

**The Way of Jesus Catechism -  
A Foundational Teaching for Christian Beliefs and Practices**

**by John Hammer**

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## **Section 1 - The Way and Who God is**

### **1.1 What is the Jesus Way?**

The first followers of Jesus were first referred to as followers of “the way” (Acts 9:2, 19:9, 22:4).

### **1.2 What does this mean?**

Following Jesus meant living a lifestyle of faith, holiness and being set apart unto Christ. This is a “narrow” way (Matthew 7:13) and it is following Jesus who is “the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6).” An early historical document used for new believers in the ancient church called, “The Didache” or “The Teaching,” says is like this: “There are two Ways: a Way of Life and a Way of Death, and the difference between these two Ways is great.”

### **1.3 How did they become followers of Jesus and people of “the Way?”**

They believed in the gospel and became disciples of Jesus.

### **1.4 What is the gospel?**

The first time the gospel was preached to the Gentiles, a non-Jewish audience, Peter preached this to the household of Cornelius:

Acts 10:34-48 NIV

[34] Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism [35] but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. [36] You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. [37] You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached--- [38] how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. [39] “We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, [40] but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. [41] He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen---by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. [42] He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. [43] All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” [44] While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. [45] The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. [46] For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, [47] “Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” [48] So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

### **1.5 So, what specifically is the gospel?**

The gospel means “good news.” It is the message or proclamation of “announcing the good news (gospel) of peace through Jesus Christ (Acts 10:36).”

The gospel is the “the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed---a

righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith (Romans 1:16-17 NIV).”

Jesus said the good news is a pronouncement about the kingdom of God. ”“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news (Mark 1:15 NIV)!”

”By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep (1 Corinthians 15:2-6 NIV).”

### **1.6 Who is Jesus Christ?**

The Son of God (John 1:34)

### **1.7 Who is God?**

Eternally existent as one God in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

### **1.8 What is His name?**

The Lord. Christians refer to the Lord God as the Trinity (the term is not used in the Bible but God’s Triune nature is described in the Bible) or the Godhead (Matthew 3:13-17, Colossians 2:9, John 14-17).

### **1.9 Who is the Father?**

The Creator (Genesis 1:1)

The Lord enthroned over the World (Psalm 2)

The Father to the fatherless (Psalm 68:5)

Loves His Enemies (Matthew 5:44-45)

The One who rewards obedience and the One who answers our prayers (Matthew 6)

The Heavenly Father who knows our needs before we ask (Matthew 6:32)

The One who gives good gifts to His children who ask (Luke 7:11)

Receiver of the lost and prodigal (Luke 15)

Abba (Aramaic for daddy or term of affection) Father (Romans 8:15)

The One enthroned with the Lamb for all eternity (Revelation 22)

The Father of mercy and God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

### **1.10 Who is the Son?**

Jesus Christ the Son of God (1 John 5)

The Lord and Savior of the World (John 3, Acts 10)

The Healer (Isaiah 53)

The Baptizer in the Holy Spirit and fire (Matthew 3:11)

The Returning King and Judge (Revelation 19-22)

The Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14, Mark 10:45)  
 The Incarnate Word (John 1:1-5, 14)  
 The Bread of Life (John 6:35)  
 The Light of the World (John 8:12)  
 The Door (John 10:7)  
 The Good Shepherd (John 10:11,14)  
 The Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)  
 The Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)  
 The Vine (John 15:1)  
 The Messiah (John 4:25-26)  
 The Creator who made all things and holds all things together (Colossians 1:15-17)  
 The Christ, the anointed One (2 Corinthians 4:5-6)  
 The Image of the Father (Hebrews 1:1-3)  
 Emmanuel, God with us (Matthew 1:23)  
 The King of kings (Revelation 19:16)  
 The Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16)  
 The Lamb slain before the foundation of the world (Revelation 5:6, 13:8)

### **1.11 Who is the Holy Spirit?**

God hovering over the Waters at creation (Genesis 1:2)  
 The Spirit of God, of wisdom, of understanding, of counsel, of might, of knowledge and the fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2)  
 The Spirit of truth (John 14:17)  
 The Advocate, Helper, Counselor and Comforter (John 14:26, 15:26, 16:7)  
 The Spirit of adoption (Romans 8:15)  
 The Spirit who makes intercession for us (Romans 8:26)  
 The Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:29)

### **1.12 How do I better understand the Trinity?**

By the historic creeds of the church that align with Scripture and are widely accepted by Christians throughout church history where the Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant churches agree on the nature of God, the Trinity, the person of Christ and salvation.\*\*\* These are the important fundamental beliefs to agree upon to be within the Christian faith.

## **Section 2 What are the Creeds and What is Salvation?\*\*\***

### **2.1 The Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
 Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to hell.  
 The third day he rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended to heaven  
 and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic\* church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

\*catholic church, means universal or global church, not Roman catholic specifically.

## **2.2 The Nicene Creed**

We believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
begotten from the Father before all ages,  
God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made;  
of the same essence as the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and was made human.  
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried.  
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again with glory  
to judge the living and the dead.  
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life.  
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
He spoke through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

## **2.3 The Athanasian Creed**

Whoever wants to be saved should above all cling to the catholic faith.

Whoever does not guard it whole and inviolable will doubtless perish eternally.

Now this is the catholic faith: We worship one God in trinity and the Trinity in unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the divine being.

For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Spirit is still another.

But the deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory, coeternal in majesty.

What the Father is, the Son is, and so is the Holy Spirit.

Uncreated is the Father; uncreated is the Son; uncreated is the Spirit.

The Father is infinite; the Son is infinite; the Holy Spirit is infinite.

Eternal is the Father; eternal is the Son; eternal is the Spirit: And yet there are not three eternal beings, but one who is eternal; as there are not three uncreated and unlimited beings, but one who is uncreated and unlimited.

Almighty is the Father; almighty is the Son; almighty is the Spirit: And yet there are not three almighty beings, but one who is almighty.

Thus the Father is God; the Son is God; the Holy Spirit is God: And yet there are not three gods, but one God.

Thus the Father is Lord; the Son is Lord; the Holy Spirit is Lord: And yet there are not three lords, but one Lord.

As Christian truth compels us to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so catholic religion forbids us to say that there are three gods or lords.

The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten; the Son was neither made nor created, but was alone begotten of the Father; the Spirit was neither made nor created, but is proceeding from the Father and the Son.

Thus there is one Father, not three fathers; one Son, not three sons; one Holy Spirit, not three spirits.

And in this Trinity, no one is before or after, greater or less than the other; but all three persons are in themselves, coeternal and coequal; and so we must worship the Trinity in unity and the one God in three persons.

Whoever wants to be saved should think thus about the Trinity.

It is necessary for eternal salvation that one also faithfully believe that our Lord Jesus Christ became flesh.

For this is the true faith that we believe and confess: That our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

He is God, begotten before all worlds from the being of the Father, and he is man, born in the world from the being of his mother — existing fully as God, and fully as man with a rational soul and a human body; equal to the Father in divinity, subordinate to the Father in humanity.

Although he is God and man, he is not divided, but is one Christ.

He is united because God has taken humanity into himself; he does not transform deity into humanity.

He is completely one in the unity of his person, without confusing his natures.

For as the rational soul and body are one person, so the one Christ is God and man.

He suffered death for our salvation. He descended into hell and rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people shall rise bodily to give an account of their own deeds.

