



# Welcome To The Family

## Introduction To An Active Faith

## **Introduction**

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# Introduction To An Active Faith

This discipleship resource is meant to introduce the reader to an active faith in Jesus Christ. My goal is to help people who are contemplating Jesus, those who recently received Jesus, Christians who are saved but not progressing in their walk, and the rest of us who need a reminder in the basics of our precious faith.

**First**, the person who is contemplating a saving faith in Jesus, needs to know that it truly is a life-changing decision; and there are ways to help their confession of faith be secure. **Second**, those who were recently saved need instruction on how to spiritually grow. So often, a person will be led to say the sinner's prayer, but there is no follow up. This will serve as that follow up. **Third**, the person who verbally prayed for salvation, but hasn't fully understood what happened, nor experienced transformation in their life. They may still be confused on what to do with their newfound faith. Many Christians have never had proper instruction to support their new faith. They have never been disciplined. This will help them be intentional about building up their faith with practical, biblical principles. **Fourth**, those of us who have known the Lord for some time, but desire to restoke or fan into flame our faith. This resource will remind us of the things we did, when we first came alive in Christ. This will cause us to return to our first love and do the first works (Rev. 2:4-5). Reviewing the basics can help our ministry to the Lord. Maintaining and increasing our faith through the basic examples laid for us by the first century church will lead us to a fruitful life in Christ. Finally, if this resource is useful to the mature believer, perhaps they will want to take someone under their wing and mentor he or she in these principles.

The word “believe” is a verb, which means it requires action on our part. The scriptures say, *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”* James 2:26. It is my goal to activate our faith to work in concert with God’s perfect will. Our faith is precious. It should be protected and treasured. Our faith has tremendous potential. We should exercise and strengthen it. Faith is like a muscle—if you’re not exercising it, it won’t grow—or worse—it will weaken.

It is my hope that as we study these truths about our faith journey with Jesus, that we will develop a lifestyle of growing in faith. Developing discipline prepares us to excel in every blessing that Christ promised. Jesus told us that if we abide in Him, we will bear much fruit. Let’s learn how to abide in Christ.

The apostle Peter tells us to **“add to your faith** *virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (2 Pet 1:5-8). This means that the good practices we put in place today, will transform our knowledge of God into a life that resembles God. These additives that Peter mentions here will all be found in this workbook.

The scriptures that are used throughout this workbook are from the NKJV. I recommend using this version when looking up the verses, to avoid confusion. Specific words from that version will need to be inputted by the reader to help the reader get accustomed to their Bible and to remember the verses they take part in completing.

Section 1

# What Shall I Do?

## Section 1

# What Shall I Do?

This is a question the first converts to Christianity asked the apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:37-39)

*Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, **what shall we do?**” Then Peter said to them, “**Repent**, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall **receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”*

## Repent

What does “repent” mean? The Greek word is “metanoeo”, which means to change one’s mind. Repentance is to have a change of mind about your past life of sin and determine to trust the Lord for the bright future he has for you. When you realized that you were a sinner, and that Jesus is the only one who can save you from your life of sin, you decided to change your life of sin by receiving the forgiveness and goodness of Jesus.

**Read Romans 2:4** in your Bible and fill in the blanks. “*Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the \_\_\_\_\_ of God leads you to \_\_\_\_\_ ?*”

**Question:** What causes our change of mind or “repentance”?

**Answer:** Believing God’s goodness.

Repentance is not merely deciding to be a good person; it is deciding to follow Jesus. It is Jesus who makes us good, because He is good; and He transforms us into His likeness through the power of His Holy Spirit.

**Read Romans 12:2:** “And do not be conformed to this \_\_\_\_\_, but be \_\_\_\_\_ by the renewing of your \_\_\_\_\_, that you may prove what is that \_\_\_\_\_ and acceptable and perfect \_\_\_\_\_ of God.”

**Question:** What does this verse tell us about what happens as God changes our mind?

**Answer:** We prove God’s will.

**Question:** Why do we want to “prove” the will of God?

**Answer:** Because His will is not only acceptable, and not only good, but “perfect”. To know God is to know the One who is perfect; and to know His perfect plans for our lives.

Do you want God to change your mind? The Word says that as a man thinks, so is he. That means the way you think will determine your destiny.

**Questions:** Have you confessed that you are a sinner and need a savior? Have you asked forgiveness for your sins? Do you want to live a better life? Do you want to discover God’s purpose for your life? Do you believe God’s purpose for your life will lead to joy and fulfillment?

If you answered “no”, then speak to your mentor about taking this first step of repentance, and do so now! If you answered “yes”, then congratulations! You repented from your old life and are stepping into the new life. It is time to be baptized.

## Be Baptized

Baptism into water, is a demonstration of obedience and proclaims what has happened to you. You are now a “Christian”. Public baptism testifies of that fact. When someone receives Jesus as Lord and savior, they are saved; whether they are baptized in water or not. But baptism is a first act of obedience to the Lord. It is an exercise to publicly say “I am saved”. Water baptism is a ceremony celebrating your decision to live for Jesus Christ. When you are submerged under the surface of the water, it is symbolic of your old life dying with the Christ on the cross. He became your sin on the cross. And when you rise out of the water it is symbolic of your New Life in Christ. The resurrected you has now been risen with Christ. **Read Romans 6:4-5.**

Though Jesus was sinless, He submitted to water baptism Matthew 3:14-15. He did this to demonstrate humble submission and His desire to connect with our humanity. If Jesus was willing to submit to water baptism, certainly we should as well.

