

Living Water Mission

(Reg UK Charity No 1012491)

BASIC CONCEPTS COURSE

“. . . . and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls” **James 1:21**

“The entrance of Thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.” **Psalms 119:130**

This course is intended to lay a foundation on the Rock of saving faith in Jesus Christ. It is structured upon the principles set out in Hebrews 5:12 – 6:3.

“. . . and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” **Matt 16:18**

Guy A Willson

Living Water Mission

(Reg UK Charity No 1012491)

Basic Concepts Course

Contents (Pagination in pdf numbering)

Page 3.	Tutors Notes
4.	Salvation (1 st session)
5.	1 st session Cont.
6.	Salvation (2 nd session)
7.	2 nd session Cont.
8.	The Holy Spirit (1 st session)
9.	1 st session Cont.
10.	The Holy Spirit (2 nd session)
11.	2 nd session Cont.
12.	Faith
13.	- do - Cont.
14.	Prayer
15.	- do - Cont.
16.	Healing
17.	- do - Cont.
18.	Basic Doctrines
19.	- do - Cont.
20.	Local Church
21.	- do - Cont.
22.	A Lifestyle of Praise and Worship
23.	- do - Cont.
24.	Append a <i>How to Study the Word of God</i>
25.	Append b <i>It is the Word of God</i>
26.	Append c <i>Christian "Statement of Faith"</i>
27.	Append d <i>Baptism in the Holy Spirit</i>
28.	Append e <i>The Gifts of the Holy Spirit</i>
29.	Append f <i>Agape - The God-kind of Love</i>
30.	Append g <i>Prayer</i>
31.	Append h <i>Believers & Water Baptism</i>
32.	Append i <i>A lifestyle of Praise and Worship</i>
33.	Append j <i>Fulfilling God's Call in the Ministry</i>

BASIC CONCEPTS COURSE – TUTORS NOTES

1. **REGISTER OF NAMES**

Students to print name and to initial each week they attend - essential to print as the Register is used to prepare the Certificates. (Attached in MS Excel format)

2. **PURPOSE OF COURSE**

It is not necessary to add more detail! There is sufficient material to cover 45-60 minutes teaching each lesson. Beware of going too deep in the teaching as you may drown some of the class - remember it is *basic concepts* for those who have not had any previous teaching, or have merely been exposed religious traditions. The Holy Spirit will help you teach. It is not necessary to open every scripture! Often it is better to give the references out and pop a couple of questions out about them in the next session to keep the class diligent in study.

3. **BIBLE & NOTES**

Ask students to bring a Bible (King James, New King James are the best) sometimes if someone has an Amplified version you can ask them to read relevant portions of scripture that emphasise a point!

4. **QUESTION TIME**

At the end of each session and only pertaining to the teaching,

6. **CERTIFICATES**

Where the teaching is delivered in a formal session a Certificate for completing the Course is a significant landmark maybe arranged to co-incide with water baptism. Qualifying is by attending six or more sessions. Hand out in the main church service if not at a water baptism, if possible.

7. **APPENDICES**

Hand these out at the end of each session. Not at the beginning as this could become a distraction.

8. **RECOMMENDED BOOKS**

There are a number of books to recommend such as the New Birth and Why Tongues by Kenneth E Hagin. You must follow the Holy Spirit's leading about what books, if any, to recommend.

9. **OPEN AND CLOSE EACH SESSION WITH PRAISE AND PRAYER**

It is imperative to allow the Holy Ghost to reveal God's Word to the students and you must INVITE Him to do this! Open and close each session with praise, thanksgiving and prayer. It is highly likely that God may want you to minister to people so be ready to pray with people afterwards and have helpers standing by to this end.

10. **PERSONAL PREPARATION**

Go through the notes before teaching them and refresh your study. Any points the Holy Ghost enlarges to you make notes of in the margin. Remember be 'prayed up' and examine your personal walk with the Lord; especially your love walk. Personal integrity and holiness are essential in any ministry operation and especially of teachers of Gods Word cf. 1 Cor 9:18-27. Minister from the heart rather than the platform because this is how the anointing flows.

SALVATION (open in prayer)

Foundation: Base all teaching on the Word of God
Major on the New Covenant
God-centred Gospel of Love

WHY WE NEED SALVATION

All have sinned **Rom 3:23**. God is holy and just and He cannot co-exist with sin in His presence. He therefore had to find a way to deal with sin.

DEFINITION OF SALVATION

Salvation means to be made whole and complete. **John 10:10**
Deliverance, Security, healing, acceptance, soundness and having value.

God's Plan of Redemption: Thought by the Father
Bought by the Son
Wrought by the Holy Ghost

HOW THE FALL OF MAN OCCURRED

Disobedience by Adam in the Garden to God's Revealed Word. **Gen 2:16-17**

Man made in God's image. **Gen 1:26**. Explain man's position before the fall.

- a. Man's created state of perfection, his status and authority over creation.
- b. Satan deceives Eve to doubt God. Adam persuaded to disobey God. Sin.

1 Tim 2:12-14;

- c. Explain Death - Spiritual, Physical, Separation from God. Ultimately means eternal separation from God and condemned with Satan for eternity, the home of the spiritually dead. (**John 8:42-47 & John 3:16-18**)

To obey is better than sacrifice (**Gen 4:3-5** Cain & Abel) **1 Sam 15:22-23**

In Adam (disobedience) we died; discuss 'producing after it's own kind' (**Gen 2:16-17**) sin affects human make-up like an infection, genetically. All mankind is therefore guilty in his own right - sin is automatic with man since the Fall.

In Jesus Christ (by faith in His redemptive work) we are made alive (by faith) **Rom 5:12-19**. Our sins are forgiven (**Acts 26:18, Eph 1:7**). We therefore pass from Death to Life, from curse to blessing, etc.

THE IMMENSITY OF GOD'S SACRIFICE TO SAVE US

Jesus though He had no sin was made sin for us so He had to die spiritually and be separated from God (**2 Cor 5:21 & Matt 27:46**)

The Father had to release His pre-existing Son to redeem us.

The Son had to release His Eternally present Father and endure the agony of this as well as the pain and shame of the Cross. What a Saviour!

SALVATION BY FAITH IN CHRIST ALONE

Jesus imparts Life to us (**John 10:10**) *ZOE* (gk) The God kind of life.
Eph 2:8-10 & Acts 4:12.

THE NEW BIRTH (explanation)

John 3:3-7. Explain: Because man, like God, is in three parts. (1 Thess 5:23) / . . .

He is a spirit, owns a soul and lives in a body. When the saving message is heard by the man (incl. wo-man) his spirit convicts him of the desire to receive eternal life and reconciliation with God. It is the soul of man however which gives the decision. Many people admit to feeling 'split in two' when the Holy Ghost convicts them of sin (John 16:8/9). When the decision to respond positively to God's conviction by is made the New Birth takes place.

HOW THE SPIRITUAL NEW BIRTH TAKES PLACE

When the decision is made the convicted soul becomes willing to admit that he is a sinner needing to be saved. Simply believing an event took place in history, that a person called Jesus Christ was crucified and rose from the dead will NOT save them. Belief IN Christ will result in **repentance** which is to turn around from the way you have been going.

The whole process results in the individual becoming a New Creation with a whole array of facets available to him having rights of inheritance to the property of promises through Jesus Christ. This is not like restoring an old car.

WHAT IS RIGHTEOUSNESS

Righteousness means to have right standing with God. This is only achieved by entering in through the Way God provided (explain).

Righteousness is NOT 'goodpersonism' - attending church - works programs. It is not obtained by justifying yourself for men's approval. **It is all grace** - For by grace are ye saved. **Eph 2:8**

Works of Righteousness are the *result* of your faith (James 2:18). The things you do in obedience to God's Plan for your life. *Walking* in love (students to study 2 Cor 13). *Becoming* part of a local church. *Being* a tither and giver into God's work. *Staying* filled with the Spirit - *feeding* yourself on the Word. Also *being* committed to what God wants to do with your life - All these things are *works* of faith for which there is a special reward in eternity but here in this life it will bring you into spiritual maturity (2 Tim 3:17 KJV renders as 'perfect' but gk word *Artios* means to become complete and fitted to your purpose ie: maturity)

SUMMARY

- You are now:
- i. A child of God (John 1:12)
 - ii. A New Creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - iii. One with God (Daddy - Abba Father) Romans 8:15
 - iv. All things are possible. (Mark 9:23)
 - v. The Greater one is in you (1 John 4:4)

CONCLUSION AND PRAYER

Hand out copies of Appendix 1 - 'How to study the Word of God'

Lead the class in a prayer confessing that they are children of God, that Jesus is their Lord and they are New Creatures and giving thanks for the same.

SALVATION 2 (open in prayer)

WHEN YOU WERE SAVED YOUR SPIRIT WAS SAVED

Explain the three-part nature of man Spirit, Soul, and Body.

God deals with the inner man THEN changes begin in the outer man through growing obedience to the Word. Consider **Rom 12:1-3**.

Inner Man **Eph 3:16**.