Those who have done good will enter eternal life, those who have done evil will enter eternal fire.

This is the catholic faith.

\*\*\*The Athanasian Creed uses strong language about how can be saved based on their knowledge of the Trinity. It is not clear from Scripture how much one's perfect understanding of

the Trinity is required for salvation but it is important to understand who our God is or else we could believe in a false god. This creed is the best teaching and most helpful explanation of the Trinity.

## **2.4 How do I know this gospel message to be true?**

Because of the Scriptures that contain the word of the prophets and apostles (or witnesses) concerning who Jesus is and the witness of the Holy Spirit (John 5:39-40, Acts 10:39-43, Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 15:1-7, 1 John 5:11-12)

## **2.5 What are the Scriptures?**

The God-breathed Word that is the Bible. It is “God’s speech” written and preserved for us. It is infallible and without error in its original form.

## **2.6 What is the Bible?**

The Bible is the 66 books of Scripture, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

## **2.7 What are the main sections of the Old Testament?**

### **The Law and the Prophets**

or

### **The Law or Torah** (Hebrew)

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

### **Historical Books**

Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I & II Samuel, I & II Kings, I & II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

### **Wisdom or Poetic Books**

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

### **Major Prophets**

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

### **Minor Prophets**

Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obediah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

## **2.8 What are the main sections of the New Testament?**

### **The Gospels**

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

### **Historical Book**

Acts

### **The Letters**

Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Phillipians, Colossians, I & II Thessalonians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, I & II Peter, I, II, & III John, Jude

## **Prophecy**

### Revelation

#### **2.9 What is the purpose of the Scriptures?**

To reveal Jesus to us so that we may believe in Him for salvation and live in His way to become like Him (John 5:39-40, 2 Timothy 3:15-17, 1 Peter 1:10-11, 2 Peter 1:3-4)

#### **2.10 Do we follow the Old Testament and the New Testament?**

We follow the whole Bible both the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament reveals our need for the New Testament through the Law and Prophets. The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed. The New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. We interpret the Bible through Jesus and the New Testament (or New Covenant).

#### **2.11 How do we believe in Jesus?**

Repentance and faith, Confession, Baptism in Water and the Receiving of or Baptism in the Spirit.

#### **2.12 What is repentance?**

A change of mind about our need for God as a sinner and a turning away from sin towards Him (Mark 1:15, Acts 2:38)

#### **2.13 What is faith?**

Faith for salvation is about believing who Jesus is and in the gospel message of what He did for us in His death, burial and resurrection (Mark 1:15, 1 Corinthians 15:2-6)

#### **2.14 What is confession?**

It is agreeing with God by saying your beliefs out loud with your mouth. It is both a confession of your sin and need for God as well as a confession of your belief in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. (Romans 10:9-10, 1 John 1)

#### **2.15 What is salvation?**

It is the gift of God by His grace, not our works. Salvation saves our soul from sin, restores our soul to a relationship with God and gives us eternal life with God that starts now and lasts forever. (John 17:3, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8-9)

#### **2.16 How do I know that I am saved?**

By faith in God's promises from the Scripture, the fruit of a changed life and the witness of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 John 4 & 5).

## **Section 3**

### **3.1 What is baptism in water?**

Water baptism is your act of obedience that accompanies your repentance, faith and confession. Water baptism from the very beginning of the church was the point where someone was received as a Christian and into the church family. Water baptism is an immersion in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:23-41).

Water baptism starts with a public and outward confession of belief in Jesus. It is an identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. It is a death and burial of the old sinful way of life under the water and a rising of new resurrection life in Christ Jesus to live as a follower of Him (Romans 6).

### **3.2 So, if I believe in Jesus, must I be baptized in water?**

Yes, immediately after you are saved. It is your first act of obedience and the most important step as a Christian. Every obedience to the Lord brings about spiritual blessings.

### **3.3 Should children be baptized?**

Children should be baptized if they are old enough to understand the decision they are making to follow Jesus as a Christian. Discernment is needed by parents and pastors to determine when a child is ready to be baptized. Children are dedicated to the Lord in front of the church by a special prayer of blessing as babies (or young children). This is to follow the example of Mary and Joseph dedicating Jesus as a baby in the temple (Luke 2:22-40).

### **3.4 What is the meaning and purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

The baptism of the Holy Spirit or receiving the Holy Spirit is an immersion in the Holy Spirit for your life to be filled with God's power so that you might follow God wholeheartedly in His strength, live a holy life and be a bold witness (Acts 1:8, Ephesians 5:18, 2 Timothy 1:6-7)

### **3.5 How do I get baptized in the Holy Spirit?**

We receive the Holy Spirit baptism by faith and ask God for this gift (Luke 11:9-13, Acts 1-2). The Holy Spirit baptism occurs in various ways in the book of Acts. In Acts 1-2, the Holy Spirit falls upon the believers as they seek God and wait upon Him. In Acts 19, the Holy Spirit baptism occurs through the intentional laying on of hands. The Holy Spirit may fall upon a believer and fill them as He wills, but this is often accompanied by believing prayer to ask God for the baptism.

### **3.6 How do I know if I have received the Holy Spirit?**

The clearest evidence in the New Testament to know you are initially filled with the Holy Spirit is speaking in the gift of tongues, or a language that is unlearned by you and is prayed through you by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2, Acts 10, Acts 19, Romans 8:26-27, 1 Corinthians 12 & 14).

### **3.7 Are there other evidences?**

The fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, growing in our lives is the most important (1 Corinthians 13, Galatians

5:22-23). Other evidences in Acts are prophecy, speaking boldly, praising and a physical reaction that people could see (Acts 2, 4, 8, 10, 19).

### **3.8 So should I speak in tongues if I am filled with the Holy Spirit?**

Yes, not all speak in tongues but all can (1 Corinthians 12:30, 14:5). This gift will strengthen your Christian life (Acts 2, Romans 8:26-27, 1 Corinthians 12 & 14, Jude 20).

### **3.9 Does speaking in tongues save me?**

No, speaking in tongues does not bring salvation. The Holy Spirit is given to us at salvation (Ephesians 1:13), but within our salvation is a subsequent and fuller work of the Spirit to receive this baptism. The pattern of early Christians was not only a confession of faith in Jesus but both water baptism and Spirit baptism. We follow the way of Christ and the apostles.

### **3.10 How do I receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

Ask God for this gift with a hunger and desire to be filled. Have someone who is filled with the Spirit pray for you. You should first have received Christ as your Lord and Savior and repented of your sins. You should be water baptized right before or right after you receive the Spirit. Pursue this in faith and you will receive.

## **Section 4**

### **4.1 What do I do after I have believed and been baptized in water and the Holy Spirit?**

Live in the way of Jesus.

### **4.2 What is the end goal? Of believing in Jesus and living in His way?**

Conformity to the person of Jesus, to be like Him or to become Christlike. This the plan and purpose of God for humanity: to know Him, glorify Him, enjoy Him and become like His Son (Romans 8:29, Colossians 1:28).

### **4.3 How do I live in Jesus' way and know if I am maturing as a Christian?**

Through a lifestyle of obedience by the grace of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, which He administers to us through spiritual practices (also known as spiritual disciplines). Some Christian traditions call these things (or some of them) sacraments or mysteries.

### **4.4 What are the spiritual practices?**

They are the things that help us grow UPward personally in Christ, INward together with other believers in the church and OUTward to reach others so they might know Jesus and become like Him.

