

NEW BEGINNINGS

A JOURNEY OF
SPIRITUAL GROWTH



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NEW BEGINNINGS:

Growing in Christ

Lesson 0: Introduction

Welcome

Congratulations on beginning your New Spiritual Journey!

Whether you are a brand new to Christianity, or you have been in your Church for most of your life, there is always room to grow and develop your relationship with God. We pray these next few weeks will be a blessing to you on your spiritual journey.

New Beginnings will follow the growth of a believer, from a *seed* to a *fruit-bearing tree*. Over these next few weeks, every stage of the life a believer will be discussed from salvation, to becoming a witness of Jesus. Naturally, there is no way one class can cover every aspect of living a Christian life, but we will try our best to walk through each phase of a believer.

Every great work of God begins with a seed. A small beginning with great potential. When you gave your heart to Jesus Christ, God planted something eternal inside you. This class is about helping that seed grow into something strong, beautiful, and fruitful.

Just like a seed needs sunlight, water, and good soil, your faith needs prayer, God's Word, fellowship, and the Holy Spirit. Growth takes time, but God is faithful to bring it to completion.

“Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

-Philippians 1:6

In this class, you will discover

- How to build a strong foundation in your faith
- How to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit
- How to stay rooted in the Word of God
- How to connect and grow with the local church
- How to bear spiritual fruit and share your faith

Class Purpose

Growth is a *process*, not a *moment*. God is not finished with you... He's just getting started! *New Beginnings* is designed to help you understand your spiritual journey from the moment you receive Christ to the moment you begin bearing fruit for His Kingdom. Just as every plant begins as a seed, your walk with God starts with a moment of grace; a divine gift planted in your heart. But the miracle of salvation is only the beginning. God never intended for you to remain where you started. He has called you to grow, to mature, and to become a living expression of His love and power in the world.

Spiritual growth does not happen all at once. It unfolds over time, much like the stages of a growing plant. There are moments when God breaks old things off your life, moments when He sends new strength and new direction, and moments when He stretches your faith so that deeper roots can form. There are seasons when you begin to see growth on the outside and seasons when most of the growth is happening out of sight... but God is always working. His desire is not only to save you, but to shape you into the image of Christ and empower you through the Holy Spirit.

New Beginnings will walk you through these stages of growth with clarity and purpose. Each lesson mirrors a phase in the life of a plant, reminding us that God's work in us is intentional and progressive. You will explore what it means to be transformed, to be filled with the Spirit, to establish daily habits that nourish your walk, to stay rooted in the church, to live generously before God, and to shine as a witness to others. Through these lessons, you will begin to see how each season of your life fits into God's larger purpose, and how spiritual maturity leads to spiritual impact.

Above all, *New Beginnings* is designed to help you build a strong foundation. It is an invitation to deepen your faith, to understand God's Word more fully, and to cultivate a relationship with Him that is vibrant, personal, and enduring.

Whether you are newly saved or simply ready to grow, this journey will help you discover the joy of spiritual transformation and the beauty of becoming all that God created you to be.

Welcome to a fresh start, a new season, and a growing life in Christ. Your new beginning starts now!

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” — 2 Peter 3:18

Our Goal

To guide new believers and young Christians in developing a strong Biblically based foundation of faith by understanding and applying the principles of spiritual growth from salvation to fruit-bearing.

<i>Week</i>	<i>Plant Phase</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Focus</i>
1	The Seed	Salvation	The beginning of new life in Christ
2	Germination	Sanctification	The old life dies and roots form
3	The Sprout	Holy Ghost Baptism	Empowered for life and service
4	The Leaves	Daily Devotion	Nourishment through prayer and the Word
5	The Roots	Church Connection	Growing deep in fellowship and service
6	The Stem	Financial Partnership	Strength through faithful stewardship
7	The Fruit	Witnessing	Sharing Christ with others
8	The Harvest	Discipleship	Reproducing what God has done in you

How This Class Works

- **Scripture-Based:** Every lesson is rooted in the Word of God.
- **Discussion-Focused:** Each week includes space for questions and group conversation.
- **Personal Reflection:** you will have time to write, pray, and record what God is teaching you before, during and after each lesson.
- **Growth-Oriented:** Each lesson builds on the last... so stay planted... stay engaged... and be faithful.

My Commitment

Growing in Christ is not *passive*, it is *intentional*. Any growth that is made in the believer's life will not happen by accident. Growth takes work. Just like a seed needs water, light, and care to break open and begin its journey upward, your spiritual growth requires your engagement.

You will get out of this class what you put into it. The more you lean in, ask questions, take notes, reflect, and apply what you hear, the more transformation you will experience.

This class is designed to equip you, challenge you, and walk with you as you start your new beginning with Jesus. But information alone won't change your life... participation will. As you actively join the discussions, complete the weekly challenges, read the Scriptures provided, and pray through each lesson, you are giving God more room to work in you.

This journey is not about perfection; it's about participation. It's about showing up with an open heart and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide, teach, and grow you. Your willingness to engage will determine how deep your roots grow and how strong your faith becomes. So, dive in, lean forward, and let God meet you in every part of this class.

“Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.”

-Psalm 92:13

1. Why did I decide to take this class?

2. What do I hope to learn or experience through it?

3. How do I want my relationship with God to grow during this time?

 **Memory Verse**

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 1:6

 **Personal Prayer**

Lord, I thank You for new beginnings. I give You my heart and ask You to help me grow. Let my roots go deep in Your Word, my faith grow strong in Your Spirit, and my life bear fruit that brings You glory. In Jesus’ name, amen.

 **Weekly Challenge**

The Christian life is not meant to be lived alone. As we grow together in this class, lets be sure to:

- *Encourage one another*
- *Pray for one another*
- *Be honest and open about where we are*
- *Celebrate every step of growth*

What do you think it means to **“grow in grace”**?

Be prepared to answer questions and participate in class discussions. Buckle Up!
It’s going to be an awesome journey.



THE SEED SALVATION



The Seed

Lesson 1: Salvation

Introduction

Every plant begins as a seed, and so does every believer’s journey with Christ. The seed may seem small and fragile, but within it lies the power to produce life, growth, and fruit. The seed holds the DNA of everything that plant will eventually become. In the same way, the moment you receive Jesus as your Savior, something powerful is planted inside of you... *the seed of new life*. That seed is planted by the Word of God and brought to life through faith.

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.”

-1 Peter 1:23

1. The Planting of the Seed

No seed can grow unless it is planted. Spiritually, that planting happens when the Word of God is *heard* and *received* by faith. The Word of God is the seed that produces faith and salvation. Every time the Word is preached, spoken, or read seeds are being scattered into hearts. But not every seed takes root; only the ones planted in good soil.

Paul said in ***Romans 10:17***, ***“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*** Did you notice the process of *faith* mentioned by the Apostle? Faith is a product of hearing the word of God.

In ***Luke 8***, Jesus is explaining the parable of The Sower and the Seed. He says, ***“The seed is the Word of God... but that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”***

Take a moment to reflect on the first time the seed of God’s Word reached your heart in faith? Do you remember where you were? Do you remember what you felt in that moment? Can you remember the service? Who was preaching? How old were you? Take a moment and share your *seed story*:

2.The Gift of the Seed

Just as a seed is planted freely into the soil, the gift of salvation is freely given by God. The soil did not earn the seed. It did not work for it, or deserve it, or merit it in any way. All the soil could do was receive what was cast upon it.

Salvation works the same way. Paul made it very clear to the Christians who were living in Ephesus when he said, ***“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8–9***

The seed (God’s Word and God’s salvation) is initiated by God, *not human efforts*. The soil (our heart) simply receives the word unto Salvation. In other words, salvation cannot be earned. You will never be good enough to merit this gift of Salvation.

Salvation Begins with God’s Grace. Before the soil ever responded, God sent the seed. Before you ever reached for Him, He reached for you. John said in ***1 John 4:19, “We love Him, because He FIRST loved us.”*** You did not go searching for salvation. Salvation came searching for you.

God desires that every soil receive the seed. God’s heart is that every person, every type of soil, from every walk of life would receive salvation. Peter said in ***2 Peter 3:9, “The Lord... is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*** God does not choose only the clean soil, the soft soil, or the “good” soil. He scatters the seed everywhere because His desire is to save everyone, regardless of their condition.

The soil did not deserve the seed. The soil did not earn the seed. Neither can we earn salvation. Our goodness, our background, our past, or our failures do not ***qualify*** or ***disqualify*** us from salvation.

Salvation is not a reward for the righteous. It is a ***gift*** for the repentant. Paul said it best in ***Romans 5:8, “But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”***

The soil’s ***only job*** is to receive the Seed. A gift can only be received. It can never be earned. Just like a child opening presents on Christmas morning, that child did nothing to earn that gift. But in love, that gift was given, and the child’s only responsibility is to open it up.

When the seed lands in the soil, and the soil receives it, life begins. Not because the soil produced the seed, but because *the seed carried life*. Your salvation is a

miracle of God’s grace, not your own goodness. Don’t get it twisted. Paul made it very clear in **Romans 3:10**, “*As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one.*”

How does understanding salvation as a gift change the way you view your relationship with God?

Have you ever struggled with feeling “unworthy” of salvation? How does Scripture address this?

3. The Condition of the Soil

Before growth can happen, the soil must be ready. In the Gospels, Jesus compared the *soil* to our *hearts*, and the condition of that soil will determine the success of the seed. A hard, distracted, or crowded heart resists the Word of God. But a humble, surrendered heart gladly receives it.

The Old Testament Prophet Hosea said to the people of Israel, “***Break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord***” **Hosea 10:12**. Hosea is speaking of the condition of the hearts of the people of God. The Prophet knew they would never receive God’s Word, if their hearts were not receptive. So, he urges Israel to break up the fallow ground and seek the Lord. We must do the same if we are ever going to receive the gift of salvation. Our hearts must be prepared before the seed can ever take effect.

In one of his most famous parables, Jesus describes four types of soil in **Luke 8:5-15**. Take a moment to carefully read this passage from the Gospels for yourself to get a better sense of what Jesus is saying to his audience then, as well as us today.

1. **Wayside** (Hardened) –The seed cannot penetrate.
2. **Rocky** (Shallow) –The seed springs up quickly but dies without depth.
3. **Thorny** (Crowded) –The seed is choked by worldly cares.
4. **Good Ground** (Ready) –The seed grows and produces fruit.

Good ground is *broken ground*. Before we can receive the gift of salvation we must come to Jesus broken. Psalm 51:17 says, ***The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*** Unbroken soil will not allow roots to take hold. In the same way, salvation begins when our hearts are softened and made ready to receive what God wants to plant within us. Scripture teaches that God gives grace to the humble, but resists the proud. A broken heart is not a weak heart... it is a receptive one.

The book of Romans gives us a simple and powerful picture of salvation through what is often called the ABC's of Salvation.

A- Admit

Salvation begins when we *admit* our need for a Savior. Romans 3:23 reminds us that ***“all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”***. Admitting our sin is not about shame... it is about truth. Broken soil does not pretend to be perfect; it acknowledges its condition and allows God to work.

B- Believe

Once the soil is broken, the seed can be planted. Romans 5:8 tells us, ***“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”***. Belief is trusting that Jesus' sacrifice is enough. We do not save ourselves—Jesus does. Faith is the act of receiving what God freely gives.

C- Confess

Salvation is sealed when we openly *confess* our faith. Romans 10:9-10 declares, ***“If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved”***. *Confession* is the moment the seed is planted. What God has done on the inside begins to show on the outside.

Broken soil is not the end; it is the beginning. When the heart is humbled before God, He plants something eternal. Salvation is the seed of new life, placed by grace into a willing heart. From that moment forward, growth begins.

Reflection:

Which type of soil best describes your heart *before* coming to Christ? And how has it changed since the seed of salvation has been planted?

How would you describe the condition of your soil today? Are you still hardened by the past, or things that have happened to you? Do you still have rocks in your soil that keeps you from having real depth in God? Are thorns infesting your soil? Are you too busy to grow? Has the busyness of life and schedules crowded out time the seed from developing even greater? Are you striving to create good ground? Take a few minutes and be honest with yourself. Write down the current condition of your soil.