SPIRIT - The part that deals with the spiritual realm - The real you, inner man
1 Thess 5:23

SOUL - The part that deals with the mental realm, Intellect, Emotions and will.
1 Cor 14:14

BODY - The part that deals with the physical realm. **Gen 1:26-27**

The Spirit and Soul are different but sometimes so close that only the Word can divide between them.
Hebrews 4:12

God is a Spirit, and we are created in His image. The New Birth is the rebirth of the human spirit. **John 4:24**

JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION

Justification and Sanctification are not the same,

Justification is what God has done for us. Deals with our past and even our present. Remember we are justified by faith alone (**Eph 2:8**). Not by works. **Rom 5:1 & 9**

Sanctification is our *response* to God's directions. **John 17:17**

Our responses to God - both *now* and for our *whole* lives. **1 Corinthians 6:11**

Sanctification = (gk)HAGIASMOS **holiness, consecration, sanctification of heart and life. 1 Thes 4:3; Rom 8:23**

Sanctification has a two-fold meaning:

1. What God does in you to call you to living the rest of your life to fulfil

His plan for you. *Separation* from the world's way of living and the godless philosophies of the world (no matter how reasonable). **Rom 8:1-14**.

2. Holiness - crucifying the flesh. Renewing your mind with His Word.

Developing of godly character- behaviour. e.g. your integrity, loyalty, honesty, tec.. **Eph 4:28**

It is not enough to be separated *from* evil. We must be devoted to *pro-actively* serving the Lord and *doing* only those things that please Him.

Sanctification is an inward thing. The *ZOE* life of God is implanted in us and we can become partakers of the divine nature.

At the new birth we are immediately sanctified and made acceptable to God's presence by Jesus Blood.

Progressively though we also sanctify ourselves by *laying hold* of the new power we have on the inside of us to develop as God sets out in His word. **1 Peter 3:15; 1 Thess 4:5**.

Relationships

Your family are always in relationship with you but often fellowship is broken by ‘differences’ In the case of our relationship with God the fellowship is broken when we get in the flesh and stay in the flesh refusing to admit anything! **Rom 8:4-14**

HOW TO RESTORE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD WHEN YOU MISS IT!

Repent of your behaviour or wrong thinking. Read 1 John 1:9 to 1 John 2:2 and listen to the Holy Spirit. You may find that it will help to begin by praising God and thanking Him so that you feelings no longer dominate you. (Feelings are like the sea it takes a storm to stir them up and they stay stirred for a little while afterwards as well)

- Confess the scripture and get back into fellowship with God.
- Turn away from this area of sin and purpose in your heart to walk after the spirit and keep growing in grace.
- Although God is not pleased with you when you sin He still loves you and yearns to restore fellowship with you.

BACKSLIDING

This is a process where believers cease to progress in their spiritual walk and revert to things of the world - going back – in some cases backsliding can occur by refusing to go forward with God.

God will pardon, heal and restore backsliders.

WHAT TO BEWARE OF AS GROWING BELIEVERS

Satan coming to steal the Word. (**Mark 4:1-20**) Compare seed and Word. Plant it, water it, tend it and then it matures and produces fruit. It takes time and spiritual effort. Growth is very important. Hear or read the Word daily, fellowship with believers.

Be aware that God has given you everything you need to walk in godliness

 **2 Peter 1:3-12**

Exercise the power God has given us to become His sons John 1:12

QUESTION TIME & CLOSE IN PRAYER

THE HOLY SPIRIT 1st session (open in prayer)

INTRODUCTION

The person of the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead as introduced in Gen 1:26 (hbr) ELOYHIYM = God as plural.

The executive power of the Godhead Gen 1:2 Remind of session 1

Thought by the Father - Bought by the Son - *Wrought* by Holy Spirit.

The Holy Ghost is the *worker* in the Godhead. Through Him the Father leads us; because He is leading His Son and we are *in Him* (**Acts 17:28**).

When we conduct our lives 'in the spirit' (**Rom 8:9 - Gal 3:3 - Gal 5:16-25 - Eph 6:18 - Phil 3:3 - Rev 1:10**) then God's plans will work out for us. Overcomers in life

If all we do is to get in the spirit on Sunday mornings and apply 'formulas' our Christian lives will be hot and cold experiences and we will not properly fulfil God's plan for our lives. (**Rev 3:14-19**).

We have been given power and ability to win battles and overcome the enemy's strategies. This power comes from the Holy Spirit the effect on us is to sanctify and mature us. **Psalm 1:1-3**

THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY GHOST

John 16:7-15 He hears the Father and communicates it to our spirit

(**Romans 8:13-14**) He manifests the power of God so our ministry is not simply words (**Romans 15:19** [Read NLT translation :17-19] - & **1 Cor 2:4**). All the credit for His work belongs to Jesus because Jesus enabled us, because we are in Him, so Jesus gets the glory.

Jesus Prepared and Taught us about the Holy Ghost

For the Work of the Holy Ghost - study John chapters 14, 15 & 16

We have a measure of Him when you are Born Again (**John 3:34**) as part of Christ the Body.

Promised in the OT (Proverbs 1:23 - Joel 2:28; Isaiah 28:11)

THE CHARACTER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

He *always* reflects the character of God and bring credibility and glory to Jesus and *never* to men (this is not only because we *don't* deserve it – it is also for our *protection* – explain!)

Omniscient - Omnipresent - Omnipotent

Knowledge and Will (John 16:13-15) – Love (1 John 4:8) –

Emotion Eph 4:30

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Because

- a) God is a spirit and we must worship Him in spirit and in truth. **John 4:23**
- b) The Holy Spirit is 'PARACLETOS' Intercessor, guide, strengthener.
- c) He is needed to *guide* us into all truth and act as an *umpire* over our actions and to *reveal* the counsel of God. He is the one we need to *hear* in order that He can *manifest* the Gifts of the Spirit through us as well. **John 16:13**

WHEN CAN I RECEIVE THE BAPTISM

Today! It comes by simply asking Jesus to baptise you with the Holy Spirit and, like anything you ask God for, by faith you receive it and co-operate with Him.

WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM

Speaking in other tongues. **1 Cor 14:18** (. . . more than ye all)

WATER AND WET

Tongues comes as a result of stepping out in faith and opening one's mouth and making noise. The Holy Spirit will mould the words thus giving the utterance.

When you get in the water you get wet!

When baptised with the Holy Spirit you speak in tongues!

This tongue is a heavenly prayer language - not the Gifts of Tongues referred to in 1 Cor 12:10.

Subsequent to the New Birth in Acts 8:12-19 it was evident, also in Acts 10:44-46 with Peter ministering and with Paul in Acts 19:6.

Speaking in tongues then is the initial supernatural evidence.

INVITATION

Invite those who have not been baptised in the Holy Ghost to come forward and pray for and lay hands on them.

APPENDIX

Hand out Appendix 3 - *The Baptism in the Holy Spirit*.

Question time

CLOSE IN PRAYER

THE HOLY SPIRIT Second Session (open in prayer)

1. MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

He convicts us of sin. (Sin of sins is rejection of Christ) John 16:8

He regenerates us (New Birth - Titus 3:5-8; John 3:5-6)

He instructs us through the scriptures: (1 Cor 2:12-14 & John 16:13)

He helps us in Prayer (Rom 8:26-27; Eph 6:18)

He strengthens and assists us. (John 14:16 & 26; John 16:7&11; 2 Cor 1:3-4) Comfort=encourage

He leads and guides us, & discerns the truth. (Rom 8:14; John 16:13)

2. THE PURPOSE OF TONGUES (private devotional tongues)

Spiritual edification (1 Cor 14:4 & 14)

Reminder of indwelling of Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17)

Builds your faith (Jude :20)

Helps your prayer life to line up with God's will Rom 8:26

3. THE PUBLIC SIDE OF TONGUES - 1 Cor 14:1-40

Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues (1 Cor 12:11 gifts 8 and 9) should edify, exhort and comfort

Two or three people should speak, interpret or judge it. Judge the prophecy **not** the person. The service must be orderly. Tongues and Interpretation are equal to Prophecy. Do not follow a prophecy unless you have a personal *witness* of it

Note: Being filled with the Spirit will result in living a godly life, Godly, abundant and obedient to God's plan for you. Both Sanctification (holiness - separation from sin and the worlds philosophies and -isms) and your Consecration (set like a jewel in a Crown)

4. GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT 1 COR 12:1-11

Operate as the Spirit wills not as you wills - Nobody *owns* any of the gifts. We need faith for them to operate.

The usual gateway for them is by being baptised in the Holy Spirit. But God once used an ass To prophesy (Num 22:28)

For use **in** and **outside** the church. eg evangelism.

Gifts are to meet the needs of the people - to profit, to edify exhort, encourage,

God has given all the gifts for our benefit; no one gift is more important than another. The best gift is the one needed at the time.

Love is **not** a gift but a *fruit* of the spirit. (Gal 5:22)

THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFTS

Of major importance they are there to assist Christians in reaching the lost. (**Mark 16:15-20**) Miracles follow the ministry of the word, and confirm the presence of God to a people starting to believe.

To edify the church (1 Cor 14:3,12 & 26)

Note: We need boldness in the operation of the gifts.

GENERAL FACTS ABOUT THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are nine gifts listed in 1 Cor 12:1-11.

