



**New Member Course
Destiny Steps**

**Pastor Vernon Walker Jr., Sr. Pastor
Lady Yolonda Walker, Elect Lady**

NDCC New Member's Course

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Greetings,

We are all excited that you have chosen to become a member of the family of Christ as well as New Destiny Center Church. As a child of God, you have been granted the same rights, advantages, privileges and protections He provides for all that belong to Him.

New Destiny Center Church is a church where reaching your God given Destiny is the focus. (Jeremiah 29:11) You are accepted for who you are, forgiven of what you have done, loved because of Christ and now on a launching pad to your Destiny.

Our heartfelt desire is for the purpose and plan of God to be fulfilled in you as we walk this path together.

We love you and look forward to seeing God's greatness reached in your life.

Be Blessed!

Pastor Vernon and Lady Yolonda Walker

Introduction

This booklet and course is an introduction to New Destiny Center Church. There are various ministries which will allow you to fulfill God's purpose for your life in Christian service. After completion of this course and prayerful guidance from God we know that you will successfully begin to carry out your purpose in one of these ministries.

Expectations of Membership:

Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and a privilege.

It is also a commitment to participate in Christ's mission.

A faithful member bears witness to God's love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ's Church.

Such involvement includes:

- proclaiming the good news in word and deed
- taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation
- lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support
- studying Scripture and the issues of Christian faith and life
- supporting the ministry of the church through the giving of money, time, and talents
- demonstrating a new quality of life within and throughout the church
- responding to God's activity in the world through service to others
- living responsibly in personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships
- working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment
- participating in the governing responsibilities of the church
- reviewing and evaluating regularly, the integrity of one's membership.

-- Ask yourself- How can you be engaged in these?

What we promise: As a ministry/church to you.

The congregation will support you, both naturally and spiritually. Your member liaison will engage with you and encourage you as you grow spiritually. They will follow up on your pastoral care needs and invitations to fellowship.

The Birth of New Destiny Center

On March 29th, 2016, New Destiny Center Church was incorporated by Pastor Vernon Walker Jr., through the leading of the Holy Spirit and the elevating words of Dr. Sean R. Jarrett, his spiritual father.

New Destiny Center has been a haven for those who are in pursuit of the Kingdom of God here in this present age. Men, women, and children have been healed, given their lives back to Christ and found a new lease on life through the New Destiny Center Teaching.

Although this ministry began small with 3 individuals in the living room of Pastor and Lady Walker's home its reach far surpasses a specific location, it has expanded exponentially. People are reached through various outlets including social media.

Pastor Walker stands on the two principles taught by the late Bishop Ben Gilbert.

1. Small Beginnings, Slow Growth and Supernatural Breakthroughs and 2. Never focus on Quantity but Quality. Pastor and Lady Walker believe that God is sending people of Quality to New Destiny Center who will focus on bringing the Kingdom of God to earth.

Pastor's Biography

Pastor Vernon Walker Jr is a native Detroiter, who loves God, His family, and God's people.

Pastor Walker is a loving and dedicated husband to his dedicated wife, Yolonda, who works along with him in ministry. He is the father of their 4 children, Alexander, Natasha, Jocelyn and Bethany and their grandchildren, Maurice, Kristen, Alexander Jr., Nathaniel and Wade Jr.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from William Tyndale College.

He served as Lead Elder and trainer, teaching Elder's, Minister's and Missionary's to become sons and daughters through servanthood under the leadership of Dr. Sean and Lady Angela Jarrett of the Ekklesia Global Ministries C.O.G.I.C. He also sat as the Vice President of the Board of Directors for this same ministry for 9 1/2 years. As well as the Vice President of P.L.A.Y. (Pontiac League of Athletic Youth), a non-profit organization to empower youth through sports activities for 3 years.

Pastor Walker currently sits as President and founder of TLC Consulting, and co-owner, of the Wilcox Group, LLC, where lives are being changed through real estate ownership and financial literacy.

Since his call to ministry over 24 years ago, his powerful teaching and preaching of God's word has helped to transform thousands of lives and brought countless souls to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Walker's ministry focuses on Destiny and helping individuals become everything God has called them to become. To broaden this endeavor, he founded the New Destiny Center Church in 2016 to reach people through the word, worship, and aiding them in discovering purpose. He also teaches a bi-weekly bible study to men who have short term incarceration at Detroit Rescue Mission as well as partnering with Love Detroit, in boots on the ground outreach initiatives.

Our Mission/Vision

Mission- Reaching the World for Christ by helping individuals realize and pursue their God ordained Destiny.

- **Vision:** We S.E.L.L.! We Serve, Equip, Love and Lead
 - Serving God and His People
 - Equipping others with Truth and Knowledge
 - Loving Unconditionally
 - Leading them to Destiny

Ministry Objectives: (Destiny Objectives)

1. To Serve God's people by ministering to the whole man-woman-child.
2. To provide an atmosphere of worship whereby individuals will experience the life changing presence of God: fostering positive change and continued growth.
3. To stimulate an individual's inner desire for a greater relationship with God by unveiling the truth of who they are as presented in the word of God.
4. To communicate and demonstrate the love of God by continually evaluating the needs of our community by developing and implementing strategic programs to meet those needs.
5. To equip God's select leaders with a spiritual and practical education that will enable them to fulfill God's mission for their lives.
6. To provide global outreach initiatives where we can demonstrate the love and ability of God through our strategic missions and missionary partnerships.
7. To provide spiritual and culturally relevant platforms for today's youth to grow and thrive empowered by a keen understanding of their importance and purpose in God.

4 Pillars of NDCC—The 4 building blocks this ministry stands on.

What We Stand On...

1. Word: *We stand on the Word of God.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **John 1:1**

2. Worship: *Worship is not just at the beginning of service, but it leads us.*

God is a Spirit; and they that Worship Him must Worship Him in spirit and in truth. **John 4:24**

3. People: *God uses people to accomplish his work here on earth. We are important to Him and each other.*

For thou art a holy People unto the Lord thy God: The Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special People unto himself, above all People that are upon the face of the earth. **Deuteronomy 7:6**

4. Purpose: *We were created to accomplish God's purposes.*

And we know that all things work together for the good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His Purpose. **Romans 8:28**

7 Distinctives— The 7 Ministry Focus areas that make us different (distinct) from any other ministry. **What We Stand For.**

1. Destiny Fulfillment - For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **Jeremiah 29:11**

The greatest fulfillment only comes when we are actively walking in our God given Destiny.

2. Purpose Driven — I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. **Job 42:2**

We allow the Purpose of God to Drive us forward, beyond our natural limitations.

3. Worship Centered –God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth. **John 4:24**

Worship is not just a form or action, but it is a lifestyle that leads us into greater relationship with God.

4. Mission Minded- He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. **Mark 16:15**

We keep the Mission of God at the forefront of our minds and every decision is made from that perspective.

5. Family Focused- There above it stood the LORD, and he said: “I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. **Genesis 28:13-14**

We focus on building strong individuals, men, women and children, which then builds strong families.

6. Building Disciples- Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age. **Matthew 28:19-20**

Teaching and Training individuals in the foundations of the word to teach and train others.

7. Kingdom Advancement- But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **Matthew 6:33**

We do all we do to advance the KINGDOM of God.

Lesson 1 The Holy Trinity

Facts for Christians

The God that we serve exist in three persons.

