

A pathway for spiritual growth.



[www.lakenormanaltar.com](http://www.lakenormanaltar.com)

Life is truly amazing with all of its choices and challenges. This is why we have designed this pathway. We have attempted to set in motion a designated course to assist you in navigating the church. Ultimately we want you to grow in your walk with God. Take each step with prayer and comparison to the Word of God. Don’t just take our word for it. See if it matches God’s Word.

**Keep in mind that these steps are never taken alone**. The ministry of The Altar is here with you to walk with you every step of the way.

God Bless, Pastor Jacob Hedrick

Faith

Repentance

Baptism

The Holy Spirit

The Nature of God

The Function of the Church

Prayer and Spiritual Disciplines



**The Next Step**

**Faith**

**The Altar of Lake Norman**

**Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

Faith is believing. It is an act of trust by which we commit ourselves to someone or something.

Faith is the element that starts our Christian walk. Faith is the fuel that gets the motor running for everything else in the kingdom of God. That’s why Hebrews 11:6 says, “But **without faith** it is impossible to please him.

**No Faith**

**“...How is it that ye have no faith?” (Mark 4:40)** Other gospel writers mentioning this occasion have written **“little faith.”** Fear is the absence of faith and here they had put their eyes on their circumstances. Therefore, it canceled their little bit of faith because they were not looking to Jesus as the problem solver. He was right in the ship with them and they were still fearful. Jesus had already told them,  **“Let us pass over unto the other side.” (Mark 4:35)** In this situation they demonstrated **“no faith.”** Fear overcame faith. The fact that they did not demonstrate faith in this situation does not mean that they did not have **“the measure of faith”** that is given to every man.

**Little Faith**

Jesus revealed in **Matthew 6:30** that there were those that had **“little faith.”** The storm was raging, and the disciples trembling, crying to Jesus for help when he asked, **“Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith.” (Matthew 8:26)**

Matthew 14 records the **“water walk”** of Peter. Peter gets out of the boat and walks toward Jesus. Every step of faith will take us toward Jesus. As he walked he began to look at his circumstances, the wind and the waves. As he looked at his situation he began to sink.Jesus grabbed him out of the water and rebuked Peter, **“O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” (Matthew 14:31)** He likely sat in the boat shivering from the cold. The other disciples probably laughed at him but he had done something no one else had dared to attempt; he had walked on water. Thank God for Peter’s **“little faith.”**

**Natural/General Faith**

We exercise natural faith when we turn the light switch on and expect there to be lights. When we get in an automobile we expect that it will start when we put the key in the ignition. A farmer believes that when he plants the seed it will produce a harvest. Natural faith is much like natural wisdom.

Every man is given the **“measure of faith.” (Romans 12:3)** Every human acts on a measure of faith every day.

We all probably start on the same level of faith. However, all people do not have the same level of faith. Every Christian has this general faith and it can be increased through the Word of God. It is through general faith that we are able to receive the answer to most of our prayers. We all want our faith to increase. In Luke 17:5 the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith. Faith is a muscle. If you use it, your faith will grow. If you don’t use it, you lose it!

Romans 10:17 tells us how we can increase our faith.

**“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”**

**Saving Faith**

**“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:” (Ephesians 2:8)**

Through the grace of God, and saving faith that is increased through the hearing of the Word of God, we are lead to salvation. Saving faith allows us to realize that we are sinners, Jesus Christ is our Savior, and moves us into obedience to the plan of salvation. This becomes the obedient faith that brings salvation. Saving faith motivates a person to repent, be baptized in Jesus name, and receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the **“power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.” (Romans 1:16)**

**Great Faith**

Jesus expressed to the centurion, **“I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.” (Matthew 8:10)** What prompted Jesus to say this? This man had a servant who was sick. He came to Jesus and explained the problem. This man did not feel worthy of having Jesus in his home. He said, **“speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.” (Matthew 8:8)** He went on to say that he was a man who had authority who could command others to **“Go and he goeth, and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.” (Verse 9)** This truly did demonstrate **“great faith.”**

**Fruit of Faith**

This is only received after the baptism of the Holy Spirit. As we become mature Christians we start producing the fruit of faith (Galatians 5:22). The Greek word is also translated **“faithfulness.”** This is a fruit that grows in the life of a Christian that enables him to have a strong, spiritual life and character.