4. The Germ of Life

When the seed meets good soil, something miraculous happens... life begins! That's what salvation is: *a miracle of new life planted by grace through faith.*

Paul said in *2 Corinthians 5:17*, "***Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.***" Upon accepting Jesus as your personal savior, you are not the same! You are a new creation through Jesus.

At the moment of salvation: *Your sins are forgiven. Your heart is made new. The Spirit of Christ comes to dwell in you. You begin a relationship with God.*

Reflection

What changed in your life when you received salvation? Try to describe what happened? Identify obvious changes that you recognized immediately and then describe some changes that have happened gradually since that day.

5. The Role of the Sower

God often uses people to *plant* and *water* the seeds of faith. Someone may have preached to you, prayed for you, invited you to church, or simply showed you love. And God used each of them to sow into your life.

Paul was writing to the Corinthian church where there were disputes among the congregation as to who was the greatest apostle. Some of the members had come to the knowledge of Christ by Paul’s preaching. Others had received salvation under Apollos’ ministry. And the church was arguing over who was the greater apostle, and whose salvation was more valid.

In order to address this confusion and frustration in Corinth, Paul wrote the church and said, in *1 Corinthians 3:6*, “***I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.***” Paul attributes the church’s primary spiritual growth to God. Yes, others have come along and cast seed and watered the soil; but God alone is responsible for the increase.



Reflection

Who planted or watered the seed of faith in your life? List some of the names of people who have made the difference in your life. Those people who sowed and watered the seed of salvation. Also, list some names of those who need salvation.

6. My Response

Once a seed is planted, its growth does not depend on the seed itself, but on the one who nurtures it. In the same way, your growth depends *not on your own strength*, but on God’s grace working in you.

Paul encouraged the Christians in Philippi, “***He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.***” *Philippians 1:6*. This scripture gives us confidence that God is still working in our life daily. Yet it is still my responsibility to nurture that seed and hold on to this promise.

Just as a gardener tends to the seed, we must also tend to our salvation. We do this by keeping our hearts soft, our faith strong, and our minds focused on the Word.

Salvation is more than just a one-time trip to the altar. We must tend to our field to ensure that we are creating a healthy environment for the seed to grow and develop.

Read this powerful passage of scripture from *Jude 1:3-4*.

3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people.

4 For certain individuals whose condemnation was written about long ago have secretly slipped in among you. They are ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord.

Jude is reminding the Christians in the early church how they should *tend* to the seed of our salvation. He explains how easily immorality can slip in among believers, and pervert the grace of God to sin. Let this be a reminder: *this salvation is worth contending and fighting for*. This seed that has been sown is worth watching and tending to.

Memory Verse

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

-2 Corinthians 5:17

Personal Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for planting the seed of salvation in my heart. Help me to stay rooted in You and never forget the miracle of my new birth. Let Your Word grow in me and bear fruit for Your glory. Amen.

Weekly Challenge

- Take a moment this week to reflect on your seed story.
- Use some time in your weekly prayer to thank God for his personal gift of salvation.
- Remember to pray for those who may be lost and reach out to each of them in some form.
 - Phone Call or Text Message
 - Social Media Message
 - Just make a connection

GERMINATION

SANCTIFICATION



Germination

Lesson 2: Sanctification

Introduction

After salvation, a new believer enters the spiritual process of sanctification. If salvation is the planting of the seed, then sanctification is the germination. This is the part of the process where the seed dies to its outer shell and new roots begin to grow.

Germination is hidden. It happens beneath the surface. It cannot be seen with the natural eye. But it is the phase where real transformation begins.

In your spiritual life, sanctification is when the Holy Spirit begins changing what you desire, how you think, and who you are becoming in Christ. Peter urges believers in 2 Peter 3:18, to “*grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*” That Growth is impossible without Sanctification.

1. Germination Begins with Death

When a seed is placed into the soil, the first step of growth is death to the outer shell. The seed breaks open, and its old form passes away. This is a picture of *sanctification*. The old man is dying out to sin, and the new man is taking on a new form.

**At Salvation you were FORGIVEN.
In Sanctification you are CHANGED.**

Sanctification is not behavior modification. It's not trying to do better. It is the supernatural breaking away of the old sinful nature. Paul said it best in *Romans 6:6*, “*Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him...*”

For many in the modern church, the term *sanctification* carries a negative connotation. In more traditional churches the word *sanctification* is often associated with hard-line conservative, outdated stances on social issues. However, real, biblical sanctification is a beautiful part of the believer's process. It is not something to fear or avoid, but rather we should embrace it.

Sanctification is more than a set of rules, it is a relationship making us into the image of God. The outer shell of the seed represents old habits, old ways of

thinking, old desires, old identity, old bondage. These things begin to die as the Spirit works within you.

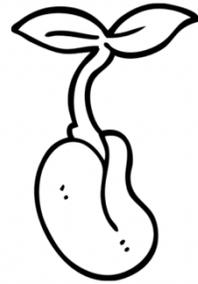
Paul said in *2 Corinthians 5:17*, “**Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**”

Reflection

What “outer shell” is the Holy Spirit asking you to surrender and let die in this season?

2. Roots Begin to Form

After the seed dies, the first thing God grows is not *fruit...* but *roots*. Roots grow *downward* before anything grows *upward*. This is the picture of sanctification: *God develops your inner life before your outer life becomes visible to the world around you.*



Roots represent our character, convictions, holiness, obedience, our hunger for God, and our steadfastness in faith. The Apostle Paul commanded believers to be “**Rooted and built up in Him...**” *Colossians 2:7*.

God does not rush this stage of sanctification. He digs deep so He can build high. A building can only be built as high as the foundation can support. The work of sanctification is the Lord establishing a deeply rooted foundation that can support the heights that He has planned for our lives.

Reflection

What roots are God establishing in you currently? Prayer, purity, discipline, humility?

3. Water Baptism

Water Baptism is the symbol of Germination. Water baptism is the perfect illustration of the germination process. It represents the death of the old nature and the rising of new life.

Water Baptism is undoubtedly a pivotal part of our spiritual journey. It expresses in the *natural* what has happened in the *spiritual*.

Baptism Symbolizes:

- **Death:** Going under the water represents the seed being buried in the watery grave of baptism.
- **Burial:** Just as the seed is hidden in the soil, baptism shows our old life is gone.
- **Resurrection:** Rising out of the water symbolizes new life in Christ breaking forth.

Baptism and Sanctification

While salvation plants the seed, sanctification begins breaking it open, and baptism publicly declares that this process has started.

Paul said in *Romans 6:4*, “*We are buried with Him by baptism into death... that we also should walk in newness of life.*”

Baptism does not save you, but it testifies that salvation has taken root.

Why Baptism Matters:

- Jesus commanded it (Matthew 28:19).
- It strengthens commitment.
- It marks the beginning of new growth.
- It tells the world, “I belong to Christ.”

Reflection

Have you been baptized in water? If so, what did that moment mean to you? If not, what is holding you back?

3. Sanctification is a Work of the Spirit

A seed cannot make itself grow. The soil cannot make roots appear. Only God can give life. Sanctification is not *willpower*... It is *Spirit power*.

It is not your job to perform the work of sanctification, but to yield to the work of the Holy Ghost. Paul said, in *Galatians 5:16*, “*This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*”

In the work of Sanctification, The Holy Spirit:

- Convicts us of Sin
- Cleanses us from questionable habits
- Renews our minds
- Empowers our resolve
- Transforms our hearts

Reflection

Where do you see the Holy Spirit actively convicting or guiding you right now?

4. Sanctification Separates the Seed from its Past

When germination begins, the seed loses its former appearance. It no longer looks like what it used to be. It begins to take on a new form and purpose at this new stage in the process of growth.

In sanctification you cannot stay where you were. Paul said in *2 Corinthians, 6:17*, “*Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord.*” Sanctification creates distance between the *new you* and the *old you*.

This is where you begin to lay down questionable habits and stop watching or listening to music or programs that could impede your spiritual growth. This is the most uncomfortable part of spiritual growth, because a part of you is dying. The *old you* is dying and the *new you* becomes a testimony of the life-changing power of God. Sanctification may feel uncomfortable in the moment, but it builds a solid foundation for the rest of your life.

Sanctification separates you from:

- Old sin patterns
- Old relationships that pull you down
- Old environments
- Old attitudes
- Old addictions

Reflection

In what ways has God begun separating you from your past so you can grow?

5. Sanctification is Ongoing

God works in private before He works in public. Germination happens in the dark. Under the soil. In silence. Without applause. Without visibility.

Sanctification is the same: God does His deepest work in the secret places of your heart. Moses said in *Psalm 91:1*, “***He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.***”

Roots must grow in secret so the plant can withstand storms in public. Take your time at this stage of growth. Be patient with yourself as God is changing your nature.

While salvation takes place in a moment, the process is a lifelong journey. Sanctification is a lifetime of growth. The seed dies *once*, but the roots *continue growing* for a lifetime.

Paul said in *1 Thessalonians 5:23*, “***And the very God of peace will sanctify you wholly...***” *Wholly sanctified* means to be complete, mature, and fully developed. That kind of growth can only happen over a lifetime.

In Sanctification, God *continues* shaping, pruning, teaching, strengthening, and purifying the life of a believer. Sanctification is the evidence that you are truly alive in Christ, and transformation has taken place. It is the visible evidence of an internal grace.

There is a reason elders in the Church are so secure in their relationship with God. That reason is because they have allowed the Lord to do a sanctifying work in their life for many years. It did not happen for them overnight, and neither will it happen for you. You may not be where you want to be but thank God you're not where you used to be.

Reflection

What hidden work is God doing in your heart that others may not see?

How have you seen spiritual growth in your life since salvation?

Memory Verse

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

Personal Prayer

Lord, I surrender the old parts of me that need to die. Break the shell of my old nature and let new roots grow deep in You. Sanctify my heart, my desires, my habits, and my thoughts. Do Your hidden work in me so that I may become who You have called me to be.

Weekly Challenge

- Ask the Lord to Sanctify you Holy.
- We want to use our life to be an example to the unbelievers, not a stumbling block.
- Be mindful of the things you say, shows/movies you watch, and how you treat others. These are all active ways to allow the Spirit to sanctify you.

THE SPROUT

HOLY GHOST BAPTISM



The Spout

Lesson 3: The Holy Ghost Baptism

Introduction

A sprout is the *first visible evidence* that life is breaking through the soil. Though most of the growth happened underground, the sprout becomes a testimony that transformation has begun.

In the same way, the *Baptism of the Holy Ghost* is the supernatural empowerment that becomes visible in a believer's life. It is when God's Spirit begins to shine through them with new strength, new boldness, and new spiritual life.

This lesson will discuss the person of the Holy Spirit and His role in our Christian growth.

1. The Holy Ghost is a Person

Before discussing the baptism, we must understand: The Holy Ghost is not an "it." He is a divine Person. He is the third person in the Trinity. Sometimes you may hear Him called the "Holy Spirit" and other times you may hear Him referred to as the "Holy Ghost." In both cases, these names are referring to the same person.

The Holy Ghost Has:

- A mind — Romans 8:27
- A will — 1 Corinthians 12:11
- Emotions — Ephesians 4:30
- A voice — Acts 13:2; Revelation 2:7
- A personality — John 14:16–18



Jesus called Him:

- Comforter
- Teacher
- Guide
- Advocate
- Spirit of Truth

For the life of a plant, the sprout thrives when it stays connected to its source. In fact, there is no life apart from the source. The believer thrives when they stay connected to the Person of the Holy Ghost.

Reflection

What stands out to you about the Holy Ghost being a Person? How does knowing He has a mind, will, and emotions affect the way you relate to Him?

Have you ever felt the Holy Spirit lead, comfort, or correct you? If so, quickly describe that moment(s). How did you know it was the Holy Ghost?

2. The Promise of the Father

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is a promise, not an accessory. The Holy Ghost is not a “bonus pack” for just a handful of lucky Christians. The Holy Spirit is an essential gift God desires every believer to receive.

