

FOUNDATION SCHOOL CURRICULUM

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INTRODUCTION

It's with pleasure that we welcome you to the Foundation School of Christ Embassy (a.k.a. BLW Inc.).

Knowledge is vital and makes the difference between success and failure. It is our expectation that you will be impacted with the basic knowledge of God's Word which will afford you the privilege of having a successful Christian Life built on a right foundation.

AIM OF THE FOUNDATION SCHOOL

The aim of the Foundation School is to educate members concerning new creation realities, the Person of the Holy Spirit, Christian doctrines / Character which will help to lay a good foundation, upon which a successful and fulfilling Christian life can be built.

The Foundation School will;

- Through the manifestation of the Word and by the Holy Spirit, work to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus (Colossians 1:28).
- Correct any erroneous ideas that you might have had prior to this time (Ephesians 4:11-14).
- Enable you to grow, by increasing in the knowledge of God's Word (1 Peter 2:2).
- Prepare you for the Ministry of Reconciliation.

EXAMINATION AND TESTS

Students will be expected to take tests during the duration of the program and a final examination will be conducted to assess the understanding of students.

GRADUATION

Upon the successful completion of the Foundation School requirements, students will graduate at a lovely and colorful ceremony.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU?

Punctuality

- You are expected to come early for your classes in order to benefit maximally from each module.
- You are required to be time conscious, disciplined, studious and involved.

Cell System

Every student should be committed to a cell group by attending the cell meetings regularly which will further enhance your spiritual growth.

Ministry Materials

During the course of the Foundation School, each student is expected to get (study, listen to and watch) the ministry books, Audio messages, DVDs, and other materials recommended by the teachers.

On behalf of the Pastor, the Pastorate and the wonderful Staff of the Foundation School, I say a big WELCOME and CONGRATULATIONS!

The Principal
Christ Embassy Foundation School

CLASS 1: THE NEW CREATION

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this class, participants should:

- Know of their salvation and be confident of it.
- Know about the origin of Sin – The Adamic origin. Sin is the nature of the unbeliever, regardless of if he does good or bad.
- Know that forgiveness is available to a Christian if he sins
- Understand that their parentage is of God and He gave them freely because they believed
- Understand the reality of Spirit , Soul and Body

1) The New Creation: 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2: 10 [Amplified]; Galatians 6:15

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a NEW CREATION, old things are passed away and all things are become new" 2 Corinthians 5:17

- This is the **cardinal point**. The Christian is a NEW CREATION. He is one who never existed or pre-existed, altogether a new man, with a new kind of life and this life comes directly from God.
- This birth is a rebirth in the real sense of the word, because to God this man never had a past, nor existed. He is a brand new person with a new life. Talk about the encounter of Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3:3-4. The term Born Again was given by Jesus, and he said being born again is a MUST and not an option. IT IS ONLY BY BEING BORN AGAIN THAT YOU BECOME A NEW CREATION IN CHRIST JESUS.
- The new creation is God's workmanship created, made, brought to life by God, created in Christ to do good works - *Ephesians 2:10*. The new creation is not remade or refurbished. He is not just endowed with a new character. He is created with the nature of God in his spirit. He hails from God. The Bible says:

For in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision availeth much but a new creation. Galatians 6:15.

- The new creation may look the same outside – no change in skin color, size and shape, but the truth is that he is completely new inside, in his spirit. This is so because being born again is of the spirit. Therefore, the new creation now lives his life from the inside. He has the divine nature of God in his spirit. He is as holy and righteous as God is. What we receive when we get born again is a NEW NATURE.

-What makes a Man a Man is the Human Nature.

-What makes a Tree a tree is the Plant Nature.

-What makes a Dog a Dog is the Animal Nature.

-What makes a Man BORN AGAIN is the **NATURE and LIFE of GOD** he receives.

-To be born again is a MIRACLE; God's Miracle.