**Mustard Seed Faith**

The mustard seed has living faith. Its faith is shown in its obedience to the laws of God. It acknowledges the law of God that says that what is sown will reap. It has no mind of its own and is willing to die in order to produce. The mustard seed will grow up to 15 feet (4.6 meters). Rabbis in the days of Jesus Christ used the mustard seed as a symbol of anything that is tiny.

**“And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.” (Luke 17:6)**

**Full of Faith**

The disciples asked Jesus in Luke 17:5 **“Lord, increase our faith.”** Jesus immediately launched into the illustration of the grain of mustard seed. Our faith can grow progressively, when exercised to the point that we will be **“full of faith.”** This is not an impossibility for us since a deacon in Acts 6 is described as being a man **“full of faith**.” **(6:5,8)** Some refer to it as **“progressive faith.”**

When we exercise the faith that we have, it begins to grow. The mustard seed does not stay a little seed forever. It grows into a plant that can reproduce on its own.

**Gift of Faith - Supernatural Faith**

This is one of the gifts of the Spirit. This type of faith will be discussed in another lesson.

What type(s) of faith do you have? I trust you are not like Martha who said, **“Jesus, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”** She had faith; faith in the past. Later she confessed,  **“I know my brother will rise in the last day; the resurrection.”** She now had faith in the future. However, Jesus is a God of right now. He spoke to stinking Lazurus; already four days in the tomb and commanded; **“Lazurus, Come forth!”**

**How to Move to a Higher Level of Faith**

We can move to a higher level in faith by listening to the Word of God (Romans 10:17) and then by acting on the Word that we have heard. We need to put the Word to work. In Malachi 3:10 God said to **“prove me...if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”** We can also move higher in faith by **“asking”** for more faith. James said, **“every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.” (James 1:17)**

**Faith is like a Muscle;**

**It must be exercised for it to grow!!**

*Scripture Bank*

Hebrews 11:1

Ephesians 2:8

Luke 17:5

Romans 12:3

Matthew 8:26

Romans 10:17

Romans 1:16

Hebrews 11:6



**The Next Step**

**Repentance**

**The Altar of Lake Norman**

“I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3).

“In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:1-2).

“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem” (Luke 24:47).

What is repentance?

Repentance involves turning from sin to the Lord. It is a turning point in life. An individual walking one way, the sinful way, makes an “about-face” and starts walking in the opposite direction toward God.

An inward change of ATTITUDE leading to an outward change of ACTION. Unless both of these occur, real repentance has not taken place.

The nature of repentance is not only a turning from, but also a turning to. It will cause a person to stop a wrong action and begin a right one.

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19).

Why Repent?

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

* Jesus said to do it**:** “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17).
* It’s a command: but now commandeth all men every where to repent” (Acts 17:30).
* Salvation - “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3).
* Prepares for Baptism - Repentance is not complete without baptism. Repentance is a type of death. Death always comes before burial. Baptism is a type of burial. The Bible teaches that we should repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38, Luke 24:47, Mark 16:16).

How Do I Repent?

* Confess my sins to God (Luke 18:13).
* Confess to man if I have wronged him (James 5:16; Matthew 5:23-24).
* Forsake sin (Proverbs 28:13; Isaiah 55:7).

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:7).

“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth” (Luke 15:10).