## **UP**

1. Established (The Gospel, the teaching, Identity and Freedom)
2. Secret Place (Pray, Bible, Obey)
3. Fasting
4. Sabbath

**IN**

5. Gathering (Worship and Communion)
6. Giving
7. Serving (Destiny and gifts)
8. Community
9. Family Relationships

**OUT**

10. Mission (Vocation, Hospitality, Witnessing, Multiplication)

**Section 5****5.1 What are the UPward spiritual practices?**

Being (1)established in the faith, developing a life in the (2)secret place of Scripture and prayer, (3)Fasting and (4)Sabbath. These are the practices that you do personally to grow in your relationship with God.

**5.2 What does it mean to be Established (Upward 1)?**

To be established in the faith means to be rooted and grounded in the truth of the Christian faith so you are not led astray by false teachings, worldly desires or difficult seasons of life (Matthew 13:1-23, Colossians 2:7, Jude 1:3).

**5.3 How do I become Established in the faith?**

By firmly understanding the gospel and sound doctrine as laid out in the beginning of the catechism and the creeds. You continue to learn the teaching of the faith through Scripture knowledge and application to your life. Ultimately, you continue to learn the Scriptures and live out the UPward, INward and OUTward spiritual practices.

Additionally, to be established in the faith you need a firm understanding of these truths applied to your life so that you not only know who you are in Christ but you have victory over your flesh, the world and the devil (Galatians 5, Hebrews 6:1-2, 1 John 2:12-17)

**5.4 What is the flesh?**

The self's rule apart from God (Galatians 5:16-26, Romans 6-8).

**5.5 How do I have victory over the flesh?**

Through the work of the cross in your salvation and identifying with the cross and resurrection of Jesus in baptism (Romans 6, 1 John 5:4-5).

**5.6 So, if I believe in the cross I have victory?**

Yes, but you must walk in the victory of the cross through the Holy Spirit by accounting for what Christ has done for you in salvation (Romans 6, 8, Galatians 5:16-26).

### **5.7 How do I walk in the Spirit?**

By setting your mind on things of the Spirit (Romans 8:5) and abiding in the Holy Spirit to produce the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

### **5.8 So is it all a mindset?**

The battle for victory over our flesh is already won through the cross but is fought in our mind. Our mind must be renewed to think like God desires us to think according to His truth. We are transformed by the renewing of our minds. (Romans 8, Romans 12:1-2, 1 Peter 1:13-15).

### **5.9 What should I do to renew my mind?**

Replace sinful thoughts with pure thoughts. Replace lies with truth. Renounce strongholds.

### **5.10 How do I replace sinful thoughts with pure thoughts?**

Read Scripture to memorize it and meditate upon it, the Word of God washes your mind (Psalm 19, 119:9-16, Ephesians 5).

Confess your sins to God and other mature Christians (John 20:23, James 5:16, 1 John 1:7-10).

Abstain from reading, viewing and participating in things that stir the flesh (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1).

### **5.11 How do I replace lies with truth?**

As you read, study and meditate on the Scriptures you will learn truth that will confront lies in your thinking about God, life and who you are. The truth sets us free, the truth of Christ in the Scriptures (John 8:32, 36).

### **5.12 What does the Bible say about who I am?**

The Bible says that as a Christian you are in "in Christ." There are many promises or truths about who you are "in Christ." These are Old and New Testament promises that are "yes" and "amen" because you are in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20).

1. God forgives all my iniquities and heals all my diseases (Psalm 103:3).
2. God redeems my life from destruction and crowns me with lovingkindness and tender mercies (Psalm 103:4)
3. God satisfies my mouth with good things and renews my youth like an eagle (Psalm 103:5).
4. God does not treat me as my sin deserves (Psalm 103:10).
5. God removes my sin as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12).
6. I am known by God (Psalm 139:1).
7. I am fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14).
8. God's thoughts toward me are precious and more in number than the sand (Psalm 139:17-18).
9. By the stripes of Jesus I am healed emotionally, physically and spiritually (Isaiah 53:4-5).
10. No weapon formed against me shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17).
11. God knew me before I was formed (Jeremiah 1:5).
12. God's plans for me are good. His plans are to give me a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11).
13. God has written His law on my heart and my mind (Jeremiah 31:33).

14. I have been given a new heart and a new spirit (Ezekiel 11:19).
15. God gave me a new heart and a new spirit, a heart of flesh for a heart of stone and His Spirit is within me to walk in His ways (Ezekiel 36:26-27).
16. God throws away my sin into the sea (Micah 7:19).
17. I have authority over all the power of the enemy (Luke 10:19).
18. I am loved by God (John 3:16).
19. I have been set free by the Truth (John 8:31-32).
20. I am held in my Father God's hand and no one can snatch me away (John 10:29).
21. I am dead to sin (Romans 6:2-11).
22. Sin shall not be master over me (Romans 6:14).
23. I am a child of God (Romans 8:16).
24. I am more than a conqueror through Jesus who loves me (Romans 8:37).
25. I am loved by Jesus (Romans 8:38-39).
26. My body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19).
27. I was bought at a price (1 Corinthians 6:20).
28. I am in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
29. I am a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).
30. I am redeemed (Galatians 3:13).
31. I have been crucified to the world and the world crucified to me (Galatians 6:14).
32. I have been adopted, chosen and accepted by Father God (Ephesians 1:3-6).
33. I have redemption through Christ's blood, forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7).
34. I have an inheritance in Christ (Ephesians 1:11).
35. I have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13-14).
36. I have been made alive together with Christ (Ephesians 2:4-5).
37. I have been saved by grace through faith and not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9).
38. I am God's workmanship, His poem (Ephesians 2:10).
39. I am a citizen of heaven (Philippians 3:20).
40. I am in the Kingdom of the Son of God's love (Colossians 1:13).
41. I am out of the kingdom of darkness (Colossians 1:13).
42. Christ is in me, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).
43. I have been made alive together with Jesus and forgiven of all my trespasses (Colossians 2:13).
44. I have been raised with Christ (Colossians 3:3).
45. I am the elect of God, holy, and beloved (Colossians 3:12).
46. I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

### **5.13 What if I am stuck in a sin or in the flesh?**

You must repent of sin.

### **5.14 What sins do I need to repent of?**

All of them.

### **5.15 What is a sin?**

Missing the mark by anything that breaks the law of God or the word of God (1 John 3:4).

### **5.16 What is the law of God?**

**The 10 Commandments** is the foundation of the law (Summary from Exodus 20).

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make idols.

3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

### **5.17 Are there other sins to repent of in the Bible?**

Galatians 5:19-21 - sexual immorality, impurity, idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy drunkenness and orgies.

Ephesians 4:20-32 - deceitful desires, falsehood, anger, unwholesome talk, grieve the Holy Spirit of God, bitterness, rage, anger, brawling, slander, malice.

Colossians 3:5-9 - sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, greed, which is idolatry, anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language, do not lie to each other.

Revelation 21:8 - the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars, they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

### **5.18 How do I repent of sins?**

Confess them to God, to Elders, Pastors or those more mature in faith and turn from doing these sinful things. Do not hide sins or keep them a secret (James 5:16, 1 John 1:7-10). Confessions are to be met with love, prayer and a proclamation of forgiveness (John 20:23, 1 Peter 4:8).