They are grouped in threes **Revelation - Power - Inspirational**

Human co-operation is required not to quench (by lack of boldness to obey His leading) or grieve (by failing to reverence His presence - strife - carnal attitudes - failing to allow Him to lead the meeting) - worship generally gets our attitude right. (John 4:23)

GIFTS CAN BE COUNTERFEITED

Practicers of the occult nurture counterfeit gifts (Jesus spoke of lying wonders Matt 24:24) True gifts always focus the credit on Jesus (1 John 4:1-2) Test the spirits.

OPERATING IN THE GIFTS DOES NOT EVIDENCE MATURITY

We need to develop character and the **fruit** of the spirit to enhance the gifts. But don't believe your own advertising! The evidence of the gifts do not make you Reverend Wonderful – God is simply using you to bless others (**Matt 7:22-24**) - sanctification. Bells and Pomegranates Exodus 39:24 the Gifts will usually expose you to make sure you cultivate the Fruit of the Spirit!

Fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5:22 (lusts of the flesh Gal 5:16-21)

Prov 20:27 Candle of the Lord.

Cultivate the Fruit of the Spirit - it is your personal Garden of Love for your Saviour to walk in.

Do not let it overgrow with the weeds of the flesh

The soil Luke 4 is the way you apply your will to obey God

The fruit is the evidence of this.

Outwardly seen as your personal love (agape) walk

Operating in the Gifts will often expose you to considerable attention of others and this will expose you as to how much fruit you have grown!

Any questions?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Hand out copies of Appendix iv (The Nine Gifts of the Holy Ghost)

FAITH (open in prayer)

1. INTRODUCTION Mark 11:22-24

Has everything to do with what you cannot see.

Believing something told to you without any other evidence.

(eg: If you told your wife that you got a raise at work she would believe you. Many people believe without seeing the evidence and this is called hypothesis – people who choose to *believe* in the theory of evolution yet have not seen demonstrable proof – this is natural *human* faith)

When you were saved you believed in response to *conviction* of the Holy Ghost and you started to *believe* in Jesus Christ and *in* God. This is supernatural faith.

God's design for the life of man to live in this world as though there were no limitations upon his relationship with God. (Complicated of course, by the fall – explain)

Faith is transcending, ie from one realm to another: Spiritual to physical and vice versa. By faith we understand that the heavens were framed . etc.,

We live by same faith God lives by. Our faith in the revealed word of God “pulls” those things from the spiritual realm into the physical realm;

Faith is committed and not merely trying something out. Adherence to, committal to, reliance upon, trust in, a person or object.

Faith is not expecting God to do something because God has already done it. The Covenant of the work Jesus *completed* on the Cross! He said “It is finished” John 19:30

Faith begins where the will of God is known. (Luke 4:4) Promises are always found in the Word.

2. BIBLE DEFINITIONS, etc.

Now faith is. . . . Heb 11:1

Faith is the *foundation* of the Christian walk Rom 1:17 & 2 Cor 5:7

Faith is the Christian *way* of life Heb 10:38 & Hab 2:4

We are *saved* by faith Eph 2:8-9

Without faith we will backslide into sin Rom 14:23

How God sent Melchizedek to receive tithes off Abraham Gen 14:20; Heb 7:2-9

3. HOW DO WE GET FAITH

Faith comes from God when we believe Him Rom 12:3

Faith comes by hearing and then acting on what you have heard Rom 10:17

Real faith is of the heart - not the head Mark 11:23-25

Building your faith in prayer in the spirit. Jude :20

4. LEVELS OF FAITH

Great faith **Matt 15:28 & Luke 7:2-9**

Strong faith **Rom 4:19-20**

Little faith **James 2:17-26**, no faith **Mark 4:40**; dead faith **James 2:20-26**,

5. STEPS TO BUILDING STRONG FAITH

Surround yourself with that which produces faith - Read the Word

(cf first lesson) Word churches, faith people; Christians who encourage you.

Build on the Word revealed to you. Acknowledge with your tongue what you believe God has spoken to you. **Rom 10:17**

Be obedient **Isaiah 1:19; 1 John 3:22; John 15:7**

Be bold - don't be afraid of Satan. **Prov 28:1; Romans 16:20; Luke 10:19-20**

Faith can and *must* grow or it will be stunted. (exceedingly growing faith) **2 Thess 1:3**

6. FAITH PRINCIPLES

Two examples of faith principles **Matt 9:20-22** Woman with the issue of blood (explain) & **Matt 15:22-28** Worshipping and Pleading woman from Canaan.

Study: Matt 12:41&42 Faith stirs our hearts to repentance and spiritual hunger.

Old Testament corporate faith - Battle of Jericho **Josh 6:1 (beginning)**

 NT individual faith - Centurion's faith. Note attitude **Luke 7:1-10**

7. CONCLUSION AND NOTES

We can have different levels of faith in different areas. eg. healing, finances.

Faith works *only* by love **Gal 5:6 - AGAPE** The God-kind of love.

Faith cannot work with resentment - **Mark 11:25**

Faith and hope are NOT the same but they can work together. *discuss*

Faith is not seeing first and then believing. Believe what God says settles it

Faith is needed to get saved, baptism in the Holy Ghost, living for God, forgiveness, provision and prosperity, prayer, love and healing.

Hear the Word and mix faith with it. Sow seed - Water it - Bear fruit.

Mark 4:4-20. Always have a soft and receptive heart to mix faith with the word when you hear it. Don't ever let God's word pass over you! Suck it up!

Jesus warned us that a time of soppiness was coming to his church and he challenged us to face it down in Luke 18:7-8

CLOSE IN PRAYER

PRAYER (open in prayer)

1. INTRODUCTION Isaiah 43:1-26 (plead together)

We were created to worship and have fellowship with God. **Gen 1-3**

We were created to have intimate fellowship with God within a relationship.

Prayer is our communication with God.

God moves **as we pray** in faith

Prayer changes things and circumstances. God **never** changes.

2. PRAYER DEFINITION

An offering up our desires to God for things lawful and/or needful with a humble confidence to obtain them through the mediation of Jesus Christ (as our High Priest) to the glory of God. Answers to godly prayer glorify Jesus in the lives of Christians

Prayer can be public **Acts 7:60**, corporate **Acts 4:24** or private **Acts 10:9**

Prayer is maintaining the vital personal contact with God. **Matt 14:23**

Prayers can be hindered – unforgiveness, commit oneself to evil plans **Ps 66:18**

3. HOW TO PRAY

Constantly and fervently Luke 18:1-8 (Parable of the Unjust judge) Col 4:2&12.

Sincerely (not repetition Matt 6:7) Rom 10:17; Psalm 17:1-15 (prayer of consecration) Colossians 4:12 (also:- James 5:15 1745 ENERGEIO)

75 AGONIZOMAI {ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee} from 73;

AV - strive 3, fight 3, labour fervently 1; 7

1) to enter a contest: contend in the gymnastic games

2) to contend with adversaries, fight

3) metaph. to contend, struggle, with difficulties and dangers

4) to endeavour with strenuous zeal, strive: to obtain something

Jacob's attitude to praying **Gen 32:24-29. Hosea 12:3-5**

In faith. **Mark 11:22-25 James 5:15-16 (cf. Amplified Bible)**

In and with the help of the Holy Ghost **Romans 8:26**

4. PRAYER SYSTEM AND PRINCIPLES

There is a prayer system which God has set in motion with principles that govern its operation;

Prayer **must** be based on God's Word, which is His will and on what he has already provided for us in the Covenant of His Son. **Jer 1:12; 1 Kings 6:12;**

 **Is 55:11 (So shall my word be. . .); Psalm 103:20 (angels do His word)**

Prayer is **not** a ritual **Matt 15:1-9**. It is to be effective, accurate and bring results.

1. Ask the Father in the Name of Jesus **John 16:23-24**

2. Why Jesus Name? - Because He is the Way to the Father **John 14:6 & 1 Tim 2:5**

3. Only pray in faith. **Heb 11:6**

4. All prayer must be in line with God's Word and will **1 John 5:14 & Jer 1:12**

5. We must be specific, determined and **single minded** **James 1:6-8**

6. Make your talk line up with the faith of your prayer. **1 Peter 3:10 & Prov 18:21**

5. SOME TYPES OF PRAYER

Prayer of **Faith** Mark 11:23-25

Prayer of **Agreement** Matt 18:19

Prayer of **Unity** - a mighty weapon for the believer Acts 1:14

Prayer of **Intercession** - Standing in the gap. 1 Tim 2:1; Ezekiel 22:30

Prayer of **Thanksgiving** - Praise and Worship; Phil 4:6

Praying **in the Spirit** - Eph 6:18

Model Prayer - Pray towards the things in it. Matt 6:9-15.

God as your Father - Worship in holiness - Establish His Kingdom - Pray His Will be done, from heaven to earth - Ask for daily need - Ask forgiveness for any sins (and walk in Love) - Warn me about the devil's strategies against me - protection against Satanic attack - Praise and Worship

6. WHEN PRAYING AND AFTER PRAYING

Pray the answer, NOT the problem. The answer is in God's Word, knowledge of that word - revelation knowledge (faith begins where the will of God is known).

Believe you receive - when you pray Mark 11:23-24.

