



WHERE GOD BLESSES HIS PEOPLE



PLEASANT HILL

BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEESVILLE

# SURVIVAL *Class* TRAINING

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION TRAINING GUIDE

TRAINING BY JOSEPH L. GARNER, PASTOR & BY NEW MEMEBER'S, MINISTRY LEADERS.

## EPHESIANS 6:10-12

VISIT US AT [WWW.PHBCMINISTRIES.ORG](http://WWW.PHBCMINISTRIES.ORG) OR CALL 337 238-1779



Dear New Member,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Your decision to become a member of God's family was a wise and important one. We stand committed to do all that we can to make your experience at Pleasant Hill meaningful and joy-filled. We are one of America's most exciting churches.

I welcome you to the New Member's Orientation Session. This class will familiarize you with every aspect of this ministry, answer any questions you may have, and provide any assistance needed.

You are very important to us. You are the reason we are here. We look forward to meeting your spiritual needs, as well as using the unique gifts that the Lord God has given you.

Please feel free to call the administrative office at (337) 238-1779 if you have any questions. You may also visit us on the World Wide Web at [www.phbcministries.org](http://www.phbcministries.org). You will find your name listed on the New Members page.

May God bless you always,

*Joseph Garner*  
 and Joseph L. Garner, Pastor

WELCOME



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# PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Where God Blesses His People...

# ABOUT US

[www.phbcministries.org](http://www.phbcministries.org)

-  Pleasant Hill Baptist Church  
1210 M. W. Harrison Street  
Leesville, LA 71446
-  (337) 238-1779
-  JLee53@aol.com
-  Leesvillepastor
-  phbcleesville

The Pleasant Hill Baptist Church was established on September 1, 1899. In our history, we have had only ten pastors. We are the oldest African –American church in Leesville. This is why one of our church mottos is that we are a “Time-tested, God-ordained, Holy Spirit-led ministry for the masses.” On August 9, 1992, Reverend Harrison, who had been Pastor of Pleasant Hill for twenty-one years, officially offered his resignation as Pastor to the officers and members. Reverend Harrison said, “My health is getting such that I am unable to take care of the members as I should. I promised God, my family and myself that I would not pull down the Church after working so hard to build it up. I have prayed over it, and the Lord has placed on my heart, in a vision through the Holy Spirit to have Reverend Joseph L. Garner succeed me as Pastor.” The motion was offered and seconded and passed unanimously. The installation service for Pastor Joseph L. Garner was held on September 3, 1992 with Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr., Pastor of the Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church of New Orleans, LA and International Presiding Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship, presiding.

We place a great emphasis on family and fellowship here at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. We have annual days such as: Women’s Day, Military Appreciation Day, Family Weekend, Men’s Day, Pastor’s Anniversary, and Church Anniversary. We dedicate and devote an entire week in February to our youth. Pleasant Hill Baptist Church has been host to many nationally known leaders and personalities, to include Bishop Paul S. Morton Sr., Vickie Winans, Smokie Norful, Lecresia Campbell, Joshua Nelson, Douglas Miller, Terron Brooks, The Mississippi Mass Choir, Ruby Terry, The Soul Influence, Stephanie Dotson, The Canton Spirituals, Royce Mosely, Southern University-Interdenominational Gospel Choir, Grambling State University-Strong Tower Choir, Janet Dokes, Court Jesters-Comedy Basketball Team, Stage Play- “The Storm” Featuring Brian Pitre.”

In keeping with the times, our church is also listed on the World Wide Web. Our church services can also be heard on 88.1 FM on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. and Sundays at 5:00 p.m. Our services can also be viewed live on the internet.

# OUR PASTOR



## **JOSEPH L. GARNER**

Pastor Joseph Garner, a Leesville native and Southern University graduate, was installed shepherd of the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church on September 3, 1992, after the Reverend Monroe W. Harrison, then the present pastor, resigned and recommended that Reverend Garner succeed him. In these twenty-two years of stewardship, Pastor Garner has “done the will of God from the heart, not with eye service, as men pleasers, but as the servant of Christ” (Eph. 6:6). His humble, tireless, sincere commitment to his family, his community, and his church is evidenced in every facet of his life.



## NEW MEMBER'S ORIENTATION (NMO)

Note: The New Member's Orientation (NMO) is not designed to provide you with a complete comprehensive training. Rather our goal is to introduce you to some of the fundamentals of the Christian faith, in hope

## OVERVIEW OF THE SURVIVAL TRAINING CLASS

The Survival Training Program is the joint effort of the Pastor, and the New Members' Ministry. This study is designed to provide the new church member with sound Bible-based instruction to aid them throughout their Christian journey and to enable them to understand and become involved in the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church's programs and work.

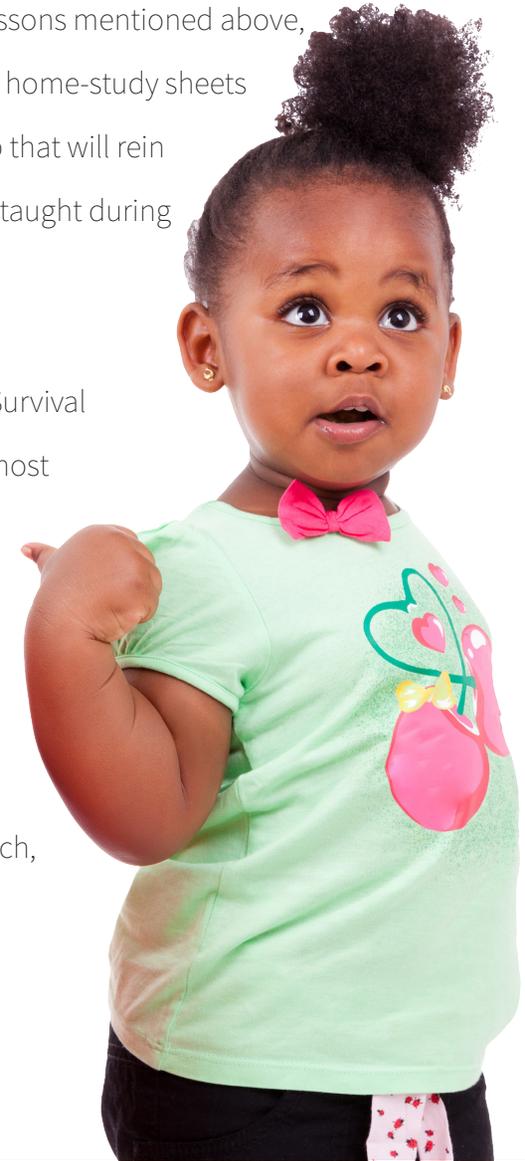
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### THE SURVIVAL TRAINING CLASS WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING EIGHT (8) SESSIONS:

1. SALVATION -BRINGING US BACK TO GOD
2. SURVIVING YOUR DECISION
3. WHAT BAPTISTS BELIEVE
4. HOW TO READ & STUDY THE BIBLE
5. PRAYER -COMMUNICATING WITH GOD
6. SPIRITUAL WARFARE-WEARING YOUR SPIRITUAL ARMOR
7. CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP & YOUR PERSONAL MINISTRY
8. RAP SESSION WITH PASTOR

In addition to the eight lessons mentioned above, your packet also includes home-study sheets and additional study help that will reinforce and expand what is taught during the class period.

Upon completion of the Survival Training Class it is our utmost prayer that you will be encouraged to grow spiritually and become a vital and vibrant member of not only the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, but of the Body of Christ.



# LET'S GO.

## SESSION 1:

### SALVATION - BRINGING US BACK TO GOD

#### **Objectives:**

- A. TO EVALUATE YOUR DECISION TO JOIN CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH.
- B. TO UNDERSTAND SALVATION, ITS' MEANING, PURPOSE, NECESSITY, AND PROMISE.
- C. TO UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SALVATION AND THE ORDINANCE OF BAPTISM.

#### **Introduction:**

In our life there comes a point in which the Lord begins to reveal that our goals, pursuits, actions, aspirations or whatever we are attempting to achieve is insufficient. This may come about at an early age or later in life. The source of this conviction may be a sermon we hear, the testimony of a friend, a television message a conversation with a loved one or any variety of methods at the Lord's disposal. The bottom line is that we begin to understand that there is a need for change, and this change is found in the person and ministry of Jesus Christ.

The question must then be asked, what was it that made you decide to seek Christ? For many young people there was no choice at first because many parents influenced their children to attend church. However, the real truth is that God will not force God's self on any one and thus this has to be a personal commitment to Christ and not one that someone else makes for you.

#### **Starting to make the Change!**

For the Christian, this process of change begins with **SALVATION**. Salvation involves the redemption of the whole person, and is offered freely for all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by his own blood (by dying on Calvary) obtained eternal redemption for the believer. Salvation then is a process of changes that begins in one who seeks Christ.

#### **1. CONVICTION: REVEALING THE NEED TO CHANGE**

The Holy Spirit convinces a person of his or her need to change some thought, attitude, or action. He places the truth of the Gospel as a clear light before the unsaved so that the Gospel is acknowledged as truth, whether or not Christ is received as Savior. We simply try to play this work of the Holy Spirit off

as being our conscience, but God begins to do a work in us and on us even in the process of him calling us to his work. Central passage - John 16:8. “And when He (the Holy Spirit) is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”

This phenomenon is sometimes accompanied by an acute sense of guilt over wrongdoing, a sense of loneliness or estrangement from God, or a sense of emptiness that we soon discover no earthly thing or person can fill. At this point we realize all our efforts are not good enough and we are not worthy in the eyes of God.

Thus the first step in the salvation process is to realize that you are a sinner in need of God’s saving grace, Romans 3:23. Secondly, you must believe in the saving power of Christ’s death and resurrection AND accept Him as your personal Savior and Lord of your life, - Romans 10:9. Once these initial steps have been taken, the regeneration process begins.

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death and resurrection AND accept Him as your personal Savior and Lord of your life, -Romans 10:9. Once these initial steps have been taken, the regeneration process begins.

## 2. REGENERATION: IMPARTING A NEW SPIRIT

Central passage: II Corinthians 5:17- 18. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away, behold all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given unto us the ministry of reconciliation.”

When a person becomes a Christian, the Holy Spirit imparts to him or her new spirit which allows him or her to live a new life in Jesus Christ. Not only does God promise us a new spirit to live our lives on earth, but He also promises us eternal life with Him, something the unbeliever will never experience, - Romans 6:23.

## 3. INDWELLING: THE STRENGTH TO LIVE

CENTRAL PASSAGE - ROMANS 8:9. “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.”