## **Section 6**

### **6.1 How do I have victory over the world?**

By renewing your mind and your faithfulness to spiritual practices, you learn the truth and your desires change from worldly ideas and values, to Christ's virtues. (John 8:31-32, Romans 8, Romans 12:1-2, 1 Peter 1:13-15).

You also turn away from temptation and follow God's ways no matter what (Luke 4:1-14, 1 Corinthians 10:13).

### **6.2 How do I deal with temptation?**

God will always give you an escape out of temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13). You flee from it and have Scriptures you stand upon that help you overcome the specific temptation (2 Timothy 2:22, Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 119:11).

### **6.3 How do gain victory over the devil and tear down strongholds?**

Your victory over the devil and freedom from strongholds comes through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross (Colossians 2:15, 2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

#### **6.4 Who is the devil?**

Satan, the serpent of old from the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3), the adversary of God and His people, the leader of demons and the kingdom of darkness, the fallen angel Lucifer, the accuser of Christians and the deceiver of the whole world (Revelation 12).

#### **6.5 What are demons?**

They are fallen angels, evil spirits, who help Satan perpetuate evil in the world and try to hinder Christians from their purpose and freedom in their lives. (Ephesians 6:12, Revelation 12).

#### **6.6 What is a stronghold?**

A place of influence for a demonic spirit to have in your life (2 Corinthians 10:3-6).

#### **6.7 Can Christian's have demonic strongholds?**

Yes.

#### **6.8 Does that mean that Christian's can be demon possessed?**

No, they cannot be demon possessed but they can be influenced or oppressed by a demon.

#### **6.9 How is a Christian demon influenced or oppressed?**

By unrepentant sin, unforgiveness, agreement with lies, sexual immorality, traumatic experiences, abuse and witchcraft/the occult (1 Corinthians 6:9-20, 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, Ephesians 4:25-27).

#### **6.10 Are there examples in the Bible of Christians being demon influenced or oppressed?**

- Peter when Jesus said "get behind me Satan" (Matthew 16).
- Ananias and Sapphira allowed Satan to fill their hearts (Acts 5).
- Paul's teaching on strongholds is about Christians (2 Corinthians 10).
- Paul's warning to Christian in Ephesians about anger giving a place to the devil (Ephesians 4).
- Peter's warning for us to resist the devil as Christians (1 Peter 5).

#### **6.11 How can a Christian be free from demon oppression?**

By repenting of sin, renouncing lies, forgiving those who sin against them, breaking strongholds and having someone cast demons out/off of you (Mark 16:16-20, Ephesians 4, Colossians 3, 1 John 1:7-9, James 4:7-10).

#### **6.12 How do I stay free from demonic oppression?**

Put on the armor of God:  
 the belt of truth buckled around your waist,  
 with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and  
 with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace  
 take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.  
 Take the helmet of salvation and  
 the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. (Ephesians 6:10-20).

Put on the Lord Jesus and reject the things of the flesh and darkness (Romans 13:11-14). Be filled and refilled with the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5, Ephesians 5:18).

## **Section 7**

### **7.1 How do I continue to grow in my faith and relationship with God?**

By meeting with Him in prayer and Bible reading.

### **7.2 How do I meet with God?**

By spending time in the secret place.

### **7.3 What is the secret place (UPward 2)?**

Anywhere you spend time alone in solitude with God to encounter Him through reading the Scripture and prayer (Matthew 6:6:8).

### **7.4 How do I encounter God in Scripture?**

By reading it daily, studying, memorizing and meditating upon it. Remember it all points to Jesus so that you can know Him more and become more like Him (Matthew 4:4, Psalm 19:14, Psalm 119:9, John 4:37-38, 2 Peter 1:3-4).

### **7.5 How do I encounter God in prayer?**

By praying the way Jesus taught us to pray: the Lord's Prayer.\*

“In this manner, therefore, pray:  
Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts,  
As we forgive our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” Matthew 6:9-13 NKJV

\*For an expanded application of the Lord's prayer see the appendix.

### **7.6 How can I go deeper in my prayer life?**

By praying with others, praying continually, spending an hour in prayer, praying with times of fasting, and praying in tongues regularly (Mark 14:37, Acts 1, 2, 4, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Jude 20).

### **7.7 How do I pray in tongues?**

By the gift received through the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2, 10, 19). You speak and the Holy Spirit prays languages through you (1 Corinthians 12, 14; Romans 8:26-28).

### **7.8 What happens when I pray in tongues?**

You pray the perfect will of God (Romans 8:26-28).

You speak mysteries that your mind does not understand (1 Corinthians 14:14).

You build yourself up in the faith (Jude 20)

### **7.9 What is fasting (UPward 3)?**

Fasting is abstaining from food with the purpose of drawing closer to God in prayer.

### **7.10 How do I fast?**

You spend a period of time abstaining from all food or partial food to give extra time to prayer, repentance and good works. Total fasting for more than 3 days should be conducted with medical advice and additional study on this practice. A full fast is water only. A liquid fast is only drinking liquids (water and juices). A Daniel fast is abstaining from meats and sweets (Daniel 1, 10). The church has a history of full and partial fasts. Whatever you do should be unto the Lord and with added time of prayer and obedience to God (Matthew 4:1-11, Isaiah 58).

### **7.11 What does fasting accomplish?**

Fasting positions you to starve the flesh and get in alignment with God's will and grow in faith. You receive empowerment and breakthrough spiritually as you align yourself with God's will and truth (Isaiah 58, Mark 9:29, Luke 4:1-14).

### **7.12 When should I fast?**

Fasting should be done under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. You should not fast under pressure from anyone. A regular practice of fasting can be for one 24 hour period weekly or monthly or extended from time to time as God leads you. An extended fast may be pursued when you are seeking God for a breakthrough in your life or ministry. You may also fast along with your spouse or your church for agreement in fasting and prayer for spiritual breakthrough. This is a powerful spiritual practice to incorporate in your life regularly (weekly, monthly or annually). Before conducting fasts of over 3 days seek medical and practical advice.

### **7.13 What about the Sabbath (UPward 4)?**

Christians are not under an obligation to practice the Sabbath on Saturdays or follow the law of the Sabbath (Colossians 2:16-17). Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath (Matthew 12:8). He is our ultimate place of rest. Sabbath is principle of rest however, that is an important practice for the health of your soul and your relationships. Sabbath also forms us by giving us rest and reminding us to trust in God, not our own efforts alone.

### **7.14 How do I practice the Sabbath?**

Take a day of rest. Prepare food and do no real work. Organize a 24 hour period to enjoy a time of rest with family, friends and a time of reflection to thank God as you fellowship with Him. Don't be overly legalistic, remember that Jesus said we were not made for Sabbath, but Sabbath was made for us. It's a gift and a practice to enjoy for our health and growth (Mark 2:27).

## **Section 8**

### **8.1 What are the INward spiritual practices?**

The things that help me grow together with other believers in the church: (5)Gathering, (6)Giving, (7)Serving, (8) Community and (9)Relationships.

### **8.2 What is the church?**

- A gathering of believers in Jesus (Matthew 18:19-20).
- The body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12).
- The pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15).
- The bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:27, Revelation 19:7-8)
- The eternal plan of God (Ephesians 3)
- The temple of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:16-17)
- A royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9-10)

### **8.3 How does the church gather (INward 5)?**

By coming together On the Lord's day, Sunday, the day of Jesus' resurrection (Acts 20:7).