Just before Jesus ascended to heaven, He commanded that we are to make disciples and **baptize them; Read Matthew 28:19**. This was not a suggestion, but a command.

If you have not been baptized yet, schedule it with your church leadership.



## Receive the Holy Spirit

Who is the Holy Spirit, and what is His role?

**Read John 14:26:** “But the \_\_\_\_\_, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in \_\_\_\_\_ name, He will \_\_\_\_\_ you all things, and bring to your \_\_\_\_\_ all things that I said to you.”

**Read John 15:26:** “But when the \_\_\_\_\_ comes, whom \_\_\_\_\_ shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will \_\_\_\_\_ of Me.”

What have we learned in these verses about the Holy Spirit? He is referred to as the “Helper” and the “Promise”. He is sent in the name of Jesus. That means to represent Jesus. He is the third person of the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit). He comes to teach and remind us about who Jesus is. He is sent by both Jesus and the Father, who are one. The Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus. That means He is the witness of Jesus, and His sacrifice, His forgiveness, and love towards us.

**Read Luke 24:49:** “Behold, I send the \_\_\_\_\_ of My Father upon you; but tarry (wait) in the city of Jerusalem until you are \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ from on high.”

Endued means “clothed”. Jesus tells His disciples to wait to be endued or clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit. Why is it important to be clothed with the Holy Spirit? Because we need His power to fulfill the plans God has for us.

There are three methods that the Holy Spirit relates with people. He **dwells “with” us, lives “in” us and rests “upon” us. “With”, “In” and “Upon”**. Let’s delve into these further.

## Holy Spirit dwells “With” you:

The Holy Spirit dwells alongside man to **draw** them to Jesus. Prior to your conversion, the Holy Spirit was drawing you to Jesus.

**Read John 6:44:** *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me \_\_\_\_\_ him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”* The Father sends the Holy Spirit to “draw” us to Jesus or reveal Jesus to us.

The Holy Spirit also reveals Jesus to the world by convicting the world of their sin, exposing the righteousness of Jesus, and the condemnation of all those who do not receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

**Read John 16:7-11:** *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will \_\_\_\_\_ the world of \_\_\_\_\_, and of \_\_\_\_\_, and of \_\_\_\_\_: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”*

## Holy Spirit lives “in” you:

**The Holy Spirit has made your body His home.**

**Read: 1 Corinthians 3:16:** *“Do you not know that you are the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and that the Spirit of God \_\_\_\_\_ in you?”*

**1 Corinthians 6:19:** *“Or do you not know that your body is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit who is \_\_\_\_\_ you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own.”*

**The Holy Spirit Guarantees and Seals your destiny.**

**Read these verses; 2 Corinthians 1:22:** *“who also has \_\_\_\_\_ us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a \_\_\_\_\_.”*

**2 Corinthians 5:5:** *“Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a \_\_\_\_\_.”*

**Ephesians 1:13 & 14:** *“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were \_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Spirit of promise who is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”*

**Ephesians 4:30:** *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were \_\_\_\_\_ for the day of redemption.”*

These verses should give you confidence that The Holy Spirit has guaranteed your future by sealing your soul and keeping you from damnation as the result of sin. Because you have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus and forgiven of ALL your sins.

## “Upon”: Holy Spirit anoints us to live the supernatural life.

We read in **Luke 24:49** that Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they were clothed with power from on high. The Holy Spirit anoints us with power to say and do the same things that Jesus did.

**Read John 14:12-14:** *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who \_\_\_\_\_ in Me, the works that I do he \_\_\_\_\_ do also; and greater \_\_\_\_\_ than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in \_\_\_\_\_, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in \_\_\_\_\_, I will do it.”*

When John the Baptist was baptizing in water, he told his followers that there would be One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit & fire. Then, when Jesus showed up, John told them “He is the one I told you about”. We believe the Holy Spirit initially baptized the first disciples of Jesus on the day of Pentecost, when tongues of fire fell upon the disciples. We also believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is when He comes upon us and empowers us to perform in the likeness of Jesus Himself. It is appropriate to think of this baptism of the Holy Spirit as being anointed by Him to respond in His power.

Jesus tells us to ask for more empowerment of the Holy Spirit. It is not greedy or prideful to want more of the Holy Spirit upon your life. In fact, it is quite the opposite. Wanting more of the Holy Spirit demonstrates your desperate need for Him and your desire to live the Spirit-filled life. **Read Luke 11:9-13.** That should inspire boldness in your pursuit for the Holy Spirit.