(1) God the Father, (2) God The Son, and (3) God the Holy Spirit. These three as one make up the Holy Trinity. (Genesis 1:26, 11:7, Isaiah 48:16, Luke 1:35).

All Christians must know these basic facts regarding each of them.

God the Father

- God is the creator of all things. (Genesis 1-2:1-3) In six days God created the Heaven and the earth. He created all living creatures and provided all that every creature would need to survive.
- All Christians must believe that God is real. (Hebrews 11:6) God is not the result of a vivid imagination. He is real and without faith in Him we are nothing. It is God who sustains us in all things at all times.
- God is a personal being. (Jeremiah 29:13) God is not an inanimate object. He is not an it, but rather a personal being. When we search for Him with our whole heart we will find Him. We acknowledge His person with such titles as Father, Shepherd, Friend, and Counselor to name a few.
- God is a spiritual being. (Numbers 23:19, John 4:24) God is not a human being. He is a spirit. And if we are to have true communication with Him it must be spiritual. Humans too are spiritual beings. The flesh is only used to house our spirits for existence here on earth. Acceptance of this fact allows believers to both hear from and speak to God.
- Jehovah is the only God. (Isaiah 44:6, I Corinthians 8:4-6, I Timothy 2:5) The God that we serve, Jehovah, is the Only True and Living God. There is no other God, end of story. Some serve and worship the earth, moon, or sun. Others worship objects made by man. Christians serve the God that created the earth, moon, sun. We worship the God that created the man that made the object.
- God hates sin. (Isaiah 59:2, Amos 5:21-23, Romans 6:23) God hates sin because of its result on us, destruction, and death. But because of His love for us God provided a way of deliverance from sin for us, Jesus.

- God loves humans. (John 3:16) While God does indeed hate sin, he loves humans that commit sin. He loves us so that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to suffer and die for our sins thereby granting us eternal life.
- God is omniscient. (Psalm 139:12, Isaiah 40:13-14, Luke 12:7, John 2:24-25) Nothing is hidden from God. He has infinite knowledge, awareness, and wisdom. He knows the inner most thoughts of humans. God is able to search our hearts and minds and knows the number of hairs on our heads.
- God is omnipresent. (I Kings 8:27, Jeremiah 23:24, Psalm 139:7-10, Hebrews 13:5) God is everywhere at all times. There are no hiding places from God. There is no place where anyone can escape the presence of God.
- God is omnipotent. (Job 9:19, Isaiah 40:28, Hebrews 1:3, Revelation 19:6) There is none as powerful as God. He is the Almighty.

Review of God the Father:

1. What does God hate? (Isaiah 59:2, Amos 5:21-23) _____.
2. God is everywhere at all times. (I Kings 8:27, Jeremiah 23:24, Psalm 139:7-10) This is called? _____.
3. God exist in three persons. Who are they? _____
_____.
4. What did God create? (Genesis 1:1-2:1 3) _____.
5. God has all power. What is this called? (Job 9:19, Isaiah 40:28, Hebrews 1:3, Revelation 19:6) _____.
6. How did God display His love for the world? (John 3:16) _____.
7. What is God? (Numbers 23:19, John 4:24) _____.
8. All Christians must believe that God is _____ (Hebrews 11:6).

**All Christians must know these
basic facts regarding the Son of God:**

God the Son

- Jesus was there in the beginning. (Genesis 1:26, 11:7, Isaiah 48:16, John 1:1-5). Jesus has always existed. Jesus was present with God before the beginning. He worked with God to create everything that was created.
- Jesus was foretold of in Old Testament scripture. (Isaiah 7:10-15, Micah 5:2-5) God in His infinite wisdom knew that His people needed a savior. Sin held His people captives and He had to provide a way of escape from sin and a bridge to Himself. The foretelling of the coming messiah provided hope and encouragement for His people.
- Jesus was sent by God. (John 3:16) God, because of His love for human beings, sent His Son to serve as the ultimate sacrifice to cleanse our sins. God sent His Very Best to suffer and die in our place so all that believe in Jesus and accept Him as Lord and Savior would receive eternal life.
- Jesus was born of a woman. (Luke 2:1-7) Jesus entered this earth, in His human form, just as every man has since Eve gave birth to Cain, He was born of a woman. Mary gave birth to Jesus in a barn and used an animal feeding trough for His bed.
- Jesus was an example for all Christians. (Luke 2:49-52, Matthew 3:13-17, 4:1-11, Mark 6:30-43, Luke 23:34, John 19:26-27) Jesus was obedient to His parents, baptized, resisted temptation from Satan, had compassion for others, made provisions for them, loved His enemies, and cared for His family. These are just a few areas where we find Jesus setting the example. A search of the scripture will reveal Jesus setting the example or teaching the proper manner to live as Christians.
- Jesus died. (Matthew 27:45-56, Luke 23:44-49, John 19:28-30) Jesus died. He did not faint. He died. He did not lapse into a coma. He died. There is no refuting this fact. Everyone, on the day of His death, both enemies and loved ones all agreed that Jesus died.
- Jesus was buried. (Matthew 27:57-60, Mark 15:42-47, Luke 23:50-56, John 19:38-42) After Jesus died His body was taken by Joseph of Arimathea and placed in a tomb that Joseph had purchased for himself. A stone was placed across the opening of the tomb and Pilate sent soldiers to guard the tomb.

- Jesus was resurrected. (Matthew 28: 1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-2, John 20:1-10) Death nor the grave had the power to hold Jesus captive. He overcame them both for our sake.
- Jesus ascended to Heaven. (Act 1:4-11) Jesus returned to His Father and now after having saved us intercedes on our behalf to God.

Review of Jesus:

1. Jesus did not die. True or False
2. Jesus never left Heaven. True or False
3. Jesus died for the sins of the world. True or False
4. The Old Testament does not mention Jesus. True or False
5. Jesus is the Son of God. True or False
6. Jesus was baptized. True or False
7. Jesus never obeyed Joseph and Mary. True or False
8. Jesus is now in Heaven. True or False
9. Jesus did not resist temptation. True or False
10. Jesus was resurrected. True or False

**All Christians must know these
basic facts about the:**

Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit was there in the beginning. (Genesis 1:26, 11:7, Isaiah 48:16) The Holy Spirit was present with God the Father and Jesus The Son before the beginning.
- The Holy Spirit is personal, not impersonal. (John 16:17, 15:26, 16:7-8) The Spirit is revealed as Him not It. The Holy Spirit is the direct agent between heaven and earth in this gospel age.
- The Holy Spirit regenerates. (II Corinthians 3:6, Romans 8:11) The Holy Spirit converts or reforms us, believers, completely.
- The Holy Spirit teaches. (John 14:26, 16:12-14) When we study the word of God, we must ask for the aide of the Holy Spirit to teach us the information that God desires we have knowledge of.
- The Holy Spirit guides. (Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:16, 18) In order to live a successful Christian life all Christians must rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He leads believers in all truths. He will never lead us in the wrong direction or in any way that is contrary to God.
- The Holy Spirit Convicts believers of sin. (John 16:5-11) The Holy Spirit is here to show all the truth about sin. That it is a destructive force, contrary to God and His Will and that it, if not forgiven, leads to death.
- The Holy Spirit gives inspiration. (II Timothy 3:16, II peter 1:21) The Holy Spirit gives insight and inspiration to all believers.
- The Holy Spirit provides comfort. (John 14:16, Acts 9:31) The Holy Spirit comforts believers in restless times. There are times in the life of a believer when the circumstances of life seem unbearable. God in His infinite wisdom has sent the Holy Spirit to comfort believers at such times.
- The Holy Spirit is a gift from God. (John 14:15-26, Acts 2:1-4) God has sent the Holy Spirit to believers as a gift. He expects His children to make use of all that He provides.

