enemies)
Injel Matthew Surah 5 ayat 9, ayat 38-48

C. Evidenced by His miraculous birth without an “earthly father”. (ayat 47)

How many of the 124,000 prophets had no earthly father?

Only two, Adam and Isa were created directly by the Word of Allah (Al-Imran Surah 3 ayat 59-60) without an earthly father and with only the “knowledge of good”. Adam though chose to disobey the Word of Allah and in an act of disobedience ate the fruit of the “knowledge of good and evil” corrupting his nature for evil (Taha Surah 20 ayat 121).

If mango trees produce mangoes then what kind of seed (children) would Adam produce?

All of us were born through the seed of men as children of Adam therefore we have been born with the knowledge/nature of both good and evil.

Isa was created by Allah without an earthly father but unlike Adam Isa never sinned which means Isa nature is still uncorrupted/holy.

Who is holy enough to help to help us find a way out of our sin nature?

Transition (ayat 48): Allah gave Isa wisdom through the four books:

Kitabs (before books) = Turat (Torah or Law), Zobor (Psalm/Proverbs)
Injel (New Testament), and Koran

What happens to a table when three of its four legs are removed? Can the table stand?
Can we have complete wisdom without reading the Turat, Zobor, and Injel?

Yunus Surah 10 ayat 94

The Women Surah 4:136

Says when in doubt read the Before Books

Says believe in the Before Books least you go astray and do evil.

The Cattle Surah 6 ayat 115-116

The Tablespread Surah 5 ayat 65-66

Says no one can change the Words of Allah

Says if others had followed the Before Books would have been protected from doing evil.

II. ISA HAS POWER OVER DEATH (ayat 49)

A. Isa had the power to create life by breathing His Rui (spirit) into the dust of the earth creating a bird. Who else created life by breathing His Rui (spirit) into the dust of the earth? Allah with Adam

B. Isa had the power to heal the blind and even living death (leprosy).

C. Isa has the power to raise the dead.

(1) Jarius' daughter Injel Matthew Surah 9 ayat 23-25

(2) Widow's only son Injel Luke Surah 7 ayat 11-15

(3) Lazarus of Bethany Injel John Surah 11 ayat 43-44

If our greatest enemy and fear is death, who can help us overcome death?

Transition verses:

Ayat 50 Says obey Isa and His teachings

Ayat 51 Says one straight path to Allah

Isa said in Injel John Surah 14 ayat 6

“I am the way, the truth and the life no one comes to Allah except through Me.”

How will Isa create a path for sinners to come to Allah?

Ayat 52-53 Says followers of the teachings of Isa are true “Muslims” (submitted ones)

Ask if I have submitted myself to Allah and follow the teachings of Isa, am I a true Muslim? If yes you have moved from being an outsider to an insider.

Ayat 54 Jews plotted to kill Isa but even in their plans to kill Isa Allah the most perfect of planners had a “perfect plan”.

What was Allah’s perfect plan in the plot to kill Isa?

III. ISA KNOWS THE WAY TO HEAVEN (ayat 55)

Read in Arabic translation

The Koran says Allah in His perfect plan “mutawaffika(ed)” (kill or caused to be killed) Isa and then “ruffia(ed)” (raised from dead) Isa. Isa has now gone to heaven and will return one day to judge all of mankind. Isa knows the way to heaven.

But why would Allah allow Isa to be killed?

Supporting death/resurrection passage: Marium Surah 19 ayat 33-34

Why do we do Korboni?

When we place our hands on the goat or cow and say let my sin(s) be passed on to this innocent animal sacrifice and let its shed blood be in payment for my sins, we have acknowledged there is a price for sin. But if an animal sacrifice is required every time we sin then how many and how often would you and I have to make sacrifices?

Allah is holy and cannot have fellowship with sin. Zobor Isaiah Surah 59 ayat 2

But we have a problem because we have all sinned. Injel Romans Surah 3 ayat 23

Allah the most perfect of planners has provided a Korboni for our sins which is perfect enough to pay the price of our sins once and for all (past, present and future)

Isa was born with only the nature of Allah and yet unlike Adam He never sinned remaining holy before God.

The price of sin is death but Allah’s free gift is eternal life through Isa Masi our Lord offered as the Korboni for our sins. Injel Romans Surah 6 ayat 23

Allah sent Isa as the “savior for mankind”. All mankind had disobeyed the will of Allah earning the price of physical and spiritual death.

How many sin(s) did Adam commit before his nature was made evil?

How many sin(s) have you and I committed?

Do you know of anyone still alive after 500 years (except Isa).

But Allah loves us so much He has offered us the free gift of eternal life. We can not work for it or earn this gift it is free. (i.e. Children getting presents from parents based on love not merit)

Isa offered Himself as the perfect Korbani for all the sins of mankind. But this gift is only available to those who believe it and receive it?

(i.e. Offer pen but not yours until you believe and take it.)

Do you believe Isa is the final Korbani for your sins? You can have the gift of eternal life if you believe and receive Isa's gift of eternal life.

Injel Romans Surah 10 ayat 9 says;

"If you confess with your mouth Isa is Lord and believe in your heart Allah has raised Him from the dead you can be saved."

If you confess you are sinner and believe Isa died to pay the price of your sins rising again from the dead on the third day as evidenced he has conquered sin and death then you can ask Isa to forgive you of yours sins and come into your life as Savior and Lord. Isa can give you eternal life today if you believe in Him and accept Him as Lord and Savior.

Are you ready to receive Isa as the Korbani for your sins and Lord of your life?

Side note:

What if someone asks you who Mohammed is?

DO NOT ARGUE, DO NOT BE DISRESPECTFUL

Say I believe Mohammed is who he says he is?

Read The Sandhills Surah 46 ayat 9

- (1) Says he is not the greatest of prophets.
- (2) Says he does not know what will happen to him when he dies.
- (3) Says he is only a "warner".