After the resurrection, Jesus met with more than 500 followers before He ascended to heaven. Jesus *“commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence”*, Acts 1:4-5.

The promise of the Father, was not just for those 120 in the upper room, but Jesus said in Acts 2:38–39, *“For the promise is unto you... and to all that are afar off.”* That includes you and me. This promise was not just for the Apostles and followers of Jesus in the 1st Century church; this is promise for all generations.

It is a promise of spiritual power. Jesus said in Luke 24:49, *“...behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”* The Promise of the Holy Spirit is a powerful, definite work of the Father. Therefore, we should seek to receive this promise.

3. Why Do We Need the Holy Ghost?

It is true, the gift of the Holy Ghost is not mandatory to receive salvation. However, Holy Ghost Baptism is a definite second work of the Spirit in our lives that we should all earnestly seek.

This infilling is often referred to as being *baptized* in the Spirit. The term baptism is used with regard to being *filled* or *immersed*, completely covered, *saturated*, *overwhelmed* by the Spirit of God. Receiving the the baptism in the Holy Ghost is often referred to as the *outpouring*, the *gift*, or the *infilling* of the Spirit.

The apostle Peter is a good example of why we need the Holy Ghost to give us spiritual power. Peter was a chosen disciple of Christ. He walked the earth with Jesus and participated in his earthly ministry. He was among the very first who went out preaching the Gospel of Christ. Yet there were times when Peter showed great timidity and weakness, even to the point of openly denying any association with the Lord.

Before he was filled with the Spirit, Peter was tentative and even embarrassed at times for his faith. But *after* he was filled with the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost, he preached the Gospel with authority and witnessed without fear.

In the very first Pentecostal Message preached by Peter, 3000 souls were convicted and confessed Christ to be Lord of their life. What a difference the Holy Ghost makes!

The Holy Spirit Baptism is the difference between *performance* and *power*, and Jesus wants you to have that same super-natural power that only comes from being filled with the Holy Ghost.

The Spirit supplies:

- Power and Boldness
- Spiritual strength
- Sensitivity to God
- A victorious prayer life
- A holy life
- Courage to witness



Reflection

Have you been filled with the Holy Ghost? If so what was that experience like for you? Describe the service when it happened? Who was praying with you? What emotions did you feel at the time? If you have not already been filled with the Holy Spirit, in what ways have you been seeking Him?

4. Speaking in Tongues as the Initial Evidence

In every biblical example of Holy Ghost Baptism in Acts, believers spoke in *other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance*. On the Day of Pentecost, Luke said in *Acts 2:4* “...***they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.***” The moment they were filled within, they spoke in other tongues as an outward sign. This is the first and clearest pattern throughout the New Testament.

In Acts 10, Peter was visiting with Cornelius in his home at Ceasarea. Cornelius had not yet received the Holy Ghost infilling. In fact, no gentiles (non-Jews) had yet received this gift of the Holy Spirit. But Peter had been compelled by the Spirit to go preach to this man in his home.

When Peter began preaching the Gospel in his home “...***the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision (the Jews) which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.***” *Acts 10:44-46.*

Tongues were the proof even the Jewish Apostles recognized. They knew the Gentiles had received the Spirit because of the tongues.

In Acts 19, Paul was passing through Ephesus on a missionary journey. While he was traveling through the upper coasts, he came across some Christians who had previously been converted. “***He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.***” *Acts 19:2*

Paul asked the key question here to these believing Christians in Ephesus. ***Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? Since you have been converted? Since you have accepted Jesus into you heart? Since you have confessed Christ with you mouth?***



Once again, Paul is speaking of the gift of the Holy Ghost was a definite second work of the Spirit, and these Ephesians responded by saying, ***“We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.*** They believed in Jesus, but they had yet to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

“Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.” Acts 19:4-6.

Again, tongues were the first evidence that the Spirit had been received.

Why Tongues?

- It shows full surrender—God takes control of the tongue.
- It gives the believer a supernatural prayer language.
- It is a universal sign that transcends culture and language.
- It confirms the inward filling with outward evidence.

Reflection

Have you ever witnessed someone receive the Holy Ghost? What was that experience like?

Why do you think it is more difficult for some people to be baptized in the Holy Spirit than it is for others?

Have you been Baptized in the Holy Ghost? Have you spoken in tongues? If not, what is keeping you from receiving this gift?

Tongues are:

- The first *outward sign* of an *inward filling*
- A symbol of surrender
- A supernatural prayer language
- God's way of confirming His Spirit has taken residence in the believer

Let this be a reminder. Tongues are not the goal... The Spirit is the goal. Tongues are the evidence that the promise has arrived. Tongues are to the Holy Ghost what the horn is to the train. There is no power in the horn, but it lets you know the power has just showed up.

5. The Gifts of the Spirit

After the sprout emerges from the ground, visible growth begins to show. There are signs and evidence that the seed has found good soil, and roots have developed beneath the surface. The same could be said for the work of the Holy Ghost within the life of a believer. There are gifts that the Lord gives to Christians who have been baptized in the Holy Ghost.

Paul lists these nine spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12. In his first letter to the Corinthians Paul is defining how the church should operate under the influence of the Holy Ghost. The Corinthian Church was a lively church, but they had no order, and most of their services were chaotic by nature. So, Paul writes to them to give an outline of spirit-filled, orderly worship.

Revelation Gifts

- Word of Wisdom
- Word of Knowledge
- Discerning of Spirits

Power Gifts

- Faith
- Gifts of Healing
- Working of Miracles

Vocal Gifts

- Prophecy
- Divers Kinds of Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues



In 1 Corinthians 12:7–11, Paul identifies these nine supernatural gifts as distributed by the Holy Spirit “*as He will.*” These gifts are not natural talents; they are divine empowerments that allow God’s power to flow through believers.

1. The Word of Wisdom

Definition:

- A supernatural revelation from God that gives divine insight into what to do, how to do it, or how to solve a problem. This is not human wisdom. It is God’s wisdom revealed for a specific situation.

How It Operates:

- Gives divine strategy, Warns, directs, or gives clear instruction
- Often reveals the future or God’s plan

Biblical Example:

- Joseph interpreting Pharaoh’s dream and giving the plan for seven years of famine (Genesis 41).
- Jesus answering the Pharisees with divine wisdom (Matthew 22:15–22).

In the Church Today:

- A pastor, evangelist, or believer receives divine clarity on how to respond to a situation, avoid danger, choose a direction, or navigate a decision.

2. The Word of Knowledge

Definition:

- A supernatural revelation of facts or information that could not be known naturally.

How It Operates:

- Reveals hidden issues
- Exposes the enemy's plans
- Uncovers things that have happened or are happening.

Biblical Example:

- Jesus revealing the Samaritan woman's past (John 4:17–18).
- Elisha knowing what the king of Syria whispered in his bedroom (2 Kings 6:12).

In the Church Today:

- Someone may feel impressed to pray for a need they didn't know existed, warn someone when they sense they are in danger. God shows them to bring revelation.

3. Faith (Special Faith)

Definition:

- A supernatural ability to believe God beyond normal faith. This is faith that receives the impossible. Powerful faith.

How It Operates:

- Brings supernatural confidence, Believes God for miracles
- Carries unshakable assurance even in impossible circumstances

Biblical Example:

- Daniel in the lions' den (Daniel 6).
- Elijah praying down fire on Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18).

In the Church Today:

- When someone has this gift operating, the whole church feels lifted — impossible needs suddenly feel possible, healings occur, and breakthroughs happen.

4. Gifts of Healing

Definition:

- Supernatural power to heal sickness and disease. The Scripture calls them "gifts of healing," plural; meaning the Spirit heals in many ways.

How It Operates:

- Restores health, Breaks sickness, Reverses medical conditions
- Nourishes faith when healing happens

Biblical Example:

- Jesus healing multitudes (Matthew 4:23–24).
- Peter and John healing the lame man at the Gate Beautiful (Acts 3:1–8).

In the Church Today:

- Someone prays and God touches a sick body. Testimonies of healing build faith and glorify Jesus.

5. Working of Miracles

Definition:

- A supernatural act that suspends or transcends natural laws. God intervening directly.

How It Operates:

- Creative miracles, Deliverance from danger
- Miraculous provision
- God altering circumstances instantly

Biblical Example:

- Moses parting the Red Sea (Exodus 14).
- Elisha multiplying the widow's oil (2 Kings 4:1-7).
- Jesus feeding the five thousand (John 6).

In the Church Today:

- Financial miracles, protection from accidents, creative miracles in bodies
- Supernatural breakthrough, and deliverance over addictions.

6. Prophecy

Definition:

- A supernatural utterance *in a known language* that brings edification, exhortation, or comfort to the body. (1 Corinthians 14:3).

How It Operates:

- Encourages, Strengthens, Corrects gently
- Reveals God's heart for His people

Biblical Example:

- Agabus foretelling future events (Acts 11:28; 21:10–11).
- Prophets ministering in the early church (Acts 13:1–2).

In the Church Today:

- A message given under inspiration that comforts someone, confirms direction, or encourages faith.

7. Discerning of Spirits

Definition:

- A supernatural ability to see, sense, or identify super-natural activity such as: Holy Spirit activity, Angelic activity, and Demonic activity.

- Can also determine human motives.
- This is not intuition; it is supernatural.

How It Operates:

- Reveals spiritual forces at work, Protects the church,
- Exposes deception, Confirms when God is moving.

Biblical Example:

- Paul discerning the spirit behind the fortune-teller (Acts 16).
- Elisha's servant seeing angels after Elisha prayed (2 Kings 6).

In the Church Today:

- Recognizing when someone is oppressed, when a spiritual attack is present, or when God is working in a service.

8. Diverse Kinds of Tongues

Definition:

- Spirit-inspired languages not known to the speaker.
- This is different from the initial evidence of the Holy Ghost.

How It Operates:

- A message given in tongues during a service that requires an interpretation
- Builds up the church when followed by interpretation

Biblical Example:

- Manifestations of tongues in the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 14).
- Tongues as a sign to unbelievers (1 Corinthians 14:22).

In the Church Today:

- A message is spoken in tongues under the Spirit's power, followed by interpretation for the whole congregation.

9. Interpretation of Tongues

Definition:

- A Spirit-given ability to interpret the meaning of a message in tongues. This is not translation. It is Spirit-empowered interpretation.

How It Operates:

- Brings clarity to the body
- Makes the message understandable
- Equips the church, Confirms the voice of God

Biblical Example:

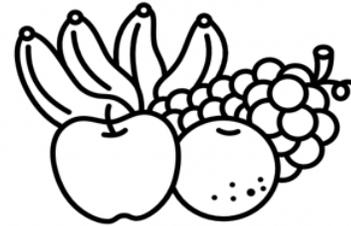
- Paul's instruction about interpretation in 1 Corinthians 14 when he says, "Let one interpret"; meaning the Spirit will choose whom He uses

In the Church Today:

- After a message in tongues, God speaks through someone with interpretation, bringing encouragement, direction, or comfort.

These gifts are meant to:

- Strengthen the Church by helping the body function effectively
- Reveal Jesus
- Bring order, clarity, and edification



The Fruit of the Spirit

Spiritual gifts do not prove maturity... the *Fruit of the Spirit* proves maturity. But these gifts show the believer is growing and available for God to use.

The Holy Ghost will never contradict Scripture. He never causes confusion. He never forces Himself on anyone. He simply fills the vessel that has been cleansed, surrendered, and made ready.

When the Holy Ghost is active in a believer's life, He not only empowers us with gifts; He also produces fruit. Paul said in Galatians 5:22-23, "***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.***"

The Gifts of the Spirit demonstrate God's power working *through us*, but the Fruit of the Spirit demonstrates God's character formed *within us*. Spiritual gifts can function in a moment... but spiritual fruit grows over time.

Healthy fruit is the evidence of a Spirit-filled, Spirit-led life. Without fruit, gifts can become misused or misrepresented. Therefore, the Holy Spirit cultivates these nine (9) attributes in the heart of every believer who walks with Him.