The Holy Spirit takes residence within a person when he/she

becomes a believer. His role is to lead, guide, direct, encourage, and strengthen that individual to live a proper lifestyle. Once we have accepted Christ as our Savior we must strive to live by his Spirit and NOT our flesh, - Romans 8.

#### 4. BAPTISM: PLACING A BELIEVER SPIRITUALLY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

CENTRAL PASSAGE- ROMANS 6:4. “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life.”

The “Body of Christ” is a term given to the totality of all believers in Christ. To baptize means to “place into.” Technically to be baptized means to become a member of the spiritual organism. - Romans 6:4-6

#### 5. GROWTH: DEVELOPING THE BELIEVERS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

CENTRAL PASSAGE – ROMANS 12:1 “I beseech you therefore brethren, by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy; acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

Now that we have been regenerated, indwelt with the Holy Spirit, and baptized into the Body of Christ, we must begin to live our life according to the word of God. As Christians, though we remain in the

world we must separate ourselves from its sinful pleasures and those things contrary to our new nature in Christ.

Although we are saved at the moment we admit that we are sinners, and accept Jesus Christ as our savior, developing as a Christian is a lifelong process. We should never get to a point in our Christian journey when we become “SATISFIED” with our relationship with GOD. Yet, we must continue to press to know more of God, more of His message given through Jesus Christ, and more of the comforting, guiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

## WELL, HOW THEN AM I SAVED?

### KNOWING THE ROMAN ROAD:

#### Understanding Key Steps in the Salvation Process

**Romans 3:10**, “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:”

**Romans 3:23**, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

**Romans 6:23**, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**Romans 10:9-10**, “That thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from

the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

**Romans 12:1-2**, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

## How do you now understand the Ordinance of Baptism?

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## What is your next step in this Christian journey?

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## SESSION 1: IN-CLASS WORKSHEET

### What is Salvation?

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### What is the Necessity and Purposes of Salvation?

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## SESSION 1: HOME STUDY SHEET

During your private devotion time during the week, you are encouraged to read **Romans chapters 3, 6, and 8**. After each chapter note the things that grabbed your attention, troubled you, reinforced what was learned in class or something new you “discovered” that was not mentioned in class. You may approach this task in whatever manner is most comfortable for you.

You do not have to turn this study sheet in. But if you choose to do so, we will provide you with helpful comments to anything puzzling, answers to any questions or additional



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## SESSION 2:

### Objectives:

- A. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE “PROCESS” OF BRINGING US BACK TO GOD.
- B. TO DISCUSS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR OLD NATURE AND OUR NEW NATURE.
- C. TO SHOW YOU HOW TO LIVE VICTORIOUSLY WITH CHRIST.

### Introduction:

It is important to establish your foundation of salvation. As a newly born Christian or as a mature Christian, Satan will constantly attack you in this area. This is the basis of Session 2 - *“Surviving Your Decision.”* As you now know, salvation is a free gift of God, granted to the lost and undeserving who trust and believes in the saving power of Christ, and humble themselves in submission to His will. Once you have accepted Christ, the battle begins!

“Why is there a battle?” you might ask. Well, because you Old Nature (your sinful pre-salvation nature) comes into conflict with your New Nature (your redeemed nature) [Romans 7:15-25.] The aim of this lesson is to help you understand this battle, and challenge you to be an overcomer of the natural self and to live a victorious life with Christ

### Be Assured Of Your Salvation

Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us that a new life in Christ is by FAITH! Therefore, there will come times when you will not “feel” saved. You must know that salvation is not about emotions and feelings, but is about God’s free gift of grace given to all those who believe.

### Surviving Your Decision

If we are to survive in Spiritual warfare or even be viable opponents we must know who we are. We are children of God, redeemed by the death and resurrection of Christ, granted eternal life and restored to right relation with our Heavenly Father. Satan, however, has a job to do. And, that job is to make you think that you are not who you know you are. Satan and his army are assembled to distract, frustrate, and destroy what God is doing in

your life. As a Christian you must KNOW that you are now a part of God's army and that God's Spirit and power which now live in you will enable and equip you to defeat the powers of Satan.

If you KNOW who you are and WHO your source of power is, Satan will never succeed in your life.

**Listed are two important steps that will help reassure you of your salvation and place in the Family of God:**

1. SEEK CONFIRMATION IN THE SCRIPTURES.

When in doubt seek comfort and reassurance in the Word of God:

John 14:6 - "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh to the father, but by me."

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Romans 10:9 - "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

2. HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL TESTIMONY- NO ONE KNOWS AS WELL AS YOU DO HOW GOOD GOD HAS BEEN TO YOU.

You KNOW that accepting Christ has changed and is

changing your life. Do not allow your enemies (Satan's employees) to tell you otherwise. If you are ever inclined to doubt your testimony, think about the following:

***a) What was my life like before I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior?***

***b) At what point did I respond to the conviction that I needed Jesus Christ?***

***c) Since I have accepted Christ as Lord of my life what has my life been like?***

***If your response to "a" is different than your response to "c", you have a TESTIMONY!***

**Old Nature Vs. New Nature**

You have made life's most important decision. You have trusted the ownership of your life to Jesus Christ. Your commitment is based on your faith that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He has the power to be Lord of your existence.

Now you are anxious to let Christ's Lordship begin. The problem is that there are two natures in you, and they are not getting along!

***Scriptural Guides:***

**Galatians 5:16-17** - “This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would”.

In this Christian journey we must learn to live according to the Spirit of God and not according to the desires of our flesh.

We are “flesh” by the very fact that we are human. But, we are also “Spirit” by the fact that we have accepted God’s gift of salvation. Your flesh will constantly fight against your spirit; the key is to be led by your spirit and not by your flesh.

The only way we will live a Spirit filled and Spirit led life is if we spend more time “feeding” and nurturing our Spirit than we do our flesh. In other words less television and more devotion time, less “social gatherings” and more Bible study, less talking on the phone and more talking to God.

If your Spirit is to remain alive and well, it must be fed.

**Colossians 3:1-2** - “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not things not things on earth.”

Seeking things which are above does not just mean thinking about heaven and eternal life. Rather the above Scripture instructs us

to seek those things which are of God and are pleasing to God.

As Christians we must not get “caught up” in the things of this world, thus losing sight of who we belong to. God wants you to experience all he has to offer, but we must learn to seek God first and trust Him to bless us as He sees fit (Matthew 6:33).

### **Living Victoriously With Christ:**

Now that you are saved, and are learning to walk and live by the Spirit of God within you and not by your flesh, the final step in “*Surviving Your Decision*” is to make sure that Christ is not only in your life but He is Lord of your life. Once you make Christ Lord of your life, Victorious Living is guaranteed.

# Which circle best represents you?

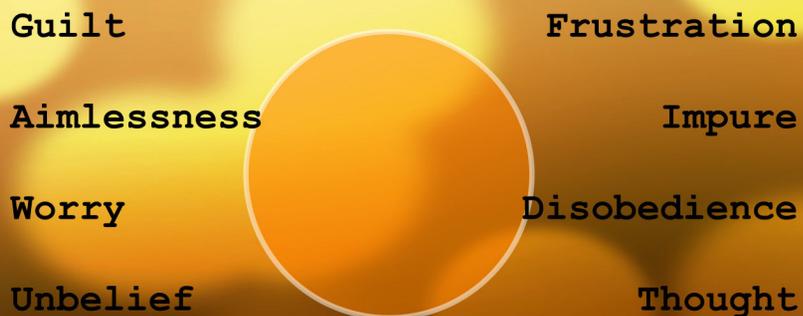
**1. This first circle represents the life of a person who has never received Christ as Lord and savior.**

Christ stands outside the door of his or her life, seeking entrance (Revelation 3:20.) This person's life is in utter chaos and confusion:



**2. This second circle represents a life in which the person has placed themselves rather than Christ on the throne of their life.**

Once self has been placed on the throne, Christ is forced to step down, resulting in the loss of fellowship between that person and Christ. The individual is still a Christian, but because he or she is not in right relation with Christ, life remains a source of confusion and chaos. I Corinthians 3:1-3, speaks of the carnal (self-centered) Christian.



**3. This final circle represents the life of a person who has invited Jesus Christ to come into his/her life and allows Christ to control and empower his/her life.**

Christ is occupying His rightful place on the throne of this person's life. Ego and self-have been dethroned (John 15:1-8.)



**Which circle represents you? Which one must you continuously strive and aim for?** Remember that developing as a Christian is a lifelong process. Be encouraged to continue and press on, regardless of what Satan tries to throw in your face.

*You are  
victorious  
in Christ!!!*



## SESSION 2: HOME STUDY SHEET

During your private devotion time during the week, you are encouraged to engage the questions listed below.

You do not have to turn this study sheet in. But if you choose to do so, the STC teachers will provide you with helpful comments to anything puzzling, answers to any questions, or additional Scripture references for further study on any given topic.

### **What is your testimony as a New Christian?**

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**If someone were to question your “New Nature,” what scriptures could you use to defend your conviction and reassure yourself?**

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**Read John 15:1-8. What does it say about**

### **those who choose to abide in Christ?**

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**What are some things you can do to make sure that Christ and not self is on the throne of your life? (Look at Proverbs 3:5-7)**

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# DIFFERENT STAGES YOU MAY EXPERIENCE AS A CHRISTIAN:

**The Honeymoon Stage** - This is usually the period in the life of a spiritual babe when he or she feels invincible. The knowledge that your sins are forgiven and the fact that you are a “New Creation” (II Corinthians 5:17) overwhelms you. You would stand on a roof top and share your faith as you are bold for Christ. Mature believers experience this in those times when they allow the Lord to have full control of their lives.

**The Fight Stage** - A fight in most instances takes the joy away from a honeymoon. Most likely this happens to new or young believers when they are challenged to express what they believe. This may happen when you see old friends and they are not responsive to your new lifestyle. As a mature Christian the fight comes at a time when we go through trial and tests that come with being Born Again.

**The Doubting Stage** - A spiritual babe will experience doubts if he or she does not take advantage of time for personal devotion, church fellowship, personal Bible study, or a personal prayer life. Continued affiliation with the same crowd you once ran with and no spiritual nourishment will cause you to doubt. Mature Christians usually go through the doubting stage due to the fact that they may not be spending quality time in God’s word, forgiveness, unconfessed sin or lack of prayer to seek the Lord’s will through life’s challenges.

**The Panic Search-For-Truth Stage** - Sometimes in our conversation or contact with others who claim to know Christ, we may get a variety of views of what the Christian life is really about. This may lead to a state of confusion. This is in addition to the religious views of other religions that seem to be similar to Christianity which may cause a new believer to ask, “What is truth?”