1. **Have you received the Holy Spirit “in” you?** In other words, have you been sealed by Him? Jesus prayed to His Father in heaven that He would live in you just as the Father lives in Jesus (John 17:23). Whether you “feel” the Holy Spirit in you or not, the truth is that He is inside you; if you gave your life to Jesus. If you are unsure whether you gave your life to Jesus, then pray, right now—confess you are a sinner and in need of the Savior, Jesus. Give your life to Him now. Ask Him to forgive you of all your sins; past, present and future. Confess that Jesus is God, and it was His death on the cross that paid for your sins. Ask Him to enter you by the Power of His Spirit. Tell Him that you want His life in you and that you are finished with your old life without Him. And trust and believe in faith!
2. **Has the Holy Spirit rested or come upon you?** In other words, have you been **baptized by the Holy Spirit?** You would know if He is “upon” you, because there are obvious signs. You received new or amplified gifts from Him. If you were talented at something, that gift is now supernaturally charged. You have a whole new motive for using that talent. Your emotions and passion have been altered to care about the things God cares for. You have power to do things that you previously could not. You have wisdom and understanding as if the Lord downloaded it into your mind and heart. You have new boldness, confidence, determination and endurance.

It is appropriate for you to want the Holy Spirit to empower you. Ask, seek and knock for His empowerment and heavenly gifts of the Holy Spirit. We will discuss some of the heavenly gifts further in section 5.

Section 2

# Who Am I?

## Section 2

# Who Am I?

Now that you gave your life to Jesus, it is important to understand that you are no longer the same person that you used to be. You have a new identity. You now have a direct relationship with God. You now have an opportunity to discover God's plan for your life. In this section, we will define who you have become and explain some of the implications of your new identity.

### **\*Born Again:**

**Read John 3:3:** *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is \_\_\_\_\_, he cannot see the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."*

### **\*A Child of God:**

**Read John 1:12-13:** *"But as many as \_\_\_\_\_ Him, to them He gave the right to become \_\_\_\_\_ of God, to those who believe in His name: who were \_\_\_\_\_, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*

**Romans 8:16:** *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are \_\_\_\_\_ of God."*

**Romans 9:8:** *"That is, those who are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the flesh, these are not the \_\_\_\_\_ of God; but the children of the \_\_\_\_\_ are counted as the \_\_\_\_\_."*

When we are born into the world, we have earthly parents. However, when we are born again, we become children of God. We have a heavenly Father. We share Christ's inheritance with Him and our fellow Christians.

## \*A New Creation:

Now that you have received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are brand new! You have a new eternal identity.

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:17:** *“Therefore, if anyone is in \_\_\_\_\_, he is a \_\_\_\_\_; old things have \_\_\_\_\_; behold, all things have become \_\_\_\_\_.”*

This verse and others like it in the Bible proclaim that you are “New”. That means you have a New Identity, New Destiny, New Spirit, New Purpose, New everything. You are New!!!

**Read Romans 6:4:** *“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ of life.”*

**Read Revelation 21:5:** *Then He who sat on the throne said, “Behold, I make \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.” And He said to me, “Write, for these words are true and faithful.”*

## \*Destined for Greatness:

**Read Romans 8:29-30:** *“For whom He \_\_\_\_\_, He also \_\_\_\_\_ to be conformed to the \_\_\_\_\_ of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also \_\_\_\_\_; whom He called, these He also \_\_\_\_\_; and whom He justified, these He also \_\_\_\_\_.”*

You are worth so much to God, that he gave his own life for you. You were purchased with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. God has plans for your life to be a version of His life in you.



## \*The Righteousness of Christ:

**Read 2 Corinthians 5:21:** “For He made Him who knew no \_\_\_\_\_ to be sin for us, that we might \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of God in Him.” **Romans 5:17:** “For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of \_\_\_\_\_ will reign in life through the One, \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Philippians 3:9:** “and be found in Him, not having my own \_\_\_\_\_, which is from the law, but that which is through \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, the \_\_\_\_\_ which is from God by \_\_\_\_\_;”

1. Describe what being reborn means to you. What opportunities do you now have that you previously didn’t (e.g. with regards to relationships, career path, etc.)? Being born again means that you have new spiritual genetics. What does that imply (e.g. how it pertains to overcoming addictions, patterns of behavior, “natural” ability, etc.)?

2. Can you relate to the idea that you are a son or daughter of your Father in heaven? Does this give you a sense of belonging, security, or safety?
  
3. Do you “feel” like a new creation?
  
4. Remember, “feelings” may not always be rooted in truth. Feelings can be triggered by past events or experiences. They may even be tied to lies that you believed which are not part of your new identity. So, let’s ask that question another way. How have you recently experienced newness in your life? What has happened recently that never would have happened before, in your past life?

5. Describe your new destiny. What are the limitations to your destiny? Who has the perfect plans for your destiny? How can you learn about your destiny? When does your destiny begin?
6. Why are you seen by God as being righteous? Are your actions always righteous? Are your thoughts always righteous? Then why would God call you righteous? Does being seen as righteous by God inspire you? Does God's view of you cause you to live a sinful life; or to be how God sees you, which is righteous? How does studying and meditating on Jesus' character and example of righteousness, transform you into righteous living?