I indeed baptize you with water unto **repentance**. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire (Matthew 3:11)

Scripture Bank

Jeremiah 31:34

Luke 24:47

Luke 13:3

Acts 3:19

1 John 1:9

Luke 15:10

Matthew 3:11



**The Next Step**

**Water Baptism**

**The Altar of Lake Norman**

Mark 16:16- He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Scriptural reasons for baptism

Washing away - [Acts 22:16](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+22:16&version=KJV) - And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Remission - Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Part of the new birth experience - John 3:5-Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

For salvation - 1 Peter 3:21-The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ

The Bible states that through baptism there is remission of sins. Remission means to remove; to take away.

Hebrews 9:22 – And almost all things are by the low purged with blood; and without the shedding of blood is no remission of sins.

How were they baptized in the Bible?

Acts 8:36-38 – Phillip baptized a Eunich. It describes them coming out of the water

Colossians 2:12 – states “buried with Him in baptism”.

No scriptural evidence is provided that states sprinkling is sufficient for baptism.

Matthew 28:19 – Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Luke 24:47 – And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning in Jerusalem.

Acts 2:38 – Then Peter said unto them, repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 4:12 – Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

*At the Altar of Lake Norman we practice baptism by immersion in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins based on the above scriptures and others in the Bible.*

Baptism works because of obedience. It is not the location, the condition of the water, or what is worn. Water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ is a method chosen by God to wash away sins. He could have chosen anything. Taking part in this is a matter of faith and obedience.

Please prayerfully consider your baptism experience in accordance to the scriptures. It is scriptural to rebaptize someone if your experience lacked something– Acts 19:1-5

Scripture Bank

John 3:3-5

Luke 24:47

Acts 4:12

Acts 19:1-5

Romans 6:4-5

Galatians 3:27

Acts 2:38



**The Next Step**

**The Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit)**

**The Altar of Lake Norman**

John 3:5- Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said unto them, repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Initial Outpouring of the Spirit

**Acts 2:1-4**

2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Then it continued to take place…

* The Samaritans Acts 8:17-20 / verse 17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.
* Cornelius and his family and friends – Acts 10:44-47/ verse 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

* Disciples of John – Acts 19:1-6/ verse 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied
* Apostle Paul – Acts 9:17-18, I Corinthians 14:18

John the Baptist said this would happen, and it did:

Matt 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:**

Then Jesus said it would happen, and it did:

Acts 1:4-5 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5 -For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

*Take note that everyone that receive the Holy Ghost in the Bible spoke in other tongues.*

**Why did God choose tongues? The Bible provides some answers**.

1. God is sovereign – Isaiah 40:13-14
2. From the heart, the mouth speaks- Matthew 12:34
3. Chief means of expression – Proverbs 18:20-21, James 3:3-5
4. The tongue is the most difficult member of the body to control- James 3:5-8
5. It is an obvious, external, uniform sign – Acts 11:15-17

This satisfies the requirement that Jesus mentioned of being born again of the spirit in John 3:5

**Purpose of the Holy Ghost:**

* Brings rest, peace, and joy – Isaiah 28:11-12/ Romans 14:17
* Helps us to pray – Romans 8:26 / 1 Cor 14:14-15
* Gives us power to witness – Acts 1:8/ 4:31
* Teaches us and guides us in things to come – John 14:26/ 16:13
* Gives us power over the enemy – 1 Jon 4:1-4/ Luke 10:19-20
* Opens the door to other gifts of the spirit – entire chapters of 1 Cor 12 and 14

Scripture bank

Acts 2:1-4

John 3:3-5, or read the whole chapter for greater context

Matthew 3:11

Luke 24:49

Isaiah 59:19

Isaiah 40:13-14

Acts 19:2



**The Next Step**

**The Nature of God**

**The Altar of Lake Norman**

**Deuteronomy 6 -** 4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD:

5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

12 *Then* beware lest thou forget the LORD, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

13 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

14 Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which *are* round about you;

15 (For the LORD thy God *is* a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.

**Old Testament Belief System in a Single God**

Isaiah 44:6 & 8

Isaiah 45:5-6

Isaiah 45:15, 21-22

Deuteronomy 4:35

1 Kings 8:60

Isaiah 43:10-12I10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.11 I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour.12 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God.

