

# *Foundations*



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# ***Foundations***

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***Luke 6:47-48:*** "...I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on a rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built."



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# ***Scriptures to Memorize In Each Section***

## **1. Christ:**

Acts 17:30-31  
2 Corinthians 7:10  
Roman 10:9-10

## **2. Word:**

2 Corinthians 5:17  
Matthew 4:4  
2 Timothy 3:16-17

## **3. Prayer:**

Philippians 4:6-7  
1 John 1:9

## **4. Fellowship:**

Acts 2:42-44  
1 John 1:7

## **5. The Church/Witnessing:**

Romans 3:23  
Romans 10:9-10

# CHRIST

## Session One: Salvation - God's Greatest Gift

We can not begin to prepare you for life as a Believer here at WOCC without first being sure that you know who Jesus is. As you learn who He is, you then begin to understand more about yourself and the role you play as the body of Christ. We are then able to begin to outline your ultimate Purpose for being born.

Your relationship with God starts when you commit your life to Him, or become "saved." To be "saved", or "born-again", you must surrender every part of your life to Him, and begin the process of actively living with Him as Lord.

You are saved when you do two things:

- Turn to God in repentance (Acts 17:30-31; 2 Corinthians 7:10).
- Exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10).

To repent means to change. When you are sorry for sin you determine, as an act of your will, to change your lifestyle and change your behavior. Notice the Scripture,

*Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. (2 Corinthians 7:10)*

You are saved when you do two things:

### 1) Confess Jesus Christ as Lord, believing that He is risen from the dead

This means that in prayer you invite Jesus to come into your life and be your Lord. You then **confess or tell someone** that you have yielded the controls of your life to Jesus. Included in this, you believe with all your heart that Jesus is alive, risen from the dead, and that by virtue of His resurrection; Jesus is both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:32-36). When you do that you are saved. Notice the Apostle Paul:

*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)*

### 2) Praise and thank the Lord

Clearly, praise is faith in action. When you praise the Lord after prayer, you are saying, "I believe that I have received what I requested." Therefore, by faith, you praise the Lord that you are now saved. Notice how important faith is in the Word:

*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)*

You have earnestly sought the Lord by repentance and confession. Now, you praise and thank the Lord for saving you, because you believe that He has. God is pleased when we walk in faith, believing His Word. (Romans 10:17; 2 Corinthians 5:7)

### **3) Receive water baptism.**

Water baptism is very important. We are commanded in the Scriptures to be baptized. (Acts 2:38) Being baptized is the first thing you should do after repentance and faith. By faith, you are identifying totally with the burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. In baptism you are testifying to God, to demons, to the world and to yourself (a fourfold testimony) that by your obedience to this ordinance: "Jesus Christ is the Lord of my life, I am dead to the practice of sin and wrongdoing, and I am born again and have new life in Christ by faith."

**Baptism takes place on the third Wednesday every other month. To be baptized here at World Overcomers Christian Church, you just need to sign up, and we will contact you about the class and time. You know you need to be baptized if you a) have never been baptized before, b) you were baptized but it was before you were saved, c) you were saved, baptized, but you fell away from God and are now recommitting.**

## **Who Jesus is:**

If we are going to be able to receive all that is within this gift of salvation, then we need to fully

understand who Jesus is. These five titles give us a greater understanding of who Jesus was, and even more importantly who he is supposed to be in your life right now as a believer. It is not enough to know this in your head; you must experience every one of these titles in your everyday living.

**a. Lord** -- Jesus and His word should be in total control of every area of your life. He is the Boss, the one in charge. Rebels have a hard time with Jesus. (Luke 2:11; Acts 2:36)

**b. Messiah/Christ** -- The word Christ, the Messiah, literally means "the anointed one. Jesus is the one with Power, and you should experience that power in prayer, in worship, and in living. He has saved you from your sins, and He is the one that you submit your impossibilities to.

He is the fulfillment of the Old Testament Messianic promises to the children of Israel. He is the one promised to come, worthy of your faith and trust. (Matthew 16:13-20; Deuteronomy 18:15-18; 2 Samuel 7:12-13; Psalm 2:2; 110:1-4; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; 53; Jeremiah 23:5-6)

**c. Prophet** -- Jesus called himself a prophet in Matthew 13:57. You should experience the ultimate prophetic and visionary ministry of Jesus in your relationship with Him. He is the best prophet you could ever hear from, and you should have greater vision and insight into where the Lord wants you to be. (Acts 7:37; Matthew 13:57; Matthew 21:11; Hebrews 1:1-2).

**d. Priest** -- a Priest is one who represents the people to God, and Jesus is here to hear your confession, to be your great High Priest. He should be the one that you confess your sin to, because he intercedes for us. A Priest also gives wisdom and counsel, and you must trust Him for that as well. (Hebrews 2: 17-18; 7:26-27; Hebrews 4:14-16; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)

**e. King** -- We are a part of the Heavenly Kingdom, having been rescued from the dominion of darkness. As a believer you have a new citizenship, and Jesus is your King. As a subject of His kingdom you are controlled by a different set of laws and codes, and you must live by these if you are determined to be a Child of the Kingdom. (Matthew 1:1; 22:41-42; Zechariah 9:9; Colossians 1:13-14; Matthew 21:5-9; John 1:19; 18:37; Matthew 25:34; Revelation 19:16)



## Session One: Holding On

Jesus said in John 8, that if we hold to His teachings, then we would really be His disciples. We then would know the truth and the truth would set us free.

**The Benefits:** By staying connected and holding on the believer receive several benefits.

A) Salvation assurance: You need peace with God, and that confidence that you are saved comes from staying connected. (Romans 5:1; Romans 8:16-17; Philippians 4:7)

B) Access to God in prayer: I know that I am able to pray and have confidence in my prayer life because I am staying close to God. We will talk more about prayer in the upcoming weeks. (Psalm 34:15; John 15:7).

