



**Encounter!**

*Growth Workbook 1*

**By Craig B. Cooper**

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## 4 Growth Journeys of a Christian



Every Christian's path and purpose is unique but there are four common journeys we walk through – dare I say grow through! Each Growth Manual is designed to help us grow through these four journeys. I describe these 4 journeys as:

*Encounter! - What Happened When We Believed in Jesus!*

*Disciple! – Becoming a Disciple of Jesus*

*Minister! – Ministering Jesus to Others*

*Lead! - Finding Our Life's Purpose and Leading in It*

This book – *Encounter!* – is written to help you start your journey as a Christian! It's goal is to help you understand what happened when you became a Christian and start the adventure of walking with God!

*He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes [encounter] and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs [minister] will accompany those who believe... Mark 16:15-17*

*... make disciples [disciple] of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Matthew 28:19*

I hope you enjoy the journey!

*Craig Cooper*



# How to Use this Growth Manual

There are many ways you could use this growth manual. Here are 4 possibilities:

*Study By Yourself*  
*One On One With A Mentor*  
*Small Group with Other Like Minded People*  
*Classroom Setting*

Which ever way you choose to work through this growth manual keep the following in mind:

*Be Honest in Your Evaluation of Yourself.*  
*Ask For Feedback From Others.*  
*Take Your Time –The Goal is Not Speed but Application.*  
*Transformation Not Information Gathering is the Goal.*  
*Pray for Insight From God – He is the Key to your Journey!*

Each chapter has a set of questions called ‘Your Thoughts?’ at the end to help you *apply* the material to your life.

In some of the chapters the questions are followed by a set of ‘Action Steps!’ designed to help you put in *action* the teaching.

It’s a vital part of this Growth Manual to complete the *Your Thoughts?* and the *Action Steps!* Studies have shown that we only remember 10% of what we read, 20% of what we hear, 30% of what we see, 50% of what we hear and see, 70% of what we say ourselves, 90% of what we do ourselves. This shows the importance of writing out your thoughts and completing the steps!

This Growth Manual has been written in a plain and hopefully easy language to understand. It’s purpose has been to take Biblical subjects and make them as easy to understand as possible. It would not be called a theology book by most people but it has plenty of theology in it!



# Acknowledgements



This Growth Manual would not have been possible without 2 groups of people at Relationship Church

([www.relationshipchurch.com](http://www.relationshipchurch.com)). First, I acknowledge all of the leaders at Relationship Church that have taught and critiqued Growth Manuals. Their contribution and refinement of the material was invaluable. The number one leader I am indebted to is my mother, Darien Cooper ([www.darienbcooper.com](http://www.darienbcooper.com)), who taught this material for years and her insights and additions were crucial to its success.

Second, is all the students who took these courses. Thank you for letting us practice on you! Your feedback helped us fine tune the material and remove the extraneous and deliver the necessary!



# Congratulations!

Congratulations on becoming a member of Christianity – a Christian! I am so glad that you started the journey of learning more about our God and yourself! You are on the most exciting trip of your life. There are many adventurous things we can do in life – visiting far away places, learning new skills, meeting famous people. But the best adventure awaits you. That is the adventure of encountering Jesus.

Jesus is the most exciting person you will ever meet. The Christian life is all about getting to know Jesus and walking with Him throughout *all* the experiences of life. When we walk with Him nothing is ever boring. Everything takes on a new perspective and joy.

It is our desire that you grow in your life in all areas. We especially desire that you encounter the creator of the universe – Jesus Christ!



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1

# You're a New Person!

*This is truly a different way of living*

# Introduction

When you became a Christian you became a new person! You may say, “I don’t feel any different. What are you talking about?”

## You are Made of 3 Parts

According to the Bible you are made of 3 parts—spirit, soul, and body.

*1 Thess. 5:23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

What are these parts?



Your *body* is what people see. It is your outside. It is your arms, face, legs, skin, etc. It is also your skeleton, muscles, blood, and organs.

Your *soul* is often called your personality. It is who you are on the inside regardless of how your body may look. Your soul is made up of 5 parts—intellect, emotions, will, memories, and visions for the future (fantasies, future desires, etc.).

Your *spirit* is the part of you that was designed to hold the supernatural. When God first created Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden they were created to have God live inside of them. This place was called the *spirit* part of them.

## What Part of Me is New?

Your body didn’t change when you got saved. Your soul or personality didn’t change. It was your spirit that changed! Before you got saved your spirit was dead. God did not live there. As we saw from chapter 1 God could not associate with sin. There was no supernatural God inside of you before you were saved.

When you became saved by what Jesus did, then the Holy Spirit—the third person of the Godhead—came to live inside of you. It is the Holy

Spirit who is our constant teacher and comfort.

*John 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

When the Holy Spirit comes inside of you it makes your spirit alive and there is now God in the person of the Holy Spirit living inside of you! You are a new person because of this.

*2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

## **Learning to Live by the Spirit**

Before you were saved you lived your life by what ever your body or soul wanted to do. For instance, if your body said your stomach was hungry you would go eat. If your soul said your emotions wanted to be stimulated you might go turn on some music. But as a new person you are to live in a new way. You are not to live according to what your body or soul tells you to do. You are to live now by what the Holy Spirit inside your spirit tells you to do.

*Rom. 8:14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

This is a totally different and foreign way of living. We are not used to someone else telling us what to do. But remember that repentance is saying that I will no longer do what I want to do but what God wants. God decided to make it easy for us to know what He wants by coming to live inside of us. He tells us what to do by a small voice that we hear come from our spirit. It is almost like a thought or whisper.