Section 3

# The Five Pillars of Faith

## Section 3

# The Five Pillars of Faith

## The Word, Fellowship, Communion, Prayer & Serving

**Read Acts 2:42-45:** *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, in the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and in \_\_\_\_\_. Then fear came upon every soul, and many \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ and goods, and \_\_\_\_\_ them among all, as anyone had \_\_\_\_\_.”*

This section of scripture captures how the very first believers responded to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The workings of the Holy Spirit can be summarized in five categories. **The apostles’ doctrine:** That is teaching of God’s Word that they learned in the Old Testament and through direct teachings of Jesus Himself. **Fellowship:** The first church couldn’t get enough of the Holy Spirit and each other. **Breaking of Bread:** That is a continuation of fellowship, but with a special focus on commemorating the last supper. **Prayers:** Jesus demonstrated the importance of prayer to His Father and instructed them to do so as well. **Signs, wonders, sold their goods, divided them (shared), among those in need:** These are all examples of **good works** of the Holy Spirit being manifested through the first church.

Because we can group the activities of the first Spirit-filled believers into the five general categories, I am referring to them as the five pillars of our Christian faith. We will now delve into each of these pillars of faith and apply them to ourselves.

## The Word

The “apostles’ doctrine” refers to teaching the Word. Reading and learning the Bible is essential to knowing God and His will. Jesus Himself, said to Satan in the wilderness; that man needs to digest the Word of God even more than food; in order to truly live. Obviously, this is not a literal recommendation to tear off pages of your Bible and swallow it. However, spiritually speaking; our soul needs to consume the life-giving nutrients of the precious scriptures.

**Read Hebrews 4:12:** *“For the Word of God is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and is a discerner of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the heart.”*

**Living & Powerful -** Your Bible is always applicable to your life and can help, regardless of the circumstances you are living through. Because the Word is inspired by the Holy Spirit, and Jesus is referred as “The Word”; your Bible has powerful lessons, revelation, and inspiration. Learning God’s Word will give you the powerful wisdom necessary to make decisions and relate to others.

**Dividing Soul & Spirit -** Your soul is your eternal person. Your body will someday die and decompose, but the soul lives on forever. In this world there are many spirits that war against your soul and your spirit. **Read Ephesians 6:12.** When the Word is properly understood and applied, we have a way of prevailing over and casting off the spirits that are attacking us. The Word is the Sword of the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 6:17**), that means the Word is a weapon against the lies of the Devil and his evil spirits.

**Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-6:** *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but \_\_\_\_\_ in God for pulling down \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, bringing every \_\_\_\_\_ into captivity to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, and being ready to \_\_\_\_\_ all disobedience when your obedience is \_\_\_\_\_.”*

These verses mean that we have power through knowing and practicing the Word of God, to defeat false knowledge and deceitful mindsets.

**Dividing Joint & Marrow** - Joints are the hinges by which our body moves. Marrow is the source of our healthy blood. In scripture, marrow is always a symbol of a fulfilled life. The connection between these two aspects of our body are symbolic and instructive with respect to the scripture we find them. Sometimes our actions (joints) do not line up with a fulfilling life (marrow). We don't always do the things that we know are spiritually good for our lives. Our actions matter. The Word gives us clarity to act in ways that are conducive to a spiritually healthy and fulfilling life.

**Read James 1:21-22:** *“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the \_\_\_\_\_, which is able to save your souls. But be \_\_\_\_\_ of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”*

Putting the Word into action, and “doing” what we read, results in a spiritually fulfilling and productive life for the Kingdom.

**Dividing Thoughts & Intentions** - Our **thoughts** can sometimes lead us astray. However, when you read the Bible, you learn how to think like God. Most people don't **intend** to fail or stray from God's plan. We may have good intentions, but if our **thoughts** are not aligned with our **intentions**, they ultimately lead to poor decisions. For example, I may intend to have a happy marriage and provide a stable family environment for my children. I could intend to be a godly father and husband to my wife. However, if my mind is thinking lustful thoughts about someone other than my spouse, eventually there will be a clash of **thoughts** warring against my **intentions**. Meditating and practicing the Word will cause my thoughts to come into agreement with godly intentions.

**Read Psalms 37:4:** "\_\_\_\_\_ yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the \_\_\_\_\_ of your heart."

Separating or "dividing" harmful, unbiblical thoughts, from godly, biblical intentions; is essential to living a single-minded life. Having a clear conscience makes you confident in your relationship with God and others. Harboring sinful thoughts will contaminate our relationship with God and those around us. **Read Philippians 4:8.**

**Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17:** "All Scripture is given by \_\_\_\_\_ of God, and is profitable for \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_, for \_\_\_\_\_, for instruction in \_\_\_\_\_, that the man of God may be \_\_\_\_\_, thoroughly \_\_\_\_\_ for every good work."

To do the things that Jesus did, we need to know Him through His Word. Jesus is the Word (John 1:1-5). To know His Word is to know Him, the author and finisher of our faith. After Christ rose from the dead, He revealed to His disciples that all the Old Testament Scriptures were revealing Himself **Luke 24:27,32 & 45.** That is because Jesus is the Word of God.