C) Divine protection: I do not worry about demonic attack, because I am on the lord's side, I am close to Him, and so I have confidence that the Lord will protect me. (Psalm 34:7; 91:1-16)

## Keep the Victory

When you come into this relationship with the Lord, the enemy will try to tempt you to violate the word of God, so that he can "re-separate" you from the Lord. Sin causes you to feel disconnected from the Lord, and His glory. If the enemy can begin to make you feel that way, then he can make you doubt God's love, and the relationship that you have established with Him. Therefore the ability and skill to overcome temptation is key in this battle in life as a believer.

Every believer who has committed has at times been confronted by temptations. Even Jesus was, "at all points tempted, yet without sin." So just know that facing temptation is a normal and a part of the Christian walk. But that does not mean that you have to fall and fail. You can walk in strength and victory, because the word tells you that you can do all things through Christ. The Word admonishes us to, "be perfect as He is perfect, to be Holy as He is Holy." The holiness that we portray has several benefits.

**A)** Holiness protects us from the dangers of sin.

**B)** Holiness helps people recognize us as belonging to the Lord.

**C)** Holiness creates strength in the local church, as it keeps the dividing power of the enemy at bay.

If you are going to live Holy, you must master sin.

## Mastering Sin

### Here are six steps you can take to assure victory:

- 1) Be sure your salvation is complete. When a Doctor prescribes a medication, he wants you to take all the medicine, even after you start to feel better. In the same way, be sure you fulfill all the steps: Repentance, Faith, and Water Baptism.
- 2) Be determined not to let sin rule you. You have to make up your mind that you will let nothing rule you. Be determined!
- 3) Be diligent and consistent in reading and memorizing scripture, spend consistent time in prayer.
- 4) Break free from friendships that make that sin seem so desirable.
- 5) Boldly confess to everyone that you have changed, and that e is Lord.

### What if I fail?

If you fail, you are not lost. God has made provision for your failure. John wrote in his first epistle,

*My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have One who speaks to the Father in our defense – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.  
(1 John 2:1-2)*

If you fail, the way to restoration is paved with Confession.

### The Three Paths of Confession

- 1) Confess to yourself:** You have to first admit to yourself that you have failed, be sure not to deceive yourself into thinking that nothing bad happened.
- 2) Confess to God:** The word exhorts us to confess to Him and He will be faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us. (1 John 1:9)
- 3) Confess to others:** You need to apologize if by sinning you have hurt another person. And you also need to find some brothers and sister in the Faith that you can be accountable to. This is one of the functions of our Life Groups. You need others to pray for you so that you can be strong against the attack of the enemy in your life.







## WORD

### Session Two: The Word at Work

The Application of the Word is one of the most important skills for the believer to master if he/she is to ever reach the ultimate goals that is God's will. The Bible is not like any other book, and as you immerse yourself in the teachings of the Word, you will find your life affected and transformed. We must see the Word at work in us, if we are to experience the full benefit of its life changing power. A Bible that sits on a shelf is an ineffective tool for change. In spite of the treasure that is contained in its pages, if the truth is not discovered and applied, it is never truly realized as truth. No other book is like the Word of God; it is unique. There are Five descriptions that we like to use to help us to have a better understanding of the impact of the Word.

#### ***The Word is...***

- 1) Alive: It is a living seed, producing faith and fruit (Luke 8:11; Hebrews 4:12; Romans 10:17)
- 2) Food: It is nourishment for your spirit (1 Peter 2:2 Matthew 4:4; Jeremiah 15:16)
- 3) Authority : It does not change; there is none higher (Psalm 119:89)
- 4) Powerful: It can transform (Romans 1:16)
- 5) Spiritual: It is truth from the realm of God (John 6:63)

#### **How and where do I begin?**

There are three important things that the new believer must have, in order to fully understand and benefit from the wisdom of this spiritual book, the Bible:

**a. The Holy Spirit:** The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him" -- but God has revealed it to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.* (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

The new believer needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) so that He can guide you into all truth (John 16:13). Even beginners can pray and ask the Holy Spirit to open their eyes to the truth of the Word. (Psalm 119:18).

**b. The willingness to obey:** If anyone obeys it, this spiritual book holds the potential of great benefit for them. No one can benefit from its promises if they do not meet its conditions. Remember, God's promises are never without the condition of obedience. The apostle James said,

*Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*  
(James 1:22)

**c. A plan:** Simply stated, the plan for the new believer is -- getting into the Word of God and letting the Word of God get into him. There are three basic hermeneutical or Bible understanding disciplines that the beginner should consistently use to help him in his studying.

We will explore these disciplines and the plan to implement them in more depth in the next session. The Three of them are:

- Observation
- Interpretation
- Application:

The Word of God is so powerful, for within the Word I find truths that can change me forever as I apply them. One of the ways to get truth on the inside is through the power of confession. A good confession is making a confession based upon faith in the Word of God. The word "confess" literally means, "to say the same thing." In making a good confession, the new believer says the same thing about himself that God says about him. If God says, "I have blessed you," he says, "I am blessed." He agrees with God. He believes what God says about *who he is, what he has, and what he can do*.

After repentance and faith (Acts 20:21), the believer confesses that Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:9), believes that he is saved by faith and confirms that faith through obeying the command to be baptized (Acts 2:38). He then boldly confesses *who he is* in Christ, based upon his faith in the authority of the promises of the Word and his obedience to them. Knowing and confessing what he has and *what he can do* is also based upon his understanding of the truth and authority of the promises of the Word and his obedience to them.