Hold fast to your language of faith (in line with your prayers) Rom 4:16-21

Praise God and give thanks now ahead of the manifestation

Do not be swayed by circumstances 2 Cor 5:7 [**Walk by faith**] Be patient. Heb 6:12

Our desire should be to please and bless the Father. Heb 11:6

Comment on Fasting Is 58 Study the whole chapter.

7. THE SIX MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN PRAYER

1. **Forgive** and **walk in love** before you begin praying. Break bread before prayer meetings.

2. **Depend on and Trust** God alone. Invite the Holy Ghost to be involved with your praying.

3. **Availability to God**. Sometimes the Holy Spirit will want to intercede through you,

4. **Build yourself up in your faith** Re-charge yourself by **praying in the Spirit**. Jude :20

5. **Meditate on the Word** & the fact that **you are the righteousness** of God in Christ Heb 4:16

6. **Praise and worship God** as in John 4:23. Minister to the Lord Acts 13:1-2

8. Hand out appendixes 5

CLOSE IN PRAYER

HEALING (open in prayer)

1. INTRODUCTION Psalm 103:2-5; Exodus 23:25; Matt 10:8

- Some believe sickness is from God. Is sickness from God? Does He permit it?
- Some think God chooses to heal some but not others
- Some are waiting for God to move.
- Some know that God does not want them sick but do not know how to receive
- Some get healed but cannot keep it.

2. WHERE DOES SICKNESS COME FROM?

All things God created were good. Is sickness good? **Gen 1:31**

Healing - Lay hands on the sick **Mark 16:18**

- Jesus **healed all** that were oppressed of the devil **Acts 10:38**

Sickness - Satan hath bound **Luke 13:16**

- Thief comes for to steal kill and destroy **John 10:10**

3. IS GOD WILLING TO HEAL

Most accept that He is able

Jesus was willing and did heal **Matt 8:1-3 (16)**

People brought many sick to Jesus for healing. What did they know? (**Matt 8:16**)

4. SALVATION - IN THE PRESENT TENSE

The Name of Jesus -  **Acts 4:12-14**

Gk for Saved = SOZO - Safe, heal, deliver; etc.,

“The Hebrew and Greek words for salvation imply the ideas of deliverance, safety, preservation, Healing, and soundness. Salvation is the great inclusive word of the Gospel”. Schofield commentary on Rom 1:16

Healing is part of God’s provision in salvation.

5. HEALING IN REDEMPTION Isaiah 53:4-5, & Matt 8:17 & 1 Pet 2:24.

Jesus not only took our sins, he bore our sicknesses and took our infirmities - **griefs, sicknesses, sorrows, pains**. Jesus said “In my name they will lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.”

Healing belongs to us, because Jesus provided it.

REDEEMED We have been redeemed from the curse of the law. **Gal 3:13-14**

What is the ‘curse of the Law’ - everything in Deut 28:15-18.

6. WHY DO SOME NOT RECEIVE?

- Because they trust what their five senses tell them, not what the Word says: **2 Cor 5:7**
- Some are double-minded **James 1:6-7**
- People do not believe. Jesus could do no mighty works . . . **Mark 6:1-5**
- The just need to live by faith. **Hab 2:4 & Rom 1:17**
- Some look to the preacher not the HEALER. **Heb 12:2**
- Failure to walk in love. **Mark 11:26**
- Refusal to obey God's revealed will. Some prefer to deny that face truth **Isaiah 1:18-20**
- Individual strong views keeping one in ignorance (**Matt 12:29 – 2Cor 10:4**)

All of these hindrances can be summed up as a reflection of the attitude the Christian takes towards God on healing (or any other subject God has revealed His will about)

7. CHILDRENS HEALING:

Use wisdom when reaching out in faith - your faith for your children's healing. DO NOT let them suffer unnecessarily. If you need a doctor, get one. He is fighting the effects of Satan's work within the bounds of scientific knowledge, as we are in supernaturally in Christ! Still apply your faith

8. WAYS OF MINISTERING HEALING:

- Anointing with oil **James 5:14**
- Prayer of Agreement **Matt 18:19**
- Laying on of hands **Mark 16:15**
- Gifts of healings, special anointings **Mark 5:25: Acts 19:12**
- Spoken Word of faith - saying out what you believe (your mountain).

Believe you receive. Generally the most important for the believer **Mark 11:23/24**

YOU SHALL HAVE WHAT YOU DESIRE BY THE SPOKEN WORD OF FAITH

CLOSE IN PRAYER

BASIC DOCTRINES

1. INTRODUCTION . 2 John 2-10 The Doctrines of Christ (not of man)

Hebrews 6:1&2

1. Repentance from dead works
2. Faith toward God
3. Baptisms
4. Laying on of hands
5. Resurrection of the dead.
6. Eternal Judgement
7. (Implied going on to *maturity*)

We could be ignorant of them, but to turn away once they are known is to fall away. Old word *Apostacy*

2. REPENTANCE FROM DEAD WORKS

This is the main theme of the Bible. God shows us His way but fallen, wilfully independent man insists on his own - result man gets into and causes trouble - man has to repent, be reconciled to, and get in line with God's will for his life.

REPENT: Gk METANOEO = different + think. Change your mind, think differently. to change your attitude. Repent from sin, and towards God. Jesus said 'Repent and believe' **Luke 3:13 & Mark 1:15**. The first words of Jesus ministry

Matt 4:17; Mark 1:15; Similarly the first words of Peter in ministering to the Jews.

Let the GOODNESS of God lead you to repentance. 'All everywhere should repent' **Mark 6:12 - Rom 2:4; Acts 17:30**

Repentance is an attitude of heart, which leads to action. When we repent and get saved we become a child of God. If we sin as a child of God, we must repent of that sin (a. Face up to it and admit it. b. Change the way you think about it.)

 1 John 1:9 from Amplified. Sin is ABNORMAL in the life of the believer.

3. FAITH TOWARD GOD (see previous teaching on faith)

Pleasing God by living by faith and action on it. *See if it is understood yet.*

4. BAPTISMS (*see previous teaching on Baptisms*)

- Three baptisms:
1. Believers baptism into the Body of Christ (Born Again)
 2. Baptism in the Holy Ghost
 3. Baptism in water. (Outward expression of 1.)

Basis is identification with Christ in the New Birth!

(a) New Birth baptism - agency is the Holy Ghost **John 16:8-11**

(b) In the Holy Ghost - agency is Jesus Christ **Matt 3:11**

(c) Water baptism - agency is the believer **Acts 8:36-38; Mark 16:16**

Belief in Christ is not sufficient without repentance. **Luke 13:3**

Baptism into the Body of Christ brings the believer into one Body, the Church.

Baptism in water is outward symbol of your personal death to the world and into life in Christ.

Baptism in the Holy Ghost gives us power to fully *live* for Jesus Christ and carry out our call;

5. LAYING ON OF HANDS

We see a theme running through the Bible. That is that when there is a physical point of contact it has spiritual significance. Faith is required.

It is the main means by which God imparts His gifts and blessings from Christians to the world and also to each other. (discuss anointing with oil **James 5:14**; handkerchiefs **Acts 19:12**)

Moses laid hands on Joshua, and he was full of wisdom. **Deut 34:9**

Uses in Ministry: Blessing children **Matt 19:15**; Healing the sick **Mark 16:16**
working of miracles **Acts 19:11**; imparting gifts and baptism in the Holy Ghost.
Acts 8:17; 1 Tim 4:14 & 2 Tim 1:6.

Misuse and Caution Run for your life from mere ritual! - empty hands on empty heads.
Indiscriminate use. **1 Tim 5:22**

6. RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD

Jesus was the first to receive a resurrected body. When Jesus rose from the dead it was a physical as well as spiritual resurrection. **John 20:24-29; 1 Cor 15:12-14.**

It is also essential to Christian belief.

Death is an enemy but we have life when Jesus is our Lord and Saviour. **John 10:10**

Salvation is eternal - When a Christian dies he goes to heaven. **1 Cor 15:52-58.**

his spirit and soul; his body however goes back to dust until Jesus returns. **Acts 7:54**

7. ETERNAL JUDGEMENT

God has to judge all evil because He is Holy and sin is evil.

Heaven is a literal place. **Revelation 21:1-4**

Hell is a place of no return. **Job 7:9.**

Hell is a place prepared for the devil and his angels but the only people who go there are those over whom he has a claim. **Matt 25:41**

Eternal life OR death - NO SECOND CHANCE. **Matt 25:30-46**

There is a judgement for believers and another for unbelievers (rejection of Christ)

There are 5 judgements; We shall look at two as the others deal with unbelievers.

TYPE OF	PLACE	TIME	BASIS	RESULT
Believers	Calvary	c. AD30	Christ's finished work	Our justification
Believers	Judgement seat of Christ	Rapture	Our works of Obedience	Reward or Loss

8. CONCLUSION

You must grasp the essence of each of these foundational truths and then move on to 'maturity' - growing up in Christ to be an effective child of God, blessed in what you do - the implied seventh doctrine. A good grasp of the basics will help avoiding the pitfalls and deceptions of the cults and from traditionalist groups who deny, hide or mythologize them.