### **8.4 What does the church do when we gather?**

1. Receive Communion (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)
2. Worship in singing (Colossians 3:16)
3. Corporate Prayer (Acts 2, Acts 4)
4. Receiving of Offerings (1 Corinthians 16:2)
5. Preaching and Teaching from the Scriptures (Acts 2:42)
6. Prayer for Personal Needs (James 5:13-18)
7. Ministry of Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12-14)

### **8.5 What is communion?**

A thankful celebration proclaiming the Lord's death until He returns through the receiving of bread and wine (or grape juice) which Jesus said is His body and blood (Matthew 26:26-29, Luke 22:15-20, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

### **8.6 Why do we take communion?**

Because Jesus told us to receive this gift from Him often, to remember what He has done and to fellowship with Him. The church has done it in obedience regularly since it began (1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

### **8.7 What are the blessings of communion?**

The nearness of God's manifest presence and fellowship with our living Savior (1 Corinthians 10:16-17).

Miracles and healing in our bodies and souls (1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

Cleansing of our souls (1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

Restoration of relationships (1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

### **8.8 What are the warnings of communion?**

Taking communion in an unworthy manor:

- unconfessed sin, rebellion against God or mixing idolatry with your Christian life (1 Corinthians 10:14-22, 11:17-34)
- harboring unforgiveness towards others (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)
- without gratitude and faith (1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34)
- without examining what Christ has fully done (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)
- without examining the health and unity of our relationships in the church (1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

### **8.9 How do we take communion?**

We do it as Jesus instructed. By giving thanks for His sacrifice and speaking His Word over the elements.

“This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” (1 Corinthians 11:24-25)

We receive the meal by faith in the mystery that we participate with God's presence through Jesus' body and blood (1 Corinthians 10:16-17).

Forgive anyone who has wronged you, ask for forgiveness from whom you have wronged and reconcile first as much as possible as it depends on you and God before receiving communion (Matthew 5:23-24, 6:12-14).

### **8.10 How do we worship?**

We sing songs of praise and worship to God, lift our hands, clap, dance, bow down, kneel, shout and give thanks (Psalm 149, Psalm 150, Mark 14:26, Colossians 3:16, Hebrews 13:15, 1 Peter 2:4-10).

### **8.11 Why do we worship?**

Because God is worthy of our worship. We are a royal priesthood and the church's first ministry is to minister to God. We worship to host His manifest presence that we might love Him, adore Him and enjoy Him (John 4:23-24, Hebrews 12:22-29, Hebrews 13:15, 1 Peter 2:4-10, Revelation 4-5).

### **8.12 How do we pray corporately?**

We pray together out loud all together or one at a time with a spirit of unity, faith and agreement with God's word and with the direction of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2, 4).

### **8.13 What is preaching for?**

To proclaim and teach from the Scriptures that we might exalt Christ, reach the lost and equip the church. Preaching brings faith for salvation and health to the church by speaking words that convince, exhort and rebuke (Acts 2, 10, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Timothy 4:2-5).

### **8.14 How do we pray for personal needs?**

We pray for one another in the name of Jesus for our needs. (Luke 9, 10, Mark 16:16-20, 1 Corinthians 12).

We anoint one another with oil and pray a prayer of faith for healing, we confess our sins to one another and have the elders pray specifically for healing (James 5:13-17).

### **8.15 What is anointing oil?**

Anointing oil represents the presence and power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:18-19, James 5:14-15). The anointing oil is a point of contact for our faith and releases a blessing with prayer for healing, impartation, blessing and consecration.

## **Section 9**

### **9.1 Why do Christians give gifts to God?**

As an act of worship and praise and to honor God's commands of tithes and offerings throughout the Scripture (Exodus 35:4-9, 2 Corinthians 9:7).

### **9.2 What are tithes?**

The tithe is the giving of ten percent of your income. The *tithe* means "one-tenth." The tithe is returned to God because God owns everything and it honors Him to acknowledge Him as the Ruler and Lord of our lives. The tithe is the beginning of giving in the Christian life (Genesis 14:18-20, 28:18-20, Malachi 3, Matthew 23:23, Hebrews 7:1-10).

### **9.3 What are offerings?**

Offerings are additional gifts to God and others for God's glory and to help others (Proverbs 3:9-10, Malachi 3).

### **9.4 What are other Biblical offerings on top of the tithe?**

- Seed Sowing (2 Corinthians 9).
- Alms (Matthew 6:1-4).
- First Fruits (Proverbs 3:9-10).
- Free Will Offerings (Psalm 54:6, 2 Corinthians 9).

### **9.5 What is the purpose of giving tithes and offerings?**

- to glorify God and thank Him (Proverbs 3:9-10).
- to provide for the work of ministers and the ministry (1 Corinthians 9:7-12, 1 Timothy 5:17-18).
- to extend the kingdom of God and grow the church (1 Corinthians 16:1-2, Romans 15:26-29).
- to care for others in the name of Jesus (Psalm 15:15, Proverbs 19:17).

### **9.6 What does God promise for tithes and offerings?**

- provision (Malachi 3).
- favor (Psalm 112, 2 Corinthians 9).
- blessing (Psalm 112).
- rebuking of devouring (Malachi 3).
- eternal rewards (Matthew 6:21-24).
- defeating greed and materialism (Matthew 6:21-24).

### **9.7 Are Christians supposed to give tithes under the New Covenant?**

Jesus affirmed the tithe (Matthew 23:23) and Jesus receives tithes according to Hebrews (Hebrews 7:1-11).

### **9.8 How much should I give?**

Ten percent and beyond as God leads you.

### **9.9 When and how should I give?**

Regularly, consistently and as an act of worship from a joyful and thankful heart, not from under compulsion.

### **9.10 Where should I give?**

To the local church first and to other godly kingdom causes and needs as God leads you.

## **Section 10**

### **10.1 What is the ministry of spiritual gifts (INward 8)?**

It means to serve in our spiritual gifts in a way that edifies the church and witnesses to the lost.

### **10.2 What are the spiritual gifts?**

**The gifts of God the Father:** prophecy, serving, teaching, encouragement, giving, leading, compassion (Romans 12:6-8).

**The gifts of Christ the Son:** Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastor and Teachers (Ephesians 4:11).

**The gifts of the Holy Spirit:** word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, speaking in various tongues, interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:7-11).

### **10.3 How do I discover my spiritual gifts?**

- Study the spiritual gifts in the Bible and with Bible study tools.
- Serving in the church.
- Trying to use Spiritual gifts and seeing what fits you.
- God speaking to you about your gifts.
- Desire and joy to use certain spiritual gifts.
- The affirmation of elders and other Christians.

### **10.4 What types of spiritual gifts are used in our gatherings?**

Prophecy, tongues, healing, miracles, teaching, leadership and helps (1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12).

### **10.5 What is the protocol for prophesying in a service?**

Doing everything decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40).

### **10.6 How do I prophesy in order?**

By submitting your prophetic word to pastors, elders or an appointed prophetic leader (1 Corinthians 14).

### **10.7 How do we judge or test a prophetic word?**

By measuring it by Scripture and discerning if it is in agreement with what the Holy Spirit is speaking to leadership (1 Corinthians 14, 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22, 1 John 4:1-3).