We are so used to getting our own thoughts or urgings from our body and then just doing them. We are to no longer live with our body and soul leading the way. Our spirit is to lead the way by listening to what the Holy Spirit is telling us to do. Our body and soul then follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. This is the exact opposite of the way we lived before we were Christians.

Later chapters will help you to learn how to listen to the Holy Spirit. It takes practice to hear the Holy Spirit's voice but you can learn it!

This is truly a different way of living. But it brings peace, prosperity, and victory over temptations in our lives.



## Action Steps!



The best way to start getting to know God is to read His words to you. His words are collected in a book called the Bible. One of the best books that describes and teaches about your Savior Jesus is the book of John in the Bible. The Bible is divided up into 2 sections – the Old Testament (Covenant) and the New Testament. There are a total of 66 books. John is the 4<sup>th</sup> book in the New Testament. Start today reading through the book of John and share with others what you are learning about Jesus.

# 2

## What Else Happened?

*It can be summed up with two words  
—Humility and Grace.*

# Introduction

You just became a Christian. What does that mean? It can be summed up with two words—Humility and Grace.

## Humility

Humility? Yes – the opposite of arrogance and pride. What does humility have to do with becoming a Christian? Everything! When we realize what it takes to become a Christian, it's amazing anyone becomes a Christian.



See, it takes much humility to become a Christian. Humans have a hard time admitting that they need anything. To become a Christian means we have gotten a revelation of how holy (pure) and righteous (perfect) God is and how impure and imperfect we are. The Bible calls this impurity sin.

Sin is a “dirty” word in our culture. Our culture tries to instill in us that there is no “sin” or absolute right and wrongs. All right and wrongs can vary depending on the circumstances we are in. But the Bible does not agree with this. God says that anything done that is not as pure and perfect as Him is sin. There are no exceptions.

So? Anyone who has sinned at least one time will be eternally banned from the presence of God. The place we are banned to is called Hell in the Bible. There are no exceptions. It does not take 100 times of sinning, 10 times of sinning, but only 1 time of sinning to be banned eternally from the presence of God.

Many people ask, “Why is God so strict”? It is because He is pure and perfect. He cannot allow sin to be in His presence. Sin is evil and He is not.

To become a Christian we have seen that there is *no way* we are like God and can ever get close to God. It means that we realize that we are in trouble and will be eternally banned from His presence unless a miracle happens.

*Eph. 2:8-9 <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.*

It does not matter how much “good” you do. This is irrelevant and has nothing to do with our situation at all. The issue is not how much good you do but how much sin you have. We often think that if we do enough good it will outweigh or cover over our sin. The problem is we still have sin even if we have a lot of good covering it over. It may be “hidden” but it is still there.

To become a Christian is to realize the predicament we are in and that there is no way we can *remove* the sin. Covering over the sin is not enough. We have to find a way to remove the sin. Becoming a Christian is realizing that we cannot remove the sin that we have done. This takes great humility to say and admit this.

Humility is our part of getting saved from eternal judgment.

## Grace

Grace is God’s part of getting saved from eternal judgment.

Grace means giving kindness and goodness to someone who doesn’t deserve it or can repay you for it. Our God is full of much grace! God saw our predicament of being unable on our own to get to Him because of our sin. He realized before we did that the only way sin could be removed from us is by someone who did not have sin on them to remove the sins for us.



leave.

Think of it this way. Imagine you have paint on both hands. How can you remove the paint except by going to an external source like a towel, water faucet, etc. that does not have paint on it and transferring the paint to the towel or water? You can’t. It doesn’t matter how much you rub your hands together the paint will never

You may be asking, “Why can’t God just wipe the sins off of us Himself”? Since it was the human race that sinned against God, it would require someone from the human race to clean up the mess or

sin. But who do you know that has not committed even 1 sin?

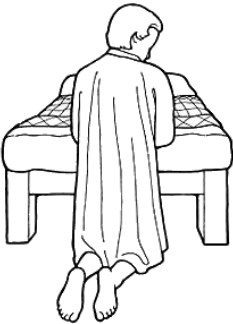
Exactly, I don't know anybody either. That's because there is not one human being that is pure and perfect. This is where God's goodness and kindness is amazing.

He saw this same problem too. So what did He do? His Son, Jesus, who is also God, became a human like us (He was also God. But we will save this lesson for another time). The purpose of Jesus doing this was to live a perfect and pure human life (which none of us has been able to do) and then remove the sin from us. There is one big "catch" for Jesus though. When Jesus removed the sin from us and it went onto Him, He had to be punished for the sin He just removed. The punishment was being separated from God, physically dying, and suffering His wrath for being imperfect. This punishment was originally for us.

*Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Jesus, in His great goodness and kindness decided to do this for us. He suffered greatly and died spiritually, emotionally, and physically because of our sin. His physical death of crucifixion on a Roman cross was one of the most cruel and painful ways to die. But He did all of this to remove the sin from us. The good news is that when we repent the sin is removed!

*Luke 13:3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.*



What does repent mean? Repent means to humble ourselves before God admitting that we have done Him wrong because of our sins. It means asking Jesus to remove our sins from us. It is believing that our only hope is in Jesus. It is "throwing" ourselves on the mercy of God and asking Jesus to come into our lives.

*Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."*

A key part of repentance is agreeing to change our ways and start walking according to God's Word. Many people want to "get to

heaven” but do not want to change their ways. They pray some words and think they are saved from eternal judgment. But we are not saved by just repeating words. We are saved by acknowledging our sins and asking forgiveness for them. Repentance is making the decision to not follow our plans anymore but God’s. Without repentance and the desire to change our ways there is no salvation.

When we do this we become saved – this is what happened to you!



## Your Thoughts?

1. How can you know if someone has repented of their sins?

2. Many people pray a prayer of salvation because they are offered incentives like you will be blessed, become prosperous, have joy, etc. if you become a Christian. Do you think you can get salvation if this is your motive? Why or why not?

3. How has your life changed since becoming a Christian?

4. Write a paragraph on your salvation experience:



## Action Steps!

It's time to start talking to God. The Bible calls it prayer. It's actually very simple. Just talking to Him as if He was a friend. Use your normal conversational voice. A good way to start off is to tell Him how grateful you are that He saved you. This can be followed up by telling Him how much you love Him. From there share with Him what you would like for Him to change in your life. As in a regular conversation with your friend, make sure you pause from time to time to give God a chance to talk back to you if He desires. His voice is usually a still small thought that comes from your Spirit. The more you do this the quicker you will recognize His voice. Enjoy!



# 3

## Why is the Cross Important?

*What Jesus did on the Cross was the most  
revolutionary event in the history of mankind*

# Introduction

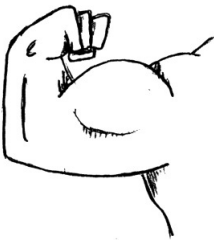
What Jesus did on the Cross was the most revolutionary event in the history of mankind. It first and foremost gave us the opportunity to have a relationship with God again. It removed the problem of sin that was blocking us from God and gave us the ability to get to know Him.

*Isa. 53:5a But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;*

But the wonders of the Cross did not stop there. It also gave us the power to revolutionize our own lives here on earth. Remember from the last chapter that we are made up of three parts—body, soul, and spirit? Well, the Cross has affected all three parts!

## Making Your Body New

How many times are we plagued with sickness and disease. It is important to understand where sickness came from to realize that it is not God's will. The question I want to ask is this: Were Adam and Eve sick in the Garden of Eden?



The answer is obviously no. Why? Because they ate from the tree of life. God set it up for them to be in a perfect environment as long as they rested and *fed on Him*. If sickness came from God and was in His original plan why did they not get sick in the Garden?

Sin *and* sickness entered the earth when Adam and Eve choose to follow their will and eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

*Gen. 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."*

Sickness is the process or result of death in your body. But the Cross changed everything! The physical beatings that Jesus took on the Cross were taken to reverse the effects of sin in our bodies.

*Isa. 53:5b ...and by his wounds we are healed.*

As a Child of God we have been given the right to walk in health and wholeness because of the power of the Cross as we walk in Him.

## Making Your Soul New

Just as our outside (body) is plagued with sickness Our inside (soul) is plagued with sickness. Our thoughts are often consumed with worry, anxiety, greed, lust, envy, temptations, etc. Our emotions are can be wounded because of rejection, hurts, mean words, etc. Our memories can torment us because of trauma, abuse, and disappointments from our past.

Many times these inner hurts are worse than our outer hurts. Therapy and counseling can help some. But there is only one way for the pain to be totally healed. It is by realizing that Jesus' death on the Cross can reverse *all* the effects of sin on us. We realize quickly that the Cross removed the effect of sin sending us to Hell. But the Cross is so much more powerful than that. Jesus' death on the Cross and the shedding of blood that He did can heal our bodies and souls here on earth. We don't have to wait till we get to heaven to get healed!



*Isaiah 53:5b ...the punishment that brought us peace was upon him....*

Look at this verse closely. His punishment has given us the ability to have *peace* in our souls. Praise God!

Many times our conscience suffers from the wrong things we did to others in the past. Let's look at the first part of *Isaiah 53:5* again: *but he was pierced for our transgressions...* Jesus suffered all of the shame and guilt—he was pierced for us—so that we wouldn't have to suffer the shame and guilt anymore. You don't have to experience shame and guilt anymore! Give all of your shame and guilt to Him and thank Him for taking it.

*Rom. 8:1-2 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.*

We can have a clear conscience because Jesus took all of our shame and guilt away and paid for it with His life. He is an awesome God!



## Your Thoughts?

1. In which areas of your life do you need the power of the Cross the most?

2. In what areas of your life have you seen the power of the Cross work the most since you have gotten saved?



## Action Steps!

It's time to tell your friends and relatives about your decision to follow Jesus if you haven't yet. The easiest way is to just tell them what you did and why you did it. But don't pressure them to make the same decision, just share with them how it has affected you.



# 4

## You Can Hear God!

*Being prophetic is simply listening to the Holy Spirit's voice and then doing what He says*

# Introduction

How many times have you heard something like this: We are a prophetic church or we want to be a prophetic people? What does this actually mean?

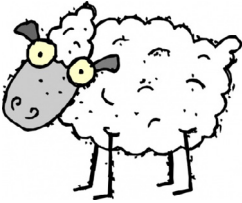
The definition of the word prophetic from the dictionary is: *“foretelling events as if by supernatural intervention”*.

This is a great definition of being prophetic – being able to tell the future by supernatural intervention! The key for Christians is that the supernatural intervention comes from the Holy Spirit. We have the capacity to walk out our future with supernatural intervention! This should be normal.