Fruits of the Spirit:

1. Love — The Foundation of All Fruit

- Scripture: *1 Corinthians 13:1–3; Romans 5:5*
- Love is the selfless, sacrificial nature of God expressed through us.
- It is not a feeling but a commitment to act with the heart of Christ.
- The Holy Ghost pours God's love into us so we can love others the way He does.

2. Joy — Inner Gladness Rooted in Christ

- Scripture: *John 15:11; Nehemiah 8:10*
- Joy is not based on circumstances but on relationship.
- It is the deep confidence that God is in control and that His presence brings strength.

3. Peace — Calm Assurance in God’s Faithfulness

- Scripture: *Philippians 4:7; Isaiah 26:3*
- Peace is the stillness of a heart anchored in God.
- The Spirit gives peace that silences fear, anxiety, and confusion, even in storms.

4. Long-suffering (Patience) — The Ability to Endure

- Scripture: *Colossians 1:11; Exodus 34:6*
- Patience is the Spirit’s power to endure hardship, delay, or offense without quitting or reacting in the flesh.
- It reflects God’s patience toward us.

5. Gentleness — A Softness of Spirit

- Scripture: *Philippians 4:5; Titus 3:2*
- Gentleness is strength under control.
- It shows up in kindness, tender responses, and compassion even when firmness is needed.

6. Goodness — Living with Moral Excellence

- Scripture: *Romans 15:14; Micah 6:8*
- Goodness is purity in action — doing what is right, shining with integrity, and reflecting the goodness of God in decisions and behavior.

7. Faith (Faithfulness) — Steadfast Reliability

- Scripture: *Lamentations 3:22–23; 1 Corinthians 4:2*
- This refers to loyalty, consistency, and trustworthiness.
- The Spirit develops in us a life that can be counted on — steadfast in worship, obedience, and commitment.

8. Meekness — Strength Wrapped in Humility

- Scripture: *Matthew 5:5; Galatians 6:1*
- Meekness is not weakness. It is power submitted to God.
- It displays a humble spirit, a teachable attitude, and a willingness to put others first.

9. Temperance (Self-Control) — Spirit-Governed Discipline

- Scripture: *Titus 2:11–12; 1 Corinthians 9:25–27*
- Self-control is mastery over passions, impulses, and desires.
- It is the ability to say “yes” to God and “no” to the flesh.

Spiritual Gifts reveal God's *power*. Spiritual Fruit reveals God's *nature*. Gifts are given instantly. Fruit grows slowly. Gifts build the Church. Fruit builds the believer. The most Spirit-filled Christians are not only gifted; they are fruitful.

Memory Verse

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

-Acts 1:8

Personal Prayer

Holy Spirit, I open my heart completely to You. Fill me with Your power, Your presence, and Your boldness. Baptize me afresh and lead me every day. Help me walk in obedience, listen for Your voice, and follow Your prompting. Use me for Your glory.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Weekly Challenge

Choose one, or all these practices this week to grow in sensitivity to the Holy Ghost:

- Invite the Spirit to Lead You Daily
 - Spend 10 quiet minutes each day saying: “Holy Spirit, speak to me.”
- Read Acts Chapters 1–4
 - Pay attention to how the Spirit moved in the early church.
 - Compare that to how the Holy Ghost is moving today.
- Pray Specifically for a Fresh Infilling
 - Ask God to refill, renew, and refresh you.
 - Pray until the tongues come.
- Look for an Opportunity to Share Your Faith
 - Ask the Spirit to give you the words and the courage.
 - Obey the Spirit's Promptings Quickly
 - When you feel led to pray, speak, encourage, or stop—obey right away.

THE
LEAVES
DAILY DEVOTIONS



The Leaves

Lesson 4: Daily Devotions

Introduction

In the life of a plant, its *leaves* are an essential part of its growth. A sure sign that a plant is healthy and developing properly are its leaves. A healthy plant has broad, green healthy leaves. Inversely, a dying plant has yellowing, wilting, withering leaves.

Leaves are not just decorative asset to the plant; they are an essential part of the life-giving process. Through a process called *photosynthesis*, leaves absorb sunlight and turn it into energy. Without leaves, a plant cannot survive, much less grow or produce fruit.

A plant without leaves may still have roots. It may even have a stem, but without leaves, it slowly starves. It cannot take in the light. It cannot breathe properly. It cannot gather strength for the future fruit it is meant to bear.

Likewise, in the life of a believer, daily devotions; *prayer* and *Bible study*; are the “leaves” of the Christian life. This is where we take in the light of God’s presence, receive strength from His Word, and develop the energy (spiritual vitality) needed to stand, grow, and produce spiritual fruit. Daily devotion is not optional; it is the spiritual photosynthesis of the soul.

Just as a plant cannot store up yesterday’s sunlight, a believer cannot live off yesterday’s prayers or yesterday’s Scripture. God provides fresh manna, fresh mercy, and fresh revelation daily.

This lesson teaches us how to grow spiritual leaves that stay healthy, strong, and full of life — so we can become the fruitful disciples God has called us to be.

1. Why Daily Devotions Matter

Before we learn *how* to pray or *how* to read the Word, we must understand *why* these practices matter. In a world filled with noise, distractions, deadlines and endless demands, believers must anchor themselves in the presence of God. Devotions are not Christian chores, they are lifelines. They keep us rooted, steady, nourished, and spiritually alive.

The strongest Christians you know are not strong because of talent or personality. They are strong because they walk with God *daily*. When I think of people in my

life who I consider to be *spiritual giants*, they all have one thing in common: they each made time for daily devotions.

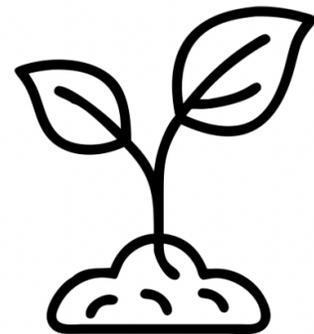
Daily devotions are not about *quantity*; they are about *consistency*. Research shows us the power of consistency. Psychologists agree that it takes 21 days to develop a habit. There is no greater habit to begin than prayer and Bible Study. How much differently will your life look in 21 days from now?

Biblical Examples of Daily Devotions

Ezra is one of the few people in scripture to hold the office of Priest, Scribe & Prophet. One of the reasons Ezra is so versatile in his command of scripture and prophecy is his time spent with God in daily devotions.

Ezra is credited with writing Psalms 1, where he says, ***“Blessed is the man... who’s delight is in the law of the Lord... he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of living waters... his leaf shall not wither.”*** *Psalms 1:1-3*. Ezra discovered unmatched blessings when the Word becomes our delight, not our duty. Devotions keep the spiritual “leaves” healthy. Time spent with God in prayer and Bible study strengthen your mind and stabilizing your emotions.

The Lord spoke to Joshua and declared that Daily Devotion is not just reading the word, but it also includes meditation. God said in *Joshua 1:8*, ***“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success”***



The Lord promised ***good success*** when we learn to meditate on the Word ***day and night***. When we allow the scripture to shape how we speak, think, and live, we have no other option but success.

In the life of Jesus, he taught this same rhythm of daily devotions. While teaching his Disciples to pray in Matthew 6:11 He said, ***“Give us this day our daily bread.”*** Jesus understood the need for us to partake in the *Bread of Life* on a daily basis. Jesus knew yesterday’s strength does not replace today’s need.

If Jesus needed daily devotion time with the Father, how much more do we need it. This daily bread is what keeps us from growing weak and falling into temptation. And the good news is, there is fresh bread given daily by God.

Reflection

Why do you believe God designed spiritual nourishment to be daily? How would your life change if you consistently spent time with God every day?

What happens when your soul begins to “wither” from lack of devotion? Describe how you can tell when you have been without the word or prayer for some time.

2. Prayer: The Breath of Christian Life

If Bible study is the food of the soul, then prayer is its breath. Martin Luther, the great reformer said, *“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”* You can survive several days without food, but only minutes without breathing. Many Christians unknowingly “hold their breath” spiritually when prayer is not an essential part of their life. They go through the day without prayer, and slowly anxiety, anger, fear, and confusion build up inside.

Prayer is not impressive speeches. Prayer is conversation. Prayer is relationship. Prayer is breathing out our burdens and breathing in God’s peace. When we pray, we are not informing God, we are inviting Him.

After the Disciples of Jesus had been following him for approximately 2 years. In that time, they had closely watched his miracle working power as well as heard his impressive, life-changing teachings. However, none of those things influenced them quite like the prayer life of Jesus.

They asked Jesus in *Luke 11:1*, **“Lord, teach us to pray...”** Even the Disciples of Jesus needed help learning how to pray. They understood that prayer is



not about saying the right words; it is about a relationship with God. They saw the personal relationship Jesus had with the Father, and they wanted that same relationship more than anything else.

Paul tells us in *Philippians 4:6–7*, “***Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving make your request be made known unto God***”. Prayer replaces anxiety, frustration, and fears with peace. Prayer is where we bring our needs, petitions, burdens, and hopes before God.

In Romans 8, Paul mentioned one aspect of prayer that is unique for those who are filled with the Holy Ghost Baptism. It is an advantage we have as a Spirit-filled believers in our prayer life. He said, *Romans 8:26-27*, “***...the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.***”

When we pray in the Spirit, or in our *prayer language*, we are speaking a language that the enemy cannot understand. When we pray in tongues, we know we are praying the perfect will of the Father, and the Spirit himself is making intercession on our behalf.

This is the secret to powerful, prevailing prayer. When words fail, the Holy Ghost steps in and speaks on our behalf. Prayer that is empowered by the Spirit, makes the difference. Prayer is the breath of the believer; without it, the soul suffocates. There are several types of prayer as described in scripture, and each prayer has its proper place in our prayer life:

- *Worship — honoring God*
- *Confession — cleansing the heart*
- *Thanksgiving — preparing the heart*
- *Intercession — praying for others*
- *Petition — asking God for personal needs*
- *Listening — letting God speak back*

Reflection

Which type of prayer do you practice most? Which is most difficult?

How does prayer change your mindset or emotions?

Do you struggle more with speaking to God or listening to God? Why?

3. The Word of God: Spiritual Nourishment

If prayer is us speaking to God, then Reading scripture is God speaking to us. A believer cannot grow beyond their intake of the Word. We cannot be more *spiritual* than we are *scriptural*. Our relationship with Jesus is only as deep as our relationship with His Word.

If our Bible Study is lacking, then our soul is also lacking. The Bible is God’s love letter written to us for our learning.

John described Jesus in *John 1:1*, “***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.***” He goes on to say in verse 14, “***And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.***”

Jesus Christ is *the Word made Flesh*. Therefore, we cannot have a relationship with Jesus unless we have a relationship with the Word.

The Bible is so much more than just information. It is revelation, medicine, correction, direction, and strength. The Bible is the most incredible life-giving sources we have as believers. Just as a leaf takes in sunlight and transforms it into energy, the Word of God brings light into our hearts and transforms it into spiritual growth.

If the only time you open your Bible is in Church on Sundays, you are living far beneath the privilege you have been afforded as a follower of Jesus. We have such an advantage today as Christians because we have access to the Scriptures at our fingertips. The Early Church did not have such advantages, because the scriptures were still being written while they were living.

The Apostle Paul is credited with writing over half of the New Testament. His writings were predominantly written in the form of letters to Churches or individuals. One such letter was written to Timothy. Timothy was a young pastor in Ephesus, who also served as Paul's apprentice for some time.

In 2 Timothy 3, Paul was writing to Timothy to inform him how the last days would be filled with seducing spirits that attempt to infiltrate the Church and many believers would be deceived.

So, in order to combat this spiritual infiltration Paul told Timothy to, ***"...continue in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of... And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."*** 2 Timothy 3:14-15. Paul suggests that knowing the Scriptures is the greatest weapon to refrain from being deceived by the enemy.



If he could, Satan would make every believer question the authority of the Bible. This is why we must stand firm on the validity of the Holy Bible as God's divine word. We cannot afford to allow deceiving spirits keep us from the truth.

Paul goes on to say in the next verse that, ***"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."***

The Word equips, corrects, strengthens, and completes us. Scripture is God-breathed. It is alive and active in our hearts.