CLOSE IN PRAYER Hand out copies of Appendix 6 'Water Baptism'

THE LOCAL CHURCH

There was a church at Corinth made up of believers called ‘saints’ and they had some sort of organisation, but they needed direction **1 Cor 1:1-13**

Church = EKKLESIA (Gk) – Called out ones. (Separate from the world)
They met on the first day of the week (Sunday) **Jn 20:1; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2.**

1. SCRIPTURAL ORGANISATION OF THE CHURCH

The Church has a ‘head’ namely Jesus Christ. **Colossians 1:18**

The Church has a ‘body’ namely the believers. **Colossians 1:18**

The structure: One Body; one Lord, one Spirit, one Baptism **Ephesians 4:6-7**

God has set the five-fold ministry gifts in the Church to run it. To do the work of the ministry, equipping the saints, and give increase and edification to the Church.

Ephesians 4:11-14. The purpose of Jesus as Head is to direct operations.

2. WHO OR WHAT THE PASTOR IS

The pastor is the under-shepherd (under Jesus that is). **John 10:11; Heb 13:20; Psalm 23**

The Pastor is a ‘gift’ to the church **Ephesians 4:11**, He must feed the believers spiritual food and protect them from evildoers who try to disrupt believers and the work of the church ministry. He must also provide leadership. Care for the flock of God. Do the work of an evangelist **2 Tim 4:2-5**

3. THE FUNCTIONS OF ELDERS, DEACONS AND HELPS

Governments: Church leaders Grk EPISKOPOS = *Superintendent, Overseer Bishop, a mature believer who can oversee church affairs.* Saints who lead groups of helps ministries and hold essentially a non-pulpit ministry in the church but are ‘apt to teach’ **1 Tim 3:2** but hold an

overseeing role in the Church *under* the pastor, such as:- elders, church board members.

Qualifications for overseers (we call them church leaders) are:-

- Good conduct
- Self control
- Teaching ability (more on a one-to-one basis)
- Recognised by the world as someone with integrity.

Helps: Deacons. Gk DIAKONOS = *One who runs errands.*

In modern times involves the ministries like counsellors, ushers, sound team technicians, office workers, band, visitation, children’s ministry and street evangelism, etc.,:

Qualifications for helps are similar:-

- Honest (has integrity)
- Not double-tongued (says one thing but does something else)
- Not *given* to alcohol.

The main point is that we are ALL in the Body of Christ and need to respect and assist each other - NOT criticise in a destructive manner. If a person is deserving of your criticism, he is worthy of your help and praise too! **1 Cor 12:28.**

4. DISCIPLESHIP **Matt 28:19 Amp.**

First and foremost we are disciples of Jesus Christ Himself. A disciple is one who adheres to, learns from, follows, and disciplines himself with Jesus Christ as his role model. This is done through the Word! The word is taught through the Five-Fold ministry and the anointing which Jesus has given to it to carry out His will.

5. TITHES AND OFFERINGS

God has provided tithing as the method of releasing His blessing not just to those in full-time ministry but essentially to the saints *by faith*.  **Gen 14:18-20.** God provided Melchizedek to walk into the pages of history to *receive* tithes so that God could *bless* Abraham.

We pay **tithes** to our High Priest, Jesus Christ in those who are called to the ministry into the Church you are in.  **Mal 3:8-12.** Offerings should be above this as the Lord inspires you to do! **Tithes must only be paid by faith** In the tithe we become constrained to honour God with the firstfruits of our increase but God cannot accept it as an offering unless you release it by faith, that is, like Abraham you expect God to bless your giving.

Offerings Like the tithe it will only be honoured by God if you believe and expect an increase. Some people adopt a false piety on Biblical prosperity yet would jump up and down for glee if they won the lottery! To *expect* God to prosper you in every area of your life through your tithes and offerings **is an act of obedience** just as much as the giving itself. **Luke 6:38.**

IMPORTANT NOTE on finances If you believe you have enough (as many rightly do in the West) then use your faith to get more in order to *give it to the cause of Christ in the earth such as missions*.

6. FELLOWSHIP

We are required to go to church to praise and worship God and let Him minister to us through the ministry He has set up. We also need to gather together to worship Him; to hear things of the Lord around His Word. We need to have fellowship, break bread and pray together as we seek, locate and carry out His will for our lives on earth and *encourage* (not compete) each other in the same. **Hebrews 10:25; Ephesians 5:17-21.**

7. COMMUNION

The institution of the Lord's Supper. (Explain the Jewish Cup and 3 pittas)

Notice we need to examine ourselves before partaking. (any sin or strife?)

It should not become a ritual but a meaningful experience. (remember what a Covenant Jesus wrought for us by shedding His Blood for us when He died)

8. FULFILLING THE MINISTRY

Talk about church partnership - fulfilling God's will for your life - hand out partnership pro-formas if appropriate.

Caution:- Don't get into bondage of heavy-shepherding and 'management control', or of expecting the five-fold ministry to act as 'your priest', but on the other hand you need to belong to a local church with a Pastor. i.e. DON'T be a footloose and fancy-free Christian or a Christian hobo; if you do the devil can pick you off at his leisure!

hand out details of home fellowships; Practical Ministries courses; names of helps ministry leaders to contact.

Hand out copies of Appendix 7 Fulfilling God's Call on Your life

CLOSE IN PRAYER

A LIFESTYLE OF PRAISE & WORSHIP

We were created to have fellowship with God and this involves not only believing that He exists and does things to bless us; it also involves us having regular fellowship with Him and this involves us 'entering into His presence'

Emphasise:- Loving God first by worshipping Him in spirit and in truth  John 4:20 – 24

The hinderance to our praise being received by God is iniquity (deliberate sin) in our heart Psalm 66:18 example: Unforgiveness. *God has provided a basis of on-going forgiveness in 1 John 1 7-9*

1. WHY WE NEED TO PRAISE AND WORSHIP GOD

Man is created to worship God, having a spirit, the eternal part, **1 Cor 15:45, Heb 1:6,**

Ecl 3:10-12 world = eternity in mans heart, Man is an eternal spirit.

Man was created to praise and have intimate fellowship with God. **Ps 102:18; 1 Cor 1:9;**

Man & spirits in rebellion against God *envy* Him being praised. These want glory for themselves (look at football players (especially when they score and the adrenalin rush exposes them), pop stars and the 'cult of celebrities' **Is 14:12-13, Ezek 28:14-19.**(Lucifer to Satan)

Numbers 10:9 Alarm of Cry to Battle, Joh 6:1-20; Praise shout = victory:

But for His people the shout and praise is the entrance into His presence. **II Chron 5:13-14; Acts 13:2-3**

The central focus of our praise is because Jesus has saved us (Session 1 & 2) and has given us the God-kind of life (*Zoe*) now for the rest of our lives on earth **John 10:10**

Praise and Worship is the *daily* lifestyle for those who love God 24/7 - not only on Sundays or when we *want* or *get* something.

II Chron 20:15-24 Demonstrates that there is deliverance in praise.  Acts 16:20-28

 Ephesians 2:2 The devil is called the Prince of Power of the air.

Praise and Worship affects the atmosphere. **Explain**

 Ps 115:17-18 The **dead** don't praise God! (Unsaved folks and Christians in the flesh cf Rom 8:6 the Enemy will always promote hinderances to praise by distracting God's people whenever they begin to praise Him; especially corporately **Explain**)

Behaviour of Christians in the spirit –  Eph 5:17-20

Since church is made up of believers of differing levels of maturity; with different situations affecting them each week. Praise and Worship will prepare the hearts to open up to God! **Explain**

Remember that since praise and worship of God is so damaging to the enemy that it is in his interest to stop it or cripple it in some way. For this reason you will often NOT *feel* like co-operating with your spirit in praising God. It is also a reason that there is a lot of strife in Christian bands when they are not mature enough in the things of God. (ministries of Praise; Prayer and Intercession require maturity and a high level of sanctification to avoid strife)

2. HOW TO ENTER INTO HIS PRESENCE

YADAH Sacrifice of praise, giving thanks **Col 1:12; 3:17; I Chron 16:8-36. 1 Thess 5:18.**

HALAL (loud praise, to be clamourously foolish) The praise **God inhabits. Ps 22:3; Acts 16:26.**

TEHILLAH – High Praise. Corporate version of HALAL impl. God is present in it. **2 Chron 20:22**

SHACHAH – To worship, bow down **Ps 138:2;**

Praise is carried out both individually and corporately - together.

One of the chief functions of fatherhood is to lead his family in Praise and Worship of God (this also goes for single mothers). Judah (head of the family through which Jesus was born) means praise

3. HOW AND WHERE DO WE WORSHIP

Not bound to a physical place.  Exodus 30:6-10 God met the high priest within the veil. Shekinah glory the presence of God in the Holy Ghost. Matt 27:51 Veil rent in two. Hebrews 10:20 New and living way. Because we are *in Christ* we can enter into the presence of God at any time and place. The idea of a *location* came from the OT principle of God only residing in the Holy Place in Jerusalem or the Ark of the Covenant - Judaizers and religious people prefer *buildings*, **locations** and **tradition**. (building atmospheres Mark 13:1 -2) that is why most people still refer to the church as a bricks and mortar building. The Church of Jesus Christ is a building!! Made without hands. Eph 2:20-22

4. WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

As in John 4:23 always be transparent with God - He knows anyway. He counts the very hairs on your head. 1 Sam 16:7 God *always* looks on the heart about your attitude; Who then is fooled by a religious pretence? Simply be childlike in you praise and worship Ps 8:2 & Matt 21:16. and His glory will fill your life.

Refer to Handout

CLOSE IN PRAYER

How to Study the Word of God

Many people ask how they might make their own personal study of the Word more meaningful and helpful toward their spiritual growth. Here are some guidelines to help you.

1. **STUDY BOTH TESTAMENTS BUT MAINLY THE NEW!** - It is *our* covenant and it is *better* than the Old one. When you need to study a portion of the Old Testament to clarify the New, do it. e.g.: In Psalm 119:34 reference is made to "I shall obey your law . . .". If this scripture is taken 'through the Cross' it becomes paraphrased as ' . . . obey your Word revealed to my heart' thus obeying the direction of the Holy Spirit speaking to my spirit. Simply it means believing and acting on the Word that God is revealing to you. (Matthew 4:4 the *revealed* Word of God)
2. Remember that in the OT (Old Testament) people were looking toward the coming of the Christ. The Gospels *present* Jesus Christ to us; Acts shows us how the Church *acted* and should continue to *act* throughout the 'age of grace' and the epistles show us what His substitutionary act achieved for us and teaches us how to apply the Word in our lives.
3. Set yourself a goal each week and work towards it. For example: read the 4 Gospels in 2 weeks, etc. . . .
4. Set aside a definite time of daily study and arrange each day around it.
5. Pray before you read. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you according to John 14:26 and John 16:13.
6. Meditate in the Word according to Joshua 1:8. Meditation involves going over the scripture, 'revolving it in your mind', repeating it to yourself, running cross-references, etc. In short, it is more than mere skimming of the scripture.
7. See everything in the light of the character of God, as shown in Jesus Christ's death and resurrection for us. As is so clearly seen in John 3:16.
8. Note that the Bible contains POETRY: HISTORY/BIOGRAPHY: LAW: WISE SAYINGS: PROPHECY, PARABLES & LETTERS. i.e. POETRY in Psalms, HISTORY/BIOGRAPHY in Luke, Acts, Judges; LAW in Exodus, Leviticus; WISE SAYINGS in Proverbs, Ecclesiastes; PROPHECY, fulfilled and yet to be fulfilled in Isaiah, Revelation and Psalms, etc., PARABLES or word pictures with deeper meanings in the Gospels & LETTERS of doctrine, explanation or correction such as Corinthians, Ephesians, Hebrews etc.
9. Often the meaning is plain and obvious. **WHEN IT IS NOT PLAIN** follow these guidelines:
 - i. What does the passage **ACTUALLY SAY** (setting, purpose, context, forms and actual words.
 - ii. What does the passage **MEAN?** (to original readers, compare with other passages, main point, other points.
 - iii. What does the passage **MEAN TODAY?** Do we have similar problems? Is there an example I can follow or a response I could make?
10. Remember that the Word of God says **OUR STUDY IS TO SHOW OURSELVES APPROVED TO GOD and NOT to man so that we are not ashamed 2 Tim 2:15.**
11. Keep in mind **WHO YOUR LOVING FATHER IS, WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST, and WHO YOUR ENEMY IS.** Keep this clear in your thinking.
12. Be determined to get a good grasp of the scripture. Purpose in your heart and say it with your mouth (**Romans 10:9/10**) so that Satan will not steal the Word from you.
13. All your study and hearing of the Word will result in being taught by revelation of the Holy Ghost; He will convict and enthuse you confirming things you are reading or hearing in line with the scripture. Faith always results in action and it is true that your study will be a wasted, if you do not **ACT** on what you have learned. cf James 1:21-25.

IT IS THE WORD OF GOD

From the book *Faith that Prevails* by Smith Wigglesworth

It is supernatural in origin
Eternal in duration
Inexpressible in value
Infinite in scope
Regenerative in power
Infallible in authority
Universal in interest
Personal in application
Inspired in totality
Read it through – write it down
Pray it in – work it out
AND THEN PASS IT ON

Romans 12:1-2

:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Matthew 10:8

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments in their original writing as fully inspired of God and accept them as the supreme and final authority for faith and life.
2. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary and is true God and true man.
4. We believe that God created man in His own image; that man sinned and thereby incurred the penalty of death, physical and spiritual; that all human beings inherit a sinful nature which issues (in the case of those who reach moral responsibility) in actual transgression involving personal guilt.
5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, a substitutionary sacrifice according to the Scriptures and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood.
6. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus, His ascension into Heaven and His present life as our High Priest and Advocate.
7. We believe in the personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
8. We believe that all who repent of their sin and receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become children of God.
9. We believe in the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, empowering and equipping believers for service, with accompanying supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit; and in fellowship with the Holy Spirit. We believe in the divinely ordained ministries of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher.
10. We believe in the resurrection of both the just and the unjust, the eternal blessedness of the redeemed, and eternal banishment of those who have rejected the offer of salvation.
11. We believe that the one true Church is the whole company of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ and regenerated by the Holy Spirit; that the local church on earth should take its character from this conception of the Church spiritual and therefore that the new birth and personal confession of Christ are essentials of Church membership.
12. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ appointed two ordinances - Baptism in water and the Lord's Supper - to be observed as acts of obedience and as perpetual witnesses to the cardinal facts of the Christian faith; that Baptism is the immersion of the believer in water as a confession of identification with Christ in burial and resurrection and that the Lord's Supper is the partaking of the emblems as symbolical of the Saviour's broken body and shed blood, in remembrance of His sacrificial death, till He comes.
13. We believe that divine healing was provided for in the Old and New Testament and is therefore an integral part of the Gospel.
14. We believe the Bible teaches that without holiness no man can see the Lord. We believe in the doctrine of sanctification as a definite, yet progressive work of grace, commencing at the time of the new birth and continuing until the consummation of salvation.
15. This ministry is open to any further truth, which the Holy Spirit may illuminate from the Scriptures.

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

You will receive POWER to live the whole Christian life and love to give to others beyond your natural ability as you respond to the anointing of God on your life. Mark 16:16-20

You will grow and mature as a man or woman of God into the fullness of His plan for you and walk wisely in the affairs of life. Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Ghost) will augment your spiritual progress and is vital in developing the anointing and empowerment of God in your life.

Just as Jesus came into your heart by asking Him, when you were born again, our Heavenly Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him - Luke 11:13.

Definition of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost It is the immersion into the presence of the third Person of the Godhead. Jesus is the baptiser and this usually occurs through the laying on of hands and when the recipient is in faith co-operating with the Holy-Spirit in releasing our voice to His incoming utterance. We yield our mind, intellect, emotions, and will to the Holy Spirit by faith, and as a result His presence releases in us the outward manifestation of speaking in tongues. (As distinct from the spiritual gifts of 1 Cor 12:10)

Acts 2:4 Tells us “and when they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them”

Rom 8:26-27 The Spirit intercedes for the saints according to God’s will.

1 Cor 14:2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

1 Cor 14:14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth,

Jude 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Eph 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

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

Don’t grieve Him! Eph 4:30 :31 These things grieve the Holy Ghost. :32 These things please Him.

Don’t quench His operation 1 Thess 5:19 Thoughtless, selfish and carnal behaviour during services or meetings by Christians can quench or stifle His work. Always honour His presence because He is Holy, and very precious to us and to the Lord. He is the executive power of God and does the will of the Father but only operates when He is welcomed in faith by us. Everything He does brings credit and praise to the Name of Jesus and His work is the outward evidence of God being with us. He will be our best Friend if we allow Him to be quickening us to hear the Lord Jesus and the Father. The 9 gifts of 1 Cor 12:8-11 operate as He wills, so always reverence Him in meetings!

The Gifts of the Holy Ghost

God has lovingly blessed us with these wonderful gifts which manifest his presence among us for our benefit and also for the world outside as an invitation to come into His presence and obey His Gospel.

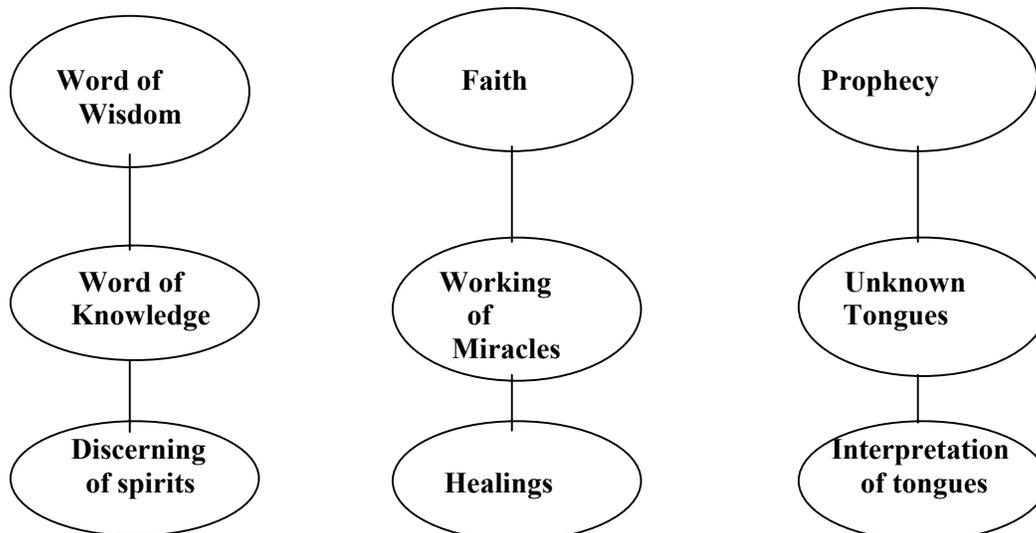
- Study:**
- a. 1 Cor 12:1-11 Describes the actual gifts and what they do.
 - b. 1 Cor 14:1-40. Tells us how they are to be used.