## **Here is a great place to begin. We can begin to confess:**

### **a. Who am I in Christ?**

- 1) Blessed -- (Ephesians 1:3; 2 Peter 1:3)
- 2) A child of God -- (Romans 8:16; 1 John 3:2)
- 3) A new creation -- (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- 4) Redeemed -- (Galatians 3:13)
- 5) Righteous -- (Romans 5:19)

### **b. What do I have in Christ?**

- 1) Abundant life -- (John 10:9-10)
- 2) Spiritual fruit -- (Galatians 5:22-23)
- 3) Authority -- (Luke 10:19; John 1:12)
- 4) Access -- (Romans 5:1-2; 1 John 2:1-2; Hebrews 4:14-16)
- 5) Fellowship -- (1 John 1:3)
- 6) Boldness -- (Proverbs 28:1)

### **c. What can I do in Christ?**

- 1) Walk in victory -- (Romans 8:1-4)
- 2) Understand the Word -- (John 16:13; 1 John 2:27)
- 3) Pray with confidence -- (1 John 5:14-15; Matthew 6:9-13)
- 4) Be faithful -- (Galatians 5:22-23)
- 5) Witness the power -- (Romans 1:16)



## Session Three: The Process

### The Process

Your job, as a believer is to grow up into Him, Christ. To become fully mature is the ultimate goal. For that to happen you are going to have to retrain your mind to flow with God and His Power. For this to happen you are going to have to build consistency. Bear in mind that there is no substitute for time. The consistent faithful practice of what we are yet to share will bring results. As the believer takes the time to meditate (repeat slowly to himself) upon what he is reading and learning and carefully applies the truths learned to his life, change will occur. Remember that the key ingredient for foundational development is **obedience**.

Jesus taught --

*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.*

*(Matthew 7:24-27)*

**--The key is Obedience, Obedience, Obedience!**

### Worded Up

Reading the Bible is good, but just reading is not enough to gain a strong foundation in the Word. You need to be, as we often say, "Worded-up."

### How I Get the Word

**A) Observation:** the discipline of looking closely at the truth and allowing it to speak to you. There are many things that you miss in your reading simply because you are not observant enough. Take your time, and look carefully. Ask yourself questions like: Who is writing? To whom is he writing? What is the subject matter? What are the main points? Why is he saying this?

**For your observation to be effective you must become proficient in five skills.**

1) **Hear** – You must make space in your life to consistently listen to the Word preached (worship services, Bible studies, television, and DVD's) and song (radio, gospel concerts, and CD's). Remember that faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

2) **Read** – You must set aside a time to read in the scriptures systematically. You will be blessed if you do (Revelation 1:3).

3) **Study** – As you read, you should purchase other Bible study aides to assist you in learning the Word more thoroughly. Paul told Timothy to study (2 Timothy 2:15), and the Bereans were noted for searching the Scriptures thoroughly to confirm the truth (Acts 17:11).

4) **Memorize** – As you study, you will find that great benefit is derived from committing the Word to memory. The psalmist David called this, “Hiding the Word in your heart” (Psalm 119:11).

5) **Meditate** – This final area holds the other four together. The psalmist said that meditating upon the Word of God would make you like a tree: strong and fruitful (Psalm 1:2-3).

Practice these five skills consistently and the spiritual strength, maturity, and transformation that you experience will amaze you. There is no way to measure the blessing of being “Worded-up.”

**B) Application:** The discipline of deciding what the text means to you. Included in this discipline is adjusting your behavior based upon your discoveries.

This discipline requires a good consistent plan. The believer should:

- 1) Begin by establishing a time and a place for the devotional reading of the Word of God. Be consistent. It is better to consistently study the Word for 5 minutes a day than to haphazardly read it an hour every other week.
- 2) Ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit (John 16:13; Psalm 119:18). Spend time in praise and worship before he reads the Word.
- 3) Read the New Testament first
  - a) Read the Gospels in this order: Matthew, Mark, John, Luke/Acts (these two works by the same author should be read together). These deal with the life of Jesus and the early Church.
  - b) Read the epistles. The believer should stay in one book until he finish reading it. He should underline verses that especially minister to him and start to memorize them.

4) Read the Psalms and Proverbs daily. There is merit in the devotional reading of the Proverbs in the mornings for their wisdom and the Psalms in the evenings for their encouragement. (See Appendix A)

5) Read the Old Testament History, the books from Genesis to Esther. The prophets should be read along with a guide to help explain the historical period of the writer. I recommend: Gleason Archer, Survey of Old Testament Introduction.

6) Read the Revelation (and other apocalyptic literature) only after he has a thorough knowledge of the Old and New Testaments.

7) Memorize the Word by topics (Psalm 119:11; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 3:15). After completing the memorization of the Scriptures in this book (See Scripture Memory, page 9), he should purchase The Topical Memory System (TMS) by Navigators.

Meditate (chew the cud, repeat slowly to himself) upon the rich truths received from the Word (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2). Meditation is closely linked with memorization and application.

8) Get into the habit of listening to spiritual music or tapes about the Word throughout the day or whenever possible. This will assist him in constantly making melody in his heart unto the Lord (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16) and keeping his mind upon the things of God (Isaiah 26:3).

Plan times of prayer and praise throughout the day. Do not leave it to chance. Remember Daniel; he planned to pray three times a day. He established an excellent habit, and he reaped great benefit from it. The new believer should do likewise.





## **PRAYER**

### **Session Four: The Worship Factor**

As we begin to talk about prayer, we must recognize that true worship and effective prayer are powerfully connected and we must operate effectively in both of these areas. Prayer is the foundation of strong spiritual life, and since Worship is Prayer, we cannot discuss one without the other.

Let's take a look at the **What**, the **Why**, and the **How** of True Worship.