The writer of Hebrews said, in ***Hebrews 4:12*** ***"The Word of God is quick, and powerful... a discerner of the thoughts..."*** The Scripture exposes the heart. It cuts away confusion and deception.

David is widely accredited for writing Psalms 119. He said in verse 105, ***"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*** This verse says that God's Word gives both *immediate guidance* (lamp), and *long-term direction* (light).

How to Read the Word Daily

- Choose a reading plan
- Start with the Gospels... the Gospel of John, specifically.
- Journal what God shows you
- Ask: What does this teach me about God? Myself? My walk?
- Let Scripture interpret Scripture
- Use commentaries or easier translations to help you better understand what the writers are saying. NIV, NKJV, NLT, GNT, or Amplified Version Study Bible.
- Always Ask: Who is writing this? Who are they writing to? When are they writing this? What is happening in the world as this is being written? Most newly printed Bibles has most of this information at the beginning of the book. But this is great resource to learning *how* to read the scriptures.

Reflection

When reading Scripture, what helps you understand it best?

How has God's Word corrected or encouraged you recently?

Which part of the Bible are you drawn to naturally? Where do you feel drawn to explore next?

4. Fasting: Creating Space for God

Fasting is one of the most powerful, yet often misunderstood, spiritual disciplines. At its core, fasting is not about punishment or deprivation; it is about *focus*. When

we fast, we temporarily set aside physical nourishment or distractions in order to give greater attention to spiritual nourishment. We quiet our flesh so we can more clearly hear the voice of God.

Jesus assumed fasting would be a normal part of a believer's life. He said in Matthew 6:16, "***When ye fast...***" not "If ye fast..." Fasting realigns our priorities and reminds us that our greatest need is not food, comfort, or routine—but God Himself. Jesus said in ***Matthew 4:4***, "***Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.***"

In the same way leaves help a plant absorb sunlight and produce energy for growth, fasting helps us absorb spiritual strength. It sharpens our spiritual sensitivity, humbles our hearts, and strengthens our dependence on the Lord. Through fasting, distractions fade and spiritual clarity increases.

Fasting is also deeply connected to prayer. When prayer and fasting work together, they deepen our intimacy with God and prepare us for spiritual breakthroughs. In Scripture, fasting often preceded moments of direction, deliverance, and divine empowerment.

One day the Disciples of Jesus were met with a demon possessed boy. This father brought his son to them to cast out the demons, but they could not help. Jesus later came and delivered the boy completely. These same disciples came to Jesus and questioned Him why they lacked the spiritual power necessary to deliver the young man. Jesus responded in ***Matthew 17:21***, "***This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.***" Jesus was not advocating that fasting gives you more supernatural power, but it does sharpen your spiritual senses by killing your flesh.

Some people avoid fasting because it can be intimidating at first. But fasting doesn't have to be extreme to be effective. It can be as simple as skipping a meal, fasting certain foods, or setting aside time from media or entertainment to seek God intentionally. What matters most is the heart behind it. Fasting is simply choosing to seek God above all else.

If you feel led to fast, start small. Begin with just a meal or two per day. Then ask the Lord to help you go longer. Whatever you choose to do just know it will be a blessing to your spiritual life.

When fasting becomes part of your devotional life, it strengthens your spiritual "leaves," helping you draw more life from God and grow stronger in faith.

Reflection

What distractions or habits might God be inviting me to set aside so I can focus more on Him?

How could fasting help deepen my prayer life and spiritual awareness?

What is one simple way I could begin practicing fasting as part of my daily devotions?

5. Developing a Daily Routine

Devotion does not happen by accident. If you do not schedule time with God, something else will take that time... every time. Life is full of small, urgent things that fill our day. That is why mature Christians do not merely hope they will spend time with God... they plan to spend time with God.

Creating a routine is not legalism... it is wisdom. It protects what is sacred from being pushed out by what is loud. You will make time for what is important to you. If you prefer to spend your mornings in devotion before the day begins, or in the evenings after the day has settled down; either way, just ensure that you are spending quality time with the Lord.

In the Gospels, Mark said, ***“and in the morning... Jesus... prayed.” Mark 1:35.*** Even Jesus had a routine of devotion time with his Heavenly Father. Prayer was not random for Jesus; it was intentional. Jesus made sure to spend time with God. He would often make time to spend with in Prayer.

In the Old Testament, Daniel, ***“...kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed...” Daniel 6:10.*** Daniel was consistent in his devotion time, even under

immense external pressure. Even in the midst of a high pressure job, and persecution, Daniel was sure to maintain the routine of his devotion. A routine protects devotion from being pushed out by life.

Keys to a Strong Devotion Life

- Pick a time and place — morning, lunch, or night, chair, porch, or table
- Stay consistent even if it’s short.
- Start with Scripture... end with prayer.
- Write something down — a verse, a thought, a prayer.
- Use worship music to quiet the mind
- Remove distractions — turn off notifications.

Reflection

At what time during the day do you feel most focused and open to God?

What distractions do you need to eliminate to protect your devotional time?

What is one specific commitment you can start this week to strengthen your devotions?

Just as leaves prepare a plant for fruit, devotions prepare believers for ministry, calling, and spiritual fruitfulness. Give yourself time to Grow. Prepare a time and place for your daily devotions this week. And reflect on the difference it has made in your life.

Memory Verse

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”

-Joshua 1:8

Personal Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for inviting me into a daily relationship with You. Help me to slow down, to listen, and to seek Your presence every day. Give me a hunger for Your Word and a desire to pray.

Teach me to feed my spirit, not just my flesh. Let Your voice become clearer, Your Word become richer, and Your presence become dearer to me.

Strengthen my discipline, deepen my love for truth, and guide my mind and heart each morning. I dedicate myself to daily devotion because I want to grow in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Weekly Challenge

Choose one of these to strengthen your devotional life this week:

- Set a Daily Devotion Time and Keep It
 - Pick a realistic time.
 - Put it in your calendar, or phone reminders.
 - Show up—even if you don't “feel” it.
 - Consistency builds growth.
- Read One Chapter of Scripture Every Day
 - Begin with the Gospel of John or Psalms.
 - Highlight, write notes, underline what speaks to you.
- Pray for 15 Focused Minutes Without Distraction
 - Turn off your phone.
 - Use a timer if needed.
 - Talk honestly to God—and then listen.
- Start a Devotional Journal
 - Write one takeaway each day: “What did God speak to me today?”
 - This strengthens reflection and memory.
- Fast One Meal and Spend That Time With God
 - Let hunger turn into spiritual focus.
 - Use the time to read, pray, and listen.

THE ROOTS

CONNECTING TO THE CHURCH



The Roots

Lesson 5: Connecting to the Church

Introduction

Roots determine the strength, stability, and survival of the plant. They anchor it to the ground, draw nourishment from the soil, and give it the strength to stand through storms. A tree may look strong on the surface, but its health depends entirely on what is hidden beneath the soil.

In the same way, the believer's "roots" are their relationship with the Local Church. A strong Christian is never formed in isolation. Spiritual maturity grows best in community: through spiritual leadership, teaching, fellowship, accountability, worship, and shared mission.

For the Christian, the Church is not optional. It is essential. A plant without roots eventually falls. A believer without church connection eventually fades. A Christian without a church is like a tree without roots, a soldier without a unit, or a child without a family.

*You were not designed to grow alone.
You were designed to grow in the Body.*

1. God designed us for Community

In creation, God created all things in 5 days and then declared *it is good*. However, when God created Adam, the pinnacle of his creation, for the first time in history He declared something was *not good*. It was not sin, moral failure, or disobedience... It was isolation.

God said, *"It is not good for man to be alone"* **Genesis 2:18**. This was not merely about marriage but about God's blueprint for relationship. Humanity was created to live in fellowship with God and with each other.

The Church is the fulfillment of God's design for community. The Church is the place where believers grow, heal, serve, learn, and become more like Christ.

Acts 2:42–44 shows us how the early church *"devoted themselves... together... in fellowship."* They grew as a body because they grew together. The Christian journey is not a solo path but a shared walk. There are no *"Lone Rangers"* in the body of Christ.

Spiritual isolation is one of the enemy’s greatest weapons. Spiritual connection is one of God’s greatest gifts. Psalm 92:13 says, ***“Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish.”*** There is no flourishing outside of the house. The growth of the believer happens when they are connected to other Christians. This is how the Church in the book of Acts flourished so rapidly, because ***“They continued steadfastly... in fellowship” Acts2:42.***

The writer of Hebrews was encouraging the Christians in the early church to encourage one another by instructing them to, ***“...consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching” Hebrews 10:24-25.***

Reflection

Why do you think God designed the Christian life to be lived in community?

What happens to your faith when you disconnect from other believers?

How connected do you feel to the local church right now? Why do you feel that way? What can you do to make a stronger connection today?

2. The Church is a *Body*... Not a *Building*

The Bible never describes the church as an organization or an institution. It is only mentioned in scripture as a living body. A body has diversity, unity, cooperation, and shared purpose.

Every part is important, and every part is connected. 1 Corinthians 12:12–27 teaches that we are “*members one of another*”. Some are hands. Some are feet. Some are eyes. But *all* are necessary for the body to function.

***The enemy’s goal is disconnection.
God’s goal is belonging.***

A disconnected believer is like an amputated limb. Once it is cut off from the body, it immediately begins losing life. A disconnected limb has a small window of time where it can be reattached and functional before it is rendered useless. Even smaller appendages like a finger can only survive 6-8 before it dies.

The same is true for a member of the body of Christ. When a believer is connected to the local church, they become spiritually alive, effective, and growing. We need connection to the body to survive in this spiritual journey. Paul said in Romans 12:5, “*We, being many, are one body in Christ.*”

Paul also used this same illustration when he wrote to the Church in Ephesus and said, “*...the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love*” *Ephesians 4:16*. In other words... “we grow when we are together”.

Reflection

Read *1 Corinthians 12:12–27*. Which part of the Body of Christ do you most identify with, and why? Make your argument here.

How does being part of the church strengthen your spiritual gifts? Give specific examples.

Why does God *insist* that we cannot function spiritually alone? What are some of the dangers of “*Lone Ranger*” Christianity?

3. The Value of Fellowship and Relationship

Fellowship is more than socializing. Fellowship is spiritual strengthening. When believers are together, they share burdens, celebrate victories, pray for one another, and walk together through life. A Church community reflects the heart of Christ.

Community protects us from spiritual drift and creates accountability that we so desperately need as believers. *Isolation* leads to *vulnerability*, while *Fellowship* leads to *endurance*.

In Ecclesiastes 4:9–10, Solomon teaches us that “*two are better than one...*” The church is a family is an organism created to help us fight spiritual battles. We were not created to engage in spiritual warfare alone. In fact, Paul commanded the Church to “*...bear one another’s burdens*” Galatians 6:2.

Moses said in Deuteronomy 32:30, “*...one have chased a thousand, and two have put ten thousand to flight.*” Moses discovered that there is a significant spiritual advantage when we join together as a community of believers.

There are some spiritual blessings that can only be obtained by our physical presence. After the Day of Pentecost, the early church experienced those blessings because Lue said, “*All that believed were together*” Acts 2:44. Genuine spiritual fellowship serves to encourage the discouraged, strengthen the weak, restore the wounded, sharpen the struggling, and celebrate the growing.

Reflection

What relationships has God used to strengthen your faith? List those people by name. What did these people do to help you in spiritual journey? When did they show up for you?

Why is fellowship essential for long-term spiritual health? List the reasons why you believe this. What steps can you take to form deeper connections in your church?

4. The Blessing of being Rooted in the Church

When you are truly planted in the local church, you experience spiritual blessings that cannot be found anywhere else. God designed the church to be the place where believers are nourished, corrected, encouraged, healed, strengthened, and sent.

A plant does not produce fruit until its roots are deep.

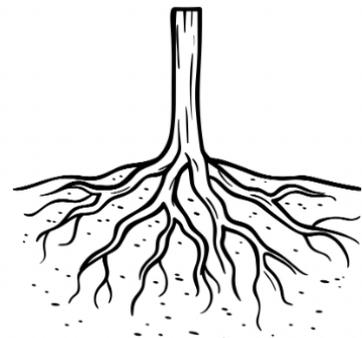
A believer does not receive all God has until they are planted.