*Rom. 8:14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

When we listen to and follow the Holy Spirit we are being prophetic! Being prophetic is simply listening to the Holy Spirit’s voice and then doing what He says. Every Christian can hear God’s voice. It is part of the package of salvation!

*John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*



Another word that is often used is revelation. Revelation is knowledge that was revealed to us by the Holy Spirit that we did not know before. When you prophesy you are often communicating knowledge or revelation about a situation or person that you did not know before. You heard it

first from the Holy Spirit and then repeated it back to someone else.

Prophesying does not always include knowledge that you did not know before. As we will soon see, prophesying can include words of encouragement that the Holy Spirit gives us because the individual or group we are speaking to needs it to keep going. This is a valid and very much needed ministry in the body of Christ.

## Past, Present, & Future

We have 3 choices of how to live. We can live in the past, present, or future. Living in the future is living in the prophetic. Living in the past becomes depressing, living just in the present can quickly become routine and stale, but living in the future is prophetic and is the key to creating life and growth!

How do we live in the future? We live in the future by saying that everyday is a new day to hear from God and see how He wants to lead us. Living in the future means we are looking forward to a new direction – *a new future* – lead by the voice of the Holy Spirit.



God is always moving forward. As we move forward with Him, it enables us to live in the present with a fresh anticipation of life because we are participating in what the Holy Spirit is doing. He is always changing us from glory to glory.

*2 Cor. 3:18 (NLT) And all of us have had that veil removed so that we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more.*

When we live each day constantly asking the Holy Spirit how He wants us to live we are living with the future in mind. The Holy Spirit may explain the past but He will tell us how to live the next minute, hour, day, and even longer. As we follow the Holy Spirit the future He wants us to have will come about.

Most people live their day out by basing it totally on what happened in the past and what is going on now. This is called living by experience. God does want to build in us experience and wisdom. He uses these things many times. But He doesn't always use these things. Many times He wants to give us new experiences and wisdom. This means we have to go places where we have never been before. This takes the Holy Spirit leading us to places only He has been. This is often a scary place that requires faith that the Holy Spirit will truly take care of us in the future as we follow His voice.

*Heb. 11:6 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.*

Faith is saying that the Holy Spirit has told me something about where to go in the future and I agree to follow Him. When we do this we are the Sons of God and are prophetic people.

Many Christians do not follow the voice of the Holy Spirit. They follow the traditions (past and present experiences) that they have. God does not like this. When we refuse to be prophetic people we come under the influence of a demonic religious spirit who tries to get us to stay where we are and not move forward. Even worse the demonic spirit will get us to declare that the past and present things are the best!

*2 Tim. 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.  
Have nothing to do with them.*

## Results of Following His Voice

Following the Holy Spirit will have 3 effects. The challenge of being a prophetic people is to not let our soul and body lead but our spirit. All 3 of these things cause us to die to what our soul and body wants. It is only by walking in the fruits of the Holy Spirit can we follow Him. We have to continually cry out that He will help us be victorious in following Him.



### 1. New Goals

What we want to do with our life must be laid down at the cross and exchanged for what He wants us to do with our life. Our flesh has a plan for our life that will make it easy on us. The Holy Spirit is more concerned about you being saved, finding your destiny, and making an impact for Him than your comfort. The hardest thing about living in the future by the voice of the Holy Spirit is the fact that it is harder on our flesh to live this way.

### 2. New Order

Following the Holy Spirit is messy by our definition. Our flesh loves everything to be lined up, in order, and following some kind of schedule. The Holy Spirit is lined up, in order, and has a schedule. Unfortunately, His schedule and order is different than ours. To be prophetic means that we are willing to lay down what makes sense to us in order to follow what does not seem to make sense.

*Isa. 55:8-9 <sup>8</sup> “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

But remember what makes sense to us is based on the past and present. We are assuming that the future is going to be the same as the past and present. This is a very deadly presumption that will kill us in the end. Humans have an inherent weakness in that we think things tomorrow are basically going to be the same as they are today. They may or may not. Only the Holy Spirit knows. Even if tomorrow is the same as today the Holy Spirit may not want us to go there again! He is trying to bring us ‘up a level’. The question is are we going to pick ‘our order’ and stay where we are at or go with His ‘order’ and go up a level. If you stay where you are you will grow stale very fast!



The Holy Spirit can't be controlled to fit our schedules and plans. He can't be put in a box. The religious spirit is constantly trying to get us to do this. If we try then the Holy Spirit will be quenched and we may have something that looks Godly but in fact is only a form with no substance.

When we follow the Holy Spirit it is always messy and it upsets our schedule. But remember the Holy Spirit is about saving and changing people.

We are His conduits to do this. So this means He is always wanting to bring new babies in Christ into our lives so that we can change their diapers and raise them. Don't reject God's babies because they are messy.

If you reject God's babies and the messes they create He will not bring any to you and you will become sterile and impotent spiritually. His life is in what we call messes! But in the end a greater meaning and order to life will come forth.

### **3. Increased Truthfulness**

Many people don't really want to hear the words of the Holy Spirit. They want to be able to pick and choose what they hear. They like the encouraging and comforting words. This makes them feel good. The Holy Spirit does encourage us but He also tells us the truth. We want the encouraging words but we also want the truth.