### **10.8 What type of prophetic words should be shared publicly?**

Words that edify, exhort and comfort. Additionally, established prophets may prophesy words of warning, correction and direction when submitted to the pastors and elders (1 Corinthians 14).

### **10.9 What if a word does not come to pass?**

The prophet should take ownership, apologize and acknowledge that the word was wrong.

### **10.10 Does that make someone a false prophet?**

No, not necessarily. False prophets lead people astray from Jesus Christ and unto themselves.

### **10.11 How do we know if a prophecy is false?**

If it violates the Scripture and turns people to false beliefs about God, the nature of Jesus Christ or the way of salvation.

### **10.12 What if a prophetic word seems partially true?**

We know in part and prophesy in part (1 Corinthians 13:9). Cling to the good and reject the bad (1 Thessalonians 5:20-22).

### **10.13 What if a prophetic word makes me feel uncomfortable?**

Share the prophetic word with pastors and elders. No one should control your life through prophecy. Prophecy should confirm God's will to you and encourage you. Prophecies about who you should marry, where you should live and what you should do specifically should be avoided. A Biblical prophet will help you hear God, not hear God for you (1 Corinthians 14, 1 Peter 5:1-7).

### **10.14 Are there other protocols for prophetic words to be judged by?**

Yes, prophetic words should only be given at the level of someone's faith (Romans 12:6). Prophetic words should not give primary direction to someone's life and should be judged by these standards:

- By the Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Prophecy never will contradict the authoritative and inerrant Word of God.
- By Scriptural principles:
  - Does the word edify, exhort and comfort (1 Cor. 14:3).

- Who does the word glorify? The prophet or the Lord? Leave some things in the realm of mystery like the Apostle Paul's heavenly encounter (2 Cor. 12).
- 2-3 witnesses establishing a word (2 Cor. 13:1, Deut. 17:6).
- The greater the calling, the greater the confirmation (Acts 9). God doesn't want you to miss His will, the greater the word He speaks, the clearer He will make it like Paul's calling on the road to Damascus.
- By the inner witness and discernment from the Holy Spirit - what spirit is behind the word and the person(1 Cor. 14)?
- Does this point to Christ truly (1 John 4:1-6, Revelation 19:10)? Prophecy must get Jesus rightly.
- By other apostles and prophets (1 Cor. 14).
- By church governance authority, history, elders, pastors, deacons (1 Peter 5, Ephesians 6:1-2).
- By trusted friends and wise counselors (Proverbs and James).
- By the accuracy of what transpires (Many Scriptures where prophecy actually happens as predicted).
- By not despising prophecy as we cling to the good parts of prophecy and reject any mixture that is bad (1 Thess. 5:20).

#### **10.15 What about speaking in tongues in church?**

If a message in tongues is delivered to the church, it must be accompanied by an interpretation from the speaker of the tongues or another believer. Christians are instructed to not pray in tongues in church gatherings without an interpreter. Although prayer meetings in the Bible and gatherings of Christians included times where Christians were praying in tongues without the gift of interpretation, when they speak directly to God (1 Corinthians 14, Acts 2, 10, 19).

#### **10.16 What is the place of healing and miracles in our gatherings?**

Historically and presently the church is a place of healing and miracles. The weekly gatherings of the church include prayers being offered for healing, miracles, personal needs and the casting out of demons (Mark 16:15-20, 1 Corinthians 12, 14, James 5:13-18).

#### **10.17 What is the role of teaching in our gatherings?**

Teaching is used not only in our gatherings in our time of preaching but also with those who teach children, youth and different groups that may occur as an extension of our gatherings. Teaching instructs us in the word of God to live godly lives that honor Jesus in truth and integrity (2 Timothy 4:1-4).

#### **10.18 How does leadership function in our gatherings?**

We need leaders to be a spiritual example, protect the church, organize, direct teams, lead prayers, care for others, facilitate worship and take care of the practical set up our worship center (1 Timothy 4:11-16).

#### **10.19 What is the role of the gift of helps in our gatherings?**

The gift of helps or serving is very important in our gatherings to help with greeting, hospitality, set-up, cooking, clean-up and support in everything that makes our gatherings happen (Romans 12).

## **Section 11**

### **11.1 What is the spiritual practice of community (INward 9)?**

Where the church meets in a smaller group around a table such as in a home for evangelism, hospitality, discipleship and building friendship.

### **11.2 How do I grow in relationship?**

Build friendships by being friendly (Proverbs 18:24) and in small settings to practice the one anothers:

- love one another (John 13:34).
- be kind to one another (Romans 12:10)
- give preference to one another (Romans 12:10)
- be of the same mind toward one another (Romans 12:16)
- do not judge one another (Romans 14:13)
- receive one another (Romans 15:7)
- admonish one another (Romans 15:14)
- greet one another (Romans 16:16)
- serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)
- submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21)
- exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13)
- confess your sins to one another and pray for one another (James 5:16)
- be hospitable and minister to one another (1 Peter 4:9-10)

### **11.3 How do I grow as a disciple in community?**

Through Bible study, prayer, the use of spiritual gifts and joining in making disciples. Form a partnership with 1-2 other believers to hold yourself accountable through a discipleship accord (See Appendix for more).\*

### **11.4 How is a church governed?**

By leaders known as elders, ministers of the gospel and deacons (1 Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9, Ephesians 4:11).

### **11.5 Who are elders?**

Men in the church who serve as spiritual fathers and overseers for the health of the church in practice and doctrine (1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, Hebrews 13:7, 1 Peter 5:1-5).

### **11.6 What are the requirements to be an elder?**

An elder is to be above reproach, faithful to his wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him, and he must do so in a manner worthy of full respect. He must not be a recent convert (1 Timothy 3:1-7).

### **11.7 Who are ministers of the gospel?**

Men and women who serve Jesus as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11-16). These 5-fold ministers of the gospel serve on the church staff, as volunteers and as other partner ministries that help fulfill the mission and ministry of Jesus through the church.

### **11.8 What are the requirements to be a minister of the gospel?**

Well some traditions differ within Christianity on how to title or structure church leadership, we use the requirements for elders for both men and women who are ministers of the gospel and also believe Biblically that ministers should be set apart, recognized and submitted to other church leaders (Acts 13:1-3, Revelation 2:1-7).

### **11.9 Who are deacons?**

Men and women servant leaders who help fulfill the ministry of the local church in various capacities under the leadership of elders and pastors.

### **11.10 What are the requirements to be a deacon?**

Deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. In the same way, the women are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. A deacon must be faithful to his wife and must manage his children and his household well. (1 Timothy 3:8-13).

### **11.11 What makes a strong church community?**

Healthy leaders and healthy relationships in friendships, marriages and families (1 Timothy 3, Ephesians 4-6).

### **11.12 What makes a strong family?**

A strong marriage and parents and children who love and honor one another (Ephesians 5:22-6:4).

### **11.13 What makes a strong marriage?**

Christ at the center of the marriage covenant. A husband that loves His wife like Christ loves the church and a wife that respects, honors and submits to her husband (Ephesians 5:22-33).

### **11.14 Is divorce allowable for Christians?**

Marriage is a covenant between a husband, wife and God. A covenant is only broken by death. Divorce is not God's will for marriages. The only Biblical exceptions for divorce are adultery and abandonment (Matthew 19:1-12, 1 Corinthians 7). Married people seeking divorce ought to get Biblical counsel from pastors, elders and ministry leaders to see if they can reconcile their marriage. Special counsel should be given for adultery, abuse and abandonment.