Psalm 92:13–14 promises those who are planted will “*flourish*” and “*bear fruit even in old age*”. Rooted believers grow in every season, even difficult ones. Being rooted in the Church help develop a sturdy foundation for fruit bearing. Jesus said in John 15:5, “*Abide in Me... you will bear much fruit.*” Our goal as believers is to bear much fruit, but we cannot do this until we are deeply rooted and established.

Being established in our local church gives us opportunities to serve. Roots deepen when we serve. Serving is not “extra credit” in the kingdom. Serving is part of our Christian identity. Jesus said, “*The greatest among you shall be your servant*” Matthew 23:11.

Serving humbles the heart, builds unity, strengthens the church, and reveals Christ to others. Every believer has a role, and every role matters. Whether greeting at the door, helping in children’s ministry, singing, teaching, cleaning, giving, or encouraging. Serving is worship!

Serving turns spectators into participants. It turns consumers into contributors. It turns attenders into disciples. There is no better way to serve, than being rooted in the Church.



Reflection

How has being rooted in the church helped you grow spiritually? List specific examples of your spiritual growth.

What fruit has your connection to the church produced in your life?

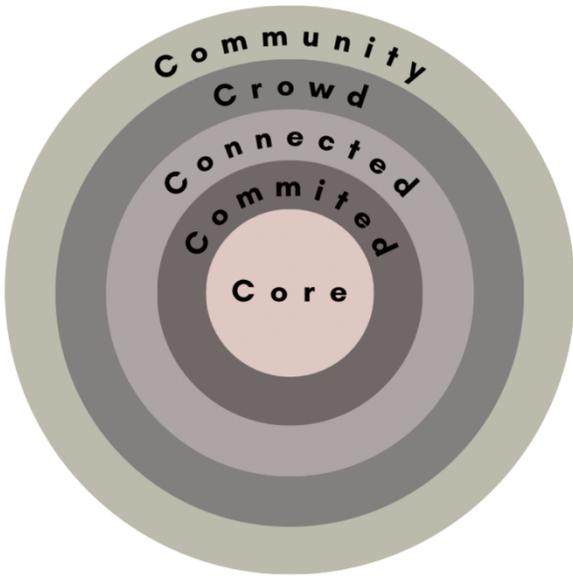
Where do you feel God is calling you to serve next? What do you have to personally do to prepare for this next assignment?

5. Getting Engaged in the Church

God never designed believers to grow alone. Just as a plant needs soil, water, and protection to grow strong, a Christian needs the local church to develop spiritually, emotionally, and purposefully. When we are rooted in the church, we don't just attend... we grow, we belong, and we become who God has called us to be. The journey of church engagement often happens in stages, moving us deeper and deeper into connection and purpose.

The purpose of the Church is to move from one stage to the next. It is the difference between *receiving services* from the Church to being *of service* in the Church. Many people are good at using the Church for services. The Church naturally provides a service for spiritual, emotional, and relational needs. However, the deeper our roots grow in the Lord, the deeper our service must reach in his body.

At some point in their spiritual journey, the believer must transition from *being served* to *serving others*. Review the graph below of The Five C's of Church Engagement. Consider where you are currently in your spiritual journey.



The Five C's of Church Engagement

Community

The outer circle represents *Community*. This is where most people begin. Community includes worship services, church events, and moments where people gather together. Even at this level, there is blessing. Hebrews 10:25 tells us, “*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together.*” Simply being present, places us under teaching, worship, and encouragement. Community reminds us that we are not alone and that God is doing something bigger than just our individual lives.

In the ministry Jesus, the community represented those in *Jerusalem, Judea and the uttermost parts of the earth*. The *community* are those who were vaguely familiar with the teachings and miracles of Jesus but were not actively engaged in his ministry.

Crowd

As people continue attending, they often move from the *Community* into the *Crowd*. This is where familiarity begins. Faces become recognizable, names are remembered, relationships start forming, and trust begins to grow. The *Crowd* saw Jesus’ miracles and heard His teaching, but not everyone followed Him closely. Still, the crowd mattered. Being part of the crowd allows faith to be strengthened through shared experiences and consistent exposure to God’s Word.

The Crowd was part of the multitudes who experienced first-hand the many miracles of Jesus. The *Crowd* ate the fish and loaves that Jesus blessed and broke. They were close enough to feast from his hand, but not close enough to follow his footsteps. They experienced the Hand of God, without seeking the Face of God. They enjoyed the benefits of Christ's ministry, without making any sacrifices.

Connected

The next step is becoming *Connected*. This is where real growth accelerates. Connection happens through small groups, classes, serving teams, and fellowship. This is when casual Sunday morning attendance turns into voluntary faithfulness. Luke said in **Act 2:42**, "***They (the Connected Church) continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship.***" Connection creates accountability, encouragement, and spiritual and emotional support. Roots begin to go deeper here, anchoring believers during storms and seasons of change.

The *Connected* were those believers who closely followed the ministry of Jesus. Nicodemus was part of the *Connected*. He had been part of the *Community* around Jesus, as well as the *Crowd* near Jesus. He was interested enough in the teachings of Jesus to come to him in the night. Nicodemus ask Jesus, what must I do to be born again? He received services from Jesus. He moved from the *Community* to *Connected* but never moved on to *Committed*.

Committed

As connection deepens, commitment follows. Committed believers move from *consuming* to *contributing*. This is where serving, giving, and responsibility take shape. Paul writes in **1 Corinthians 12:27**, "***Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.***" Commitment means understanding that the church is not just something you attend... is something you belong to. Strong roots are formed when believers invest their time, gifts, and resources into the body.

Committed Christians are those disciples and followers of Jesus who not only ate with the multitudes, but they also served them. These disciples include the chosen 12, as well as Mary and Martha who committed themselves to the ministry of Jesus. They become the hands and feet of Jesus. The committed could be counted on. Their faithfulness was never called into question. They followed Jesus all the way to the cross.

The *committed* were not ashamed to be counted with the Church. They gladly served others and led them to Christ. The committed includes teachers and leaders in the body of Christ.

Core

At the center is the *Core*. These are mature, faithful believers who carry vision, leadership, and responsibility. The core is not about status... it's all about stewardship. These believers understand the mission of the church and help carry it forward. Jesus invested deeply in a few so that many could be reached. When believers reach the core, they are firmly rooted, bearing fruit, and helping others grow.

Being rooted in the church is not about how long you've attended; it's about how deeply you have been planted yourself. In the ministry of Jesus, he had a core that surrounded him and strengthened him. Peter, James and John were those who represented the *core* of Christ's ministry. This core prayed with Jesus and experienced divine encounters with him.

Each step toward deeper engagement brings greater strength, purpose, and spiritual stability. When you are rooted in the house of God, you will flourish. The scripture says in *Psalms 92:13*, "***Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.***"

The goal is to move from the *Community* to the *Core*. What are you doing today to make this possible in your life?

Reflection

Where do you currently see yourself in the Five C's of Church Engagement (Community, Crowd, Connected, Committed, Core)? What steps could you take to move deeper in your connection to the local church?

How has being connected to the church helped strengthen your faith or provided support during difficult seasons? In what ways could deeper involvement help your spiritual roots grow stronger?

What gifts, talents, or time might God be asking you to contribute as you move toward greater commitment? How can serving others help you grow spiritually while strengthening the church?

Memory Verse

“Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.”

-Psalms 92:13

Personal Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for placing me in Your Church—Your body, Your family, Your house. Help me to plant my life deeply among Your people. Give me a heart that is faithful, humble, and willing to serve. Let my roots grow strong through fellowship, worship, and obedience. Draw me into meaningful relationships that sharpen me and encourage me. May Your Church not just be a place I attend, but a family I belong to. Teach me to contribute, to support, to love, and to grow. I commit myself to be rooted—so I can flourish in Your purpose.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Weekly Challenge

Choose one (or more) of the following ways to strengthen your connection to the Church this week:

- Meet Someone New in the Church
 - Introduce yourself to someone you don’t know well.
 - Ask about their story. Pray for them by name this week.
- Attend One Extra Service or Ministry Event
 - Show up and ask the Lord to meet you there.
- Ask a Pastor or Leader Where You Can Serve
 - Serving softens spiritual soil.
 - Even serving somewhere small begins the growth process.
- Encourage Someone in the Church
 - Send a text, write a card, or pray with someone in person.

THE STEM

FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP
WITH GOD



The Stem

Lesson 6: Financial Partnership with God

Introduction

In the life of a plant, the stem plays a vital role. The Stem is the plants strength, support, and supply. The stem supports the plant, lifts the leaves toward the sun, and carries nourishment from the roots to every part of the plant. Without a strong stem, the entire plant collapses.

In our spiritual growth, *financial partnership with God* plays a similar role. It strengthens our walk, supports the work of God, and helps us learn trust, obedience, and stewardship. Giving is not about money. Giving is about heart posture, faithfulness, and lifting the Kingdom of God above ourselves.

Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, ***“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*** Giving is **worship**. Giving is **trust**. Giving is **obedience**. Giving is **partnership**. It is so important as believers to understand why we give, how we give, and what God does when we do.

1. The Heart of Giving

Giving Is a Matter of the Heart, Not the Wallet. Giving is not about *dollar amounts* it is about *devotion*. God has never measured gifts by their *size*, but by their *faith*.

Read this short excerpt from the Gospel of Mark. It identifies the heart of Jesus when it comes to giving. Notice what Jesus Notices.

Mark 12:41-44

And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

The widow's gift was the smallest offering in the room, yet Jesus said it was the greatest, because she gave from a surrendered heart. True giving recognizes God as the source of everything we have. And God recognized her gift. That is amazing! Jesus specifically recognized her small gift because he recognized the heart in which she gave it.

When we give, we are saying, “Lord, You have my heart.” And *how* we give determines the true condition of our heart. ***How we give*** matters even more than ***what we give***. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, “***Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.***”



Reflection

What does my giving reveal about my trust in God?

Have I viewed giving as an obligation or an act of worship?

Why do you think God focuses more on the heart than the amount?

2. Tithing: The Foundation of Stewardship

Giving is always a touchy subject in the church, because giving is personal. In the life of a believer, the Church can *sing for you, pray for you, preach to you* but no one can *give for you*. Giving is personal, and that is why many people try to avoid the subject all together. Some people have even gone so far to say that the Church is just *money hungry*. These people allow a handful of charlatans on Christian Television represent the whole body. However, the truth is, most Churches are not trying to get rich, most are trying to stay open. And ministry cost money.

Recently, there has been a movement in church culture to devalue pattern of tithing. Tithing, or *giving the first 10%* is not a church invention. Tithing is a biblical pattern that existed long before the Law. Tithing is a spiritual institution that was designed by God. The Lord told the Prophet Malachi, ***“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house”***. The Lord knew that there was a real cost to operating His house. Therefore, he created a system of giving that would provide for the needs of the Church.

We find the first example of tithing in Genesis. While the Bible does not use the word *tithe* in the story of Abel, he is the first person in Scripture to bring God an offering of the *first* and the *best* he had. Genesis 4:4 says that ***“Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions.”*** This means Abel intentionally gave God the *first portion of his increase*. That is the part that belonged to God before anything else. His offering was an act of worship, honor, and trust, showing that God deserved the best, not the leftovers. In this way, Abel established the pattern that later became the tithe: giving God the first, giving God the best, and giving God our heart before anything else.

We see the first *official* example of tithing in Genesis 14:18-20, when Abraham, the Father of the Faith gave in his *tithes* before the Lord. Abraham did not give out of obligation; he gave out of the abundance of his heart. Abraham trusted God with his sustenance and gave faithfully to the work of the Lord. In turn, God blessed Abraham beyond measure.