*John 8:31-32 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

Have you ever noticed that some cultures (like the American South culture) do not like the truth spoken directly? We want everything said 'coated in sugar with lots of small talk'. We often get offended at the Holy Spirit because He doesn't talk like us. He is usually straightforward with very little small talk. This is because He is not from your culture.

## How to Hear His Voice

### 1. Those Who Seek Me Will Find Me

*Jer. 29:12-13 <sup>12</sup>Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup>You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*



Our first response to situations is to usually base our actions on what we have done in the past. We need to consider the past, but the first thing we need to do is to ask the Holy Spirit what to do. When we do this we need to pause and listen for His response. If it is a big decision that we are about to make we need to take some time to make sure that we hear the Holy Spirit.

It is a sin of presumption if we take an action based on what God wanted last time or what makes sense to us. We often think why wouldn't He do the same thing again? Press into the Lord and ask Him. If you seek Him you will find Him. But He wants us to seek Him.

### 2. Fan Into Flames

*2 Tim. 1:6-7 <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup>For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.*

The Holy Spirit and all His gifts are already inside of you. But they do not overtake and control you. You have to “fan into flames” the gifts of God. “Fanning into flames” the gifts is no different than fanning into flames a real fire. You have to concentrate on the flame and start to blow slowly on it. As you do this the natural flame will grow larger.

You do this same thing with spiritual fire. You concentrate on the Lord and start talking to Him. One of the best ways to do this is to start speaking in tongues, singing music, or quoting Scripture over your self. You do this even if you don’t feel like it – which is most of the time. Take it by faith that as you stir up the spiritual fire that revelation, wisdom, and understanding will come!

### 3. Don’t Be Satisfied with Your Present

*Matt. 25:1-10* <sup>1</sup>“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. <sup>4</sup>The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. <sup>6</sup>“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ <sup>7</sup>“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>“No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.



had a clean lamp.

The oil represents the Holy Spirit in this verse. The actual lamp represents our life or ministry in which we are involved. It is a structure that can be empty or full. All of these virgins had saved themselves for Jesus and lived a pure life. They

had a clean lamp. But only half the virgins went further and allowed their lamp to be full of the Holy Spirit. We can look good and even have a ministry. But if the lamp or ministry aren’t constantly filled with seeking the words of the Holy Spirit it is really empty.

What is interesting is that only each virgin knew if their lamp was filled. It is hard to tell by just looking on the outside. We may fool others, but are we living moment by moment in the hope and future of what our Lord is saying? If we are, this is life and we are walking with the Holy Spirit! We can then be called prophetic people.

#### 4. Become Desperate

Prophetic people are desperate people.

Here are some questions to ask yourself to determine your desperation level:

- Do you want what the Holy Spirit is saying more than your ministry being successful in other people's eyes?
- How hard do you work at getting the mind of the Holy Spirit?
- Do you value your convenience more than the inconvenience that the Holy Spirit's words often bring?
- Will you obey the Holy Spirit's words no matter how they impact your lifestyle or is your obedience conditional?
- Do your actions reveal that you value the opinion of man or God?

Depending on your answers will determine the level of revelation you receive. The Holy Spirit will not continue to give words to people who do not receive them.

We grieve the Holy Spirit when we value anything more than His words. It is that simple. You can go on the revelation and skills that you have obtained from the past and live there, or you can get desperate for what the Holy Spirit is saying now for the future.



Jesus was desperate for the words of His Father. They were His life. He was very unconventional. Just when the disciples got used to something Jesus moved them farther out.

When a decision is coming up do you proceed with presumption based on your past and present or do you cry out for the Holy Spirit to give you more revelation?

*John 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father*

*doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.*



## Your Thoughts?

1. How would you define a prophetic person?

2. What is the best way for you to “fan into flames” your spirit inside of you?

3. Which characteristic of the prophetic – goals, order, or truth – has the Holy Spirit been working on you the most this last year? How has the change been going?

# 5

## Ways of Hearing

*God speaks more than  
just English*

# Introduction

As we learned from the last chapter we need the words of the Holy Spirit in order to get the life of God. His words are His life! He created the universe with His words.

## Revelation Comes From the Holy Spirit

We are totally dependent on the Holy Spirit for supernatural insight. The Bible calls this revelation.

*Eph. 1:17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.*

There are different ways of getting revelation or words from the Holy Spirit. Within each of these ways God will speak slightly different to each one of us. It is a process of growth to learn to hear God with confidence. It takes practice, confirmation from others, and time. Don't get frustrated. It is important to learn the voice of God and realize that you will. Always be willing to take correction and guidance from more mature believers.

## Ways of Hearing



We have listed 9 ways of hearing God. They are listed in the order of more subjective to more objective. Any of these ways can be used by the Holy Spirit to give us a word for someone that we can then prophesy to them.

### 1. Impression

An impression can best be described by the phrase, "*I feel...*". A practical example is when somebody comes to your mind that you *feel* led to pray for or call, etc. This is entry level way of hearing the Holy Spirit but it does not imply that it is insignificant. Many times with an impression we know something is happening or has happened but we don't know what it is. We don't need to ignore these impressions, but we need to learn to ask the right questions of others or the Holy Spirit to get all of the answers.

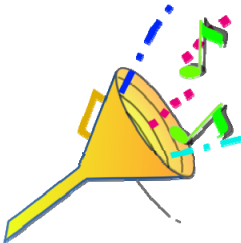
*Luke 8:45-46* <sup>45</sup>“Who touched me?” Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you.” <sup>46</sup>But Jesus said, “Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.”