#### **The "What"**

True Worship Is:

1) Your reverent spiritual response to the holiness and goodness of God. The Greek word for worship, *proskuneo*, means – "to crouch low; to prostrate yourself in homage or in reverence; to adore."

2) Spiritual, not just physical. It may include outward joyful praise that takes on many forms from singing to dancing, and it is fulfilled as you experience the presence of God. The presence of God is a humbling experience (Isaiah 6:5), and that is worship.

3) The key to help you become the mature joyful believer God wants you to be. It is vital to the life of the believer.

4) Warfare: you create confusion in the camp of the enemy, and you encourage your own soul when you spend time in His presence, no matter what the circumstances may be. It strengthens you to fight the good fight of Faith.

#### **The "Why"**

We Worship God because:

1) Because God has commanded us to worship (Psalm 29:1-2; 33:1-3; 100:1-2) and seeks worship from His people (John 4:23-24).

2) Because, as the children of God who have the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16; Galatians 4:6), it is natural for us to "minister unto the Lord" (Acts 13:2 KJV) as spiritual priests (1 Peter 2:5, 9) and be filled with the Spirit through singing (Ephesians 5:18-19).

3) Because, as the redeemed of the Lord (Psalm 107:1-2), it is normal for us to praise God because of who He is and to thank God because of what He has done for us through Jesus Christ (Psalm 103:1-6). This is the only sane response to God's loving kindness. We are new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17) who have been given the gift of righteousness (right standing with God) (Romans 5:17) and are able, through Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:19-20) to stand in the presence of God.

4) Because we understand the power of praise -- that God Almighty is enthroned in the midst of our praise (Psalm 22:3).

Worship does powerful things. True worship will:

- A) Bring revelation of God's presence and His will (Isaiah 6:1-8; Acts 13:2).
- B) Creates joy and strength in you (Psalm 46:4; Nehemiah 8:10).
- C) Establish the dominion of God in your life (Psalm 22:3).
- D) Enable you to endure temptations and trials (Matthew 24:13; James 1:12).
- E) Strengthen you to overcome sickness and disease (Romans 8:2, 11).
- F) Empower you to witness with boldness and confidence (Acts 4:31).

## The "How"

Get in to God's Presence by:

- 1) Joyful songs of praise (Psalm 100:1-2), but it is not limited to outward vocal expression. It can be inward and solemn. As the Spirit of God moves upon us, our worship becomes a spontaneous expression of exalted (high) praise to God.
- 2) Worship in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:23-24). Because God is Spirit, we worship Him "in spirit" -- out of our spirit man, speaking and singing words of adoration to God with the assistance of the Holy Spirit Who is within us, and "in truth" -- according to the teachings of the Word of God. It is essential to be filled and stay with the Holy Spirit (John 4:23-24; Philippians 3:3; Ephesians 5:18-19).
- 3) Knowing the different expressions of worship to God.
  - a. Singing (Psalm 9:2, 11; 59:16; 81:1).
  - b. Audible praise (Psalm 34:1; 103:1; 1 Corinthians 14:15; Revelation 19:1, 6).
  - c. Shouting (Psalm 47:1; 63:1-3; cf. Joshua 6:5, 10, 16).
  - d. Clapping (Psalm 47:1).
  - e. Dancing (Psalm 149:3).
  - f. Lifting hands (Psalm 63:4; 134:2; 1 Timothy 2:8).
  - g. Bowing; prostrating; kneeling (Psalm 95:6; Ezra 9:5; Daniel 6:10).
  - h. Musical instruments (Psalm 150:3-5; Revelation 14:2).

## Session Four: Real Prayer

Prayer is so important to the life of the believer. As in any relationship, it is so important to have good communication. In the same way, we must be sure that the lines of communication are open with the Lord. For us to have great communication we need to be clear about what Prayer is and what it is not.

### Prayer is:

1) Communing with God: Communing implies worship and time. We have already discussed the importance of worshipping the Lord. Sometimes when we pray we do not need to do anything more than simply be in His presence, in Worship. Prayer is not only talking and petition, it can also be peace quiet times alone with Him. You want to be serious about your time with God, for there is a great change that begins to occur in us when we spend time in His presence.

2) Communication/Talking with God: Prayer is also about dialogue: you talk to God and He talks to you. God always hears your prayers, as the Bible says that the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their cry (Psalm 34:15). The word encourages us to pray without ceasing, so your conversations with the Lord never end. I like to tell people that before they were saved they talked to themselves, after salvation, they are communing with God, throughout the day.

### The Lord's Prayer Outline:

A) Establish a time and a place with a plan. The new believer will get nowhere by leaving something as important as worship and prayer to chance. If he cannot find time, he must make time to seek God. Next, he must choose a place of prayer in his house. Set it apart for that specific purpose. Having a place to go for prayer will increase his faithfulness and effectiveness.

He also must have a plan. (His devotional plan should include the study of the Word. See section 5c under Level Two -- How and where do I begin?) His plan for prayer must follow the prayer outline that the Lord has given us (Matthew 6:9-13). The following, numbers 2-7, cover the prayer plan commonly known as "The Lord's Prayer:" Jesus taught His disciples to pray using this prayer outline.

B) Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. First, notice that throughout this prayer, the pronouns are all plural -- "our and us." It goes beyond, "my" and "me" to "our" and "us." Recognize that. This means that this is a kingdom prayer. When the new believer prays this prayer, she should have in view -- the establishing of the kingdom of God. Also, recognize that prayer at its best is inclusive. This is being kingdom conscious.

"hallowed be Your name" means -- begin with bold, audible praise. Praise the Lord because of **WHO HE IS** (Psalm 48:1; Revelation 4:8). Worship God around His name (Psalm 8:1; 34:3; 103:1). Jesus taught His disciples to enter the presence of God calling Him "Father" and hallowing (exalting) His name.