Isaiah 44:6 Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God – **Rev 1:11 – Jesus says the same thing!**

**He is the Son of God**

[Matthew 1:23](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+1:23&version=KJV) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name **Emmanuel**, which being interpreted is, God with us.

*Luke 1:35* 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

**He is the invisible God made visible**

*Colossians 1:15* 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature

**He is the Father**

*John 14:8-9* 8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father?

**He is the Holy Spirit**

*John 14:17-18* 17 *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you

**In Him dwells all of the fullness of the godhead**

*Colossians 2:6-9* 6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

**God**We believe in the one ever-living, eternal God: infinite in power, holy in nature, attributes and purpose; and possessing absolute, indivisible deity. This one true God has revealed Himself as Father, through His Son in redemption, and as the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

**Scripture Bank**

Matthew 1:23

Isaiah Ch. 43-45

Acts 4:12



**The Next Step**

**The Function of the Church**

**The Altar of Lake Norman**

**Acts 20:28 -** 28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

God has provided the ministry of the church as a governing body to better allow us to better understand and grow in the word of God. His plan calls for oversight, to dispense spiritual food and growth to the individuals of the church.

Ephesians 5:5-30 sums it up well:

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

We see that Christ loved the church so much that he died for it!

Purpose of the church:

1. Evangelism – reaching out and spreading the Word of God. – Matthew 28:19-20
2. Spiritual Growth – developing and perfecting the individuals (“the flock”) – Ephesians 4:11-13
3. Display God’s miracles, signs, and wonders – Acts 4:29-30

The Church; beginning and ending

1. The church began with 120 people praying in an “upper room” and being filled with the Spirit of God – Acts 2:1-4
2. The church grew initially by addition then by multiplication – Acts 1-7, Acts 7:17
3. It has continued with that pattern from then until now

1 Corinthians 12:13 **-**13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

1. The end of the church is known as the “rapture” or calling away of the church.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-1816 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

The Five Fold Ministry of the Church – Ephesians 4:11-14

1. Apostles – A close follower of Jesus Christ that carries and proclaims the gospel.
2. Prophets – A person that shares a divine revelations, insights, or predictions from God.
3. Evangelists – A minister who spreads revival of the church.
4. Pastors – A minister who has the care and charge of a church.
5. Teachers – An instructor. Someone who shares information.

Their Purpose:

1. Perfecting the saints
2. Work of the ministry
3. To edify (or spiritually uplift) the body of Christ

The New Testament Church – What it is and is not…

1. The church is not meant to be a social club.
2. The church is not perfect but striving for perfection. *Hebrews 6:1*
3. The church is not the entire world. *John 16:33*
4. It is the thing Christ died for. *Romans 5:7-8*
5. It is what Christ loves and gave Himself for. *Ephesians 5;7-8*
6. it is the thing He redeemed with His own blood. *Peter1:18-19*
7. It is what He will return for. *John 14:2-3*
8. It is His body and has many members. *1 Corinthians 12:27*
9. It is the place where God dwells. *2 Corinthians 6:16*
10. It is a strong entity. *Matthew 16;18*
11. It is full of spiritual power. *Acts 1:8*

[Hebrews 10:25](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+10:25&version=KJV) - Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching

[Acts 2:47](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2:47&version=KJV) **-** Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the **church** daily such as should be saved.



**The Next Step**

**Prayer and Spiritual Disciplines**

**The Altar of Lake Norman**

**Matthew 6:8-10** - 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Prayer has to be a foundational aspect of a true child of God’s life. It has been said “where there is much prayer, there is much power. Where there is little prayer, there is little power.” Everyone agrees that we need to pray, however few actually do it.

[**Luke 11:1**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+11:1&version=KJV) **-**  And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, **teach** **us** **to** **pray**, as John also taught his disciples.

Notice it said “teach us to pray.” There needs to be more doing than discussing how it should be done. In other words this version gives us insight in the disciples asking for a desire to pray.