## 2. God’s Voice in Our Spirit

God very rarely speaks to us loudly. He usually speaks very softly. We have to learn to quiet ourselves and pay attention to that small voice or it will be crowded out with other noises. God does this so that we learn to walk with Him intimately as a close friend. Friends don’t have to yell at each other. They can communicate with just a look and body language. Train your “spirit ear” to always be ready for a quiet word from the Lord.

*1 Kin. 19:12-13* <sup>12</sup>After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. <sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Many people don’t think God speaks to them. This is not true. If you are a child of God He is speaking to you (*Romans 8:14*). Actually He is speaking to you a lot. The problem is not whether He is speaking to you but in us recognizing His voice.



Most people never realize God is speaking to them because their mind is so cluttered that the soft voice of the Lord is never recognized. Everyone is getting many impressions and words spoken to them by God.

The only way you can unclutter your mind is to unclutter a portion of your schedule. It is crucial that every believer take some time every day and clear off your schedule, to do list, activities, etc. and get into the presence of God. If you will do this on a regular basis you will become still long enough to recognize that God is speaking to you.

After you learn what His voice sounds like and His impressions feel like you will be able to learn how to take this “uncluttered” state into the rest of your day. But you have to learn His voice first so that you can recognize above all the other “voices” that speak to you during

the day.

### 3. Internal Vision

When we say vision we literally mean a picture or a series of pictures that would look like a short video. An internal vision is where you see the picture(s) in your mind. It's just like when you remember an event in the past and you can see it clearly as if you were there. The picture is in your mind but does not affect your sight or hearing of the outside world.

*Acts 2:17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.*

*Acts 9:10-12 <sup>10</sup>In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered.*

*<sup>11</sup>The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup>In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."*

### 4. External Vision

An external vision is the same as an internal vision but you see the picture(s) out in front of you just like you watch a movie or look at a photo. You are still aware of what is going on around you. It is just like if you are looking at a photo or a movie you realize who else is in the room and what they are doing.

### 5. Dream



A dream is just like a vision except that you get it while you are asleep. Many dreams and visions are literal, but just as often they are symbolic. Symbolic dreams and visions need to be interpreted by someone who has experience and the anointing to do so.

*Matt. 1:20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

## 6. Trance

A vision where you are so caught up in the Spirit you are not aware of what is going on around you and don't know where you are at. It is like you are in the photo or movie and do not know what is going on around you. Many times when you come out of the trance you do not realize how much time has passed or even where you are.

Apostle Peter's experience:

*Acts 11:4-5a* <sup>4</sup>*Peter began and explained everything to them precisely as it had happened:* <sup>5</sup>*"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision....*

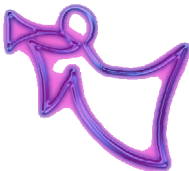
Apostle John's experience:

*Rev. 9:17a* *The horses and riders I saw in my vision looked like this...*

Apostle Paul's experience:

*2 Cor. 12:1-4* <sup>1</sup>*I must go on boasting. Although there is nothing to be gained, I will go on to visions and revelations from the Lord.* <sup>2</sup>*I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows.* <sup>3</sup>*And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows—*<sup>4</sup>*was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell.*

## 7. Angelic Visitation



In the Bible when angels showed up it meant they were bringing a very important message for a crucial time. If you get an angelic visitation it is extremely important to consider their words carefully.

For God to dispatch an angel to you means He does not want you to misunderstand or treat the message casually and He wants your undivided attention. Give it. Usually in Scripture when an angel visits time is of the essence. Quickly do whatever the angel of the Lord says.

*Acts 12:6-7* <sup>6</sup>*The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance.* <sup>7</sup>*Suddenly an angel of the Lord*

*appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.*

*Luke 1:11-13 <sup>11</sup>Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John.*

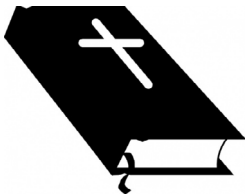
## **8. Audible Voice of God or Direct Visitation by Jesus**

This is an extremely rare occurrence but not unheard of. The Apostle Paul heard the audible voice of the Lord while journeying to Damascus.

*Acts 9:3-4 <sup>3</sup>As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"*

Everything said about an angelic visitation and the urgency of what is communicated, is even more true about the audible voice of God. Where this type of communication is recorded in the Scriptures it always relays a very important and crucial message. Whenever anyone heard the voice of God it radically changed and empowered the person to a different lifestyle.

## **9. Word of God**



*2 Tim. 3:16-17 <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

Timothy sums up the importance of this revelation – it is God Breathed! The Bible IS the Word of God and is to be treated just as if He spoke it directly to us. When we read the revelation of the Bible and apply it to our lives diligently we will be thoroughly equipped. We will be mature.

## **Giving the Word to Others**

When we get words from the Holy Spirit and it is for others it is good to tell the person the way you got it. For example, you can say I had a dream about you last night. Or, I had this impression from the Holy Spirit that I want to share with you. This helps the person getting the word to put it in the proper perspective.

Impressions, still small voice, and the Word are the most common forms of revelation. They may not be as dramatic as a dream or vision but they are still valid and important for hearing the Holy Spirit.



## Your Thoughts?

1. What ways has the Holy Spirit given you revelation?

2. What is one of the most powerful words you have gotten from God? Were there any conditions to the word?

3. What does God speak in symbols sometimes?

# 6

## Jesus' Baptism - Water

*Baptism is the first step of  
becoming a full disciple of Jesus*

# Introduction

Water baptism is a public statement of what happened on the inside of us after we got saved. It is not a necessity to become saved but it tells to the world that you are a Christian and you are not ashamed to identify with your Lord.