The gifts do **not** lead us. The inspirational gifts only **confirm** something God has revealed to us (in the OT the prophet functioned more like a priest - i.e. hearing God on others behalf) Because we are **led** by the Holy Spirit we can 'test the spirits' (1 John 4:1) and know *on the inside* if something has come from God. Some pointers:-

1. Jesus **always** gets the glory!
2. Prophecies must come to pass
3. Don't go 'looking for a word'
4. Any leading of God will **never** lead to bondage.
5. True prophets can be judged by **their fruit**.

THREE INGREDIENTS FOR THE GIFTS TO OPERATE

1. Walking in love (no strife)
2. Unity of the Spirit (especially in worship)
3. Desire for them



Agape - The God-kind of Love

The AGAPE or God-kind of love is the *very heartbeat of God* and if we do not walk in it the gifts will fail as set out in 1 Cor 13:8. So will the effectiveness of our faith go on hold (Galatians 5:6) and despite being Christians there will be little to distinguish us from the unsaved as our light progressively dims and the flesh begins to predominate, and we can open a door to the Enemy! So measure . . .

LOVE'S THERMOMETER

1 Corinthians 13:4 - 8

“Love, God’s love in us..... takes no account of the evil done to it - pays no attention to a suffered wrong.”

Are you touchy, fretful, or resentful? Are you always taking account of the evil done to you?

This is the divine love gauge. It is easy to find out whether or not you’re walking in love by looking at your love walk in the light of the scripture.
Write it out and pin it up in your bedroom or on the back door of the loo!

Love that Reverses the Curse
*To swim upstream is hard to do the bumper-sticker fish might say!
But Jesus is alive in you to bless mankind today.
So give out good for evil,
To the unkind be kind;
Forgive when they abuse you,
Let no shadow cross your mind.
To say no instead of yes
Can be a lonely test.
And yes instead of no,
When comes the time to sow.
Each day before the Sun goes down
Forgive each cause of a mournful frown
If you do these things it’s not in vain
That God shed abroad His love in you,
When you were Born Again.*

PRAYER

📖 **1 Timothy 2:1-6** We are exhorted or urged by the Word of God to pray. We are encouraged to pray for three groups of people:

1. 'All Men' (v 1) People around us, family, enemies, etc.,
2. 'For kings' (v 2) The Queen, Government, President even dictators like Caesar!
3. 'For all in authority' (v 2) Police, Customs, Armed forces, MI 5&6, Local councils, etc.,

The reason for praying for these groups of people is also found in v 2:

:2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

This pleases the Father (v.3) who has the desire for all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth. We should therefore make God's desires our desires. If you consider that our country that is badly governed, a country with dishonesty running rampant, a country with loosening moral standards - is a country unreceptive or ignorant of the Gospel. Prayer **must** be offered up by the saints for the country and its peoples in order that the Gospel can be preached with power, faith and truth (Who else is going to pray effectively?). When this happens, then peace, Godliness and honesty will manifest as more and more people become born-again. (Hist. e.g. South Africa 1980 - 1994).

Christian prayers are to 'clear the path' as it were, for the Gospel to go out in a place or a country. Intercessory prayer is vital to laying a foundation for revival. Any revival is preceded by God's people pro-actively praying and binding up evil and loosing the goodness of God. Results must be expected and the leadership of the Holy Spirit sought. Religious repetitions are a useless waste of time.

Matthew 18:18-19

:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

:19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

Notice too, that prayer is not just saying 'Our Father' in Luke 11. Prayer is communicating with God. Prayer is releasing God's provision in our lives on earth. Prayer is standing on behalf of others before God (**1 Peter 2:9**). Prayer involves crying out for mercy and help. Prayer is giving thanks for already received blessings and thanking God that He is sending answers to requests. We must not limit God in our prayers.

Prayers may be offered up in your natural language, based on what the Bible says we can pray for. Prayer may be offered up and ought to be, in tongues as well. Here the helper, the Holy Ghost, comes to our aid according to Rom 8:26-27 and is our aid against infirmities or weaknesses, where we do not know how to pray as we should. But the Holy Ghost does and He helps us when we yield to Him and give utterance in our prayers, in the spirit (tongues). Notice too that in any prayer session, Christians will be involved in:

- **SUPPLICATIONS** - Entreaty, asking God for help.
- **PRAYERS** - Pleading what the Word says about the situation
- **INTERCESSIONS** - Intercession. - initiated either by you or the Holy Ghost.
- **GIVING THANKS** - Praise and Worship God for the answer.

We have a progression of prayer revealed here that leads to effective, pleasing prayer. We cannot afford to neglect the power of prayer. God is waiting for us to move into the fullness of our inheritance regarding prayer.

Seven Points to Remember in Prayer

1. **Decide** what you want from God, **be specific** about it. Now find the scriptures that definitely promise you these things and write them down. 📖 **James 1:6-8** (pray in line with God's will and purpose)
2. **Believe and Speak** - Ask God for the things you want and believe that you have them. Pray the scripture. Speak the Word to the problem (in faith in God's Word) and your faith will pull those things you desire (in line with God's Word) into the physical realm from the spiritual realm. 📖 **Mark 11:23-27** - **Proverbs 4:20-22**
3. **Control your thought life** - Bring every thought and desire into agreement with what you have asked for in prayer. 📖 **2 Cor. 10:5**
4. **Walk in Love** - Love is the fulfilling of the Law and the basis of all we do as Christians. Also **stop strife** in marriage otherwise it will hinder your prayers (**1 Peter 3:7**). 📖 **Matt 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-49; John 14:21; John 15:1-16; Gal 5:6 & Isa 1:19.**
5. **Meditate** on the Word - especially those verses on which your praying is based. 📖 **Joshua 1:8; Proverbs 4:20-22**
6. **Guard against error** - You may watch TV, listen to radio, someone talking or reading a book, or some concept picked up in a movie or magazine. Be careful not to embrace a philosophy or idea which undermines the things on your heart you are praying for. 📖 **Prov 4:23**
7. **Never pray doubt or unbelief.** - Negative praying or speaking will harden your hearts and hinder your prayers - 📖 **Hebrews 3:12**

BELIEVERS & WATER BAPTISM

The word BAPTISM means 'to dip or immerse' Gk - BAPTIZO = *To cleanse or wash by dipping or submerging; to immerse.* Water Baptism is scriptural. Symbolic washing was practised by many ancient cultures in sacrificial preparations by priests but for us the meanings though similar are far more unique.

The Key Study Scripture is: Romans 6:1-5,11

Consider **Hebrews 6:1-2** Baptisms are considered a basic doctrine. There are three types of baptism in scripture:

1. Believers Baptism. (Implied) Faith in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. Mark 16:16
2. Water Baptism. Matt 28:19 & Acts 8:38 Identifying that *you died* with Jesus Christ and are *raised* to life in Him.
3. Baptism with the Holy Spirit with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues. (BCC Append 4)

Believers Baptism (New Birth Rom 3:25)

Not generally taught or understood. Simply it implied that when you repented of your sins and believed that Jesus Christ was sent by God to die in your place and you received Him as your Saviour and Lord that from then on God sees you **in** His Son, else we could be lost waiting for the water baptism ceremony! The act of faith saves you and in that sense you are "immersed" into Christ. Study Mark 16:16 and Acts 17:28 (in Him). No other Christian baptism can take place before this one. That is why infant water baptism is not taught by this ministry.

Water Baptism (Acts 10:47 - Matthew 28:19)

Revelation of the Lord's direction to be baptised is usually manifest in the believer's desire to be water baptised. It is for believers only and it is a public outward declaration of what has been completed inwardly already by the faith of the believer. Through baptism the believer makes a definite stand and commitment before witnesses that they are dead to the world and alive to God. Very similar to the public declaration given by a man and a woman getting married and confirming the commencement of a matrimonial state before witnesses (for Christians this is before their Church in the presence of God). Both are acts of obedience to God.

The pastor is usually, but not always, the baptiser, and water is the element. The spiritual significance of it depends on you the believer. You must know and understand that you are identifying with the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord. It is not to be taken lightly. Remember, water baptism does not save you - it merely makes known to others the already established salvation in your life. By time of the water baptism ceremony, you should be able to express this from the heart verbally (without repetition). **STUDY** these scriptures and *consider* what the Lord is saying

Romans 6:1-4; Matt 16:25; Luke 12:22; John 12:25; Romans 5:10; Matt 16:24; Colossians 1:20 and Galatians 2:20.