As Abraham learned, there are abundant blessings when we obey the Word in giving, because *giving* is directly connected to our heart. The prophet Malachi realized these blessings when the Lord asked him in Malachi 3:8, ***“Will a man rob God?”***

When the Prophet heard the Lord ask this question he was thinking, “surely no one would be so bold to rob God. Who would be crazy enough to rob the Lord? Who would steal instruments of worship from the house of God?” Then God continues by saying, ***“Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.”***

The Lord considers it theft when we withhold our tithes and offerings. Being considered a thief by God would be bad enough, but the Lord continues by saying, ***“Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me...”*** According to the Scriptures, there is a curse that is associated when we withhold our giving from the Lord.

There are some people are living under this curse and do not even realize it, simply because they refuse to give. There are people in the Church today who have never

adequately been taught about the blessings of giving and are living far beneath the privilege that is afforded them as a child of God. They wonder why they are perpetually behind on bills, or why they can't get ahead, or their vehicles are always needing work. It is a product of living under the curse.

It has been said by some that *they cannot afford to pay their tithes*, but for the child of God, *you cannot afford not to pay your tithes*. When you give to every other venture in your life before you give in tithes and offerings, you are placing those things before God. You are trusting your stuff more than you trust God.

The Lord desires his children to be blessed. This does not mean that he wants us to be millionaires and fly in private jets, however, there are blessings waiting to be poured out in our obedience. There are some blessings that can only be unlocked through our obedience to the Word.

God enforces this truth in the very next verse, when He said, ***“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it” Malachi 3:10.*** God is basically saying “put my word to the test... try me... prove me...” There is no other command in Scripture where God invites us to try Him.

Just as there are curses when we disobey the Word of God, there are abundant blessings when we obey Him. God doesn't ask for the tithe because *He needs it*. If God needed it, He would not have given to us in the first place. He asks to give because *we need it*. We need the blessings that come with faith and confidence in his word.

- Tithing places God first in our priorities.
- Tithing teaches discipline and faith.
- Tithing acknowledges God as the true source of our income and increase.

Reflection

What does giving God the first portion or “first fruits” of your income express?

How has God shown Himself faithful in times when you obeyed Him?

What fears or barriers make tithing difficult for people?

3. Offerings: Sowing Beyond the Tithe

What is the difference between *tithes* and *offerings*? Offerings are what we give above the tithe. These are gifts of love, compassion, and gratitude. Generosity that exceeds what is required.

Offerings are seeds. Where we sow generously, we reap abundantly. This reaping may not always come back in the form of money, but it always comes back in blessing, opportunities, open doors, spiritual fruit, and peace. Offerings flow from gratitude, joy, and a desire to bless others and support God's work.

Offerings are not tithes but can be given in addition to the tithe. Offerings are free-will gifts you give after you have already tithed. Offerings are not a percentage of your income. Offerings are based on the leading of the Holy Spirit and your personal generosity.

Offerings can be given to World Missions, Home for Children, Local Missions, Special Projects in the Church, Youth Events, Children's Ministries. There may be a special offering received for a special occasion. However, these offerings do not replace the tithe; these are above and beyond.

Let's say you receive \$1,000 this month in your paycheck. You know you want to obey the Lord in your tithe, however, you also feel compelled to give to World Missions, Home for Children, and to the Church Building Fund. What would that look like for you?

- Tithe (Required):
 - \$100 goes to the church tithing fund.
- Offerings (Voluntary):
 - You might choose to give:
 - \$20 to World Missions
 - \$10 to the Home for Children
 - \$50 to a church building project

Your total giving: \$100 tithe + \$80 offerings = \$180 giving. But only the \$100 is your tithe. The rest are offerings that go toward specific needs and ministries.

Whatever you choose to give above your tithe is precious seed that will grow and develop into abundance. Jesus said in Luke 6:38, ***“Give, and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over shall men give into your bosom.”*** This is not wishful thinking, this is a divine promise from the Lord.



God rewards generosity and faithfulness. Paul called an offering, “a sweet-smelling sacrifice” that is received by the Lord.

Reflection

How is an offering different from a tithe?

What motivates you personally to give offerings?

What are some areas or people God might be leading you to bless?

4. God’s Promises to Givers

Financial partnership with God brings provision. God does not promise wealth or great riches. What He promises is *provision, faithfulness, and care*. Paul said it best in Philippians 4:19, “***My God shall supply all your need...***” God promises our every need will be met when we obey him in giving. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, “***Seek first the kingdom... all these things shall be added unto you***”. The Lord knows we have needs. He understands that we have ***things*** that cost money in our lives. And it not wrong to have ***things***. It is wrong when ***things*** have you.

When we partner with God financially, we place our lives under His care. We step into His economy where *giving* comes before *receiving*, *sowing* comes before *reaping*, and *trust* comes before *blessing*.

A plant with a strong stem can withstand storms. As for the believer, strong stewardship can withstand financial stress. David said in Psalm 37:25, “***I have been young, but now I am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging for bread***”.

Reflection

How have you personally seen God supply your needs? Give an example when you knew the Lord stepped in and made provision where there was none.

What does trusting God with finances do to your spiritual “stem”? How are you stronger in your faith *because* of you giving?

What are some ways to ensure that you finances are in order to give in tithes and offerings? If you’re already faithful in giving, explain how you 90% is blessed above what you can imagine.

Memory Verse

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

-Malachi 3:10

Personal Prayer

Lord, everything I have comes from You. Teach me to be faithful, generous, and obedient. Strengthen my trust in You. Help me honor You with my finances and place You first in every area of my life. Make my heart cheerful in giving and confident in Your provision. As I sow into Your Kingdom, grow me spiritually and strengthen my walk with You. In Jesus name, Amen.

Weekly Challenge

- Begin Tithing Consistently
 - Give God the first 10% of your increase.
- Give to something beyond your tithe.
 - World Missions, Home for Children
 - Youth or Children's Ministry, Building Fund
- Give an Offering to Someone in Need
 - A card. A meal. A gift. A blessing.
- Thank God Daily for His Provision
 - Start and end your day with gratitude.
- Write a Budget and Pray Over It
 - Invite God into your financial planning

THE FRUIT WITNESSING



The Fruit

Lesson 7: Witnessing

Introduction

A healthy plant does not struggle or strain to produce fruit. A healthy plant produces fruit naturally because it has grown strong roots, a steady stem, thriving leaves, and a connection to life-giving water and light. Fruit is the evidence of life, maturity, and health.

In the same way, witnessing is not something Christians do out of pressure or performance. It is the natural result of a life transformed by Jesus. When the Holy Spirit works in us; saving us, sanctifying us, filling us, shaping us, and connecting us to His Church, something beautiful begins to form: spiritual fruit that can bless others.

Jesus said, ***“By their fruit you will know them” Matthew 7:20.*** Fruit makes the invisible work of God visible. Just as fruit reveals the identity of the tree—an apple tree produces apples, not oranges—a believer’s life reveals the identity of Christ living inside of them. Love, joy, peace, kindness, compassion, generosity, and a desire to share the hope of Jesus all testify to the world that we belong to Him.

But fruit serves a greater purpose than simply proving a plant is alive. Fruit contains seeds, and seeds carry life into new places. Without fruit, there would be no new trees. Without witnessing, there would be no new believers.

Our spiritual fruit is not meant to stay on the branch. It is meant to be shared.

When we witness through our words, actions, testimony, and compassion, we are releasing the seeds of the Gospel into the world. Some seeds will fall on receptive hearts and grow into new believers who will then produce fruit and seeds of their own. Witnessing is not just a practice... it is spiritual reproduction.

Jesus said in ***John 15:5 “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit...”***

This lesson will help us understand how God grows fruit in our lives, how our testimony becomes a seed for others, and how we can boldly and joyfully share Christ in everyday moments.

Witnessing isn’t about being an expert—it’s about being available. Some Christians believe they need a 12-week training program to witness. That is not trust at all. Witnessing is not about having every answer... it’s about pointing people to the One who is the answer.

1. The Purpose of Fruit — Reproduction of Life

Fruit is never just about the fruit itself. Inside every piece of fruit are seeds. These seeds are tiny carriers of new life waiting to be planted somewhere else. One seed contains the DNA of a potential full-grown plant. A tree doesn't produce fruit so it can admire it... it produces fruit so life can continue beyond itself.

In the same way, when God produces spiritual fruit in us, that fruit carries spiritual seeds meant to bring life to others. Your testimony is a seed. Your kindness is a seed. Your encouragement, your prayers, your generosity, your words about Jesus are all seeds, and each act carries the potential to plant the Gospel into someone's heart.

When you witness you are not just sharing information, you are releasing seeds that can take root in someone else's life. As we learned in an earlier lesson, Jesus talked about this in *the parable of the sower*. Some seeds fall on hard ground, some on thorny soil, but some fall on good ground and produce *thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold*. That is the power of spiritual reproduction.

A single apple may only seem like one piece of fruit...but inside there are enough seeds to plant an entire orchard. And the same is true of a single believer. Your obedience to witness can start a chain reaction of transformed lives. Your one seed can affect people you may never meet, generations you will never see, and stories you will never hear this side of eternity.

Fruit is the vessel. Seeds are the mission. And witnessing is how we release them into the world.

Jesus commissioned us in Matthew 28:19 to ***“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...”*** This commissioning is our obligation as believers. We are sent into this to be a witness of Jesus, and to spread the seeds of the Gospel everywhere we go. We are to be the spiritual version of *Johnny Appleseed*. There should be signs of life everywhere we have been. This should be our ultimate goal.

We were not saved, sanctified and Holy Ghost filled to simply go to heaven alone. We were saved to take others to heaven with us. In fact, when Jesus promised his followers the gift of the Holy Ghost Baptism, he said in Acts 1:8, ***“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”***

The purpose of this Pentecostal Power was not to just speak in tongues, or operate in the Gifts of the Spirit. The purpose of Pentecost was to be empowered to be a witness of Jesus in the uttermost parts of the earth.

Reflection

Where do you see evidence of spiritual growth or fruit in your life right now? What areas of your life still need the Holy Spirit's nurturing so that fruit can develop?

What witnessing seeds have you sown in the life of others that have reproduced? Briefly explain your witnessing story.

Solomon said in *Proverbs 11:30*, "***He that winneth souls is wise...***" Knowing that, why do you think it is so hard for us to witness? What is the hardest part about witnessing to others... especially family members?

2. Fruit Comes from Connection

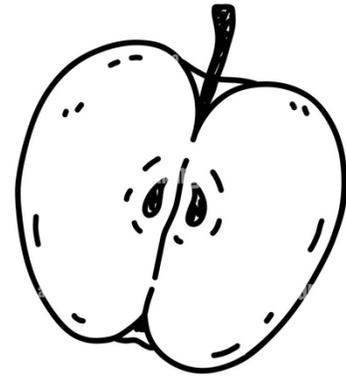
Fruit never grows in isolation. A branch lying on the ground; no matter how strong or healthy it once looked, cannot produce anything. It dries up, weakens, and eventually withers away. Fruit is the natural overflow of connection.

Jesus made this truth unmistakably clear when he said in John 15:4, "***Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me.***"

- The *life* of the branch is the life of the vine flowing *through it*.
- The *strength* of the branch is the strength of the vine *supporting it*.
- The *fruit* on the branch is the result of the vine *nourishing it*.

So, it is with us. Your ability to witness: your boldness, compassion, patience, and spiritual insight, does not come from your personality or confidence. It comes from your connection to Jesus.

When you stay connected to Christ through prayer, Scripture, worship, obedience, and fellowship with other believers, His love flows through you, His words shape your thinking, His Spirit empowers your actions, and His heart becomes your heart.



The more deeply you remain connected, the more naturally fruit begins to appear. You don't have to force it or fake it. You simply remain attached to the Vine, and His life flows through you to others.

Jesus didn't say, "Try harder to bear fruit." He said, "Abide." Stay close. Stay connected. Stay dependent.

***A disconnected Christian grows weary.
A connected Christian grows fruitful.***

Your witness will always be most effective when it comes not from pressure, but from overflow. This is a place where you speak about Jesus because His life is flowing through yours. Just like a tree rooted beside water brings forth fruit in season, a believer rooted in Christ will naturally bear the fruit that leads others to Him.