**C) *Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*** Jesus teaches the new believer to establish the kingdom of God as a priority in his praying. He should begin by prayerfully examining himself in terms of the will of God being done in his daily life. Is he obedient to the Word? Is he seeking first the kingdom of God? These are the kinds of questions that should be asked in this examination process. He begins, therefore, by praying for himself. Examine himself, his walk and prioritize the kingdom in himself first.

Next, he should pray (intercede) for the needs of others beginning with those who are closest to him and continuing to an ever widening circle of his spheres of influence. For example, wife, children, parents, brother and sisters, pastor of church, leaders of ministry, friends, saints in need, government officials (city, state, country, world), etc. His focus should be that the kingdom of God and the will of God will be established in the earth in people

(1 Samuel 12:23; Ephesians 3:14-19; 1 Timothy 2:1-6).

**D) *Give us today our daily bread.*** This means that the new believer should be specific in his prayer requests. "Daily bread" means basic needs. Paul says to make our needs known to God with thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6-7). The "thanksgiving" part is the faith side of prayer for basic needs. Since God has promised to meet our needs (Matthew 6:25-34), our praying with thanksgiving is praying in faith -- believing God's promises. There is a peace which comes when we specifically pray, with thanksgiving, for our own needs (Philippians 4:7), and there is a power which comes when we specifically pray (intercede) for the needs in the lives of other that we know. Praying in faith for our basic needs (daily bread) is simple because none of our basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, money, etc.) have a mind of their own. None of them can disagree with us, determining to withstand our faith in God's word, and not come to us.

Also the believer needs to be specific in his prayer requests. This may require boldness, but specific requests brought to God indicate that the believer has Faith. A general request may be answered, but it is difficult to prove. The result is that the believer's faith is not strengthened, but when he steps out in faith with a specific request and receives the answer, he knows that it is from God. Maturity comes with accepting that type of "prayer request" responsibility. Step out, and be specific.

**E) *Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.*** This part of the prayer means that the new believer establishes the kingdom of God in her interpersonal relationships. It requires examining himself in the area of forgiveness.

Jesus taught that the Father will not forgive us if we do not forgive others (Matthew 6:15). Walking in forgiveness is one of the basic requirements for walking in peaceful fellowship with others. Paul exhorts us,

*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*  
(Romans 12:18)

This requires practicing forgiveness as a lifestyle. For the new believer to pray in faith for peaceful, reconciled relationships is more difficult than simply praying for his basic needs. Remember his basic needs (daily bread) do not have a mind of their own, other people do. Their lack of faith or negative actions or attitudes can nullify the affects of his faith. He should not give up, however. He simply needs to exercise more tenacity and persistence in order to obtain victory.

**F) *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*** During this part of the prayer, the new believer is praying that the dominion of the kingdom of God will come into the way he is being lead. Kingdom of God come, will of God be done in this all important area of being lead. As our Shepherd, the Lord promises to lead and guide us to where we can lie down in green pastures beside quiet waters and be restored in paths of righteousness for His name sake (Psalm 23:1-3). Jesus teaches us to pray that we will be delivered from the evil one (Satan) who seeks to overthrow us by temptation (Matthew 6:13). Instead, we are to seek to be led by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14) into all areas of truth (John 16:13).

**G) *For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.***

Prayer should end as it begins, with praise. Giving God the glory is most appropriate. The kingdom is His, the power is His, and the glory is His. All belongs to Him. Praying this at the end is simply a recognition of the obvious. It is proper because it keeps everything in the proper perspective -- away from self and centered in God.







## FELLOWSHIP

### Session Five: Covenant Relations

INTRODUCTION: If you are going to walk with the Lord, and be a strong member of the body of Christ, you are going to have to master the power of Fellowship. So many people have come into a powerful relationship with God, and then fall away because of their inability to break worldly ties. Even our family relationships have to be reassessed for when we experience the new birth, we are born again into the family of God. This new family consists of brothers and sisters who are in covenant with each other. They have come out of the World and into fellowship with the Lord Jesus (Matthew 11:28) and His kingdom. (Colossians 1:13). In 1 John 1:7, John encourages us to walk in the light and we will find that we have fellowship with one another. And that is our desire, to create fellowship relationships that enhance our relationship with the Father.

If you are going to have the correct fellowship relationships, than you are going to have to have a strong criteria for selecting friends. Many of us developed friendships before we had enough sense to really choose good friends, but since you have been born again, the old is gone and the new has come, and that affects your relationships as well as your walk with God. You want close friends to be people who:

**1) Their commitment to the Lord is *total*.** (Luke 9:23; 14:26-33). This is more than someone just “committing his life to the Lord.” It is where he surrenders so totally to the lordship of Jesus Christ that Jesus actually begins to live His life out through him (See Galatians 2:20).

**2) Their obedience to the Word is *uncompromising*** (Acts 2:42).

They have foundational stability and strength as a result of being doers of the Word and being guided by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 7:24-25; Romans 8:14).

**3) Their determination to share is *unselfish*** (Acts 2:44-45).

They have made a covenant commitment to share their life and resources with the brethren within the Fellowship. This commitment is based upon love. The kingdom of God is established in this covenant-sharing atmosphere. The Greek word translated “fellowship” in the New Testament literally means “sharing in common.” Sharing in common in the average local church is not common, but it should be. The New Testament church does not exist without this level of intimate interaction. In practice, this is fellowship.

**4) Their desire to serve is *genuine*.** (1 John 2:6; Matthew 20:28)

It is based upon humility (Matthew 20:26-27), which has as its perspective reconciliation and discipleship (2 Corinthians 5:18-20; 2 Timothy 2:2).