**What is Prayer for?**

1. **Prayer gets your spirit closer to his.** James 4:8 – Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you. When you get close to Him you become more like Him**.**
2. **Prayer changes your attitude** – He is love and when you pray that love affects your thoughts and actions.
3. **Prayer affects the enemy** – Even the strongest demon must flee at the prayer of God’s elect!
4. **Prayer changes heaven** – Hezekiah in the OT prayed and changed the mind of God. He was supposed to die and his prayer added 15 years to his life.
5. **Prayer affects others** – Your prayers cause God to move on the needs of others. Some don’t even pray for themselves. Your prayers may be the only thing that stands in between them and evil.

Matthew 6:5-13 is a wonderful example of how and what to pray.

“Prayer is not preparation for the battle, prayer is the battle. “ Leonard Ravenhill

**Types of Prayers in the Bible**

1. Confession – Acknowledgement of sin and seeking God’s mercy
2. Praise – Adoring God
3. Thanksgiving – Expressing gratitude
4. Petition – Making a personal request to God
5. Intercession – Making a request on behalf of another
6. Commitment – Expressing loyalty to the work of God
7. Forgiveness – Seeking mercy for personal sin
8. Benediction – A request for God’s blessing

**Fasting – Doing without physical food for spiritual gain.**

* [**Matthew 17:21**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+17:21&version=KJV) - Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and **fasting**
* [**Isaiah 58:6**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+58:6&version=KJV) - Is not this the **fast** that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?
* [**Joel 1:14**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Joel+1:14&version=KJV) -Sanctify ye a **fast**, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord,

The “Daniel Fast” has grown in popularity over the last few years with amazing health benefits and weight loss from eating only raw fruits and vegetables. The book of Daniel speaks of how he and others were much healthier because they did not eat the king’s meat and wine.

True fasting must be coupled with prayer meditation over God’s word for positive spiritual gain.

**Fruit of the Spirit**

**Galatians 5:22-23 -** 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

These “fruits” are what each spirit-filled child of God should be expressing in their lives.

**Faithfulness**

Matthew 24:13 – But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved

Each Christian has trouble figuring out what to do next. They want to do great and powerful things for God such as singing, being a prophet, teaching, being a soul winner, etc. Instead of attempting to pre-design your future in Christ, allow God to lead you into His will and purpose. Christian living is the first step, then Christian service.

1. In worship
2. In giving
3. In attendance to church
4. To the ministry
5. To the holiness of God’s word

Matthew 5:6 – blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.

**Faithful even when things are tough:**

**Romans 8:38-39 -** 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord

**Holiness – striving to be holy; striving to be like God**

* [**Psalm 96:9**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+96:9&version=KJV) - O worship the Lord in the beauty of **holiness**: fear before him, all the earth
* [**Hebrews 12:14**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+12:14&version=KJV) - Follow peace with all men, and **holiness**, without which no man shall see the Lord
* [**1 Thessalonians 4:7**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Thessalonians+4:7&version=KJV) - For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto **holiness**
* [**Romans 6:22**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+6:22&version=KJV) - But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto **holiness**, and the end everlasting life.

**Holiness Principles:**

1. Moral purity – striving to be pure in heart, mind, and body.
2. Sanctity –sacred, strong character, godliness
3. Christ-like mindset – acting and doing what Christ would do
4. Desire – having a will to please God.
5. Separation – in the world, reaching out to the world, but not like the “world”

[**2 Corinthians 6:17**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians+6:17&version=KJV) - Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye **separate**, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

**The Reward**

1. [**Luke 6:23**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+6:23&version=KJV) -Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets
2. [**Luke 10:17**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+10:17&version=KJV) - And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name
3. [**Romans 14:17**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+14:17&version=KJV) - For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost
4. [**Matthew 6:4**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+6:4&version=KJV) - That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly
5. [**Mark 9:41**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+9:41&version=KJV) - For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward