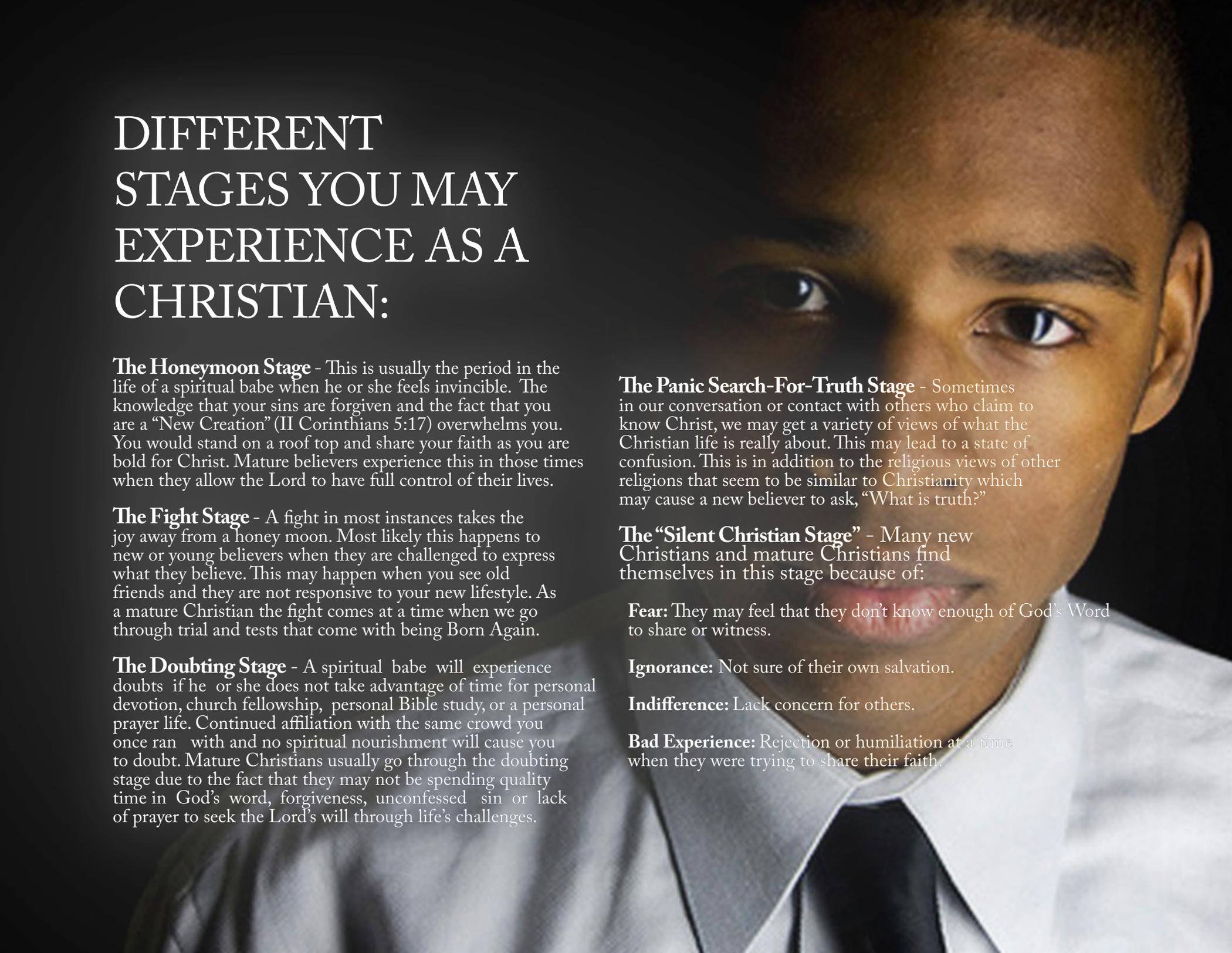
**The “Silent Christian Stage”** - Many new Christians and mature Christians find themselves in this stage because of:

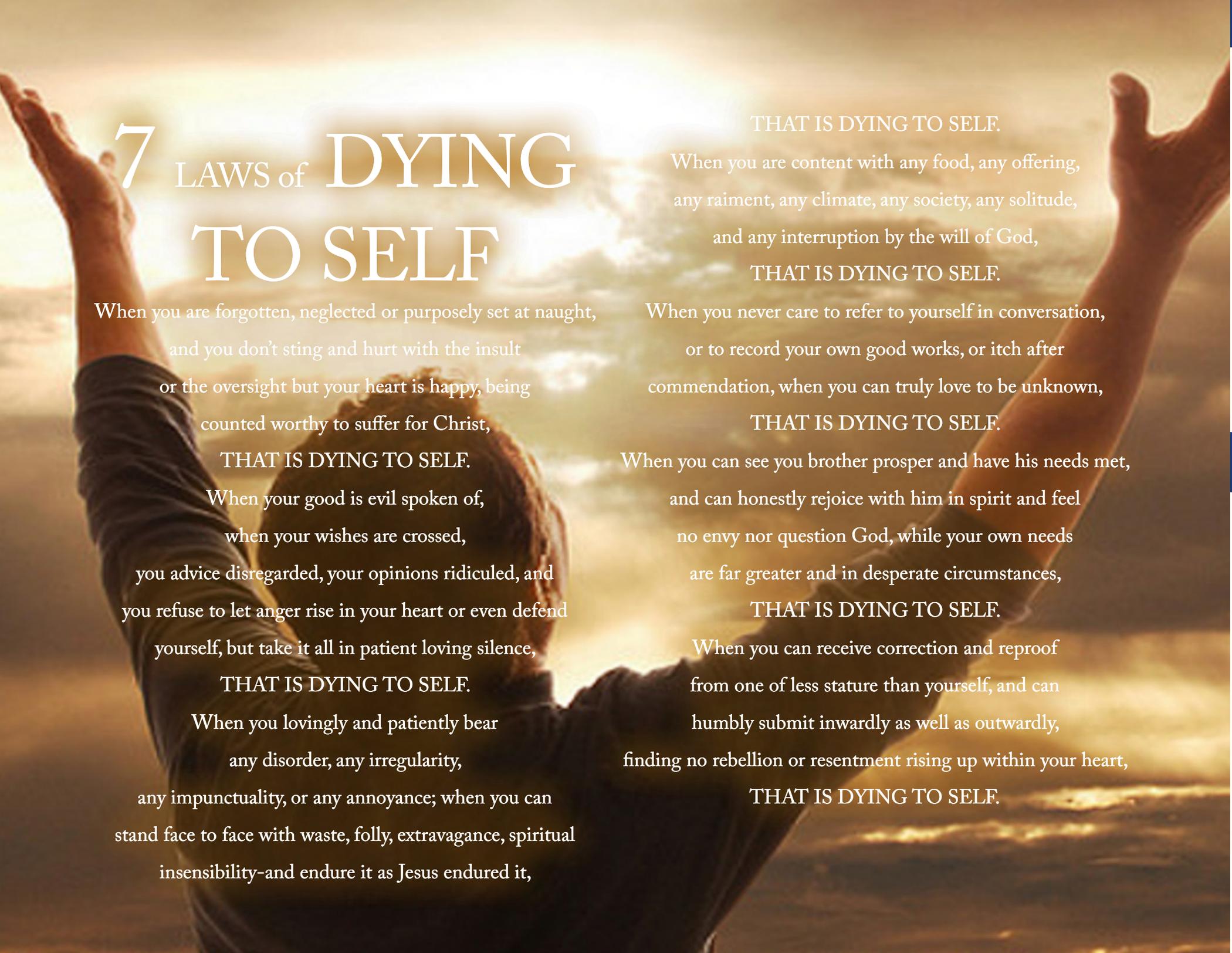
**Fear:** They may feel that they don’t know enough of God’s Word to share or witness.

**Ignorance:** Not sure of their own salvation.

**Indifference:** Lack concern for others.

**Bad Experience:** Rejection or humiliation at a time when they were trying to share their faith.





# 7 LAWS of DYING TO SELF

When you are forgotten, neglected or purposely set at naught, and you don't sting and hurt with the insult or the oversight but your heart is happy, being counted worthy to suffer for Christ,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart or even defend yourself, but take it all in patient loving silence,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When you lovingly and patiently bear any disorder, any irregularity, any impunctuality, or any annoyance; when you can stand face to face with waste, folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility—and endure it as Jesus endured it,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When you are content with any food, any offering, any raiment, any climate, any society, any solitude, and any interruption by the will of God,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation, or to record your own good works, or itch after commendation, when you can truly love to be unknown,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When you can see your brother prosper and have his needs met, and can honestly rejoice with him in spirit and feel no envy nor question God, while your own needs are far greater and in desperate circumstances,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

When you can receive correction and reproof from one of less stature than yourself, and can humbly submit inwardly as well as outwardly, finding no rebellion or resentment rising up within your heart,

THAT IS DYING TO SELF.

## PHASE TWO: LEARN

## “Understanding Our Beliefs &amp; Practices”

**“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart”**

**THE ARTICLES OF FAITH:****I. The Scriptures.**

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

**II. The True God.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth;

inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

**III. The Fall of Man.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that Man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgressions fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

**IV. The Way of Salvation.**

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tender

sympathies with divine perfections, he is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

#### **V. Justification.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him in justification: that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

#### **VI. The Freeness of Salvation.**

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

#### **VII. Regeneration.**

We believe that the Scriptures teach that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith, and newness of life.

#### **VIII. Repentance and Faith.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our prophet, priest and king, and relying on him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

#### **IX. God's Purpose of Grace.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection

with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

## **X. Sanctification.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

## **XI. Perseverance of the Saints.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that such only are real believers as endure to the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare;

and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

## **XII. The Law and Gospel.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arise entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy Law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the Means of Grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

## **XIII. A Gospel Church.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors, and Deacons whose Qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

## **XIV. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and

Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

#### **XV. The Christian Sabbath.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

#### **XVI. Civil Government.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the Kings of the earth.

#### **XVII. Righteous and Wicked.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

#### **XVIII. The World to Come.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

Continued Devotion: Read ALL the "Articles of Faith" and Romans Chapter 12

## PHASE TWO: LEARN

### “Understanding Our Beliefs & Practices”

**“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart”**

#### **THE BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT:**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God (Romans 8: 14-15), to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior (John: 12-13) and on the profession of our faith (Hebrews 4: 14), having been baptized in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28: 19), we do now, in the presence of God, Angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another (Hebrews 8: 10-12), as one body in Christ ( 1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 1:18).

We promise by the aid of the Holy Spirit to forsake the paths of sin and to walk in the ways of holiness all the days of our lives (John 16:13; Roman s 8: 14; 1 Peter 1:14-16).

With this view, we engage to strive for the advancement

of this church (Hebrews 10:25) in knowledge, holiness and comfort, to promote its prosperity and spiritually (Roman s 12:6-11), to sustain its worship, ordinances, disciplines and doctrines (2 Timothy 3: 16-17; Jude 1:3).

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor and spread of the gospel throughout all nations (Malachi 3:8-11; Matthew 23 :23; 2 Corinthians 8:5-12; 1 John 3:17).

We engage to maintain family and secret devotions, to religiously educate our children, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances (Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Proverb s 22:6; Ephesians 6:4; Genesis 10:17-18).

To walk circumspectly i n the World (Ephesians 5: 15); to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements

(Romans 12:9-18; 13:8) and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling ( 1 Timothy 5: 13), backbiting (Roman s 1:28-30) and excessive anger (2 Corinthians 12:20;

Ephesian s 4:25-27); to abstain from the sale and use of

intoxicating liquor s as a beverage and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior (Ephesians 5 : 16-18).

We further engage to watch over one another in

brotherly love (Hebrews 13: 1); giving and receiving admonition with meekness and affection (Galatians 6: 1); to remember each other in prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:25); to aid each other in sickness and distress (1 John 3:17; James 1:27), to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech (Proverbs 15:1; Ephesians 4:29); to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation (Romans 12:21) and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay (Matthew 18:15-17). We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church of this faith, where we can carry out the spirit of this Covenant (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5) and the principles of God's Word (Matthew 28:20; Romans 1:31)

## SESSION 4:

### HOW TO READ AND UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE

#### Objectives:

- TO LEARN PRACTICAL TOOLS AND SKILLS FOR READING AND UNDERSTANDING THE WORD OF GOD
- TO BECOME AWARE OF THE CONTEXT AND CONTENT OF SCRIPTURE

#### Introduction:

The Bible is the central foundation in the life of a Believer.

It is through the Word of God that we learn what God expects of His creation. It is through God's Word that we learn how to learn, love, and live life more abundantly.

Inductive Bible study consists of three parts, which we will look at separately but will frequently overlap in practice. These three parts are: Observation, Interpretation, and Application.

#### I. Observation

Observation answers the question: What does this passage say? It is the foundation which must be laid if you want to accurately interpret and apply God's Word.

## II. Interpretation

Interpretation answers the question: What does this passage mean? The basis for accurate interpretation is always careful observation. As you carefully observe Scripture, the meaning will become apparent.

## III. Application

Application answers the question: How does the meaning of this passage apply to me? The proper application actually begins with the belief which then results with being and doing. Once you know what a passage means, you are responsible for putting it into practice, and accountable for it if you don't. When you know what God says, what He means, and how to put his truths into practice, you will be equipped for every circumstance of life.

### HOW OBSERVATION, INTERPRETATION, AND APPLICATION RELATE TO ONE ANOTHER.

Accurate interpretation and correct application rest on the accuracy your observation. Therefore it is vital that you develop observation skills, even if at first they seem time consuming or you feel less than adequate or even awkward doing them.

## SESSION 4: HOME STUDY SHEET

1. Before studying, you should begin with\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The verse, chapter, or book being studied is called the\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Verses prior to the text, and those that immediately follow are referred to as the\_\_\_\_\_.
4. For instance, John 14:1 is the verse being studied, what verse would illustrate the context?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Name the three steps of inductive study:
  - 1)\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 2)\_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3)\_\_\_\_\_.
6. Developing observational skills allows you to gain a clear and concise \_\_\_\_\_of the passage.
7. Knowing how to\_\_\_\_\_ Scripture, prevents you from relying on another's conclusion.
8. These steps will mean nothing if they are not \_\_\_\_\_ to your life.

## SESSION 4: IN-CLASS WORKSHEET

TEXT

CONTEXT

Listing The Facts

Questioning The Facts

Concerning the Tet      Concerning the Text

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

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## SESSION 5:

### **PRAYER: THE KEY TO SUSTAINED SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

#### **Objectives:**

- EXAMINE THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER
- IDENTIFY TYPES OF

#### **Introduction:**

Prayer is perhaps the most talked about but least utilized tool in the Christian arsenal of faith. We all need prayer to sustain our spiritual growth, yet many of struggle to pray on a consistent basis. This lesson is designed to introduce new members to a model of prayer that will lead to sustained spiritual growth.

#### **The Importance of prayer**

Jesus teachings us the importance of prayer by making it a regular part of his daily routine. Mark 1:35 says, “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”

This lets us know that Jesus, who was God incarnate, found it necessary to begin his day with prayer. We as followers of Christ should imitate this very important part of Christ’s life.

Again when Jesus had spent himself in ministering to others,

we find him withdrawing to a solitary place to pray, “And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray (Matthew 14:23a).” Jesus found it necessary to pray often and in many different situations. This teachings us that prayer is an essential part of the Christian life. A great theologian once said, “Seven days without prayer, makes one weak.” In other words, we need to pray in order to maintain our spiritual strength.

## Types of prayer

The simplest definition of prayer is communication with God. Prayer is humanities attempt to send and receive information to and from the divine. In other words, prayer is a dialogue with God. It is two way communication, we talk to God and then listen to what God has to say in return.

Now that we have defined prayer, let’s discuss the different types of prayer. The question might be asked; Aren’t all prayers the same? The answer is a resounding, “no.” There are several types of prayers that each believer should know how and to pray.

## Personal prayer

The best example of personal prayer is found in Matthew 6:5-13. Jesus is teaching his disciples how they should pray. He

gives them very specific instructions and a model prayer.

The elements of personal prayer:

- OCCURS IN PRIVATE
- IS DIRECTED TOWARD GOD
- IS NOT REPETITIVE

When we are praying for our selves, we must remember the ultimate goal is to put us in closer relationship with God and to strengthen us so that we will be able to pray for others.

Verses 9-13 show us the model prayer. We need to

know how to pray so that our prayers will be effective.

This is just a model it is not the only way to pray.

## Parts of personal prayer:

### Salutation

Our father, which art in heaven Praise - Hallowed be they name Invocation -Your kingdom come...

Petition for provision - Give us this day...

Confession - And forgive us our debts...

Petition for deliverance - And do not lead us into temptation...

Praise- For yours is the Kingdom.....

These elements are essential to on-going effective personal



## SESSION 6:

**GETTING DRESSED FOR BATTLE-  
WEARING YOUR SPIRITUAL ARMOR****Objectives:**

- TO LEARN THE SPIRITUAL TOOLS FOR “SURVIVING YOUR DECISION”
- TO DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE AND PRAYER IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE
- TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO PRESS ON!

**Introduction:**

As we begin our study of Session 3, “Getting Dressed for Battle,” we will discuss the tools that we use to fight against the Satanic forces, and the usefulness of those tools. In addition to the spiritual armor we will examine the power of our two most important weapons: Prayer and The Word of God.

**Suiting Up**

Our focal Scripture for this study will be **Ephesians 6:10-18**. In this passage of Scripture, Paul informs us of the weapons we need to survive this Spiritual battle.

Ephesians 6:10-11, “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God

that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

As we discussed in Session 2, Satan and his army have a job to do. And that job is to distract, frustrate, and attempt to destroy the advances that God is making in your life. If we are to be victorious survivors, we need the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD so that we will be able to STAND regardless of what Satan throws in your face.

**Ephesians 6:12**, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

The most important thing to remember about our battle is that it is a “Spiritual battle.” As Christians we often forget that we are not fighting against people but the wickedness and evil that invades the spirit of certain people. Therefore if your battle is spiritual, it will only be won with spiritual weapons. Thus you do not need a gun with bullets, you need a “Sword of Truth.”

**Knowing Your Weapons**

In the heat of a battle, any soldier will tell you that the key to victory is based on your knowledge of your equipment:

**A. Truth and Righteousness**

**Ephesians 6:14**, “Stand therefore having your loins girt about

with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness.”

**Truth** - This weapon is more than just stating that which you know is true. The weapon of truth is relying on the absolute source of ALL Truth. In John 14:6, Jesus says “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” Since Jesus is Truth and “Truth Absolutely,” having a relationship with him is a chief weapon in Spiritual Warfare.

**Righteousness** - According to Genesis 15:6, Abram (later Abraham) believed God and it was “credited to him as righteousness.” Thus righteous living in God’s eyes involves believing and trusting in the power and authority of God. God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, and that his descendants would outnumber the stars in the sky, yet Abraham remained childless. But God had promised Abraham a great nation, and Abraham believed in God’s promise, and was thus deemed righteous. When Satan begins to attack us in our Christian journey, we must believe in the promise that God will never leave us or forsake us. This assurance of God’s protection is a necessary weapon for Spiritual Warfare.

### **B. The Gospel Shoes**

**Ephesians 6:15**, “As shoes for your feet put on whatever will

make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace” (NSRV)

Another powerful weapon for spiritual warfare is proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. One sure way to resist Satan is the same way that Jesus did in His temptation in the wilderness, by proclaiming the Word of God. Satan told Jesus, “If you worship me all will be yours.” But, Jesus knew better because he knew the Scriptures. Thus, Jesus responded, “But, it is written, you shall worship the Lord thy God, and him only shall you serve.” (Luke 4:7-8) Proclaiming the truth of God’s Word is a most powerful weapon. And, we are instructed to do whatever necessary to proclaim such a power.

### **C. The Shield of Faith**

**Ephesians 6:16**, “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

Your faith in God and in the death and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ will shield you from whatever Satan throws at you or tries to tempt you with. According to Hebrews 11:1, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.” We must believe and have faith in the power of God even when we can’t see it operating. Faith is a shield, and thus your weapon of protection.

### **D. The Helmet of Salvation**

**Ephesians 6:17**, “And take the helmet of salvation”

Salvation is accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior over your life. Salvation is a free gift of God and the ultimate example of His grace. It is through salvation that we are restored to right relationship with God. Salvation is described as a helmet because just as a helmet protects us and covers our fleshly bodies, salvation protects and covers our soul until the day we see Jesus face to face in Glory.

Finally we must know and remember that **Ephesians 6:11-13** instructs us to take on the WHOLE armor of God. Having the shield without the helmet and the sword will leave you ill equipped. But, having all your spiritual weapons will enable you to Stand Firm in the life of Godliness that Christ is calling you to.

### **Battle Victory With The Word And Through Prayer**

Without the Bible, the Word of God and Prayer, communicating with God, our armor remains incomplete. The reason the Bible and Prayer have earned a “section” separate from the other weapons of warfare is because they exist as the foundation for all the other weapon discussed. For example, when we “take our helmet of salvation” it is through God’s Word that we

realize we are sinners in need of a relationship with God.

Although prayer and the Bible were the initiatory weapons at the beginning of your Christian journey, they will remain of prime importance as you continue to grow as a Christian.