In **Acts 8:36-39** - we see an example of Philip the evangelist as the baptiser; baptising the Ethiopian eunuch and the motive acceptable to God for the new believer being baptised. In **Acts 10:47-48** - we see another example of water baptism. Prayerfully study **Romans 6:1-5,11** with regard to the identification we have with Christ through faith, of which water baptism is symbolic. Study the scripture noting that Jesus has set us *free* from the power of v:14 sin. Therefore, we ought to live by God's leading, in a manner that is worthy of the high calling we have on our lives. We have died, been buried, and resurrected into the new life of Jesus Christ, which is far, far better than anything the world, its leaders, philosophies, fashions or entertainments may have to offer.

DEFINITION OF BAPTISM

An ordinance of the New Testament instituted by Jesus Christ (**Matt 28:19**) whereby believers in Christ are, in the name of the **Father**, the **Son** and the **Holy Ghost**, *immersed* in and covered with water and then raised *up out* of it, as a sign of their fellowship and identification with Christ in His *death, burial* and *resurrection* it is a sign of their *own* death to sin and resurrection to the newness of life as well as identifying with His purpose on Earth from now on and to eternal life.

A LIFESTYLE OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Why is Praise and Worship so important?

Many people do not properly understand why we praise and worship God. Many think it is a pleasant excuse for a bit of a sing-song to warm us up a bit for a Christian service; and many have their 'favourite' hymns to this end.

However praise and worship has a very important role to play in the life of Christians, not only when they meet as a body but also and more importantly; when they are alone facing the rigours and stresses of life. Some say "Why do we need to praise God anyway? Is He on an ego trip?" Much of this attitude is largely found in the hearts of people who are either ignorant of or not really grateful for what Jesus has done for them; but the answer is still no. He does not need our praise to function as the living God but we *do* need to praise God for the sake of our relationship with Him. It is similar to the parent/child relationship, it will become cold unless the exchange of unconditional love is expressed without hindrance or pressure to perform.

The character of God is that He loves to relate to us and desires our intimacy as a loving father. Because He is holy and also is God, He cannot look on sin so our access to His presence is in and through Jesus Christ. God has created us to worship Him and enjoy His fellowship as free individuals and this free giving of our love and adoration is precious to Him and loathed by the devil. The god of this world seeks to cream off this adulation and provides alternative centres of worship and this can be seen in the way people treat their favourite football heroes, popstars, actors and other 'celebrities'. It is 'milked' as a source of wealth and a whole industry is built up around this kind of worship. Men and angels however, were not created to be worshipped and this often results in these human 'godlets' falling into all kinds of depravity. However it is only God who is really entitled to this adulation centred on His Son Jesus Christ so small wonder there is a corrupted alternative offered by Satan.

God is the only Being in the universe entitled to be worshipped and Jesus Christ as God, the Son, is not only entitled to this, but additionally He is *worthy* because of the sacrifice He made for us at Calvary. Supernaturally a lifestyle of praise and worship in the believer is a uniquely powerful weapon to use against evil opposition from the enemy.

SOME EXAMPLES OF THE POWER OF PRAISE

Individually (ones and twos)

Acts 16:25 – Peter and Silas facing imprisonment and the possibility of being torn to pieces by 'rent-a-crowd'.

1 Sam 30:6 David at Ziklag where he 'encouraged himself in the Lord' Study how to do this in Psalms 119 (the Big One).

Corporately (church or a group)

2 Chronicles 20:20-30 Jehosaphat leads the people in High Praise with tremendous results for the nation; note the position of the singers.

2 Chronicles 5:14-15 Praise and Worship brought unity of the people and the presence of God manifested.

Acts 2:1-4; Acts 5:12; Acts 4:24-37. In your Christian walk you will hear many testimonies to this effect as well.

Because we are human and live in a corrupt and carnal world we are inevitably affected by its influences and these leave us in a condition where we need to apply ourselves on purpose to enter His presence. It is as if God knew this and gave us a simple progression to this end so that rather than saying 'stop the world I want to get off' we go to our heavenly Father for some time with Him. This process can be seen easily throughout the scripture but is summarized by a short study of the Hebrew words in Ps 100:4, Pay particular regard to their Hebrew meanings.

Psalm 100:4 Enter into his gates with *thanksgiving* (TOWDAH), and into his courts with *praise* (TEHILLAH): be *thankful* (YADAH) unto him, and *bless* (BARAK) his name.

TOWDAH Give thanks: a sacrifice of praise (Jer 33:11 & Heb 13:15) it will cost us something ie: when we don't feel like it. An example is if things are not going right or a tragedy has happened to us we can govern our emotions by opposing the flow of them in this way.

TEHILLAH & HALLAL To be expressive in your adoration. Corporately; to flow together and even to the extent of forgetting your reputation (clamorously foolish!) This is not a put on job! It always follows TOWDAH and the Holy Ghost is now fully involved.

YADAH Arrow shots of praise! It comes to mind that you simply 'have to thank God' in this atmosphere of praise. Anointed admissions of wrongdoing can also occur at this point as well (cf 1 John 1:9) with the attendant restoration. God often stirs unity during YADAHness.

BARAK To bless; kneel in worship; pronounce blessing on the name of the Lord. It is the place of impartation of blessings (worship to God and blessings to man) The same word is used when people pronounce bad things so we understand that there is spiritual power in our words. In services this is the quieter form of praise and worship and often comes towards the end of the session but this depends on the leading of the Holy Ghost as to how it will run.

The structure of praise and worship not only applies corporately in services but also in your personal life and before you get to praying where possible have a time of personal praise and worship. Make this a personal 'must' before you attend meetings or ministry.

How to apply the power of Praise and Worship in your own life

If you read Psalm 119 your own spirit will start to leap with thanksgiving and this is the way to start. You won't need to go on a 'witch-hunt' for sins with your mind because as you worship; your spirit which hears God will bring this to mind and you can deal with it according to 1 John 1:6-9. It is here that the Holy Ghost will reveal things to you. This place is called the 'Secret Place' in **Psalm 92** (study it over and over). Praise and Worship is a tremendous gift that God has given us so use it daily and fellowship with your Father and Big Brother the Lord Jesus who love to have fellowship with you.

FULFILLING GOD'S CALL IN THE MINISTRY

Many people attend church, are faithful at it, but yet often there is something lacking. It may be that they are not fulfilling the ministry that God has for them. Remember that when we consider "ministry" this does not only mean the five-fold offices of Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher. Ministry also involves 'helps' such as the band, ushers, children's ministry, etc in church meetings and also being willing to be His evidence or witness to the world at large. God requires us to be faithful in our walk and many blessings attend obedience as a by-product of this (Isaiah 1:19) For us to remain 'pew fodder' would be to dishonour Him when there is so much to do in reaching the world with God's plan of redemption and each of us has a unique part to play in this with special talents and gifts which God has endowed you with to fulfil this. The purpose of the five-fold offices is to train, equip and help you to carry out your part in His plan, overcome problems and fully enjoy the process!

The Body of Christ functions as a unit knit together by our love for one another in obedience to Jesus' command in 1 John 3:23. Life in the church involves us operating as a Christian community, even as a family. The love walk is necessary as there are occasionally knocks that we receive (love is not easily provoked . . .) While it is impossible to completely avoid giving offence we *can* refuse to get offended and with this God is well pleased and is a great aid to unity.

The Christian Life

The reflection of your life in Christ can be an exciting one as sometimes you will pray for the sick and they will recover; you will lead people to the Lord as well; also there will be criticisms by people and also respect. You will need to be faithful in your prayer life and in the study of God's word. Commit yourself to being a tither (by faith) in church and give offerings too. Not only into the basket at offering times but in blessing the saints as well. God will lead you to give money or things as a blessing to others and this will be yet another opportunity to please God.

Submission is not all-in wrestling but an attitude of heart preferring one another above ourselves in love. God's Kingdom is indeed an army but it is not held in unity by dictatorship or control but by love and obedience to the leading of the Holy Ghost. Respect God's choosing in the five-fold ministry especially the pastor and those who labour in the word as they follow Christ.

Helps Ministry

It is quite possible that God may want you to enter the five-fold ministry at some point but note that in 99% of cases He calls them through the 'helps' ministry first! So that they can show themselves faithful and grow spiritually during their time there. It could be that He calls you into a giving ministry in order to raise finances for His work and as you show yourself faithful here He will give you yet more increase, in accordance with Deut 8:18. Whatever your call operating in the Helps ministry will raise your Christian life to a higher level with more challenges but also more blessings and through faithfulness here you will get more clarity on the next steps in God's plan for you. Who knows if your faithfulness will not release another Smith Wigglesworth or John Wesley into the Body of Christ?

Stir up the gift that is within you by the Holy Spirit; Don't let personal insecurities maintain any doubt in your thinking! God never spoke doubt or unbelief to anybody!

God has a wonderful plan for your life; He so dearly wants to bless you and manifest His love to you; so that you can partake of His Divine nature and THEN PASS IT ON.

Joshua 1:7 Only be thou *strong and very courageous*, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law (His Word), which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

So flourish as a Christian, play your part in your church and walk on in Christ to fulfil His plan for your life.