*Eph. 2:8-9 <sup>8</sup>For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not by works, so that no one can boast.*

*Mark 8:38 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."*



Even though, baptism is not required to be saved, the New Testament has many examples of people who got baptized. Even Jesus got baptized at the beginning of His ministry.

*Matt. 3:13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John*

Philip after leading the Ethiopian convert to Jesus baptized him.

*Acts 8:38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.*

The Great Commission or final commandment of Jesus instructed us to go, disciple, and *baptize* people.

*Matt. 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

You could consider from this verse that baptism is the first step of becoming a full disciple of Jesus. Even though it is not required to be saved it is a command from our Lord.

## What is Baptism?

The word baptism in the original Greek language of the Bible means “fully wet”. The root word of baptism means “cover wholly with a fluid”.

Baptism is an act where your entire body is covered with water. Generally, this is done by someone helping lower you into a pool of water so that your entire body is covered. This is the method that Jesus followed:

*Matt. 3:16a As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water...*

## Baptism is Symbolic of Salvation



The baptism method of full immersion in water is very symbolic. It is a visual reminder to you and those watching of what happened on the Cross. After Jesus died on the Cross His body was taken down and put into a grave. After three days He rose again from that grave victorious with a new body. This is what full immersion baptism symbolizes.

It also symbolizes your death to yourself. As you are lowered into the water it symbolizes the grave where you are dying to your goals and will. When you come up out of the water it is a visual reminder that because you have identified with Jesus you have risen from the death that sin has caused in your life. You now are a new creature with a new spirit and one day you will also get a new body to match your spirit.

*Rom. 6:3-5 (The Message) That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land!*

*That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means. When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus. Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country.*

## Baptism is a Reminder

Your water baptism event will be a good memory that you can look back over the years. If you ever wonder if you really got saved then this event will remind you that you did.

## Who Can Baptize You?

The Great Commission in *Matthew 28:19* is very clear that Jesus expects all believers to *Go, Make Disciples, and Baptizing...* Any believer can baptize another believer. Many times it makes the baptism special if the one assisting you is someone that has had a special spiritual influence in your life. This is not required but it often adds to the memories.





## **Action Steps!**

Schedule a time with your Church family to get baptized!

# 7

## **Holy Spirit's Baptism - Power**

*His baptism is one that gives  
us power to live the new life*

# Introduction

Jesus' baptism of water symbolizes the forgiveness of sins and resurrection to a new life. The Holy Spirit also has a baptism to give to man. His baptism is one that gives us *power* to live the new life.

*Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

After receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we have the power we need to witness, to resist sin and the devil, and to be all that God intends. The phrase baptism in the Holy Spirit means to be immersed (just like water baptism) into a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit.

## Sign of Baptism



### BAPTISM

The main purpose of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is to receive power to overcome the enemy and our flesh. There is a sign that goes along with the baptism and that is to speak in other tongues. This means to speak in a different language than the one that you were raised in. This is in many ways a strange experience at first but you will quickly realize that as you speak in this new language it increases your power and revelation from the Holy Spirit inside of you. The gift of tongues was first given by God to man right after Jesus' ascension to heaven. This day is commonly called Pentecost.

*Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

It was common throughout the book of Acts for believers to speak in Tongues (*Acts 10:46; 19:6;*). It is the Holy Spirit that gives the ability to speak in Tongues. Speaking in Tongues is something that all believers can do and is evidenced all around the world.

*Mark 16:17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: ... they will speak in new tongues;*



## What is Tongues?

It is a language not known to us but known to God. The words for it come from the Holy Spirit inside of us and not from our mind like our natural language.

## Why Do I Need Tongues?

There are many reasons to speak in Tongues, but we have listed three of the most powerful here.

### Pray the Perfect Will of God

Have you ever wanted to pray for someone and didn't know exactly what to pray. You had a burden for that person but just wasn't sure how to intercede. Praying in Tongues solves that problem. When you pray in Tongues for someone, you may not know the exact words you are saying, but you can feel that your prayer has power and is accomplishing something. This is because the Holy Spirit is marrying up your burden with the exact words to say and taking your prayers to the throne room. You can be confident that you are praying the perfect will of God.

*Romans 8:26-27 <sup>26</sup>In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.*

*<sup>27</sup>And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.*

### Spiritual Refreshing & Intimacy

*1 Corinthians 14:4 (NLT) A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally in the Lord, ...*

When you speak in Tongues you have to do so by the Holy Spirit. It causes us to shift our focus from our circumstances and our problems to the world of the Spirit. Anytime that we do this it brings a spiritual

refreshing and a renewed intimacy with the Holy Spirit. So whenever the circumstances of life start affecting you negatively you can start praying in Tongues and you will receive a refreshing.

*Jude 1:20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.*

## Power

*Acts 1:8 you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;*

Power comes from a relationship with the Holy Spirit. His power in us is used to overcome sin, create faith for living, flowing in the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit, etc. These are all supernatural things that requires a supernatural source—the Holy Spirit. One of the best ways to release that source is praying in Tongues. It helps us to hear clearer the Holy Spirit's voice in knowing what to do or how to minister to others. Doing this helps us to clear our mind of our own thoughts and focus on God's.