### **The Bible: The Word of God and Sword of the Spirit**

The Bible is God’s revelation to His people. It is through the Bible that we learn the attributes of God and His promises to those who love and trust Him. The Bible is “God’s Instruction Book,” for we not only learn about God and his promises through the Bible, but we also learn what is expected of us; how we should treat our neighbors as well as our enemies, how we are to praise God, how we should operate God’s church, etc. The Bible teaches us about love and trust, faith and suffering. God’s Word provides comfort and healing to those who are hurting and depressed. It admonishes those who sin, and praises those who live according to God’s ordained precepts. The Bible not only tells, but reveals ultimate truth about our existence.

Despite the richness of God’s Word it cannot penetrate our lives if it sits on a mantle or desk top un-opened. Beginning a healthy practice of personal Bible Study is not an easy task. Because

as much as our inner spirit longs to understand and know the Bible's teachings; our flesh will always find an excuse for not beginning that life-changing journey through the Scriptures. Never let excuses of "no time," or "I don't know where to begin," stop you from growing in the knowledge of God's Word.

**II Timothy 2:15** says "Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth."

In this passage Paul instructs Timothy to not only read the Word of God, but to STUDY the Word of God. If you have ever been a student at any time in your life, you know that you retain more knowledge of something by studying it than just reading it. To truly understand what the Bible is saying to us, we must study it. This may require reading a particular passage several times, taking notes or even asking a friend or teacher to help you understand something. Rarely does one learn without asking questions. Studying God's Word with diligence is pleasing to God. And once you take the time to study God's Word for yourself, you become equipped to share the truth of God's Word with

someone else. Please know that every Christian has the responsibility of sharing God's Word, not just the minister.

**Psalm 119:1**, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee."

Knowing the Word of God keeps us out of the path of sin. I am not suggesting that once you have God's word hidden in your heart that you will not sin, but knowing what God expects of you from His word will enable you to avoid sinful situations and circumstances that you know displease him.

#### **Prayer: Communication With God**

There are many different types of prayers, such as prayers of thanksgiving, petition or repentance. But more important than being able to distinguish the different types of prayers, is knowing that prayer is communication with your Creator. . God created you in His own image. He knows your thinking, desires, regrets, hopes, and fears. When you pray, God wants you to be honest and sincere with Him, not try to impress Him with big words and concepts. God also wants to communicate with you. Prayer is not a one-way conversation. God desires to communicate with us just as we desire to communicate with Him, **Matthew 6:6-8**, "But thou, when thou prayest enter

into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to the Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”

While prayer does have public dimensions, such as during church services, and group dimensions, such as with a prayer partner or with family members, prayer is also a personal and private time between you and your God. Regardless of how busy you are, there MUST be time during your day when you take time to “have a little talk with Jesus.”

According to **Philippians 4:6-7**, it is through prayer, asking God, praising God, thanking God, petitioning God, that we receive a peace that surpasses the frustrations and annoyances of daily life. It is this peace through prayer that will “keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Spiritual Warfare is real. Satan is real. But more importantly, God’s grace and power are REAL. In order to survive the valleys as well as the mountaintop experiences we must be equipped for battle through the Word of God and Prayer. Always remember to have your belt of truth, your breastplate of righteousness, whatever you need to pro claim the Gospel of Peace, your shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the Sword of the Spirit. Once you are “dressed” for

battle, you must Stand Strong in your conviction in Jesus Christ. And once you have done all to stand, **KEEP STANDING!!!**

## SESSION 6: IN-CLASS WORKSHEET

### WEAPON #1-

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### WEAPON #2-

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**WEAPON #3-**

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**WEAPON #4-**

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**WEAPON #5-**

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**WEAPON #6-**

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**WEAPON #7-**

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Other Notes:

## SESSION 6: HOME STUDY SHEET

This home study sheet is to assist you and to encourage you to develop a personal devotion period if you have not done so already. Sometimes before we can commit to something or remember to do something we have to put it in writing. If you are that type of person who “has to see it,” we hope this sheet will be of assistance to you.

I promise that I will spend \_\_\_\_\_minutes or more in personal devotion time each day.

The best time for me to have my devotion will be in the \_\_\_\_\_from \_\_\_\_\_to \_\_\_\_\_.

On Monday I will study \_\_\_\_\_. (i.e. the 2nd chapter of Romans or the 1st Psalm.)

On Tuesday I will study \_\_\_\_\_. (always feel comfortable looking at a passage for more than one day if you feel there is more to be learned)

On Wednesday I will study \_\_\_\_\_.

On Thursday I will study \_\_\_\_\_.

On Friday I will study \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
On Saturday I will study \_\_\_\_\_.

On Sunday I will study \_\_\_\_\_.

**Remember:** Study to show thyself approved unto God!

### LIFE’S PATHWAY

*There is no easy path to take*

*When traveling down life’s road,*

*We try to choose the right one*

*To have the easy load.*

*But trouble over takes us*

*As we trod along the way,*

*Heartaches, trials and crosses*

*Seem to come and somehow stay.*

*However dark the night may seem*

*However deep the pain,*

*Pour your heart to him in prayer*

*He will help you to sustain.*

## SESSION 7

### **CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP-DEVELOPING YOUR PERSONAL MINISTRY**

#### **Objectives:**

- TO UNDERSTAND CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP
- TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR PERSONAL MINISTRY
- TO DISCUSS THE PROCESS OF DISCERNING YOU MINISTRY

#### **Introduction:**

“Lord, you have given me Your very best and all I want to do is give Your very best back to You.”

For too long in the church we have only seen ministry as a function of the Pastor and preachers. Ministry, however, extends far beyond the pulpit and even beyond the church doors. Your ministry is a special calling from God. And the first step in developing your ministry is becoming a good steward of your God given gifts and resources in order to further the work of the Gospel Message.

#### **Understanding Christian Stewardship**

A “steward” is one who manages or actively directs affairs.

Thus, a Christian steward is one who manages or directs his or her resources according to the will and Word of God. As Christian we must realize that “we live, move, and have our being in Christ.” The whole of the Christian’s life, personality, time, talent, influence and material substance must be dedicated to Christ. This is true Christian stewardship.

In today’s lesson, we will examine three specific areas of our lives which God requires us to be faithful stewards; our time, our talent, and our treasury.

#### **Stewardship of Time**

**Ephesians 5:15-16**, “Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of time, because the days are evil.” (NSRV)

We know that we live in a time of evil and corruption. A time when people are lovers of themselves and the things of this world and not of God. In this Scripture we are instructed to be careful how we live, and admonished to make the most of our time. As a believer making the most of your time is assuring that your time is spent on the things of God and not on things of this world.

Spending your time on the things of God does not entail spending every waking hour in Church. Rather, it requires

ensuring that God gets the glory out your time spent. What we do with our time should testify to God's goodness and grace.

**James 4:14-15**, "Whereas you know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time, then vanishes away. You ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

This verse again refers to having your complete being in Christ. We must realize that our time is not ours, but God's. The time that we have been granted is a gift from God and should be used for the furthering of the Gospel Message.

## Stewardship of Talents

We must realize that the church is a "body" with many members. Just as the different "members" or parts of your body have a specific function to perform, as a member of the body of Christ you too have a specific function to perform (I Corinthians 12:11-12.)

**Ephesians 4:11-12**, "And he (Christ) gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, all of the gifts work together to build-up the body of Christ."

The gifts or talents that God has given you are for the good of the collective body of Christ. Whether your gift is in the

list above, for the "edifying" or building up of the saints, or whether your gift is for encouraging or comforting the saints, all of the gifts work together to build-up the body of Christ.

Just as it is impossible for you to walk with one leg. It is impossible for the Church to function as Christ intended if you sit on your gift. So, whether you are a leg, a foot, a hand, or a nose in the body of Christ you are extremely important and have a distinct place in the continuing ministry of the church.

## Stewardship of Treasury

**Malachi 3:10**, "Bring ye all tithes and offerings into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, 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."

A tithe is giving ten percent of your earned resources back to God. Although you "give" your tithe to God, it is not a gift. A tithe is what you owe God. God requires at least 10 percent, and whatever you chose to give him beyond that is your "gift." Because our God is so awesome He never demands anything of us without the promise of a blessing in return. So while we are required to give a tenth of our earnings we are promised a pouring out

of blessings that we will not have room enough to receive. And we are further warned in II Corinthians 9:6, that whoever sows sparingly shall reap sparingly. But we are further promised in Luke 6:38 that if we give it shall be given back to us in “good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over”. God requires of us, but also promises us.

### **Understanding Personal Ministry**

Based on what we now know about good Christian Stewardship, we will discuss its relation to the development of your personal ministry. Once you have become a proper steward of your time, your gifts, and your resources, God will begin to develop your personal ministry.

Ministry comes from the word “minister” which means “to serve.” So, regardless of what your ministry is, it is a call to service.

**I Peter 4:10**, “As every man has received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

Each of us has received a gift and it is our responsibility to use that gift to serve one another. By doing so we not

only show ourselves to be good stewards of our particular gifts, but good stewards of God’s gift of grace.

We frequently witness the revelation and participation of God in our lives. He has consistently invited us to share in relationship with Himself. God has ordained that we be filled with the “fruit of the Spirit” and that we bring forth fruit for the Kingdom. Yet, while ALL of us possess God’s potential, FEW of us are reaping His results.

We encourage you and admonish you to take advantage of all God has to offer. He has promised that He would not withhold any good thing from those of us who love him, and we are holding Him true His Word.

### WE BELIEVE:

*“Every living soul possesses purpose for being and potential for becoming. I am here to help you actualize your mission and in so doing, to accomplish my own.”*

## SESSION 7: IN-CLASS WORKSHEET

**What is good Christian Stewardship?**

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**Why is your ministry important to the body of Christ?**

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**What are some of the gifts that God has given you?**

**How can you be a good steward of those gifts?**

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**What are three areas of our life that God requires us to be good stewards of?**

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## SESSION 7: HOME STUDY SHEET

The ministry that God is developing in you is of vital importance to the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church family. And as we discussed, the first step in developing that ministry is becoming a good steward of what God has already given you. As you go through this week think about how you spend your time, gifts and resources to glorify and give witness to God's goodness. You may want to keep a journal to help you determine just how good your stewardship is.

**Monday:**

## **Church Membership Responsibilities**

### **What it Means to be a Good Church Member**

A church is not the building in which people meet. A church is a congregation of baptized believers voluntarily associating together for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel. Observing the ordinances, and fellowshiping in love and grace of the Lord Jesus. Jesus founded the Church (**Matthew 16:18**) and so loved it that he gave Himself for it. (**Ephesians 5:25 and Hebrews 10:25**)

**Tuesday:**

**Wednesday:**

**Thursday:**

## **Be a F.A.T. Christian**

### **Faithful\* Available\*Teachable**

**Friday:**

You as a church member have a sacred responsibility. Being that you are a member of God's family you will discover it is rewarding to do your part in forwarding and helping the cause of Jesus Christ. God has a plan for the world and the church member in particular. As a Christian, you are to fit into that plan. Here are some of a church member's responsibilities:

**Saturday:**

**Sunday:**

### **1. Learning**

You should come to know your Bible well. You should learn how

to serve and know your church and its practices. There are many opportunities for this through the church's ministry programs. Every member is expected to become actively involved in our Sunday School, and our Bible study. **II Timothy 2:15**

## 2. Witnessing

A Christian is always desirous that others will come to know Jesus Christ. We are God's ambassadors; therefore our lives should always represent him. The church offers opportunities for witnessing through various ministries, including our evangelistic ministry, and gives training to this end. Jesus says "We are His witnesses." Christ is made known to others by us. Share Christ, by becoming a soul winner! **Proverbs 11:30**

## 3. Praying

Prayer is a vital part of Christian living. All Christians should learn how to pray in order that their lives may experience many benefits and blessings. Joining with others in prayer forwards a great spirit and stimulus. The evangelistic ministry will assign each new member a prayer partner.

## 4. Worshipping

Worship keeps the soul of Pleasant Hill alive. You should regularly attend all worship services and be faithful. You

should be reverent at all times in worship. Remember, you are worshipping God. **Hebrews 10:25**

## 5. Serving

The pastor cannot do the work of the church alone. He needs others to help him. All members are an extension of the Pastoral ministry. There are many ways of helping, such as ushering, singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School Class, and holding an office in the church by being a ministry leader. Remember, you are serving Christ and not the pastor. God gives reward for your work not your idleness.

## 6. Giving

If Christians can be taught to live, surrendered, believing, obedient, and glorious lives the money problem of the Lord's work will be taken care of very easily. We, at Pleasant Hill practice, preach and teach that tithes and offerings are the only Biblical method to support financially the ministry of this church. Christian giving is a grace of God. Giving the Biblical way is a joyous part of our worship. One's giving grows as spiritual development and material prosperity takes place through obedience. God loves the person who is glad to give (a hilarious giver).

## II Corinthians 9:7

Tithing means giving one tenth of all income to Christ and His Church. The tithe belongs to God: “It is holy unto the Lord.”

**(Leviticus 27:30)**. We owe the tithe to the Lord. It is His!

Christians who study the Word of God realize that it is biblically obedient to render the tithe unto the Lord before giving an offering. The offering is “extra” that is given to say, “Lord, I thank you!” God does not bless us in our giving because of amounts, but according to our willingness to be obedient to His word. All believers are to tithe as regularly as their income is received.

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



### Baby Blessings/Christenings

The right to have your baby blessed/christened at the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church is a privilege that is also entirely a Pastoral function. Public blessings are reserved for married couples only. All others are done in the Pastor's Study. Godparents are asked to participate. Baby blessings are generally done at the end of 11:00 a.m. service.

### Baptisms

Baptisms are held monthly on the

2nd Sunday at 11:00 am. Please arrive at 10:00. We encourage you to invite family and friends to witness the celebration of your new life in Christ.

### Communion

Communion is held at 11am 1st Sundays.

### Weddings



either individual has been married before (except where the former spouse is deceased) it will be left to the Pastor's discretion as to whether or not he will perform said ceremony. He will make

A pre-marital counseling session is required for all prospective brides and grooms. This should take place 2 weeks to 1 month before the wedding ceremony.

In cases where

this determination on an individual basis using the Holy Writ as his guide. Wedding rehearsals and wedding ceremonies must start on time. There will be a fee of \$50.00 per ½ hour delay. Late fees must be paid before the ceremony will proceed.

Wedding parties are entirely responsible for decorating before and cleaning up church facilities after the wedding. The church custodian can be hired to clean up after the wedding for a fee of no less than \$50.00. Wedding parties are also entirely responsible for printing of programs, invitations, thank you notes, etc. Wedding parties are also entirely responsible for arranging and payment for musicians. Wedding parties should also pay careful attention so as to not destroy or damage church property with the use of candles, candle wax drippings, fire,

decorations, etc. A protective covering should be placed on the floor if you plan to use lit candles as part of the ceremony.

*Note: There is a \$100.00 fee for weddings in which neither party is a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. This fee is to be paid directly to the Pastor before the ceremony begins. All other policies set forth herein will apply. Pastor Garner does not charge a fee for couples who are members of the church. However, a love gift is appropriate and appreciated.*

### House Blessings

The Pastor will be more than happy to perform house blessings should his calendar permit.

### Illness

In case of illness, your family deacon and new members mentor member should be contacted immediately. Arrangements will be made for continued prayer and visitation.

### Funerals



The right to have a funeral at the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church is a privilege that is entirely a Pastoral function.

Funerals involving persons who are not members of the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church are left to the Pastor's discretion.

Should the family of the deceased choose to have someone

other than the Pastor administer the funeral rites, they should also choose to hold the service at the funeral home or some other location, unless extenuating circumstances are involved. Again, this will be left to the Pastor's discretion.

### Counseling

Times are filled with moments of crisis and conflict in which we need spiritual guidance. If and when that time arises, please contact the Pastor's Secretary and an initial counseling session will be scheduled.

### Financial Contributions

If you have questions or need information regarding your financial contributions, corrections, and / or statements. Please contact the church office and leave a message for Sis. Anna Janice-Matthews.

### Transportation

If you have need of transportation to or from any church service or function please contact the church office and leave your address, contact information, and service you wish to attend.

*Please direct all inquiries for any of the services mentioned herein to the Pastor's Secretary, at (337) 238-1779.*



# MINISTRIES

everyone can get involved

## MINISTRIES

### **AUDIO MINISTRY**

This ministry is responsible for operating the sound system during all services and events.

This ministry serves the congregation by providing high quality tape recordings that are available immediately following the worship services. The Audio Ministry also records the weekly broadcast tape for the local radio station.

### **BEAUTIFICATION MINISTRY**

The Pleasant Hill Baptist Church seeks in every way to promote Christ and the Spirit of excellence. For This reason, Pleasant Hill Adopted Nona Street, which is the main thoroughfare into the community where the Church is located. This ministry maintains the street adoption flower beds and works to promote cleanliness and beauty along the street.

### **CHERUB CHOIR**

This choir is for children ages 7 – 11. The focus of this choir is to sing simple songs that are fun and instructional as it relates to the Kingdom of God.

### **CULINARY MINISTRY**

This ministry is responsible for the planning, purchasing and preparation of all meals at the church.

### **DEACON FAMILY VISITATION MINISTRY**

The Deacons are appointed by the Pastor to handle the church finances, look after the building(s) and grounds, provide for proper facilities for worship, teaching, and edification of the body, look after the widows (and widowers) and orphans, and assist the pastor in a number of ways to enhance his spiritual oversight.

### **DEACONESS MINISTRY**

The Deaconess Ministry prepares Holy Communion for the first Sunday of each month and other services as scheduled. The Deaconesses also assist in helping families in need and during periods bereavement.

## **DRAMA MINISTRY**

This ministry performs skits and full-length dramas at various times throughout the year. These performances coincide with different holidays and events. This ministry, as do all ministries at Pleasant Hill, exhibits the spirit of excellence as it promotes the Gospel of Christ through drama.

## **DRILL TEAM, BRASS BAND AND DRUM CORPS**

This ministry performs various times throughout the year. These performances coincide with different holidays and events. This ministry, as do all ministries at Pleasant Hill, exhibits the spirit of excellence as it promotes the Gospel of Christ through precision drill.

## **EVENT DECORATING MINISTRY**

This ministry is responsible for decorating the room and tables for all events and the sanctuary for holidays.

## **HEALTH AND WELLNESS MINISTRY**

This ministry is designed to make the Church family aware of health issues. It also offers activities throughout the year to promote physical well-being. This ministry also oversees

a team of health professionals who administer aid during emergencies at the Church and Church activities.

## **HOSPITALITY MINISTRY**

This ministry greets members and visitors as they enter the sanctuary for worship each week. This ministry also helps to host special guests, making them feel special and appreciated.

## **INTERIOR DESIGN MINISTRY**

This ministry is responsible for long term decorating within the church, to include furnishings, window dressings and carpets and floors.

## **MEDIA MINISTRY**

The media ministry is responsible for operating the cameras and projection system. Their work includes providing streaming internet for all worship services and bible studies. They are also responsible for providing words to songs and scriptures during the worship services. They also produce DVDs for sale after each service.

**MEN OF VISION MINISTRY (ages 35 and above)**

The men of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church are united to tear Satan's kingdom down. They meet each Monday at 6:30 p.m. This ministry offers support for the unique role of men in the Church and community.

**MIME MINISTRY**

This ministry performs mime routines at various services throughout the year. These performances coincide with different holidays and events. This ministry, as do all ministries at Pleasant Hill, exhibits the spirit of excellence as it promotes the Gospel of Christ through Mime.

**NEW MEMBERS MINISTRY**

The New Member's Ministry welcomes all new members who join the church. The new member's ministry assists new members with appropriate paperwork, provides information about the church, provides follow-up welcome calls, assist with Baptism needs, and directs them to the other ministries they may have an interest in joining. The new member's ministry serves as a catalyst in speeding up new member's incorporation into the general church.

**PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY**

The Pastor's Support Ministry provides quality care for the Pastor, which will allow him to concentrate on the preparation and delivery of God's word. This ministry also provides tapes to our sick and shut in members and the community at large.

**PRAISE DANCE MINISTRY**

The Dance Ministry performs routines at various services throughout the year. These performances coincide with different holidays and events. This ministry, as do all ministries at Pleasant Hill, exhibits the spirit of excellence as it promotes the Gospel of Christ through Dance.

**PRAISE TEAM MINISTRY**

The Praise Team is responsible for engaging the congregation in praise and worship.

**PRISON MINISTRY**

The Prison Ministry advances the Kingdom of God by ministering to prisoners by proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. This ministry assists prisoners and their families in an effort to bring

about healing and reconciliation. The ministry assists prisoners in dealing with every day practical situations. The ministry impresses upon the local church the importance of the call, the charge and the mandate of the church to minister to those who are incarcerated.

## **SECURITY MINISTRY**

The Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Security ministry serves to implement plans and procedures for dealing with a whole range of security issues. Special emphasis is placed on keeping the Pastor as well as parishioners safe while participating in worship at the church and during church sponsored activities.

## **SENIOR CHOIR MINISTRY**

The Pleasant Hill Baptist Church Senior Choir ministers through inspirational singing. The Senior Choir ministry sets the atmosphere for the word of God to be preached and received by all who attend the worship experience. The Senior choir rehearses each Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. except on the Tuesday before the third Sunday of each month.

## **SENIOR CITIZENS MINISTRY**

This ministry works to meet the unique needs of the Senior Citizens of the church.

## **USHER BOARD MINISTRY**

Ushers are servants that are doorkeepers in the House of God and guard it all times during the service. They prepare the Church and see that it is in proper condition for the worship services.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY**

The Sunday School Ministry is designed to serve as a Christian Education School for both members and non-members. Sunday School starts at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday.

## **WEBSITE DESIGN MINISTRY**

The website design ministry specializes in all the graphic arts design needs of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Their responsibilities includes keeping the church website, iPhone application, and the Android phone application software updated. They also specialize in making flyers, tickets, programs, invitations and many other graphic arts products.

**WOMEN OF VIRTUE & EXCELLENCE MINISTRY**

Actively participates in the work of the church through prayer groups and Outreach to the women of Pleasant Hill and throughout the community.

**Youth Bible Study Ministry**

Youth Bible Study meets each Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. Lessons are designed to engage the youth towards knowing God and living Godly lives.

**YOUTH DEPARTMENT**

The Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Leesville's youth department is an active part of the church and community. The youth department includes all youth ministries: youth choir, youth ushers, cherub choir, drill team, praise dance ministry, mime ministry, youth cheerleaders and youth sports teams. The youth department meets each month on the Saturday before the third Sunday. The youth department participates in the Louisiana Baptist Youth Encampment Program. This program involves the youth with young people from all over the state in regional and state ministry competitions. The youth department also is

active in district, state and national denominational activities.

**YOUTH USHER MINISTRY**

Ushers are servants that are doorkeepers in the House of God and guard it all times during the service. They prepare the Church and see that it is in proper condition for the worship services. Youth ushers typically serve on 3rd Sundays and Annual Youth Day.

**REMEMBER**

**WHAT** YOU **DO**  
DOESN'T *DETERMINE*  
WHO YOU ARE;  
WHO YOU ARE  
**DETERMINES**  
WHAT YOU **DO**.

# JUST SUPPOSE

*Just suppose the Lord should begin to make people  
as sick as they claim to be on Sunday.*

*Just suppose the Lord should  
take away the child you  
used as an excuse for not being in worship Sunday.*

*Just suppose the Lord should  
make people as poor as  
they say they are, when they are  
asked to help finance His work.*

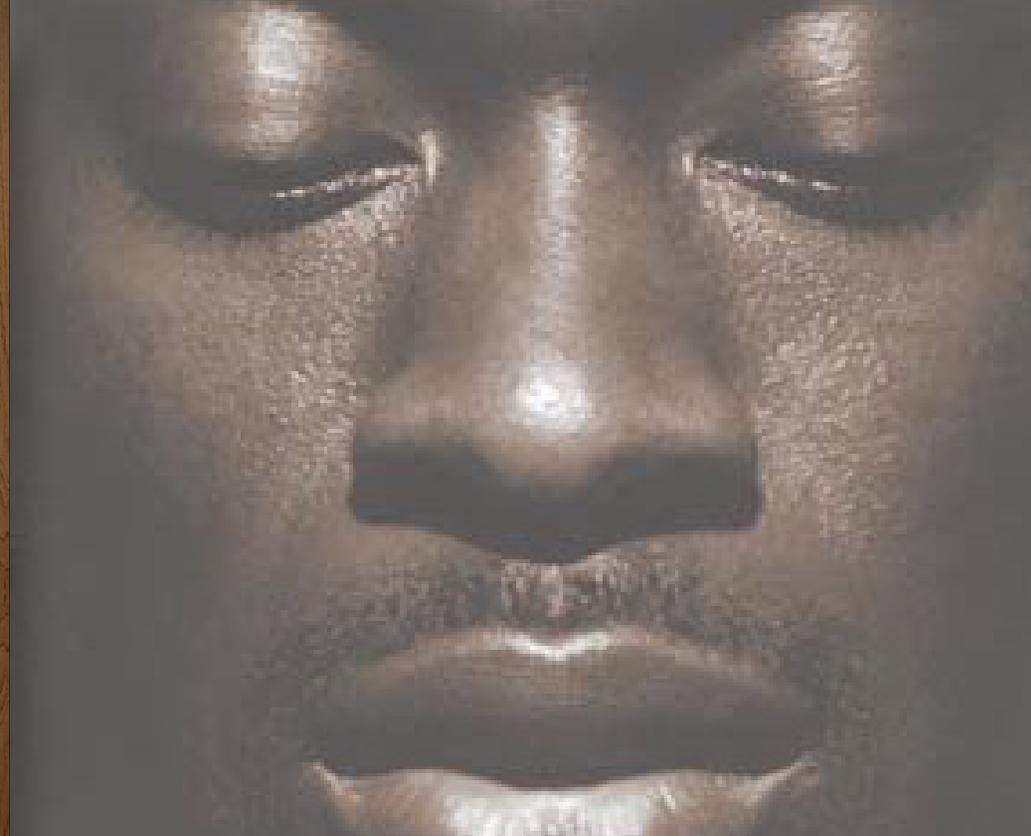
*Just suppose you had to live on ten times  
what you give the Lord each week.*

*Just suppose the Lord should strike all who lie about  
their giving, as he did Ananias and Sapphires.*

*Just suppose the Lord let some parents look  
into the future and see what their example,  
and lax control are doing for their children.*

*Just suppose you had no opportunity  
to make amends for these things.*

—Anonymous



## WHO AM I?

Many Christians refer to themselves  
as sinners saved by grace  
But are you really a sinner? Is that your scriptural identity?  
Not at all. God doesn't call you a sinner;  
He calls you a saint—a holy one.  
If you think of yourself as a sinner, guess what you'll do:  
you'll live like a sinner, you'll sin.

Why not identify yourself for what you really are:

**A SAINT WHO OCCASIONALLY SINS.**

# WHAT IS TRUE OF CHRIST IS TRUE OF YOU

Since you are a saint in Christ by God's calling, you share in Christ's inheritance. That which is true of Christ is now true of you, because you are in Christ. It's part of your identity.

The **I AM** list itemizes in first-person language who you really are in Christ. These are some of the scriptural traits which reflect who you became at your spiritual birth. You can't earn them or buy them. They are guaranteed to you by the Word of God, simply because you were born into God's holy nation by faith in Christ.

Because you are in Christ, every one of the traits on the I AM list is completely true of you and there is nothing you can do to make them more true. But you can make them more meaningful and productive in your life by simply choosing to believe what God has said about you.

Read the **I AM** list aloud to yourself once or twice a day for a week or two. Read it when you think Satan is trying to deceive you into believing you are a failure. The more you reaffirm who you are in Christ, the more your behavior will begin to reflect your true identity.

I am the salt of the earth (Matt. 5:13)

I am the light of the world (Matt 5:14)

I am a child of God (John 1:12)

I am part of the true vine, a channel of Christ's life (John 15:1,5)

I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)

I am chosen and appointed by Christ to bear His fruit (John 15:16)

I am a slave of righteousness (Romans 6:18)

I am enslaved to God (Romans 6:22)

I am a son of God; God is spiritually my father  
(Romans 8:14,15; Galatians 3:26; 4:6)

I am joint heir with Christ, sharing His  
inheritance with Him (Romans 8:17)

I am a temple- a dwelling place- of God. His Spirit  
and His life dwells in me (1 Cor. 3: 16; 6:19)

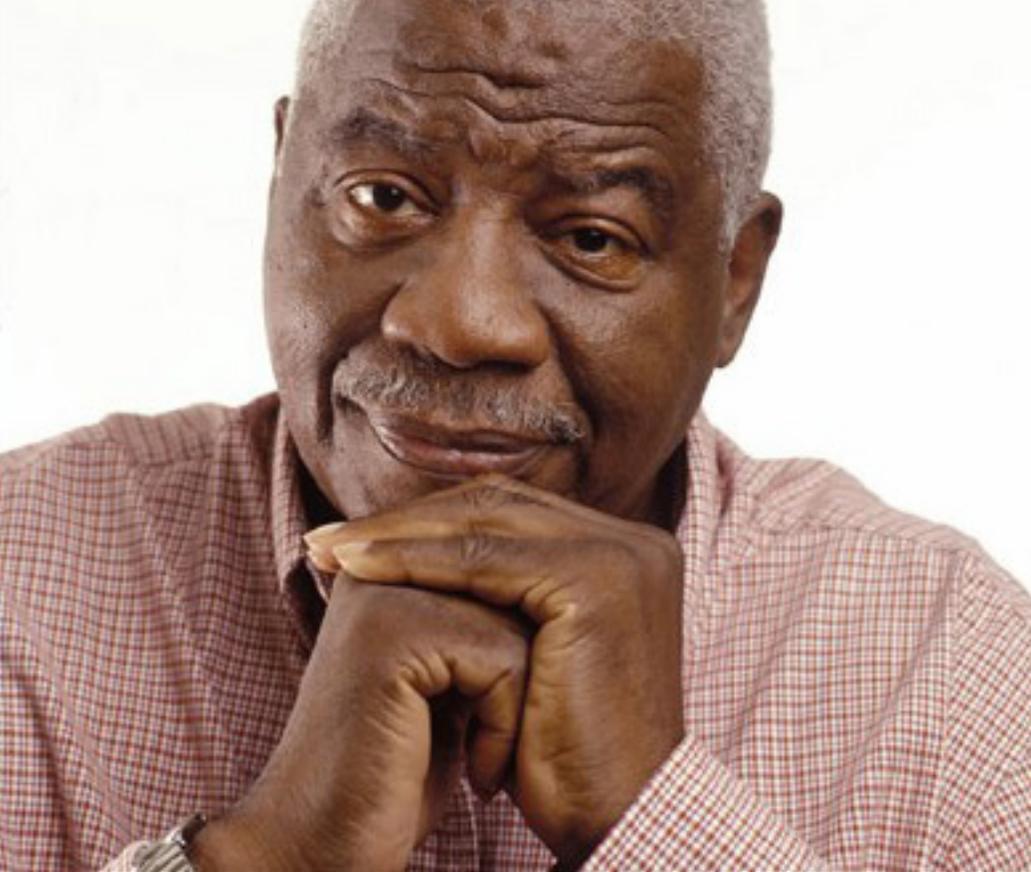
I am united to the Lord and am one spirit with  
Him the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:17)

I am a member of Christ's Body (1Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 5:30)