### **11.15 Is divorce and remarriage allowable for Christians?**

Divorce and remarriage is allowable for those who are sinned against in adultery and abandonment but special counsel should be sought before making serious decisions.

### **11.16 Is divorce an unforgivable sin for Christians?**

If your divorce and remarriage were a sin, it is not unforgivable. Seek God in confession and repentance over the improper choices of your past. Only blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is an unforgivable sin (Matthew 12:31-32).

### **11.17 What other relationships and people make a strong church community?**

- Friendships (Romans 12).
- Widows and widowers (1 Timothy 5:1-16).
- Single Men and Women (1 Corinthians 7).

### **11.18 How does a church resolve relationship conflicts?**

If someone sins against you, lovingly confront them for reconciliation.

If they don't listen, take one or two other mature believers or leaders for loving confrontation and restoration.

If they don't listen, under the church elders they are to be removed from the church and publicly rebuked in front of the whole church. (Matthew 18:15-20).

Believers are empowered to love, confront, forgive and care for one another. Gossip and slander should be removed from Christian community (Colossians 3:8-17).

### **11.19 Why should someone be removed from a church?**

Persistent and unrepentant sin that especially affects others like rebellion, gossip, lying, false doctrine, immorality and someone who breaks up unity. A person removed from the church is not for someone struggling with sin, but someone surrendered to sin, deception and evil. It is rare but at certain times necessary to remove someone from the church. Removal from the church is done redemptively to hopefully bring the person back as much as possible should the Lord allow and they repent (Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 5, 2 Corinthians 5:11).

### **11.20 What if there is a complaint of sin against a leader?**

The complaint should go to them directly if possible or their overseer. If someone is a leader they are accountable to others and it may not be appropriate to confront them directly because of their position. It is correct in these cases to bring a complaint to someone overseeing them (1 Timothy 5:19-21).

### **11.21 How are elders and ministers of the gospel to be disciplined?**

If they are charged by two or three credible witnesses to have sinned against the Lord and disqualified themselves, the elders shall prayerfully determine what their discipline should be which may include counseling, public correction, rebuke and removal from ministry (1 Timothy 5:19-21). Where possible the discipline may be redemptive and a position restored. If the person being charged is an elder, other elders should receive the witness testimony. If the person being charged is the lead pastor(s) and/or lead elder, the other elders should receive the report first and may consult our apostolic elders and outside church fellowship leaders.

## **Section 12**

### **12.1 What are the OUTward spiritual practices?**

The things that help us reach out to others who need Jesus so they might know Him and become like Him in the (10) mission of God to win souls and make disciples.

### **12.2 What is the mission of God (OUTward 10)?**

To advance God's kingdom on the earth, win souls and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20).

### **12.3 What is God's kingdom?**

The reign or rule of God coming into this world through Christ's first coming, in the hearts of believers, through the ministry of the church and ultimately finally realized after the return of Christ (Matthew 5-7, Mark 1:14-15, Romans 14:17, 1 Corinthians 4:20, 15:22-26, Revelation 11:15).

### **12.4 How do I participate in God's kingdom?**

By being born again, finding your gifts and living out your purpose and calling (John 3:3-8, 4:34).

### **12.5 What is my calling?**

The purpose for which God made you to serve Him through stewarding your relationships, gifts and abilities (Psalm 139, Jeremiah 1:4-10, John 4:34, 2 Timothy 1:9).

### **12.6 What is a vocation?**

The type of work God has made for you. i.e. Church ministry, building, painting, human resources, business, teaching, farming, programming, inventing, selling, etc. (2 Thessalonians 3:10, Titus 3:8, 14).

### **12.7 How do I represent God in my vocation?**

By honoring God, working as unto God and living a respectful and godly life towards unbelievers. Christians are to have a good witness towards those outside the faith and the government (Ephesians 6:7-8).

### **12.8 Should Christians obey the government?**

Yes, as long as obeying the government doesn't make you disobey God (Acts 4:18-19). Christians should live at peace. God has created the 3 institutions of marriage/family, the church and civil government. Civil government is appointed by God to punish evil and reward good (Romans 13:1-7).

### **12.9 What is the Christian position on abortion?**

Christians believe that human life is sacred and are against abortion. Abortion is a sin in which Christians should not participate and repent of to seek the Lord's forgiveness and restoration (Psalm 139).

### **12.10 What is the Christian position on same sex marriage?**

Christian marriage is between one man and one woman for life. Any other definitions of marriage are sinful and against the teachings of Jesus and Scripture (Genesis 1-3). The first mandate God gave was for humans to have dominion over creation, be fruitful and multiply. It is only in Biblical marriage that human families can thrive and fulfill God's purposes (Matthew 19:4-5, Ephesians 5:22-6:4).

### **12.11 What is the Christian position on transgenderism or alternative sexualities?**

Christians believe that human identity is rooted in us being created in the image of God. Human sex is sacred. Male and female reflect the image and glory of God in the earth (Genesis 1-3). Christians should show love to all people while boldly speaking the truth about sexual perversion and confusion over gender identity that people may be free from sin and confusion to become redeemed (Romans 1, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

### **12.12 How do Christians engage on social issues?**

Social issues are important to God and to Christians. Christians do not always agree on what political solutions properly apply the word of God. Christian social values are to care for the poor, resist corruption and lawlessness, condemn racism, flee from evil, welcome strangers and show kindness and love to every human. Where Christians need wisdom is how to apply these values through the church or the government or some combination of both. Good Christians can disagree on certain applications of social policy but all Christians are called to love, righteousness, justice and truth as well as vote according to Biblical guidance (Exodus 20, Proverbs 11:1, Isaiah 58, Micah 6:8, Matthew 5-7, Matthew 19:4-5, Matthew 25:34-46, Romans 13, 14, 1 Timothy 1:8-11, 2:1-6).

### **12.13 How can I influence others for God's mission?**

Through hospitality, witnessing and discipling.

### **12.14 How do I practice hospitality?**

You get your home in order to open it for gathering with the church for fellowship, ministry and welcoming the lost that they might enjoy God's presence and receive the gospel (Acts 2:42-47).

### **12.15 How do I witness?**

Share the gospel of Jesus and your testimony of how Jesus saved you with people who are lost (Mark 16:15-20, Luke 10, Acts 1:8, Romans 10:9-15).

### **12.16 How do I share the gospel?**

With love, power and truth. Love others. Pray for miracles of healing and God encounters for others who are lost. Learn and practice sharing the truth of the gospel with people (Mark 16:15-20, Acts 10:36-48, Romans 15:19-20, 1 Corinthians 2:4-5, 15:1-8).

**12.17 Where should I share the gospel?**

Wherever you have influence and wherever God calls you even to the ends of the earth (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20).

**12.18 How do I help make disciples?**

Through the power of the Holy Spirit and by your lifestyle and involvement in the church to win souls and help people become devoted followers of Jesus. By praying for others, going on missions and giving to support missionaries (Matthew 28:18-20, John 20:21-23, Luke 10:1, Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 16:1).

**12.19 What is the end goal of the mission of God to win souls and make disciples?**

The glory of God forever where people from every tribe, language and nation worship Him forever and ever in a new heavens and new earth after the return of Christ (Revelation 5).

**12.20 What is the return of Christ?**

When Jesus will come back visibly to Jerusalem on a white horse to destroy His enemies and defeat Satan, evil and death (Acts 1, Revelation 19:11-21).

**12.21 When will Jesus return?**

No one knows the day or the hour (Matthew 24:36).

**12.22 What will happen after Jesus returns?**

He will judge the living and the dead. The righteous who have received Christ will join Jesus in a new heavens and new earth forever with all the redeemed. The unrighteous whose names are not written in the book of life will be separated into outer darkness and the fires of hell (2 Corinthians 5:10, Revelation 20-21).

**12.23 What should we do until He returns?**

Live in the way of Jesus, to be like Him and make Him known. We are to be a people of faith who watch, pray and obey so that He finds us doing our purpose and living for Him when He returns. We should have an urgency for sharing Jesus with others in light of His return. We pray for the return of Jesus and long for the day where He fully establishes His kingdom on the earth (Matthew 25:1-13, 26:41, Luke 18:1-8, 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2, 1 Peter 4:7-11, Revelation 22:12-21).

## Appendix

### Prayer Guide

This prayer guide is a walk through how Jesus taught His disciples to pray (but begins with Scripture reading and prayer in the Spirit). It is broken down into ten steps. To pray for ten minutes, pray for one minute on each step. To pray for 30 or 60 minutes, spend 3 or 6 minutes on each step. This guide is not meant to be a formula as much as a helpful way to cultivate a dynamic prayer life. May each time you spend with God be a blessed encounter with Him in His manifest presence and a fruitful time of growing in relationship with Him.

#### The Lord's Prayer

“In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”  
Matthew 6:9-13 NKJV

1. Read the Bible
  - Follow a daily Bible reading plan
  - OR read through a book of the Bible one at a time
2. Pray in the Spirit (And/or Read more of the Bible)
  - Pray in tongues and sing in tongues
  - Read more of the Bible if you prefer
3. Adoration and Worship - Father in Heaven Hallowed be Your name
  - Who is God to you?
  - If He is Your Father, who are you in Christ? Proclaim who He says you are.
  - Share why you are thankful to Him.
  - Take time to sing your love to God.
4. Intercession - Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
  - Pray for God's will to be done
    - in your life
    - in your family
    - in your church
    - in your business
    - in your city, nation and world
  - Pray for the salvation of the lost and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit
5. Petition - Give us our daily bread
  - Ask God to meet your needs
  - Ask God to meet the needs of others
  - Ask for spiritual needs as well
6. Repentance and Confession - Forgive us our debts
  - Confess your sins
  - Renounce lies you have believed
  - Surrender emotional burdens to the Lord
  - Grieve the loss of things that you should not hold onto
7. Forgiveness - As we forgive our debtors
  - Proclaim forgiveness those who have hurt you
  - Pray for your relationships and enemies
  - Bless others who have been against you
  - Allow God to heal your heart with His love where others have hurt it
8. Direction - Lead us not into temptation
  - Ask for discernment

- Pray against temptation and distraction
  - Listen and ask the Lord to speak to you about His direction for you.
9. Spiritual Warfare - Deliver us from the evil one
- Put on the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20)
  - Renounce any plans of Satan against you, your family and your calling
  - Pray for others to be set free who are bound in evil
10. Worship - Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
- Pray and sings about the greatness of who God is.
  - Proclaim and lift up what Jesus has done through His cross and resurrection.

## Communion Readings

### Communion Reading #1 - The Answer

Read Together (Minister and Congregation):

“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NIV

Minister:

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the bread which you said is your body.

Lord Jesus, we thank you for the cup which you said is your blood.

Read Together (Minister and Congregation):

Lord Jesus, We fellowship with You now, as we remember what you have done on the cross in your suffering for us and we look forward to your return, where we will partake of this meal with you again in your kingdom.

The answer to our sin is your body and blood.

The answer to our pain is your body and blood.

The answer to our shame is your body and blood.

The answer to our sickness is your body and blood.

The answer to our division is your body and blood.

Call and Response (First Line Minister, Second Line Congregation):

What can cleanse us from all sin?

His body broken and His blood poured out.

What can make us whole?

His body broken and His blood poured out.

What alone can bring us into peace with God?

His body broken and His blood poured out.

What can bring us into peace with one another?

His body broken and His blood poured out.

What can set us free from oppression?

His body broken and His blood poured out.

What can calm all our fears?  
His body broken and His blood poured out.

What has opened all God's blessings to us?  
His body broken and His blood poured out.

What has opened up the way to draw near to God's presence?  
His body broken and His blood poured out.

In the name of the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

### **Communion Reading #2 - The Apostles Creed**

Read Together (Minister and Congregation):

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy universal church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.””

Matthew 26:26-29 NIV

### **Communion Reading #3 - The Didache (or “the Teaching”)**

“And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.” After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in

remembrance of me.” In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”  
 Luke 22:15-20 NIV

For the cup: We give you thanks, our Father, for the holy vine of your son David, which you made known to us through your Son Jesus. Yours is the glory unto ages of ages.

Then as regards the broken bread:

We give you thanks, our Father, for the life and knowledge which you made known to us through your Son Jesus. Yours is the glory unto ages of ages.

We give you thanks, holy Father, for your holy name, which you have made to dwell in our hearts, and for the knowledge and faith and immortality, which you have made known unto us through your Son Jesus. Yours is the glory unto ages of ages.

Remember, Lord, your Church, and deliver it from all evil and to perfect it in Thy love. Gather it — the sanctified one—together from the four winds into your kingdom which you have prepared for it. For yours is the power and the glory unto ages of ages.  
 May grace come and may this world pass away. Hosanna to the God of David. If any man is holy, let him come; if any man is not, let him repent. Maranatha (Come Lord). Amen.

#### **Communion Reading #4 - The Passover**

“And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.” After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”  
 Luke 22:15-20 NIV

Jesus, You are the Passover Lamb who was sacrificed for us. (1 Cor. 5:7).

As we remember your body broken and your blood poured out:

We examine ourselves and ask that you remove the leaven of sin from our lives (1 Cor. 5:7)

That you heal our bodies (1 Cor. 11)

And That you restore our relationships (1 Cor. 11)

According to Your promise:

You brought us out and sanctified us from the world!

You delivered us from the slavery of Satan!

You have redeemed us from our sin!

You have taken us as Your people and You are our God! (Exodus 6:6-7)

Jesus, we thank You for Your body broken and Your blood poured out for us.

We remember what You have done. We fellowship with You now. And we look forward to Your return.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen.

#### **Communion Reading #5 - Nicene Creed**

“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NIV

We believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
begotten from the Father before all ages,  
God from God,  
Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made;  
of the same essence as the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and was made human.  
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered and was buried.  
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.  
He ascended to heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again with glory  
to judge the living and the dead.  
His kingdom will never end.  
And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life.  
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.  
He spoke through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

### **Scriptures to Memorize for Christians and Christian Households**

The Ten Commandments - Summary of Exodus 20:1-17

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.

7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet.

Numbers 6:24-26

Psalm 23

Psalm 27

Psalm 91

Psalm 103:1-5

Matthew 5:3-12

Matthew 6:6-8

John 3:16-17

John 15:7-8

Romans 3:23-24

Romans 5:8

Romans 6:23

Romans 8:1

Romans 10:9-10

Romans 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 10:13

1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

2 Corinthians 5:17

Hebrews 4:12

Galatians 5:22-23

Ephesians 2:8-10

2 Timothy 1:7