- The Holy Spirit is a helper to believers. (Romans 8:26) God knows that believers cannot survive in this hostile world without someone helping them. His Holy Spirit helps believers navigate the sometimes-harsh environment of this world.

Review of The Holy Spirit:

1. The Holy Spirit provides _____ (John 14:16) for believers?
2. The Holy Spirit is a _____ (John 14:15-26) from God?
3. The Holy Spirit _____ (John 16:5-11) believers of sin.
4. The Holy Spirit is a _____ (Romans 8:14) to believers.
5. When believers need help, they can call on (Romans 8:26) _____.
6. The Holy Spirit _____ (II Corinthians 3:6) all believers.
7. God the Father, Son and _____ (Genesis 1:26, 11:7) were there in the beginning.
8. The Holy Spirit teaches believers. True or False
9. The Holy Spirit is impersonal. True or False

Lesson 2 Salvation

All Christians must know these basic facts about:

Salvation

Salvation is the transformation of a person's individual nature and relationship with God as a result of repentance and faith in the atoning death of Jesus Christ on the cross. All humanity stands in need of salvation which is only possible through faith in Christ Jesus. Believers are saved by grace through faith for good works (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Because of Adam's "Fall," (Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-11) all humans require a plan of salvation. God's word assures all that accept Christ as Lord and Savior that salvation belongs to them (I John 5:10-13) and that they are saved (John 6:37).

Scriptures regarding salvation:

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 Matthew 1:21

Matthew 11:28-30 Matthew 18:14

Mark 16:15-16

Humans are unable to save themselves. God provided a means of salvation for the world and all credit belongs to God (Ephesians 2:8-9).

God provides the following through Salvation:

- *Access to God.* (Romans 5:1-2, Ephesians 2:13) Before Jesus suffered and died in our place for our sins individuals only had access to God through the high priest. But because Christ is salvation for believers all believers have access to God through Christ Jesus. There is no need to go through another human being to have access to God.
- *Adoption into God's family.* (John 1:12, Romans 8:22-24, Galatians 4:4-7) Through salvation God has adopted and accepted believers as His children. Because of salvation believers are able to see God as their Father.
- *Forgiveness of sin.* (Psalm 32:1-2, Matthew 26:28, Acts 5:30-31) All human beings commit sin. An offering to God must be rendered by the sinner to receive forgiveness. Jesus Christ is The Offering to God for all believers. Salvation blots out the sinful deeds of believers and saves us from sin which, if not forgiven leads to eternal damnation.

- *Peace with God.* (Ephesians 2:13-17, Isaiah 53:3, John 16: 33) Salvation removes the hostility that exists between humans and God and replaces hostility with peace. Without salvation there will always be turmoil between humans and God.
- *A New Life.* (II Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:4, Galatians 6:14) Without salvation humans remain in the adamic state, the nature of Adam. That state or nature causes humans to satisfy their flesh while neglecting their souls. Salvation begins with a spiritual rebirth that causes believers to live spiritually as opposed to carnally.
- *Deliverance from the power of sin.* (Romans 6:14, 7:21-25, 8:2-4, Galatians 1:3-5) Sin does not have a hold on believers because God has granted believers salvation. Without salvation humans are slaves to sin. Once salvation is received, the believer is no longer a prisoner to sin.

The Conversion Experience

To be saved or receive salvation, a conversion, or turn must take place.

For that conversion to take place a person must trust in God as a child has trust in his or her parents (Matthew 18:3). Humans must turn to God from sin (Acts 14:15, I Thessalonians 1:8-9). There are three steps in this process. While they are listed here in sequence they may also occur simultaneously.

1. **Conviction** is the state humans find themselves in when they acknowledge their sinful condition. It is a remorseful condition (Acts 2:36-37). Once this condition is acknowledged the person must then confess their sins (Acts 19:18).
2. **Repentance** is the second step in the conversion process (Mark 1:15, Luke 5:32). Repentance is an essential element in the salvation experience. At this point a person not only acknowledges his or her sinful state, but also realizes that turning to God is the only way out of this sinful state. When a person repents it causes Heaven to rejoice (Luke 15:7). Jesus instructed His disciples to preach repentance (Luke 24:47).
3. **Faith** is the final step in the conversion experience. Faith is simply trust in God for, and in all things (Hebrews 11:1). A person must trust that Jesus can save him or her (John 3:16). A person must trust that God can and will supply his or her needs (Philippians 4:19). The only means of pleasing God is by trusting Him (Hebrews 11:6).

All Believers Must Be Born Again

Jesus tells us that the only way an individual will see the Kingdom of God is to be born again (John 3:3). This rebirth is spiritual and must take place to be reborn. The following is a list of scriptures regarding rebirth and why it is needed. The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 KJV)

If a person is not born again, sin will lead to his or her death. Death is separation from God forever.

That if 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. (Romans 10:9-10) KJV

Rebirth involves publicly confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and belief in God and His ability to save in the heart.

But that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost. (Titus 3:4-5 KJV)

A human's works cannot save them, Only God has that power.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved. (Romans 10:13 KJV)

God promised that he would save all that called upon Him.

If you have not allowed Jesus Christ to be your personal Savior pray earnestly the following prayer:

Dear God. I know that I have sinned by breaking your laws and I ask forgiveness. I believe that Jesus died for my sins. I want to be born again, and receive new life in Him. I will follow Jesus as my Lord and obey Him in all that I do. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Review of Salvation:

1. Believers can go to Heaven without being saved. True or False
2. Humans have the ability to save themselves. True or False
3. Because of salvation believers are forgiven of sins. True or False
4. Because of salvation believers have peace with God True or False
5. God saves all who call upon Him. True or False
6. What are the three steps in the conversion experience?
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
7. What is the change in the life of a believer (II Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:4)
_____.
8. The wages of sin is (Romans 6:23) _____.
9. Salvation delivers believers from the _____ (Romans 6:14).
10. Repentance is the _____ step in the conversion experience.

Lesson 3 God's Word

Holy Bible

Believers must know these basic facts about the Bible:

"Bible" derives from the Greek term "books" and refers to the Old and New Testaments. God's Holy Scriptures, the Holy Bible, was written by men divinely inspired by God and its record's God's revelation of Himself to humans. It has God, the Holy Spirit for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without mixture of error for its matter. The Bible above all talks about God and His relationship to the world. The Bible is a rule or standard of authority for Christians.

The Bible is divided into two parts: The Old Testament which was primarily written in Hebrew, with some portions of Ezra-Nehemiah and Daniel in Aramaic, consist of thirty-nine books. The New Testament which was written in Greek, consists of twenty-seven books. Combined, there are sixty-six books in the entire Bible.

These are the books of the Bible:

Old Testament

5 Books of The Law (Pentateuch)

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

The 12 Books of History

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
I Samuel
II Samuel
I King
II Kings
I Chronicles
II Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

New Testament

The Four Gospels

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

1 Book of History

Acts

The 21 Letters

Romans
I Corinthians & II Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians
I Thessalonians & II Thessalonians
I Timothy, II Timothy & Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James, I Peter, II Peter
I John, II John, III John & Jude

5 Books of Poetry

Job
Psalm
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

1 Book of Prophecy

Revelation

17 Books of Prophecy

Major Prophets:

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentation
Ezekiel
Daniel

Minor Prophets:

Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

The Bible:

Listed here are only a few subjects that are revealed in the Bible and they only scratch the surface of what God wants to reveal to His children through the study of His word.

- Is life to believers (Deuteronomy 8:3)
- Enlightens believers (Psalm 119:103-105)
- Is knowledge and power to believers (Matthew 22:29)
- Offers comfort to believers (Romans 15:4)
- Tells believers that God loved them first (I John 4:19)
- List the Commandments of God (Exodus 20)
- List the greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:41-46, Mark 12:28-31)
- Inform believers of the fact that God is the Shepherd to His people (Psalm 23)
- Tells believers of the power of faith (Matthew 21:18-22)
- Tells Believers of the power of God over all things (Mark 4:35-41)

- Tells believers of the power of prayer and praise (Acts 16:23-26)
- Tells believers that all are sinners (Romans 3:23)
- Tells believers that they are free from sin (Romans 6:12-14)
- Tells believers that they must act on what they hear in or from the Word of God (James 1:22-25)
- Tells believers that their faith is displayed in their actions (James 2:14)
- Tells believers that Jesus will return (I Thessalonians 4:16)

Review of The Holy Bible:

1. The Bible is divided into two parts, they are the _____ and _____.
2. How many books make up the Old Testament?
_____.
3. How many books are there total in the Bible? _____.
4. Who is the author of the Bible? _____.
5. The Bible tells believers that their _____ is displayed in their actions? (James 2:14)
6. The Bible does not tell believers that Jesus will return. (I Thessalonians 4:16)
True or False
7. The Bible tells believers that there is power in their praise. (Acts 16:23-26)
True or False
8. The Bible tells believers that they loved God first. (I John 4:19)
True or False
9. The Bible tells believers that they can never be free from sin. (Romans 6:12-14) True or False
10. God is the Shepherd of His people. True or False

Lesson 4 Prayer

Prayer is the means of communication between God and believers. It is the believer's greatest weapon. It is used to both talk too and hear from God. When properly used it allows the believer to speak intimately with God and strengthens the relationship between believers and God.

Prayer is:

- Commanded by God (Luke 18:1) Believers must be obedient to God in all things that He has commanded them to do. Believers must always pray and never lose hope.
- The means by which believers do great things (James 5:16) Prayer turns the request of believers into reality. Through prayer the believer can make a difference in his or her life and the lives of others that he or she prays for.
- Taught by Christ (Matthew 6:5-15) Believers must pray in a manner that is consistent with what Christ teaches and it must be done daily.
- Must be done in the name of Jesus (John 14:13) Believers must make all request to the Father in the name of Jesus.
- Needed in critical moments (Matthew 26:36-42, Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:39-46) Jesus went in prayer to God the night before His death. At the most crucial moment of His life the example Christ displays to believers is to take your troubles to God in prayer.
- Is sometimes public (John 11:41-42) Jesus tells believers to go into their closet to pray both in private and public (Matthew 6:6).

How Should Believers Prayer? (ACTS Model)

The Lord's Prayer is a basic and very important pattern as Jesus taught us to pray when the disciples asked. Given by Jesus in Matthew 6:9-14 ("This is how you should pray," He said), it is considered an outline of an individual Christian's relationship with God and other people.

Prayers must begin with respect and admiration to God or **Adoration**; Giving God praise and honor for who he is as Lord over all. Address God as "Our Father" (Matthew 6:9-10). Some other titles are: Dear Heavenly Father, Gracious Father in Heaven, Our Loving Father, Dear God, to name a few.

adoration is important for two reasons -

- Adoring God reminds us of **who He is**
- Worshipping God reminds us of who it is that loves and cares for **us**.

Adoration example

"Father, you are completely holy and so breathtakingly beautiful. I fall at your feet in adoration".

Next, we **Confession** our sins to Him. (Matthew 9:11-12) As we adore the living God, we become aware of our own frailty and sin. We realize that we have not lived as could have done. We have let others down, ourselves down, and mostly importantly, we have let God down. In confession we tell God about these things and ask for His forgiveness and restoration.

Confession example

"Lord, you ask us to love our neighbor as ourselves. The truth is I have failed to love others and I've lost sight of how much you value me. Please forgive me".

The third step in prayer is **Thanksgiving**. In adoration, our focus is on God - who He is, and our worship of Him. In thanksgiving, our focus is on what he has done - for us, for others, or throughout history. If we have just confessed our sins to our Father and received His forgiveness, then thanksgiving will be a very natural thing to do.

Thanksgiving example

"Thank you so much that your Son gave His life so that I can walk in freedom. My heart is deeply grateful for everything that you do for me".

The Final step in the ACTS Model prayer is **Supplication** and/or Intercession. The Apostle Paul encourages believers to offer prayers of supplication to God: - *"do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God"*. (Phil 4:6, ESV)

Supplication is requesting God to do something, either for yourself or on behalf of somebody else. So here is an example of **supplication** for yourself: -

Supplication example

"I ask for your strength to fill my being so that I will always live in your grace and love."

When we pray for others, we call this intercession. Here's an example of supplication, which is also an intercessory prayer: -

Supplication example (*intercession*)

"Lord, I offer you all those in a position of power in our community. I pray for the leaders of our town, and the leaders of the church here. May you give them wisdom as they make decisions and care for the people in this neighborhood".

Read more: http://www.living-prayers.com/topics/acts_prayer_model.html#ixzz4gbkQ1eW

How Should Believers End Prayer?

Prayer to God should always come to a close "In the name of Jesus." Believers must make request in Jesus' name because God has given Christ authority.

"Amen," should end every prayer of believers. Amen is the transliteration of the Hebrew word signifying something as certain, sure and valid, truthful and faithful. It is sometimes translated, "so be it."

PRAYER MODEL

A	C	T	S
Adoration/Praise	Confession	Thanksgiving	Supplication
Who God is; His Character "God"	Our Sin; Personal/Corporate "Us"	What God has done/is doing. "His Ministry to Us"	A dialogue; placing our will in submission to His Will for His Glory "Our Ministry for Him"
Creator King Savior Holy Pure Faithful Trustworthy Good/Kind Patient Loving Just Merciful Compassionate Omnipresent Omniscient Forgiving Grace Prince of Peace Counselor Mighty/Great Omnipotent Name[s]	Idolatry Lust/Covetousness Power Prestige Pride Arrogance Vengeance Hate Murder Stealing Ignorance Hardness of heart Priorities [wrong] Tongue Selfishness	His Son Holy Spirit Redemption Answered prayer Discipline Trials Boldness Direction Teaching/Training Scripture Illumination Comfort Patience Joy Peace Understanding Forgiveness Provisions [daily] Family/Friends Vision Protection/Care Holy Spirit Deliverance	Focus on common goals: Our spiritual growth His Kingdom growth His Glory's growth Growth in witness Fruit growth [love, compassion, mercy, justice, peace, patience, etc.] Growth of His Will Daily needs Protection Sacrifice Work Benevolence Stewardship Vision/Dreams Priorities Wisdom Intercession

The answer/follow-up to our prayers is not "do-nothing"
BUT "do-something"
.....in line with God's Sovereign timing.

OCG 2/6/02

Review of Prayer:

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Believers should never pray in public. | True or False |
| 2. Jesus did not teach on prayer. | True or False |
| 3. Prayer is needed in critical moments. | True or False |
| 4. Prayer was commanded by God. | True or False |
| 5. Believers do not have to pray in the name of Jesus. | True or False |
| 6. A prayer should never end with "Amen." | True or False |
| 7. Prayer is not the way to communicate with God. | True or False |
| 8. Prayer is a time to speak and not listen. | True or False |
| 9. Prayer strengthens the relationship between God and man. | True or False |
| 10. A.C.T.S. is an acronym for the words | |

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Lesson 5 The Church

God calls believers into fellowship with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Believers are told to assemble together to encourage each other (Hebrews 10:25). Jesus in His instruction to His disciples gives us the purpose of the church in what is known as the Great Commission. There He states:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV)

The responsibility of the church is to spread and share the good news of the gospel throughout the world. To that end members of the church have the privilege of serving God and their fellow man. Some of the basic responsibilities of church members (Christians) are as follows:

- *Love the church.* (Ephesians 5:25) Just as Christ loved believers, the church, believers are to love one another (the church). There must be love among and between members of the church. Christ set the example in this area by giving Himself for the church. We as the church ought to give of our time, talent and resources to the church.
- *Worship the Lord.* (Psalm 95:6, 96:6, 150) God desires the worship and praise of His people. The church is the meeting place where believers assemble to offer worship and praise to God as one. Worship and praise of God is both public and private (Matthew 6:6, Luke 4:16). The church is the physical location where believers can offer uninterrupted worship and praise to God.
- *Serve the Lord.* (Luke 22:21, John 9:4, I Corinthians 10:31, 15:58) God calls all believers into service. God has placed within each believer a gift that is to be used to bring Him glory. In service to the church, we are to use those God-given gifts.
- *Keep God's commandments.* (John 14:21, John 15:10, 14) By adhering to Gods commandments believers show their love for God. While no one is sinless all believers should always be striving to remain obedient to the Word of God.

- *Support the ministry.* (Proverbs 3:9, Malachi 3:8-12, Luke 6:38, II Corinthians 9:7) Believers provide the financial assistance needed to sustain the operations of the church. We must give financially as God has prospered us. By properly giving to the church, we give to ourselves. How? When believers give to God, He blesses them in return.

Review of The Church:

1. Believers are not required to serve God. True or False
2. Jesus loved the church. True or False
3. God does not desire the worship of believers. True or False
4. Believers should support the ministry. True or False
5. Believers do not have to share the gospel. True or False
6. Believers do not have to keep God's commandments. True or False
7. Believers serve God and man. True or False

Lesson 6 Tithe and Offering

God has a financial plan for His Church. He works by plans and has a plan for everything. He had a plan when He created the earth and Humans. He had a plan for the relationship between humans and Himself. He has a plan for the family. He has a plan of salvation and the work of the Church. He has a plan for the financing of the work He has ordered the Church to perform.

Tithe - Tenth part, especially as offered to God.

Abraham presented a tithe to the Priest-king of Jerusalem, Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20).

Jacob pledged to offer to God, a tenth of all that God would bless Jacob with (Genesis 28:20-22).

Old Testament

Purpose of Tithing?

The tithe was used for support of the Levites and the priests (Numbers 18:20-32).

The agricultural produce tithe was used for a family feast at the sanctuary celebrating God's provision (Deuteronomy 14:22-27).

The third year's tithe was to be used for the care of the Levites, orphans, widows, and foreigners (Deuteronomy 14:28-29).

Consequences of Disobedience Regarding Tithing

Those that were disobedient regarding tithing were condemned by cursing themselves for not obeying God's word (Malachi 3:8-9).

Results of Tithing

Those that are obedient in tithing are blessed by God in return (Malachi 3:10-12).

New Testament

Jesus Taught Tithing

In Malachi 3:1-4 we have a prophecy that the Lord will come and teach people how to live righteously and in a manner that is consistent with God's will. The fact is then stated that Israel has robbed God in not bringing the tithe to God. In Jesus Christ, Malachi's prophecy is fulfilled. Jesus taught in Matthew 23:23 that acceptable living includes the tithe and the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith. The tithe alone is not enough. Believers must live right also.

Other Teachings in The New Testament

I Corinthians 16:2 teaches that believers are to give "as God has prospered," us. This scripture teaches giving above and beyond the tithe, the offering.

We believe in God's plan in everything, and we believe that every member of the church should be a tither, bringing to the Lord a tenth of their income. This plan of finance would meet all the financial needs of the church. This in turn would mean God's people would be able to do mighty works for Him in carrying out the instructions of Christ in Matthew 28:19-20.

Review of Tithe and Offering:

1. What percentage of a person's income is the tithe? _____
2. What is the purpose of the tithe?
 - A. Numbers 18:20-32 _____
 - B. Deuteronomy 14:22-27 _____
 - C. Deuteronomy 14:28-29 _____
3. What are the consequences of disobedience regarding tithing? (Malachi 3:8-9) _____
4. What are the results of being obedient regarding tithing? (Malachi 3:10-12) _____
5. What did Jesus say should not be neglected even when a person tithes? (Matthew 23:23) _____

Lesson 7 Ordinances of the Church:

Ordinance - An authoritative decree or law.

Jesus commands the Christian Church to observe three ordinances, **Baptism** the **Lord's Supper**, and **Foot Washing**. There are basic facts all Christians must know regarding each of these ordinances:

Baptism

The Ordinance of Baptism is a symbol of the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3, Colossians 2:12). Baptism means to be entirely immersed or submerged in water (Mark 1:5, John 3:33).

Christians must know that Baptism:

Was commanded by Christ. (Matthew 28:19) Jesus tell believers that they must baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Does not save. (Mark 16:16) Belief in Christ saves, not baptism. Baptism is the outward expression of believers of their wiliness to follow Christ.

Water is used to perform baptism. (Acts 10:47-48 I Peter 3:21) Water is a cleansing agent and is used symbolically as the washing away of sin.

Christians must also be baptized into Christ.

Baptism into Christ signifies that believers have been buried and risen with Christ. (Romans 6:3-7)

Believers are baptized by one Spirit into one body. The body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:13)

Believers are baptized into Christ. (Galatians 3:27)

Believers are buried with Christ in baptism and rise with Him through faith. (Colossians 3:11-13).

There are two types of Baptism:

- Spirit
- Water

Spirit Baptism:

Baptism of the Spirit is the act of the Holy Spirit when He makes us apart of the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13). Every believer experiences this baptism. It takes place the very moment we believe and receive Jesus Christ as Savior (Ephesians 4:5, Colossians 2:12, I Peter 3:21, Mark 1:4-8)

The Indwelling and the Infilling

Now the question arises, "Doesn't every Christian already have the Holy Spirit? If so, why is there a need to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?" The answer is that the *indwelling* of the Spirit is not the same as the *infilling* of the Spirit.

The **indwelling** of the Spirit, also called the Spirit of earnest (seed of the Holy Spirit), is given by the Father to every person who repents and believes in Jesus Christ (see Romans 8:16; II Corinthians 1:22). This is the spiritual baptism into Christ, or **new birth**, which Christians depict through water baptism. ***"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ"*** (Galatians 3:27). This is the Spirit of earnest (II Corinthians 1:22) by Whom we are saved.

The **infilling**, on the other hand, is a gift offered to the children of God and is the ***"power from on high"*** (Luke 24:49) which Jesus promised to His disciples. Also called the *baptism in the Holy Spirit*, the infilling is received through faith and prayer and may be accompanied by the laying on of hands. Results of receiving the infilling include power to overcome sin, boldness to witness, divine comfort, sweet fellowship with Him, and a fuller manifestation of **spiritual gifts**. The *indwelling* and the *infilling* are distinctly different, although it is possible for both to coincide almost simultaneously.