## My Relationship Priorities

Once you know that you have the right type of relationships, you have to then know how to prioritize those connections. Many people are defeated because they have not learned the power of priority, but you need to have an order of importance in your life when it comes to relationships. That order ought to be:

1) God: Love Him first, seek first the Kingdom, love Him with all of your heart and mind and soul and strength. Jesus said that if we love family more than him we are not worthy of Him. The Lord should have first place in your life.

2) Family: You need to be someone who learns to put your family in a high place of priority. But even your family needs its own prioritized list. So here is the proper order for family.

a.) Your Spouse: One of the biggest mistakes that people make today is putting the needs of others over their husband or wife. If you are blessed enough to be married, then you need to make sure that person knows that they are more important than any other person in the world to you. That even includes your children. So many marriages are ending in divorce because the children came in and ruined the relationship. Children should enhance your relationship, but not control it. They need you, but they also need their space from you if they are to develop properly, and you need your space from them if you are going to keep your marriage strong.

b.) Your Children: if you are single with children, then nothing besides God should come before them. If you meet someone, that person may begin to come up in your list, but until they marry you, they can not become more important than your children. That should not be too difficult, because the needs of your children should come before your own.

c.) The Extended Family: Your Parents, Siblings, Cousins and the like, should be sensitive to their proper role in your life. Unfortunately, many of us grew up with Parents who did not know anything about the power of sacrifice. In-Laws become Out-Laws when they interfere with your marriage and children, so keep your extended family in their proper place.

3) Yourself: The Bible teaches us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Therefore you are not going to love anyone very well if you do not love yourself. You have to know how to care for yourself if you are going to be a good believer. You need to know how to love You, forgive You and care for You, before you can do these things for others.

4) Friends: The Word teaches that a friend loves at all times. When someone is truly your friend, they are not overly sensitive and manipulative with their love for you. They are able to adjust to the changes that life may bring, and you are able to do the same for them. Many of us do not have the right kind of friends, if we are going to be saved, and we need to make adjustments, and meet new people that we can connect with.

## **Session Five: Time, Tithe and Talent**

### **Stewardship**

A steward (Greek: oikonomos) is a manager, usually the manager of a household, one trusted with responsibilities and who is under authority. A steward is a manager of another's property.

The main responsibility of the steward is faithfulness. He is to be faithful in his walk, his talk, and in the discharging of his responsibilities. Faithfulness requires a readiness to obey, to pray, to submit, and to discipline one's self. The New Testament pictures Christians as stewards.

Stewardship is concerned with more than just finances but with all of life. It recognized that one day you will stand before the judgment seat of Jesus Christ and give an account for the deeds you have done in the body whether they are good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10). The "deeds" include the management of all your life resources: physical health, relationships, physical possessions, time, talent, and financial possessions. The subject of stewardship embraces all of life, and God is calling you to be a good steward.

*Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2 KJV).*

**As a Steward I should be faithful in these three specific areas: Time, Talent and Tithe.**

#### **Time**

The discipline of your time (Ephesians 5:16), includes church attendance, Bible study, prayer, and Christian fellowship. It takes time to know the Lord, and it is important for you to be faithful.

Unfortunately most people in America who consider themselves Christians attend church on average two times a month. You want to do better than the national average, you ought to be consistent in you time in church and the time you give to others.

#### **Talent**

The use of your natural talents and spiritual gifts for the strengthening of brethren in the church (1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:16) is important to your own spiritual growth and blessing. There is nothing greater than giving, Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive, (Acts 20:35) so you want to be a giver, and we want you to give of yourself.

#### **Tithe**

The giving of tithes and offerings from your financial resources to support God's work (Malachi 3:8-11; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11) is also an important part of your growth and the growth of the church. Since Money is such a big issue, and really the primary idol that contends for God's attention, let's take a deeper look at the importance of being faithful over finances and answer some commonly asked questions about the church, God and Money.



## What is being a good steward over my financial resources?

1) First, it means you faithfully pay your **tithes** to the Lord. Jesus taught you can detect where a man's heart is by where his treasure (money) is (Matthew 6:21). People of the world spend hundreds and even thousands of dollars weekly on drugs and gambling because that is where their hearts are. When the Lord truly has your heart, He will also have your tithe. The Bible teaches the tithes belong to the Lord (Leviticus 27:30; Deuteronomy 12:11; Malachi 3:8-10).

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* (Matthew 6:21)

2) Second, it means you understand the tithe connects you to God's covenant. Paying your tithes qualifies you to participate in the covenant benefits of prosperity and protection. Adam and Eve enjoyed all the benefits of covenant living with God when they walked in obedience, but when they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they were ejected from Eden.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil belonged to the Lord, just like the tithe belongs to the Lord. Therefore, eating of the tree is tantamount to believers taking God's tithe and eating it. Many are ejected from God's covenant blessings because they have touched and eaten God's tithe (Genesis 3:1-24). Achan did the same. He took from the tithe, the first-fruit-city of the land, the goods from the city of Jericho, after the LORD told them that all the goods of Jericho belonged to Him (Joshua 6:18-19; 7). A sign should be put over the tithe, "Do not eat; do not touch; this belongs to God." Taking from God's tithe disconnected these brethren from the benefits of the covenant. Taking from God's tithe disconnects brethren today from the full benefits of the covenant.

### What is a tithe?

The word tithe literally means "tenth." To give your tithe is to give the first tenth of your income to the work of the kingdom of God. Practically speaking, it means if you gross \$100.00 in your pay, your tithe would be the first \$10.00. ***Let me repeat, the tithe is the first tenth.*** Most believers who tithe do not pay the first tenth but somewhere near the last. The tithe is first fruits – the first tenth. Tithing is God's means of supporting the work of His kingdom. All do not give the same amount, but all give the same percentage – a tithe (the first 10%).