## How Do I Get Tongues?

It is a separate action just like water baptism. You simply ask God for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. It is a gift that God freely gives. When you ask Him for something you don't have to worry about Him not giving you a good gift. You can ask Him by yourself. But if you want someone to pray with you there will be a special time during the Encounter Weekend where everyone that has not been baptized with the Holy Spirit will be prayed for that desires it.

*Matthew 7:9-11 (NIV) <sup>9</sup>“Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup>Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup>If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!*



After you ask for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit start praising the Lord in English. When you feel something coming up from your spirit inside of you say what you feel. It may seem like gibberish at first and you may seem silly. It is no different than if you repeat a foreign language somebody

speaks to you that you don't understand. Your mind may say that you are out of control. But rest assured that you are in control. Your mind is just not use to taking directions from your spirit.

Speaking in Tongues is something you do voluntarily. The Holy Spirit never takes control of you and makes you do anything. It is simply a gentle nudge from Him that you have to follow.

Sometimes when you ask for this gift the tongues (prayer language) flows very easily and quickly. Other times it takes longer to flow freely. If the gift of tongues does not flow immediately relax. The gift will come. Sometimes it is instantly and other times it may take several days. But it will happen. Continue to pray to the Lord and enter into Praise & Worship regularly. The gift of Tongues will come as you humbly seek the Lord.



## Your Thoughts?

1. Have you received the baptism in the Holy Spirit since becoming a Christian?

2. Do you have any questions about this experience?

3. Describe what situations you use your prayer language (tongues) the most?



## **Action Steps!**

Have you asked God to give you the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the gift of speaking in tongues? If not, ask Him as described in this chapter. If it does not come immediately, rest assured it will come!



# 8

## **Welcome to the Family!**

*You Got More than Just a  
Savior when You Became a Christian*

# You are a Son or Daughter of God

You got more than just a Savior when you became a Christian. You joined a family, a family of Believers. When you became saved one of the benefits is that you also became an adopted Son (or Daughter). God not only gave you salvation but also brought you into His family. He is a good God indeed!

*John 1:12 "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God"*

*Romans 8:14-16 "because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."*

## You Have A New Spiritual Family - New 'Brothers' And 'Sisters'

Every Christian is also a son or a daughter. So together we make up the family of God! Overtime your spiritual brothers and sisters will become very close to you. Some will become like real brothers and sisters to you.

*Ephesians 1:4-5 "For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will"*

The Church is not meant to be just a meeting place you attend on the weekend for services. The Church is you and others getting together and interacting with one another. Your fellow believers are to be friends that we can share with, minister too, and receive ministry from. Christianity is about a relationship with God vertically and relationships horizontally with others. Look at all of these verses that talk about interaction with our spiritual family.

*"...Be at peace with each other." (Mark 9:50)*

*"...Wash one another's feet." (John 13:14)*

*"...Love one another..." (John 13:34)*

*"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love..." (Romans 12:10)*

- "...Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)  
 "Live in harmony with one another..." (Romans 12:16)  
 "...Stop passing judgment on one another." (Romans 14:13)  
 "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you..." (Romans 15:7)  
 "...Instruct one another." (Romans 15:14)  
 "Greet one another with a holy kiss..." (Romans 16:16)  
 "...When you come together to eat, wait for each other." (I Cor. 11:33)  
 "...Have equal concern for each other." (I Corinthians 12:25)  
 "...Serve one another in love." (Galatians 5:13)  
 "Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other."  
 (Galatians 5:26)  
 "Carry each other's burdens..." (Galatians 6:2)  
 "...Be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:2)  
 "Be kind and compassionate to one another..." (Ephesians 4:32)  
 "...Forgiving each other..." (Ephesians 4:32)  
 "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs."  
 (Ephesians 5:19)  
 "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (Ephesians 5:21)  
 "...In humility consider others better than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)  
 "Do not lie to each other..." (Colossians 3:9)  
 "Bear with each other..." (Colossians 3:13)  
 "...Forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another."  
 (Colossians 3:13)  
 "Teach...[one another]" (Colossians 3:16)  
 "...Admonish one another (Colossians 3:16)  
 "...Make your love increase and overflow for each other." (I Thessalonians 3:12)  
 "...Do not slander one another." (James 4:11)  
 "Don't grumble against each other..." (James 5:9)  
 "Confess your sins to each other..." (James 5:16)  
 "...Pray for each other." (James 5:16)  
 "...Live in harmony with one another..." (I Peter 3:8)  
 "Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling." (I Peter 4:9)

Wow! What a list! God cares about how we treat each other in the family. He also knows that we will not become fully mature and achieve our full potential without one another. Being in a family is hard sometimes but as we learn to live with each other it will cause us to be the best that we can.

It is essential that you become a part of a small group of other believers. There is no way you can do the verses above in a large

group gathering on Sunday morning. Sunday morning has its purpose but developing horizontal relationships can only be done in smaller groups. If all we do is attend a large group meeting we will miss out on one of the best parts of being a Christian – getting to know others. In a small group we can share what God has given to us with others and vice-a-versa.

It is in a small group of believers where you become family. This is the place where you learn about your brothers and sisters. You also get to ask for prayer and get advice from older Christians about challenges we may be facing. One value of having older brothers and sisters is learning from them! Being a part of a small group will give you the belonging that comes from being a part of a Spiritual family.

So welcome to the Family and enjoy your journey!



## **Action Steps!**

If you haven't joined a small group yet start looking around. This is the first step to developing your spiritual family!