Just as the indwelling Spirit reproduces the life of Jesus in the heart of a believer unto salvation, so the infilling or outpoured Spirit reproduces the ministry of Jesus with power and boldness. The Holy Spirit is the **living water** in which believers are baptized (see I Corinthians 12:13) and the heavenly drink which Jesus offers (John 4:10). Jesus promised, ***"If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)"*** (John 7:37-39). After Jesus was glorified, the living water of the Holy Ghost was poured out at Pentecost and numerous times thereafter to empower believers to spread the Gospel.

The primary reason our Heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit is so that we can inherit salvation, but the Holy Spirit also empowers believers with the following:

- Ability to overcome sin (Galatians 5:16; Revelation 12:11)
- Boldness in witnessing (Acts 1:8)
- Deeper understanding of God's Word (Isaiah 50:4; Revelation 2:29)
- Faith to endure trials (I Peter 1:7, 4:12)
- Greater manifestation of spiritual giftings (I Corinthians 12:7-10)
- Power in prayer (Romans 8:26-27)

Truly, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is for any believer who desires a closer walk with the Lord. However, the world cannot receive the Holy Spirit because it loves darkness rather than light (John 3:19) and worships what it sees and knows. Jesus told His disciples, ***"Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you"***

(John 14:17). **See Supplement A for more information on the Spirit Baptism**

Water Baptism:

By being submerged in water believers symbolize we are baptized into the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Believers are cut off from the Adamic life because of baptism into the death of Christ. (Romans 6:3-7)

In order that humans are baptized they must first believe that Jesus is the Son of God. (Acts 8:37-39)

Believers must know these basic facts about:

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper took place before the death of Christ. Jesus and His disciples went into a closed room where He washed their feet and shared with them bread and wine, which symbolized the body and blood of Christ. As Believers partake of the Lord's Supper, we must remember Christ, receive strength from Him and rededicate ourselves to Him and His cause. (I Corinthians 11:23-34)

The Lord's Supper is an established ordinance. (Matthew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:15-20, I Corinthians 11:23-26) Jesus established the Lord's Supper and expects all believers to continue to participate in it.

The Lord's Supper was given to the Church. (Luke 22:17-20, I Corinthians 11:18)
The Church, believers, are expected to remain obedient to Christ in all things.

The Lord's Supper is a memorial to the death of our Lord and Savior. (Mark 14:22)

The Lord's Supper Is Called:

- Communion (I Corinthians 10:16)
- The Breaking of Bread (Acts 2:42, 46, 20:7)
- The Cup of Blessing (I Corinthians 10:16)
- The Eucharist
- The Last Supper
- The Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:20)
- The Lord's Table (I Corinthians 10:21)

Symbols used in the Lord's Supper and their significance:

- The **Table** is the place of love, fellowship, sharing and communion. It is the family table- a love feast - a meal. (Leviticus 24:5-9, Psalm 23:5)
- The **Bread** (Isaiah 53:5) represents His broken body (Matthew 26:26). It is the type of the Lamb that was slain.
- The **Wine** is a symbol of the Blood of Christ that was shed for our sins, which we as believers do in remembrance of the Lord. During the Lord's Supper, we ask for forgiveness of all our sins. It represents the New Covenant (Matthew 26:27).

The believer should do as follows as they prepare to partake of the Lord's Supper:

Come:

- In remembrance of Christ's death on the cross for "me" (I Corinthians 11:23-26). To the table with a desire to participate (Luke 22:14-15).
- In faith (Hebrews 4:2, 11:6, Romans 14:23).
- In remembrance of what Christ did for you (I Corinthians 11: 23-26). The Israelites remembered sins. His Church remembers Him.
- With Thanksgiving (Luke 22:17).

- Examining their hearts (I Corinthians 11:28) making sure we are in right standing with God and our brothers and sisters (I Corinthians 11:27, Psalm 24:3-5).
- With a repentant and thankful heart (I Corinthians 10:21)
- In a spirit of fellowship and love (I Corinthians 10:16-17)
- In Holy fear (Matthew 26:24, I Corinthians 11:27-32).
- In self-examination (I Corinthians 11:28).

With a threefold look at Christ.

- A **backward look** to Calvary - Jesus' death - His suffering for us.
- An **Upward look** to Heaven - Jesus' resurrection - His ascension - sitting at the right hand of the Father.
- A **Forward look** to Jesus' coming when we will meet Him.

Foot Washing

The Ordinance of foot washing among Christians is based on the Gospel of John (13:4-15). In this account of the Last Supper, Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, tied a towel around himself, and began to wash the disciples' feet to emphasize that they were to care for each other as he had cared for them. This ordinance was instituted by Jesus and divinely designed to teach the disciples (and all believers) humility and to serve others. Jesus explains this in **Matthew 20:25-28, NIV**. ***"Jesus called them [the disciples] together and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'"***

Foot washing expresses the following Characteristics for the believer:

- It is an act and expression of faith.
- It expressed humble service.
- Through this element of water the cleansing of our Lord's grace is symbolized.
- Through service the grace of Jesus is offered to those who respond in faith.

- It is an example to the recipient who, after receiving, is invited to actively respond in kind by doing the same for others.

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Review of Church Ordinances:

1. How many ordinances are there in the church? _____.
2. What are those ordinances? _____,
_____, and _____.
3. Bread and wine represent the _____ and
_____ of Jesus Christ.
4. What are the three names used to describe the Lord's Supper?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____.

5. Believers come to partake of the Lord's Supper in (Luke 22:17)

_____.

6. The table is a place of _____,

_____, and _____.

7. What are the two types of baptism? _____ and

_____.

8. Does baptism save sinners? (Mark 16:16) _____.

9. Did Jesus command believers to baptize? (Matthew 28:9)

_____.

10. What property is used to perform baptism? (Acts 10:47-48)

_____.

Lesson 8 Principles for Service

New Destiny Center Church is obedient to the Word of God. In doing so we strive to carry out our mission statement in our living. To that end we have adopted and adhere to five principles. They are as follows:

1. **Discipleship** - Service. Discipleship consists of being of service to others.
2. **Students** - Self Improvement. By being a Bible student, we learn more about God and His will thus improving our own conditions as we are transformed into His likeness.
3. **Teachers** - As we learn and grow closer to God, He wants us to share Him with others. We do so by teaching, through our living, what we have learned as students. While we will always be students, we must move to the dual role of student/teacher.
4. **Leaders** - Example Setters. Although we realize that none are perfect each of us should be striving to live a life that pleases God. We recognize that others, some that we are not aware of looking to us for guidance and we must lead by example.
5. **Evangelists** - Soul Winners. This takes us back to the Great Commission and our mission statement. We must reach out to others.

Ask God, through prayer, to lead you to the place within His body where *He* wants you to serve. In the book of I Corinthians 12:12-31 the Apostle Paul tells us that there are many members that make up the body of Christ. Each member has a specific role or duty to perform. All members are vital to the body and no one member is more important than another.

Through the active participation in one or more ministries, you will find that God can do a mighty work in, with and through you. You will grow in Christ through participation in the worship experience, Bible Study and others forms of Christian development offered here at New Destiny Center. Your personal prayer life and Christian study time will also determine your Christian growth.