The Word **teaches** us new things about God, ourselves, others, and the world we live in. The Word **cleanses** us from the evil in this world. The Word **tests** our devotion to Him and **proves** the truth whenever we put Him into practice. The Word **restores** our relationship whenever we have guilt and shame, because God is always working to **redeem** us. The Word **shows** us where we need to improve (as in a mirror) and even **rebukes** us at times. He **comforts** us. The Word **empowers** us. The Word **equips** us for victorious living.

## Fellowship

**Read Hebrews 10:25:** *“And let us consider one another in order to stir up \_\_\_\_\_ and good \_\_\_\_\_, not forsaking the \_\_\_\_\_ of ourselves \_\_\_\_\_, as is the manner of some, but \_\_\_\_\_ one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”*

The word “exhorting” means to summon, call to one’s side or rally together.

**Read 1 John 1:7:** *“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with \_\_\_\_\_, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”*

**Read 1 John 4:12:** *“No one has seen God at any time. If we \_\_\_\_\_, God abides in us, and His love has been \_\_\_\_\_.”*

Spending time with other committed believers causes you to see what the Word of God looks like in real life. The way they live and love, the way they communicate, what motivates their decisions; will inspire you. You will begin to appreciate relationships that are rooted in the unity of the Spirit and our Father’s love; as opposed to more superficial grounds. As you learn about other Christians’ testimonies, you realize that they aren’t much different than you. Many of our pasts have similar

routes. It may even surprise you how “normal” Christians are. And yet, hearing about their deep commitment to living for Christ, as well as their wisdom; will motivate you to emulate their lifestyle. Faith, hope, and love are all contagious. When we see others acting in ways Christ did, it compels us to do the same. This is a whole new journey you are on. Choose godly friends who will encourage you, invest time in you, and give you good Biblical advice along the way.

However, remember that no one is perfect. A Christian is a representative of Christ, but not Christ Himself. If you rest your spiritual knowledge, growth, and decisions on people; you will eventually be disappointed. Following and idolizing a person can lead to a vulnerable faith that is easily compromised. If the person you are following or idolizing can't keep up with your needs, you may judge God based on that person's capacity to show you God's love and concern. You may become hurt and feel abandoned which could result in a relapse to your old nature. Feeling let down by someone can cause you to judge the church at large as being insensitive or hypocritical.

Besides being potentially let down, putting someone on a spiritual pedestal can cause us to stumble over his or her lifestyle. If the individual's actions are in conflict with your own personal commitment to the Lord; you may compromise your own spiritual walk by imitating that person. Sometimes, one person's liberty can be another's vice. We all have different pasts, prior to being saved. We also have different triggers to that past. For example, if the person you are idolizing has an opinion about moderate alcohol consumption, dancing, music, movies, politics, etc., you may take those opinions as God's Word, rather than that person's interpretation of God's Word or his or her application of the Word to their lives.

Lastly, if we merely follow people, they may lead us to places we ought not go. If the person you are following should fall into a sinful lifestyle or their faith is compromised, this can impact your faith as well. You may question a lot of things you have been learning and may even fall into doubt.

Here are some wise things to consider while getting to know your new family:

1. **You & God:** Keep your personal relationship with Jesus as the most important relationship you have. As you study the Word, pray, and serve God; you will learn that your path is special and unique. Yes, your path involves others, but it is still your journey with God.
2. **No one is perfect.** It is important to honor and love Christians and see Christ in them, while recognizing that no one has fully arrived to spiritual perfection, except Christ Himself. Christians mature at different paces for many different reasons. Remember, Jesus saved them as He found them, just as He saved you as He found you. A fellow believer has giftings that you can learn from or be built up from. Value them as part of your eternal family. You can't choose your family, but you can accept and love them. They are part of the same body of Christ. If they have the Spirit living in them, which every believer does; there is a potential to fellowship in the unity of what we have in common: forgiveness and salvation.
3. **Don't be shy:** Get out of your comfort zone and meet many Christians. Hear their testimonies of deliverance from their past sinful lives. See how God is using them now. Share your story with them (with discernment of course). Find out what God is doing through your new family of believers. Enjoy the new relationships that form.
4. **Discover how you fit in:** As you build godly relationships, God will connect you to His plan for you by weaving your life into others' lives. As you meet people with similar backgrounds, interests, or desires; you will join them in their journey. You discover things about yourself that you never knew. You will let some patterns of behavior go and grab onto better ones. That is God's way of perfecting your path. That is His way of training and helping you live according to His perfect will.

Freely receive and freely give what God wants to share with you through your Christian relationships. Christian fellowship is a valuable and tangible source of His love. He has designed us to need one another. We fit together as one body of Christ. Don't be a loner.

## Communion - "In remembrance of Me"

**Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26:** *"For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this \_\_\_\_\_ of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, \_\_\_\_\_ of Me." For as often as you eat this \_\_\_\_\_ and drink this \_\_\_\_\_, you \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ till He comes."*

The Lord's death is the most significant act of God's love. It is essential that I never forget what Christ did for me. Because without Jesus' death on the cross, I would still be held accountable for my sins. That would lead to a destiny in hell; apart from God, forever. When Christ died on the cross, He became my sins. My sins (past, present, and future) have been paid for and forgiven.

Three of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark & John) give account of the last supper when Jesus distributed the bread and referred to it as His body. He also passed the cup of wine and referred to it as His blood. This was a symbolic meal that was intended to be repeatedly re-enacted by His followers until the day we have it with Him in heaven. He was establishing a tradition that would be a pillar of Christianity from that moment on. It was to illustrate that we have no life in us if we have not died with Christ on the cross. What He was about to do for them, He also did for us. When we take communion, we memorialize the last supper, as if we were there with Him. Because, the same sacrifice He was about make for them; He also made for us. Jesus is the source of eternal life to every soul

who partakes of Him. Just as food and drink are the source of life to the physical flesh, His Word and Spirit are the source of life to our spirit. His death represents our death to sin. His resurrection is our new life in the Spirit.

Long after Christ's ascension to heaven, He instructed the Apostle Paul to teach the early Church about communion and to command them to continue having it with one another. Paul was not a follower of Jesus during Christ's life on earth, and he actually persecuted the early church. However, after his conversion, Jesus told him to train the early churches about the principles of the Holy Communion. Communion separates Christians from all other religions, in that we proclaim the Lord's sacrifice for us through a spiritual meal in His honor. Someday, we will eat this meal face to face with Him in heaven. But in the meantime; we have it with His earthly body, the Church.

**Read John 6:54-58:** *"Whoever eats My \_\_\_\_\_ and drinks My \_\_\_\_\_ has eternal life, and I will \_\_\_\_\_ him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood \_\_\_\_\_ in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."*

Christ is the source of spiritual nutrition and life, to the Spiritual man or woman.

## Prayer

Prayer is the primary way that we communicate with the Lord. Journaling what you pray for or what God presses into your heart to pray for, is a worthwhile practice. It is a way to look back and see answered prayers and give testimony about it to others. There are many ways to pray.

### **Making Requests:**

**Read Philippians 4:6:** *“Be anxious for nothing, but in \_\_\_\_\_ by prayer and \_\_\_\_\_ (needs & wants), with thanksgiving, let your \_\_\_\_\_ be made known to God;”*

**Read Philippians 1:4:** *“always in every prayer of mine making \_\_\_\_\_ for you all with joy,”*

God welcomes our requests for things we need or even desire. If what we request isn't His will, we will eventually learn that. But over time, our requests will probably complement His will.

The Lord's prayer is an example of how God cares about our physical and spiritual needs.

**Read Luke 11:2-4:** *“So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your \_\_\_\_\_ come. Your \_\_\_\_\_ be done, on \_\_\_\_\_ as it is in heaven. Give us day by day our daily \_\_\_\_\_. And forgive us our \_\_\_\_\_, for we also \_\_\_\_\_ everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into \_\_\_\_\_, but deliver us from the \_\_\_\_\_ one.”*

## Partnering With The Spirit To Accomplish God's Will:

**Read Mark 14:38:** *"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is \_\_\_\_\_, but the flesh is \_\_\_\_\_."*

**Read Romans 8:26-27:** *"Likewise the \_\_\_\_\_ also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes \_\_\_\_\_ for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the \_\_\_\_\_ knows what the mind of the \_\_\_\_\_ is, because He makes intercession for the \_\_\_\_\_ according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God."*

Prayer steers our thoughts into the mindset of God. As we delight to meet with Him, He cultivates new desires in our hearts. He gives us His wisdom, strength, and joy. We are equipped with His perspective about ourselves and the challenges that we face. We gain an understanding that can only come through time spent with Him in prayer. God is pleased with our prayers and even compares it to incense in His nostrils. Prayer activates His will and causes evil spirits to surrender their authority to God's work.

Pray with authority and power. Your words are backed by God. You are praying in the name of Jesus. That means the Father hears you and answers you. His will is to glorify Himself through your obedient stewardship of His will. You are His agent or ambassador to bring about godly change around you. You are His vessel to bring His Kingdom culture to earth. Pray with confidence and energy. Pray with specific anticipation to see specific results. Write down what you pray for and look for how God answers the prayer. Sometimes the outcome doesn't look exactly how you expected, but as your faith matures, you will see that the outcome was God's will.

## **Praying In The Spirit:**

Praying in the Spirit is simply yielding to the Holy Spirit's desire to inspire your prayers of faith. There are many ways to pray in the Spirit. You can quote scripture as a prayer. You can meditate quietly about God and His goodness. You can make lists of things the Lord has put on your mind to pray for and go through them in order. You can channel your prayers towards one issue or spread your prayers over many topics. Having a personal prayer life is vital for cultivating a good relationship with God. However, praying with others is also part of your communication with God. Praying out loud with a group will build your confidence and also encourage the others with you. Prayer is now your way of life. Prayer is your lifestyle. It isn't an obligation; it is a privilege. Prayer is an opportunity to engage yourself with your timeless creator Who knows all things, sees all things, and holds all things together.