My Grandpa used to tell a story about a young boy who was selling peaches at railway stop many years ago. In the warmer months, the boy would walk up and down the platform with a basket of ripe peaches proclaiming, "Fresh Peaches for sale!" At first, passengers were uninterested and avoided the young man. But then the boy would take a bite out of one of ripest peaches in the box. The juice from the peach would run down the sides of his mouth and drip from his chin. The parched train passengers could no longer avoid the boy. He made the Peaches look so appealing that the passengers would suddenly file off the train, to buy fresh peaches.

This is an example of how our Christian life should appeal to the world. This is why it is so important at that we remain connected to the source. We should make Christian living look appealing to sinners all around us. They should desire to *taste and see* that the Lord is good. And being connected to Jesus makes all the difference in the world.

Reflection

Am I living in such a way that appeals to those who are lost? Is my life making an impact on others around me?

What habits or distractions are weakening my daily connection to Jesus, and my testimony or my ability to witness to others?

How might staying more closely connected to Christ naturally increase my effectiveness in witnessing?

3. Showing the World What God has done in You

Before you ever open your mouth to witness, your life is already speaking. People *watch* long before they *listen*. They pay attention to how you handle pressure, how you treat others, and how you live when no spotlight is on you. Your life becomes the visible evidence of the invisible work God has done in your heart.

Jesus said in Matthew 5:16, ***“Let your light so shine before men, that they may SEE your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”***

Notice what Jesus emphasized in this verse. Not that they may hear... *But that they may see your good works...*

Your transformed life is often the first sermon people encounter. When God saves a person, He doesn't just forgive them, He changes them. He removes old desires, heals broken places, reshapes attitudes, and creates something new. That newness becomes a testimony all by itself.

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17, ***“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become NEW.”*** The world notices when *old things* are *made new*.

- When *anger* is replaced with *patience*.
- When *bitterness* turns into *forgiveness*.
- When *hopelessness* becomes *joy*.
- When *fear* is replaced by *peace*.
- When *addiction* gives way to *freedom*.
- When a *cold heart* becomes *tender and compassionate*.

These changes are not small. They are miracle... and miracles draw attention. Your life becomes a living display of God’s power.

Think about the man in Mark 5 whom Jesus delivered from a legion of demons. He had spent years living bound among the tombs. He had lost everything: His mind, His family, and His career. But Jesus glorious delivered him from the demonic stronghold in his life and cast the demons into a heard of swine.

After this man was delivered and in his right mind, He wanted to follow Jesus everywhere, but Jesus sent him home instead. Jesus said to him in Mark 5:19, ***“Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.”*** Notice that Jesus did not start with sermons or travel. He started with the man’s story. Your everyday life... your demeanor, your choices, your attitude becomes the platform where God displays His grace.

You don’t have to dramatize your testimony. You don’t have to polish it. You don’t have to make it sound impressive. Just live out the truth of what God has already done in you and let your life do the talking.

A man with an argument is at the mercy of a man with a testimony.

It is hard for people to argue with a transformed life. A genuine change is louder than any debate. You are not perfect... but you are different. And that difference is the evidence that God is real and His power is active.

Reflection

What visible changes has God made in my life that others can clearly see?

Are there areas where my lifestyle needs to better reflect the work God has done in my heart? What can you to make this possible?

How can I allow my everyday actions; *not just my words*, to point people to Jesus?

Witnessing is not a duty... it is a result of living a life connected to Jesus. Fruit grows naturally on a healthy tree, and a healthy believer will naturally reach others. Stay connected, stay surrendered, and let the Holy Spirit grow fruit in your life that draws people to Christ.

Memory Verse

“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”

-John 15:8

Personal Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the work You have done in my life. Help me stay connected to You so Your life can flow through me. Let my words, actions, attitudes, and testimony shine with Your light. Lead me to someone who needs to hear the hope I carry. Give me courage to speak, compassion to listen, and wisdom to plant seeds that will grow into eternal life. Make my life fruitful—not for my glory, but so that others may know You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Weekly Challenge

- This week, intentionally plant one seed of the Gospel in someone’s life. It can be small. It can be simple. But it must be intentional.
- Here are some options:
 - Share a short testimony of what God has done for you.
 - Invite someone to church.
 - Send a Scripture or encouragement to someone who is struggling.
 - Pray with someone who needs hope.
 - Perform an act of kindness and let them know God placed it on your heart.

THE HARVEST

GROWING IN GOD



The Harvest

Lesson 8: Growing in God

Introduction

Every season of growth leads to a purpose. Seeds are planted, roots stretch deep, stems strengthen, leaves reach toward the sun, and fruit begins to form; yet none of these stages are the final goal. All of it has been leading to the harvest. In the Kingdom of God, the harvest represents the moment when what God has been cultivating in you becomes ready to be gathered, shared, and multiplied.

From the beginning, Jesus told us, *“The harvest truly is plentiful”* because God sees the fields of human hearts ready to receive hope, truth, and love. But He also said, *“the laborers are few;”* not because people are unwilling, but because many believers never realize that they themselves are God’s harvesters, called and equipped to bring in the souls He has prepared.

Every stage of growth has been leading to this moment. God did not save you, sanctify you, fill you with His Spirit, and root you in His church simply so you could remain comfortable or stationary. Growth always leads to purpose. A mature plant is not admired for how tall it stands, but for how useful it becomes in the harvest.

The harvest represents believers stepping into their calling. It is the moment when what God has done *in you* begins to work *through you*. You are not just a plant in God’s garden, you are a laborer in God’s field. The harvest is not simply the end of the process, it is the start of a brand-new cycle of life, salvation, and multiplication in the Kingdom of God.

***The Lord did not save you to simply go to heaven.
He saved us that we might bring someone to heaven with us!***

This final lesson brings everything full circle. Salvation planted the seed. Discipleship grew the roots. Devotion strengthened the stem. The Spirit empowered the sprout. Fellowship grew the branches. Witnessing produced fruit. And now the harvest is ready.

Get ready to with the harvest. Quit making excuses why you can’t. The Lord didn’t bring you this far without an assignment. This your season. It is time to walk in your purpose and assignment.

1. Changed People Are Called People

Salvation is never the end of the story... it is the beginning of a divine assignment. When God saves a person, He does more than forgive sin; He redefines identity and redirects purpose. Scripture tells us that we become “new creatures” in Christ, meaning our past no longer defines us, but neither does it excuse us from responsibility. God’s transforming work within us is preparation for His work through us.

Every season of growth; salvation, sanctification, Spirit baptism, devotion, and connection has been shaping us for usefulness. God matures believers intentionally, developing character, faithfulness, humility, and obedience so that they can carry Kingdom responsibility. The harvest is not assigned to the unprepared, but to those who have allowed God to do a deep and lasting work in their lives.

The moment we recognize how God has changed us, we also begin to recognize why He changed us. Our testimony becomes a tool, our healing becomes hope for others, and our obedience becomes an invitation for God to work beyond us. Changed lives are not meant to remain hidden—they are meant to be sent.

Reflection

How has God changed me since I first began this journey?

In what ways might God want to use my story to help others?

Do I see myself as someone God can use in His Kingdom work?

2. Called to Serve in the Field — The Local Church

God’s harvest field is vast, but His design for ministry is *personal* and *relational*. The local church is where calling is clarified, gifts are refined, and believers are strengthened together. Scripture describes the church as a body, not an audience—every member is connected, and every part is essential.

Serving in the local church is not about filling a position; it is about fulfilling purpose. God uses the church to train His laborers, develop faithfulness, and create unity. Paul said in *1 Corinthians 3:9*, “***For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.***” When believers commit themselves to the life of the church, they move from being consumers to contributors, from observers to co-laborers.

The health of the harvest is directly connected to the health of the church. As each believer serves according to their ability and calling, the church becomes a place where people are reached, disciplined, and sent. The harvest does not happen apart from the church. The harvest flows through it.

Reflection

Where am I currently serving, or where might God be calling me to serve?

Do I view church involvement as optional or essential?

How could my faith grow by becoming more engaged in ministry?

3. Gifts and Talents — Tools for the Harvest

God equips every believer with something valuable to offer. Spiritual gifts and natural abilities are not given for personal recognition, but for Kingdom effectiveness. The Holy Spirit distributes gifts intentionally, ensuring that no single believer carries the entire weight of the harvest alone. There are gifts and talents that only you possess, and you are the only person who can utilize those gifts and talents in this season, in this field.

Peter said in *1 Peter 4:10*, “*As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another.*” Your abilities: both spiritual and practical, are ways God works through you. Teaching, hospitality, leadership, creativity, administration, mercy, prayer all instruments God uses to reach people.

Some gifts are visible, others are quiet. Some speak from platforms, others serve faithfully behind the scenes. Yet each gift plays a vital role in advancing the mission of God.

***When believers refuse to use their gifts, the harvest is hindered.
When they step out in faith, the work multiplies.***

God does not looking for *perfection*, he is looking for *willingness*. He shapes, strengthens, and matures us *as we serve*. As we offer what He has given us, He multiplies our impact beyond what we could accomplish alone. The harvest thrives when God’s people faithfully use what is already in their hands.

Reflection Questions

What gifts or abilities has God given me? List them here... all of them.

Am I currently using those gifts for God’s Kingdom?

What fears or excuses might be holding me back from serving?

4. Stepping Into the Harvest — Obedience and Purpose

At some point, growth demands response. *Knowing* God’s will is incomplete without *doing* God’s will. The call to the harvest is ultimately a call to obedience. And that obedience that requires trust, sacrifice, and action.



Stepping into the harvest often stretches comfort zones. It may require learning, serving consistently, or leading when confidence feels small. Yet God never calls us forward without promising His presence. He equips those He sends and strengthens those who obey.

The prophet Isaiah saw a vision of God, high and lifted up. The Lord was speaking to the prophet at a most pivotal moment in the history of Israel. God needed someone to speak on is behalf to His people. The Lord asked the question in *Isaiah 6:8*, “...saying, *Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?*” This is the same question Jesus is asking us today. But notice Isaiah’s response: “...*Then said I, Here am I; send me.*”

Is this is our hearts prayer today? *Here am I; send me.* In this noticeably short response Isaiah was saying two profound truths. I am available, and I am willing. That is all that God is looking for in this great harvest work.

Then God said in *Isaiah 6:9*, “...*Go, and tell this people...*” The Lord simply responded **GO!** That is what God is calling us to do right now: **go** and **tell** everyone about this wonderful savior. Jesus said to His disciples in *John 4:35*, “*Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*”

The harvest is not about personal achievement; it is about eternal impact. When believers respond to God’s call, they discover that purpose brings fulfillment, service brings joy, and obedience brings fruit. The field is ready, the call has gone out, and God is still asking the same question: “*Whom shall I send?*”

Reflection

What step of obedience is God asking me to take next?

Where do I sense God calling me to greater involvement or responsibility?

What would it look like for me to say, “Here am I, Lord—send me”?

As we come to the end of this journey, I want you to know something clearly: this is not the end... it is the beginning. What God has done in you over these weeks matters. The seed that was planted has grown. Roots have taken hold. Strength has been formed. Fruit has appeared. And now, God is calling you forward into purpose.

You were never saved to sit on the sidelines. You were saved to be sent. God has shaped you, filled you, and rooted you so that you can make a difference in His Kingdom. There is a place for you in the harvest. There is a role for you in the church. There is a calling on your life that no one else can fulfill the way you can.

I charge you today to walk in obedience. Serve faithfully. Use your gifts boldly. Stay connected deeply. Love people sincerely. And never forget that the same God who began this work in you will be faithful to complete it.

***Lift your eyes. The field is ready.
Step forward. The harvest is waiting.
And go with confidence—because God is with you!***

Memory Verse

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

-Psalms 126:5-6

Personal Prayer

Lord, thank You for every season You have brought me through. Help me remain faithful while I'm growing and patient while I'm waiting. Produce in me a harvest that brings life to others and glory to You. Open my eyes to the fields around me—use my life as a testimony of Your goodness and power. Amen.

Weekly Challenge

- Be intentional about sowing into someone else.
- Choose one person this week to encourage, bless, pray for, mentor, or invest in spiritually.
- Share part of what God has done in you, and trust that He will multiply it into a harvest in their life as well.
- Share your testimony on social media, or in text, or in person.