### Where is tithing taught in the Bible?

a. Tithing is taught in the Old Testament. Here are some key passages:

Genesis 14:19-20 – teaches Abram gave tithes to Melchizedek (who prefigured Christ, see Hebrews 7:1-17)

Leviticus 27:30 – teaches the tithe is holy and belongs to the LORD

Nehemiah 10:37 – teaches the tithes belong to the Levites (priests); i.e. the tithes are used to support those who are in full time ministry.

Malachi 3:8-11 – teaches to withhold your tithes is to rob God and put yourself under a curse, but when you tithe God open the floodgates of heaven to bless you immeasurably and rebuke the devourer (the enemy: insect, human, or demon) on your behalf.

b. Tithing is taught in the New Testament. Here are some key passages:

Matthew 23:23 – Jesus rebuked the Scribes and Pharisees for their hypocrisy. They paid tithes but neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy and faithfulness. He commended them for their tithing when He said, “You should have practiced the latter without neglecting the former.”

Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 – teach giving is connected to sowing and reaping, a principle of prosperity in the kingdom.

1 Corinthians 16:2 – teaches your giving is “percentage giving” (as in the Old Testament), in keeping with your income.

Hebrews 7:1-10 – teaches that Melchizedek, if not the pre-incarnate Christ, is a type of Christ, and when Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, it represents the faith children of Abraham (Galatians 3:26-29) paying tithes to Christ (His Church). Christ is a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:17) and we are a part of the seed of Abraham by our faith in Christ (Galatians 3:26-29).

### **What about offerings?**

By definition, offerings are the gifts you give above your tithes. You can also rob the LORD by withholding offerings (Malachi 3:8). The offering indicates your commitment to sacrificially support the work of the kingdom. Jesus commended sacrificial giving (Mark 12:41-44). Remember, you actually pay your tithes, pay because it is like a bill that you owe – the tithe belongs to God; it is not yours to keep. But you give an offering willingly out of the love of your heart. When you give an offering, you sow a seed expecting to reap a harvest. Notice these four laws of the harvest:

a. You reap if you sow – reaping requires sowing; you cannot expect to reap a harvest of any kind if you do not sow any seed.

b. You reap what you sow – the DNA for reaping is in the DNA of the seed you sow. Apple seeds produce apple trees from which you reap apples. Someone once said, “Any fool can count how many seeds are in an apple, but no man can count how many apples are in a seed.”

c. You reap after you sow – in the order of progression: sowing must precede reaping; you must recognize the commodity in the equation called “time.” Also, the gestation period of the seed, the time it takes for the seed to mature to reproduce, must be taken into account in the expectation of a harvest.

d. You reap more than you sow – one apple seed produces one apple tree that after maturity produces apples every year. Each of those apples contains seeds. Someone once said, “Any fool and count the number of seeds in an apple, but no one can count the number of apples in a seed.” Reaping more than you sow also reminds us of the words of Edwin Louis Cole, “You can gain by giving what you cannot buy with money.” Finally, take note of the following passages that exhort giving,

*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured unto your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you (Luke 6:38).*

Giving to God’s work is never negative, always positive. You cannot out-give God. Giving to God’s work always produces blessing and prosperity in you. God has ordained it. When you give to God, you sow seed that sets in motion the laws of the harvest. You must reap. Giving opens the window of increase in your life. You may

not see the increase today or tomorrow, but as sure as God is alive and you are faithful, increase and prosperity will come upon you and overtake you (Deuteronomy 28: 1-2).

Therefore, do not be weary in well doing (Galatians 6:9), cheerfully follow the command to sow your financial seed into God's soil (2 Corinthians 9:7), and you will surely reap a great harvest (Matthew 19:29).





## **THE CHURCH/WITNESSING**

### **Session Six: The Structure and Call**

Good churches have good structure, and one of the reasons that many churches do not grow, and do not help people to grow is that they are not properly structured. The proper structure can help us to find our place in the kingdom and to know where the lord would have us to be involved.

It is our desire that you be a Functioning Member of World Overcomers Christian Church, and not just a fellowshiping member. For that to happen you must understand a bit about the way that we are structured as a church.

#### **The Church Structure: Theocracy vs. Democracy**

**Democracy:** Ruled by the People, by a common vote.

**Theocracy:** God ruled, God communicated a vision to a man and that man Communicates the vision to the people and the people follow.

For a Theocracy to work you need a few key ingredients.

- a) A Man of God who is faithful, hears from God and is a man of integrity.
- b) A people prepared by God with Faith and Hope, and the desire to learn and grow to the who are open and ready to be used by God to establish His kingdom in their generation.
- c) A Vision that is wide and broad so that it does not limit God in His power.

#### **The Vision: Balanced Victory**

The idea is simple, that God has a specific plan for your life that encompasses every area of your life. It is not just spiritual, for the Apostle Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 5, "May your whole spirit soul and Body be kept blameless...". So we need to understand that God's specific kingdom plan for us deals with every part of us. If we follow His plan for our lives, we will experience victory in every area of life.

You should experience Victory in:

- 1) Your Spirit man: this means that you should be led by the Spirit of God, and dominated by your own spirit and not your flesh. Your prayer life should be strong and consistent. You should be in a place where you are clearly hearing from God, in a good church and experiencing peace within that affects your soul.
- 2) Your Soul: this means that your soul, the place where your emotions are, should be under the Lord's control. Your thought life should be disciplined, you should not be struggling with anger and malice and envy. You should have good stored up in your heart, so that good can come out of your mouth. You should be speaking life and blessing over yourself and over those you come into contact with. You ought to be at peace, understanding that God is in control, and that no weapon formed against you will ever prosper.