A practice I personally do at times, is adjusting my physical posture in different positions during prayer. Changing my posture brings my heart into submission to what God wants to speak to me. Examples of posturing would be: laying face down on the carpet, kneeling with my head on the floor, kneeling upright with hands up, standing, pacing, sitting, driving the car, or even while exercising. As I adjust my positions of prayer, it keeps the blood flowing, mind alert, and focus clear. It can help prevent fatigue, boredom, or saying words that are not heartfelt.

Praying in tongues is another way to communicate with God. When we pray in tongues, we build ourselves up in relationship with the Lord. Because the Lord wants to reveal His thoughts and heart to us, tongues invite God to accomplish that. From my experience, praying in tongues opens my thoughts to His. As I pray, I get mental images of people and situations that I hadn't necessarily been thinking about, prior to praying. I assume these are priorities to God and He wants me to pray for these things that He projected on my mind. Many times, when we pray with our logical mind, we hyper focus on our own concerns or desires. Or, we pray with words that are not faith-filled. Praying



in tongues disrupts our thoughts with His. They interfere with repetitive words that make logical sense but are not inspired by God.

There is no proper or perfect way to pray in tongues. I believe humbling yourself, asking God for this gift of the Spirit, and beginning to murmur and move your mouth—you will receive it. Sometimes we over analyze the simple. Jesus said come to me as child. Pray with a childlike faith assuming God will give you His best. Remember, He wants you to have what you need to succeed. He wants you to receive gifts that will benefit you and everyone you come in contact with.

## Good Works

*“Thus, also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” James 2:17*

When the Holy Spirit enters you, He inspires you to act on Christ’s behalf in order to fulfill the will of the Father.

**Read Titus 2:14:** *“who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own \_\_\_\_\_ people, zealous for \_\_\_\_\_.”*

**Matthew 5:16:** *“Let your \_\_\_\_\_ so shine before men, that they may see your \_\_\_\_\_ works and glorify your \_\_\_\_\_ in heaven.”*

We were predestined by God to serve Him and perform acts of goodness towards others.

**Ephesians 2:10:** *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for \_\_\_\_\_, which God prepared \_\_\_\_\_ that we should walk in them.”*

Jesus Himself said that He came to earth to serve not to be served. He also said to us that since we have freely received so much love from Him, that we should freely give this to others. Likewise, He said the greatest among us, is the one who puts himself last and serves others. Serving at your local church and those outside the church, will grow your faith and build confidence in your walk with God. You will discover new things about yourself. You will experience the love of God flowing through you towards others. The joy from the Holy Spirit will become your strength and you will be energized by His desire to use you as His vessel. Serving others in the power of the Holy Spirit, is essential for a healthy, spiritual life.

**Hebrews 2:14** *“And let us consider one another in order to stir up \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_”*

When we serve others in the name of Jesus, we are actually serving Jesus. It is important to remember who we are serving, so that Jesus remains our priority. When we serve others, we are serving on behalf of Jesus, so He should get the credit. Keeping this focus will protect our hearts from attention seeking, pride, burn out, ulterior motives, etc. Everything we do is to bring glory to God. An old friend once said to me, “if what you’re doing doesn’t point to Jesus, then what you’re doing is pointless.”

**Matthew 25:40:** *“And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the \_\_\_\_\_ of these My brethren, you did it to \_\_\_\_\_.’”*

Section 4

# Putting the Pillars in Place

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As you continue to meet with your mentor each week, it will be a good idea to ask one another these questions pertaining to the five pillars:

### **The Word**

What did God reveal or teach you this week in the Bible?

How did you apply it to your life?

What was the result of when you applied what you learned to your life?

## Fellowship

Did you meet any believers this week that you connected with?

How was the experience?

Can you see the potential for a relationship forming?

Were you encouraged in your faith this week by other believers? If so, how?

## Communion

Did you take communion this week?

What did partaking in communion remind you of?

## Prayer

Describe your times of prayer with the Lord this week.

Did you journal anything you said to Him, or that He said to you?

Did God give you any pictures, visions or impressions of what He wanted to pray about?

How did you respond?

Did you see any answered prayers? How were they answered?

## **Good Works**

Did God give you some opportunities to serve Him this week?

Describe the work you did.

Were the recipients of your service introduced to Jesus?

How was that introduction received?

Are you planning to follow up with the individuals you served?



Section 5

# Desire the Gifts

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# Desire the Gifts

**Read Mark 16:17-18:** *“And these signs will follow those who \_\_\_\_\_: In My name they will \_\_\_\_\_ out \_\_\_\_\_; they will speak with new \_\_\_\_\_; they will take up \_\_\_\_\_; and if they drink anything \_\_\_\_\_, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the \_\_\_\_\_, and they will \_\_\_\_\_.”*

Jesus spoke these words just before ascending to heaven. He was preparing the believers on what to expect. He was also describing how to recognize other believers. A wake of signs and wonders would follow their testimony. The Holy Spirit indeed empowered the early church to move in great power. Miracles were constantly taking place. But the truth is, they are still supposed to be taking place. Jesus is the same; yesterday, today and forever (**Hebrews 13:8**). If He’s the same, and His plan is the same, then His way of identifying His believers hasn’t changed either.