We are a church family where all are accepted for who we are, forgiven of what we've done and loved because of Christ. As we move forward in God's Will we are persuaded that He has already made the way and fought the battles. We claim the victory but know that the work must be performed by us. We as a church are committed to rolling up our sleeves and doing a mighty work for the Lord.

God has given us a vision and while we may not be able to see it with our natural sight, we as His people will not be deterred because He will clear our blurred Vision so we may see exactly what He will have us to do. For that reason, and because God is with us, our future is bright.

Again, Welcome to New Destiny Center Church

Ministries of New Destiny Center

Men of Destiny (MOD) Ministry - This ministry provides fellowship, training, and development of Christian men (members and non-members).

Daughters of Destiny (DOD) Ministry- This ministry provides fellowship, training and development of Christian Women (Members only) but the Women's Ministry is open to all including non-members.

Destiny Future Fire (Youth 11-18) Ministry- This ministry provides fellowship, nurturing and development of Youth, helping them to become successful spirit lead adults.

Royal 20's and 30's -(Ages 19-39) Young Adult Ministry. This ministry provides fellowship, spiritual development for those that sometimes seem lost between the youth and the more mature adults. This ministry gives them an outlet to discuss the challenges they face as well as building a strong community of believers that will help lead us into the future.

Destiny Kingdom Children (Ages 5-10) Ministry – This ministry provides training, development and spiritual insight to children letting them know what God loves and cares about them.

Outreach Ministry- This ministry provides an outstretched hand to those who do not know Christ, and/or have had an experience but have fallen away. This ministry offers reconciliation back to God.

Evangelism Ministry- This ministry works in conjunction with the Outreach Ministry but expands its reach to Missions (local and abroad), Prison Ministry etc., helping to foster change in the lives of those who feel forgotten.

In-Reach Ministry- This ministry is a resource for Member's needs. It provides follow-up, prayer and New Member Services.

Married Couples Ministry - (Couples Only) This ministry provides fellowship between married couples while providing Godly instruction. By doing so, the marriage is strengthened and addresses the issues married couples face. (Members and Non- Members)

Singles Ministry - This ministry provides a time of fellowship for singles while teaching the Godly lifestyle for single people. (Members and Non- Members)

Ushers Ministry -This ministry assists in ushering in the presence of God during the worship experience by offering assistance wherever needed.

Deacons Ministry- A group, appointed by the Pastor, to work together as a team to conduct the business matters of NDCC in accordance to the Will of God.

Drama Ministry - This ministry allows members to keep the drama where it belongs, in acting. They perform plays, skits, and dramatizations throughout the year.

Liturgical Dance Ministry - This group worships God in dance.

Pastoral Care Ministry - This ministry offers support to the pastor by assisting in meeting the financial needs of the pastor for education, travel and other occasions.

Media Ministry- This ministry supports the ministry with recording, live streaming, website and social media input. They also prepare ministry products for sale, i.e., Product tables, flyers, etc.

Music and Worship Ministry – This ministry supports the ministry with the Praise and Worship Team, Choir, working with the Drama Ministry with plays and events.

The Bethany Latriece Walker Scholarship Ministry -This ministry provides encouragement and rewards to our students on an annual basis. They also provide financial assistance to qualified college and vocational students.

Supplement A- Spirit Baptism

Receiving the Holy Spirit Baptism

Below is a biblical guideline on receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit based on the examples of New Testament believers.

①... You must first receive Jesus Christ as Savior.

Before you can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, you must be **born again** (that is, spiritually *conceived again*). This "new birth" is a spiritual baptism whereby God cleanses you from all sin, makes you a "new creation" in Christ, and quickens (makes alive) your spirit by the *indwelling* of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told His disciples in Luke 24:49: ***"And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."*** The disciples most likely received the **indwelling** of the Holy Spirit when they saw and believed in the risen Lord (see John 20:22), but they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. This baptism was the "power from on high" to make them bold witnesses for Christ.

②... Be water baptized as a profession of your faith.

Although you can be baptized in the Holy Spirit prior to being baptized in water (see Acts 10:47), **water baptism** by full immersion is an important step in walking out your faith. It outwardly demonstrates the inner work of God in your heart and often helps prepare you to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Scripture says that there are ***"three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one"*** (I John 5:8). This verse could be applied to spiritual baptism, which has three facets: baptism in the blood of Jesus, baptism in water, and baptism in the Holy Spirit. A believer should experience all three.

In Acts 8:12-17, Philip preached the Gospel with power, and people were water baptized to show that they received his message. ***"But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."*** Afterwards, Peter and John came to these believers and ***"prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: for as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus [water baptism]. Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost."***

Later in the book of Acts, Luke recounted Paul's conversation with some believers in Ephesus. These men had repented of their sins but had never heard of the Holy Spirit. Paul asked them, ***"Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" And they said unto him, 'We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.' And he [Paul] said unto them, 'Unto what then were ye baptized?' And they said, 'Unto John's baptism' [water baptism]."*** Paul then explained that John's baptism pointed to Christ. And ***"when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues and prophesied"*** (Acts 19:6).

Prepare your heart to receive the Holy Spirit baptism.

Brothers and sisters **in Christ**, God will fill you with the Holy Spirit, but first you must walk in **repentance** and be willing to humble yourself to receive His gift by faith. The Lord looks not at the outward appearance, but He looks on the heart (see I Samuel 16:7). Is your heart broken and contrite? Is it repentant? Is it hungry for Him? A pure heart, emptied of all pride, is one that is ready to be filled. ***"And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us"*** (Acts 15:8).

Ask your Heavenly Father to fill you with His Holy Spirit.

The infilling of (immersion in) the Holy Spirit is a gift for those who earnestly desire and ask for it. ***"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled"*** (Matthew 5:6). Jesus said in Luke 11:13, ***"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"*** This gift of the Holy Spirit, who is the *Comforter*, is sent by the Father and the Son. ***"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me"*** (John 15:26).

We cannot merit or deserve the baptism in the Holy Spirit; it is a free gift of the Father, and He is no respecter of persons (see Romans 2:11). Every disciple of Jesus can receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit by faith (see Acts 15:8). In Acts 10:44-45 Luke wrote, ***"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision [the Gentiles or non-***

Jews] which believed were astonished, as many came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost."

5 ... Receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit through prayer and worship.

Although you can receive the infilling of the Spirit in the privacy of your own home, sometimes it is helpful to have someone who is filled with the Holy Ghost lay hands on you and pray over you. This was common in the book of Acts (see 9:17-18 and 19:6). Here is a sample prayer to get you started:

"Heavenly Father, You said in Your Word, 'If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: HOW MUCH MORE shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?' (Luke 11:13). So, I come to You as Your child, with a pure and hungry heart, desiring the infilling of Your Holy Spirit. Let Your Spirit rise up within me as I praise You. I'm asking You in the name of Jesus (Messiah Yeshua) to baptize me with the Holy Spirit."

Humble yourself before the Lord and begin worshipping and praising Him from your heart. The Bible says, ***"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"*** (Ephesians 5:18-19).

6 ... Be willing to speak in a new tongue as the Spirit gives utterance.

While you are worshipping the Lord with all your heart, begin to praise Him for filling you with the Holy Spirit. You may sense joy and peace bubbling up inside you, as well as words or syllables which are not in your own language. Do not be afraid to speak forth these words but begin to boldly worship and praise Him in the words that He gives you. That is the language of the Holy Spirit. Please note that the Lord will not force you to speak in tongues, but you may if you wish. He gives the utterance; you simply cooperate in speaking.