I am a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)  
 I am reconciled to God and am a minister of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18, 19)  
 I am a son of God and one in Christ (Galatians 4:6, 7)  
 I am heir of God since I am a son of God (Galatians 4:6,7)  
 I am a saint (Ephesians 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:2)  
 I am God's workmanship-His handiwork-born anew in Christ to do his work (Ephesians 2:10)  
 I am a fellow citizen with the rest of God's family (Ephesians 2:19)  
 I am a prisoner of Christ (Ephesians 3:1; 4:1)  
 I am righteous and holy (Ephesians 4:24)  
 I am a citizen of heaven, seated in heaven right now (Philippians 3:20; Ephesians 2:6)  
 I am hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3).  
 I am an expression of the life of Christ because He is my life (Colossians 3:4)  
 I am chosen of God, holy and dearly loved (Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4)  
 I am a son of light and not of darkness (1Thessalonians 5:5)  
 I am a holy partaker of a heavenly calling (Hebrews 3:1)

I am a partaker of Christ; I share in His life (Hebrews 3:14)  
 I am one of God's living stones, being built up in Christ as a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5)  
 I am a member of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, holy nation, a people for God's own possession (1 Peter 2:9, 10)  
 I am an alien and stranger to this world in which I temporarily live (1 Peter 2:11)  
 I am an enemy of the devil (Peter 2:11)  
 I am a child of God and I will resemble Christ when he returns (1 John 3:1, 2)  
 I am born of God, and the evil one-the devil-cannot touch me (1 John 5:18)  
 I am not the Great "I AM" (Exodus 3:14; John 8:24, 28, 58), but by the grace of God  
 I am what I am (1Corinthians 15:10)

*“Victory over the Darkness-Realizing the Power of Your Identity in Christ”—Neil Anderson*



SINCE I AM *in*  
**CHRIST**, by  
 the grace of God...

I have been justified-completely forgiven  
 and made righteous (Romans 5:1)

I died with Christ and died to the power of  
 sin's rule over my life (Romans 6:1-6)

I am free forever from condemnation (Romans 8:1)

I have been placed into Christ by God's doing (1 Corinthians 1:30)

I have received the Spirit of God into my life that I  
 might know the things freely given to me by God  
 (1 Corinthians 2:12)

I have been given the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16)

I have been bought with a price; I am not my own;  
 I belong to God (1 Corinthians 6: 19, 20)

I have been established, anointed and sealed by God in Christ,  
 and I have been given the Holy Spirit as a pledge guaranteeing  
 my inheritance to come (2 Corinthians 1:21; Ephesians 1:13, 14)

Since I have died, I no longer live for myself,  
 but for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15)

I have been made righteous (2 Corinthians 5:21)

I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I  
 who live, but Christ lives in me. The life am now  
 living is Christ's life (Galatians 2:20)

I have been blessed with every spiritual blessing (Ephesians 1:3)  
I was chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world to  
be holy and am without blame before him (Ephesians 1:4)  
I was predestined-determined by God- to be  
adopted as God's Son (Ephesians 1:5)  
I have been redeemed and forgiven, and I  
am a recipient of His lavish grace  
I have been made alive together with Christ (Ephesians 2:5)  
I have been raised up and seated with  
Christ in heaven (Ephesians 2:6)  
I have direct access to God through the Spirit (Ephesians 2:18)  
I may approach God with boldness, freedom  
and confidence (Ephesians 3:12)  
I have been rescued from the domain of Satan's rule and  
transferred to the kingdom of Christ (Colossians 1:13)  
I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins. The  
debt against me has been canceled (Colossians 1:14)  
Christ Himself is in me (Colossians 1:27)  
I am firmly rooted in Christ and am now  
being built in Him (Colossians 2:7)  
I have been spiritually circumcised. My old unregenerate

nature has been removed (Colossians 2:11)  
I have been made complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10)  
I have been buried, raised and made alive  
with Christ (Colossians 2:12, 13)  
I died with Christ and I have been raised up with Christ. My life is now  
hidden with Christ in God. Christ is now my life (Colossians 3:1-4)  
I have been given a spirit of power, love and  
self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7)  
I have been saved and set apart according to  
God's doing (2 Timothy 1:9: Titus 3:5)  
Because I am sanctified and am one with the Sanctifier,  
He is not ashamed to call me brother (Hebrews 2:11)  
I have the right to come boldly before the throne of God to  
find mercy and grace in time of need (Hebrews 4:16)  
I have been given exceedingly great and precious promises  
by God by which I am a partaker of God's divine nature  
(2 Peter 1:4)



# OUR HISTORY

WHERE GOD BLESSES HIS PEOPLE

PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

REV. JOSEPH GARNER

1858

PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
The church was organized on the 11th day of August, 1858, at Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, by the Rev. Joseph Garner, pastor. The first service was held on the 11th day of August, 1858, at Pleasant Hill, Tennessee. The church was organized on the 11th day of August, 1858, at Pleasant Hill, Tennessee, by the Rev. Joseph Garner, pastor. The first service was held on the 11th day of August, 1858, at Pleasant Hill, Tennessee.

## THE HISTORY

**PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST CHURCH**

We would like to pause and thank God, for the history of an organism that has weathered the storm for 115 years. We especially owe our gratitude to those pioneering Christians who had the courage and determination to keep the spiritual needs of their Christian belief a reality. Throughout the 115-year existence of the church, we have had only a few pastors to guide us along the way.

**Reverend C. Hubbard – 1901 to 1903**

**Reverend Henry Johnson – 1903 to 1906**

**Reverend W.C. McCraw – 1906 to 1911**

**Reverend C.N. McDade – 1912 to 1913**

**Reverend C.H. McDowell – 1913 to 1919**

**Reverend McCraw - 1919 to 1922**

**Reverend I.A. Carter – 1923 to 1925**

**Reverend P. Brown – 1926 to 1929**

**Reverend McCraw – 1930 to 1934**

**Reverend H.E. Patterson – 1934 to 1935**

**Reverend D.L. Carter – 1935 to 1971**

**Reverend M.W. Harrison – 1971 to 1992**

**Reverend J.L. Garner – 1992 to Present**

115 years ago, the late **Mr. Rose Ferguson** and a few laboring personnel came to the Leesville community from **Jasper, Texas** with the **Nona Mills Lumber Company**. The people were provided a home by Mr. Ferguson, who named the settlement the **Nona Mills Quarters**, which is the present site of the Vernon Parish School Board, East Leesville Elementary, Leesville Jr. High School, Leesville High School and Leesville High School Stadium.

These people were not only working for a living, but working for a life. They met in their homes and held church school and worship services. God provided, these **“Anyhow Christians”**, through Mr. Ferguson, with a plot of land, lumber and labor cost for a church building.

On September 1, 1899, God sanctioned the naming and dedication of the **Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, the first African-American church in Leesville**. From Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, other churches in Leesville were organized such as the New Willow Baptist Church in 1900, the Mt. Olive Baptist Church in 1912 and the St Paul Baptist Church in 1925. The location of Pleasant Hill was moved from the Nona Mills Quarters in 1911 to the site near the late brother Dan Mullen’s property, the present site of the

Leesville Temple Lodge. Later, a move was made into the U.S.O. building that had been converted into a church, located at the corner of Simpson and Nona Street. On February 12, 1958, the location of the church and its contents was destroyed by fire.

After our church burned, there was no place for worship, but God always provides a way for His children doesn’t he. **Mr. A. Roy Rushen**, then principal of Vernon High School, offered the use of the school for church services. The site at 1100 Nona Street was built in 1959 under the leadership of the late **Reverend D.L. Carter**, and less than 15 months after the church had burned the members were able to enter the new location. Reverend Carter was a good shepherd for his sheep and led us in the way of the Lord for 35 years. Later, his health failed him and he recommended a new pastor, **Reverend Monroe W.. Harrison**, in 1971. Reverend Harrison was a deacon of the church and became an ordained minister in September of 1957. He preached his first sermon as full time pastor on February 7, 1971. Throughout his 22 years as pastor of Pleasant Hill, Reverend Harrison exemplified exceptional abilities as a shepherd of the Christian flock. Because of his great pastoral ability, Reverend Harrison was commonly referred to as **“Leesville’s Pastor”**.

While under the leadership of Reverend Harrison, the church moved to its current location at 1210 M.W. Harrison Street. M.W. Harrison Street was formerly known as Market Street, but was renamed in honor of Reverend Harrison on May 12, 1994. The church continued to grow spiritually, financially and numerically and this was one of the primary reasons for the relocation to our present site.

On August 9, 1992, Reverend Harrison officially offered his resignation to the officers and members. After much prayer, the Lord had placed on his heart, in a vision through the Holy Spirit to have **Reverend Joseph L. Garner** succeed him as pastor. The motion was offered and seconded and passed unanimously. The installation service for pastor-elect Garner was held on September 3, 1992 with Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr., pastor of The Greater St. Stephen Full Gospel Baptist Church of New Orleans, LA conducting the service.

Under the leadership of Pastor Garner, more than 2,666 new members have been added to the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church family and of that number, more than 872 have been candidates for baptism.

We presently have three choirs (Cherub, Youth and Adult), two usher Boards (Senior and Junior), Deacon and Deaconess Ministries,

Men of Vision Ministry, Women's Missionary Society, Ladies on the Move, a thriving Sunday school. Under the leadership of Pastor Garner, we have instituted several new ministries such as: a Praise team, Prison Ministry, Pastoral Support Ministry, Deacon Family Visitation Ministry, New Member Ministry, Senior Care Ministry, Hospitality Ministry, Media Ministry, a Praise Dance Ministry, Drill Team Ministry, Mime Ministry, Step Team, Health & Wellness Ministry and Street Beautification Ministry, Families of Deployed Service Members Support Ministry, Drama Ministry, DIVA Ministry, Church Security Ministry, and a Married Couples Ministry. We have also added to the annual program of the church an Annual Men's Outreach, Annual Women's Outreach, Annual New Members Banquet, Annual Women's Conference, Annual Youth Week, Annual Family Day Weekend and the Annual Bayou Gospel Classic. Each year our Youth Drill Team and Praise Dancers march in the Southern University Homecoming Parade where they have consistently received first and second place awards. They also march in the Grambling State University Homecoming Parade and other events. In keeping with the times, our church is also listed on the World Wide Web with a site designed, and constructed by Pastor Garner. Our church services can also be heard on 88.1 FM

on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. and Sundays at 5:00 p.m. We are now streaming live on the World Wide Web all across the globe.

Truly, the lord has blessed and continues to bless the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. We are a Time-Tested, God-Ordained, Holy Spirit-Led Ministry for the New Millennium. **We are Real People, Striving to Serve a Real God, by ministering to the needs of a Real World. We are the church where God blesses his people.**