**Read John 14:12-14:** *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who \_\_\_\_\_ in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and \_\_\_\_\_ works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, that I will do, that the \_\_\_\_\_ may be \_\_\_\_\_ in the Son. If you ask \_\_\_\_\_ in My name, I will do it.”*

Here again, we see Jesus encouraging His disciples that they will soon receive authority to carry out the very things he was doing. They had experienced this anointing of power when Jesus had previously sent them out through the villages (**Luke 9 & 10**). Now He was preparing them for a brand new anointing. And the source of this anointing will be living in them.

The Holy Spirit lives in you as well. He continues to anoint you with power and authority. The reason you may not have experienced this anointing, is because of your ignorance. This is not an insult. We can be ignorant of something for many reasons. We can be ignorant because we were never made aware of it. We can be ignorant because we were given bad information about it. Or we can be ignorant because we never acted on the truth we were told.

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:1:** *“Now concerning \_\_\_\_\_, brethren, I do not want you to be \_\_\_\_\_.”*

The apostle Paul is about to describe the gifts God has given His saints. He doesn't want them to be ignorant about these gifts. A gift card never used is merely a piece of plastic. A gift of the Holy Spirit never used, is merely a theological concept, or academic idea. But to use a gift of the Holy Spirit, is a supernatural testimony.

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11:** *“But the manifestation of the \_\_\_\_\_ is given to each one for the \_\_\_\_\_ of all: for to one is given the word of \_\_\_\_\_ through the Spirit, to another the word of \_\_\_\_\_ through the same Spirit, to another \_\_\_\_\_ by the same Spirit, to another gifts of \_\_\_\_\_ by the same Spirit to another the working of \_\_\_\_\_, to another \_\_\_\_\_, to another discerning of \_\_\_\_\_, to another different kinds of \_\_\_\_\_, to another the interpretation of \_\_\_\_\_. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, \_\_\_\_\_ to each one individually as He wills.”*

In 1 Corinthians 12:28, Paul goes on to include the gift of helps and administration as additional manifestations of the Spirit in a believer's life.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are to profit everyone. These are gifts that not only prove to unbelievers that the love and power of God is real, and the gospel of Jesus Christ is true; but also, to bless and strengthen the body of Christ (His church). Love should be the motivation of all the gifts of the Spirit. Chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians clearly explains that love is the ultimate goal of all the gifts. When we desire the gifts of the Spirit, ask God to give you these in order to love like Jesus loves. Signs and wonders followed Him, and they will follow you as well.

For the purposes of this segment of *“Welcome To The Family, Introduction To An Active Faith”*, I will avoid going into depth on each of these gifts. Because the study of each of these gifts can get very extensive. Merely glossing over them in this introductory resource would not do them justice. However, the mentor using this resource is encouraged to share their experiences in some of these gifts. Personal testimony always brings a point home. If the mentor does not move in some of the gifts, they are encouraged to refer the disciple to another believer who does. We want the disciples to learn about and receive everything our Father wants to teach and give them.

Though I won't go into any more detail about the gifts in this workbook, I do want to motivate all of us to desire and ask for these gifts.

**Read 1 Corinthians 12:31:** *“But earnestly desire the best \_\_\_\_\_ . And yet I show you a more \_\_\_\_\_ way.”*

We are encouraged to desire these gifts in order to be a better witness of the power and love of God. Again, God wants us to demonstrate His love through power that can only come from Him. We seek gifts of the Holy Spirit in order to love others in the same manner that Jesus loved while He walked the earth. We are now His body on earth. As Christ is, so are we in this world.

**Read 1 Corinthians 14:1:** “Pursue \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual \_\_\_\_\_, but especially that you may \_\_\_\_\_.”

Here Paul tells us to pursue love by desiring spiritual gifts. He then exalts one particular gift over another, prophecy.

“But he who \_\_\_\_\_ speaks \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to men.”

Edification means to build up. Exhortation means to bring together. Comfort means assure and care for. The fact that Paul exalts prophecy, is proof that the greatest ways to love and bless others is our anointed words. Our words carry great truths about God. The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Sharing your testimony with others will lead them to the Savior. When you tell others about the things Jesus did for you, and how He changed your life; you are speaking prophetically about what He will do for them as well. You are the Lord’s witness!

Section 6  
**Summary**

## Section 6

# Summary

As we conclude this introduction to an active faith, I encourage the reader to practice repentance (renewing your mind). If you haven't been baptized yet, set it up! Continue to ask for the Holy Spirit to fill you and anoint you. I also recommend continuing in the five pillars of faith: The Word, Fellowship, Communion, Prayer, and Good Works. Finally, I encourage you to desire the Spiritual Gifts: Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of Spirits, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues, Helps, & Administration.

Jesus makes all things new. Whether you have walked with Jesus one day or 28,000 days, living for Jesus is always a journey of hope and adventure. He is prepared to take you places you've never dreamed. He is working something new in you. He never gives up on you. If you are willing to change, God is willing to change you into the image of Christ.

*“And now to Him who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask and think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in Christ Jesus to all the generations, forever and ever, Amen!”* **Ephesians 3:20-21.**

Bless you my brothers and sisters and welcome to the family!



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