As the reality of God's promised blessing fills you, let it set you free. Step out in faith. Open your mouth and begin speaking in a language that only God could understand.

The language of tongues does not come about through natural mental processes, but through the Spirit (see I Corinthians 14:14-15). ***"For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries"*** (I Corinthians 14:2).

Seek the Lord's presence and pray in the Spirit daily.

Every day, you are encouraged to come into the presence of the Lord and find rest and refreshing by worshipping Him and praying in the Spirit. ***"For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing"*** (Isaiah 28:11-12; also see Acts 3:19).

Praying in the Spirit is a marvelous way to communicate with God. The Holy Spirit knows what is needed and actually intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered: ***"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now he who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God"*** (Romans 8:26-27).

Continue to seek the Lord Jesus with all your heart and read His Word as if it were your daily sustenance. Your spirit will grow stronger from each moment spent in God's wonderful presence, and the Holy Spirit will teach, empower, and equip you for every good work. Jude 1:20 states: ***"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost."*** Through this process of spiritual growth, the Lord will teach you what it means to **walk in the Spirit** so that you do not fulfill the lusts of the flesh (see Galatians 5:16). Moreover, He will bring about a fuller manifestation of your spiritual gifts and empower you with boldness in your faith.

Hindrances to Receiving the Baptism

There are a few hindrances to receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit. These must be dealt with before the Spirit will come with power.

- **Doubt** — Unbelief (doubt) is the worst enemy of **faith**. You will not be able to come to God or receive from Him without faith. ***"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him"***

(Hebrews 11:6). When approaching God, doubts such as "What if the infilling of the Holy Spirit doesn't happen for me?" must be conquered with the shield of faith. Listening to the world (television, media, certain friends and music) will tear down your faith and cause doubts, so build up your faith by reading and hearing the Word. ***"So, then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"*** (Romans 10:17).

- **Pride** — In the presence of Jehovah, no person will find approval in his own merits; for God alone gets the glory. The Bible tells us that God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the wise, and the ***"things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence"*** (I Corinthians 1:27-29). Pride shows up when a person seeks the praise of others or desires the power of the Holy Spirit to serve his or her own lusts (read the example of Simon in Acts 8:14-25 who tried to buy the Holy Spirit with money). God resists the proud heart, but He gives grace to the humble heart. We must therefore humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God (see I Peter 5:5-6). ***"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite [humble] spirit"*** (Psalm 34:18). Being filled with the Holy Spirit does not make someone better than another and should never be a reason for prideful comparison among believers.
- **Fear** — The Bible tells us to fear God only, for when you fear Him, you will have no need to fear anyone or anything else. ***"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding"*** (Proverbs 9:10). This kind of fear is an awesome reverence and respect for Him Who is holy; it is recognizing how all-powerful our God (Jehovah) really is. For a Christian, the fear of God is the secret to inner peace. ***"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee"*** (Isaiah 26:3). The children of God can approach the throne of grace with boldness because of Jesus Christ. ***"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need"*** (Hebrews 4:16). There is no place for fear of rejection when seeking the baptism in the Holy Spirit, for your Heavenly Father delights in giving good gifts to His children. ***"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind"*** (II Timothy 1:7). ***"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear:***

because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love"
(I John 4:18).

Evidence of Holy Spirit Baptism

In the book of Acts, the most common sign of Holy Spirit baptism was the expression of unknown tongues. ***"They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"*** (Acts 2:4; also see Mark 16:17; Acts 10:44-48, 19:6). Why was the **sign of tongues** the most common evidence of Holy Spirit baptism? Well, probably because a person's tongue is the most unruly member of the body (see James 3:2-10), so when the tongue is brought under the inspiration and influence of the Holy Spirit, there can be no doubt that the whole person has been immersed in the Holy Spirit.

Some churches teach that speaking in tongues is the *sole* evidence of being filled with the Spirit, but this is not altogether true. The biblical examples indicate that in addition to tongues, evidence of being filled with the Spirit include **prophecy** (Luke 1:41, Acts 19:6), **boldness** (Acts 4:31), **miraculous healings** (Acts 5:15-16), **spiritual songs** (Ephesians 5:19), **wisdom** (Acts 6:3), **faith** (Acts 6:8), and **joy** (Acts 13:52). Tongues were the *common* sign, but it was not recorded in every instance (see Acts 8:15-17 and 9:17-19). Also, some believers received the Holy Spirit **infilling** *after* **water baptism** (see Acts 10:5-6); others received it *before* water baptism (see Acts 10:44-48). Man, often likes to put God in a box and predict the move of God's Spirit with restrictive formulas, but the Holy Spirit works best with repentant, humble hearts that are yielded to Him and are willing to go with the flow. Like a heavenly wind, the Spirit comes and goes in perfect agreement with the will of the Father (see John 3:8).

Paul taught that the sign of tongues was meant for prayer and personal edification, for building up the Body of Christ, and as a sign to unbelievers (see I Corinthians 12:4-11, 14:4-5,22). Paul said, ***"I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all"*** and ***"Wherefore, brethren, covet [desire] to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues"*** (I Corinthians 14:18,39). Although tongues are beneficial, speaking in tongues should not be the *focus* of Holy Spirit baptism but rather fully yielding oneself

in worship to Jesus. A language of the Spirit will often come spontaneously when the heart is so full of the Spirit that common words are insufficient for expression.

"Likewise, the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Romans 8:26). The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah experienced this kind of fullness, like a fire within: ***"But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay"*** (Jeremiah 20:9). What did Jeremiah do? He prophesied with boldness to the people of Judah as the Spirit gave him the words to say.

The apostle Paul said that every member in the Body of Christ is necessary, and not all will speak in tongues. ***"Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?"*** (I Corinthians 12:30). There are, in fact, *nine* gifts or manifestations of the Spirit and "diverse tongues" is just one of them. ***"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will"*** (I Corinthians 12:7-11). Each of these nine gifts is a different manifestation of the same Spirit.

Every believer has at least one spiritual gift, distributed by God as it pleases Him (I Corinthians 12:11). The gifts are given to edify the Body of Christ in love. ***"From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love"*** (Ephesians 4:16). A believer must exercise **faith** in using his or her gift, because the gifts are initially undeveloped and must be exercised to grow and become fully mature

over time. The goal, however, is not for us to be self-focused on our **spiritual gifts**, but to honor Jesus Christ and walk in His footsteps of humility and servanthood.

Conclusion

The oil of the Holy Spirit consecrates us and lights our spiritual lamps, while the fire of the Holy Spirit purges sin (a process called *sanctification*) and ignites a flame of passion (love for Jesus) in our hearts. As believers in Christ, we are responsible for keeping our vessels pure and the oil full like the five wise virgins in Jesus' parable (see Matthew 25:4) so that the light of Christ may shine brightly within us (see Matthew 5:14-16).

Those of you who have been filled with the Holy Spirit in the past but have let the oil run out of your spiritual lamps, we encourage you to go to the Lord and ask for a fresh infilling of the Spirit. The Bible says, ***"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip"*** (Hebrews 2:1). The Greek wording of this verse could be translated "lest at any time we should run out as leaking vessels."

You, dearly beloved ones in Christ, are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Your spiritual light is completely dependent upon the oil and flame of the Spirit of God. ***"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us"*** (II Corinthians 4:6-7).

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