3) Your Body: your flesh should not rule you. No physical habit or dependency should rule you. You should not be dominated by food, or nicotine, or alcohol, or drugs, but instead be led by the spirit. You should be taking care of your temple so that you can fulfill the work that God has called you to do, for as long as He wants you to do it.

## **Session Six: Kingdom Work**

### **Answer His Call!**

#### **Two Aspects of Kingdom Advancement**

##### **1) The CHURCH – Matthew 16:18**

##### **Church Work**

- Children's Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- College Ministry
- Young Adults Ministry
- Women's Ministry
- Men's Ministry
- Inner-City Missions
- Media & Production
- Music & Arts
- Greeters/Guest Services
- First Time Guests
- Retail
- Coffee Shop
- Ushers
- Parking/Shuttles
- Facilities
- Medical Team
- Special Events
- Banquet Services



## **2) The KINGDOM Kingdom Work**

### A) Evangelism (Marketing – Outreach)

- Marketing
- Prison Ministry
- Life Change (Gangs)

### B) Follow-up (Connections)

- Pro-Active Connections
- Small Groups
- Specialized Church Groups – Men, Women, Children, Young Adult, College Age, Senior Adults, etc.
- Ministries

### C) Discipleship (Teaching – Mentorship)

- CLASS – After Service Teaching
- Mentorship – Each one, Teach One

### D) Prayer (Healing – Visitation)

- Prayer Ministry (Monday through Saturday)
- Prayer Circles (Specialized Groups)
- Neighborhood Prayer (Bread of Life)

### E) Counsel (Recovery)

- Counseling Center
- Individual and Marriage

### F) Missions – (Ministry to the Poor)

- CARE
- Kenya

### G) Church Planting (WOCC International)

## **WOCC Doctrinal Statement**

*The teachings of this ministry follow the fundamental truths of Christian orthodoxy outlined in the following statements:*

1. We believe that the Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are God-breathed: that by the supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit, the biblical writers wrote the divine, trustworthy, and authoritative Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice (Matthew 5:18; 24:35; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
2. We believe in the one true God who has revealed Himself as eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; distinguishable yet indivisible (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:21-22; 2 Corinthians 13:14).
3. We believe in the Incarnation: the deity of Jesus of Nazareth – that He is Lord, the Son of the living God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is truly God and truly man (Luke 1:26-35; John 1:1, 14, 18; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Philippians 2:5-11; Revelation 1:7-8; 22:12-13, 16).
4. We believe that mankind was originally created by God in His image, fell into sin through disobedience, marred God's image, plunged all of creation into depravity, and made it impossible for man to save himself (Genesis 1:27; 3; Romans 5:12).
5. We believe in the Substitutionary Atonement: that Jesus, the Christ died on the Cross for our sins, obtained eternal redemption for us, was buried, and was raised bodily from the dead on the third day, fulfilling Old Testament prophecy, and appeared to His disciples (Isaiah 53; Luke 24:1-3; Acts 1:1-3; 2:22-36; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Hebrews 9:12-14).
6. We believe that Jesus of Nazareth ascended bodily into heaven, was exalted to the right hand of the Father, and that He will literally and physically return the second time for the Church (John 14:2-3; Acts 1:9-11; Philippians 2:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; Hebrews 9:28).
7. We believe that the personal salvation of the repentant sinner, by grace through faith in the finished work of Christ on the Cross, produces the "Abundant Life" (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; John 10:10; 19:30; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 5:1-2; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 Peter 2:24).
8. We believe in water baptism by immersion, as an obedient response of the believer to the command of the Lord (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; 19:1-5).
9. We believe in the baptism with the Holy Spirit, the promise of the Father for empowering believers to witness about Christ (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4).
10. We believe that speaking in other tongues is an initial manifestation of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit that every believer has a right to expect, and that the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit are to operate in the local church until Jesus returns (Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:6; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; Ephesians 4:11).
11. We believe in the local church as the primary instrument of God in the earth to disciple men, and to establish the kingdom of God through prayer, fellowship, and the ministry of the

Word (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:42-47; 6:4; 20:28; Ephesians 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 2:2; Hebrews 10:25).

We believe that on the "Last Day": Jesus will return in the "Second Coming," there will be a resurrection of the dead including the righteous and the wicked, and after judgment the righteous will be rewarded, but the wicked will be punished (Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; 6:39, 40, 44, 54; 11:24; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-5:11; Revelation 20:11-15; cf. also Matthew 25:31-46).





# APPENDIX A

## MONTHLY READING CHART: PROVERBS AND PSALMS

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<i>Mornings</i>			<i>Evenings</i>			<i>Mornings</i>			<i>Evenings</i>		
↓			↓			↓			↓		
<i>Day</i>	<i>Proverbs</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Proverbs</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Proverbs</i>	<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Proverbs</i>	<i>Psalms</i>
1	1	1 - 5	16	16	76 - 80	17	17	81 - 85	18	18	86 - 90
2	2	6 - 10	19	19	91 - 95	20	20	96 - 100	21	21	101 - 103
3	3	11 - 15	21	21	104 - 105	22	22	106 - 107	23	23	108 - 111
4	4	16 - 20	24	24	112 - 118	25	25	119	26	26	120 - 129
5	5	21 - 25	27	27	130 - 134	28	28	135 - 139	29	29	140 - 144
6	6	26 - 30	30	30	145 - 150	31	31				
7	7	31 - 35									
8	8	36 - 40									
9	9	41 - 45									
10	10	46 - 50									
11	11	51 - 56									
12	12	57 - 60									
13	13	61 - 65									
14	14	66 - 70									
15	15	71 - 75									

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