ANALOGY:

A fairly used engine in a car with a New Body is a fairly used Car. This is because the ENGINE is the Car. When a Man is born again, he has received a NEW Engine. Even though the body may have a dent or a scratch, because the ENGINE (his Spirit is NEW). He is NEW.

- Now that you are born again, you are born into the family of God.
- The family of God includes all who believed in Him in the past, those who believe in Him now, and those who will in future. God is the father of every believer: this makes all Christians, brethren (brothers and sisters). You therefore are a part of God's family.
 - Ephesians 3:15: *"From whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named"*
- Before we got born again, we were not in the kingdom of God's Son i.e. His family; we were alienated from it. Now as children of God, we have been translated into the kingdom of His Son. By virtue of our salvation, we are born into God's family.

Colossians 1:13: *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son"*.

- Eph 2:19 'Now therefore, ye are no more strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God'

2) Born of God: John 1:12-13; Romans 10:9-10, Titus 3:5, John 3:3-6

- This new creation in Christ Jesus is born of God.

A son is the child of his father, born of his father's seed.

- John 1:12-13 - *But as many as received him, to them he gave power to become the sons of God even to them that believe on his name. Which were born not of blood nor of the will of flesh nor of the will of man, but of God'*

The Bible says *to all that believe in His Name, God gave the right to become His sons.* In John 1:12-13, God calls the one who believes in His son, born of His seed and God's seed is His WORD. That is why we cry, 'Abba Father' because the very life of God in us makes us His beloved sons, just as much as Jesus is.

- He is not born of man or of the flesh. He is born of God because he received the nature of God in his spirit (John 3:3-6). *He first believes in his heart that the Lord Jesus was raised from the dead and then confesses what he believes with his mouth. (Rom. 10:9-10).* As soon as this is done, he is automatically birthed of God.

3) The Origin of Sin: Rom. 5:14-16, 21, 18-19; Rom. 3:23-28, 1John 2:2.

- Sin came into this world through Adam, when he disobeyed God and committed high treason against God in the Garden of Eden. The consequence of that action caused the death nature of Satan to pass upon all men and it's because of that nature that all men sinned. Gen. 2:17

- Since then, sin became the nature of every man that is born of Man. You do not have to do anything to sin but rather you sin because you have the nature of sin in you. Rom. 5:14-16, 21, 18-19
- This is the reason why the birth of Jesus could not have been through the agency of Man otherwise Jesus too would have been born a sinner. But Jesus was born of a virgin without a man and so without the sin nature. He also lived above the temptations of sin, (Heb. 4:15) so His blood was pure enough to be the price (*propitiation – atoning sacrifice*) for our justification. He was our substitute. Jesus' death paid for the sin that came by Adam and so Righteousness nature come by Jesus as a free gift to all Men! Rom. 3:23-28, 1John 2:2.
- This is the gospel (good news) to all men, to the sinners. This is why we preach!

4) Salvation by Grace: Ephesians 2:2-10; Romans 5:9-13

- Salvation is by grace. You do not have to do anything to attain it. It is a gift from God. All we have to do is receive it by faith. Christ miraculously destroyed the penalty of sin and its power over us on the cross. Through faith in Christ, we stand acquitted or not guilty before God. This is the grace of God at work.
 - “For by grace you were saved through faith, and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9).
- We became Christians through God's grace, not as a result of any effort, ability, intelligent choice or act of service on our part. It is therefore evident that no action or work we did could have helped us obtain or qualify for salvation. It was by God's grace. All that is required is to believe the lordship of Jesus and confess it with our mouths.
- Romans 5:17. Those who receive abundance of grace and of the free gift of righteousness will reign in life, though Jesus. This is God's word to all Christians; we can reign over all the vices and evil in this world.

5) Assurance of Salvation

Sometimes, the devil likes to deceive God's children by making us feel that we are not saved.

- Our assurance of salvation is that thing that lets us know of a certainty that without any doubt, we are born again. Our assurance of salvation is not through our feelings. Two key ways we are assured of our salvation are:

a. **The Word: Romans 10:9-10, 1 John 5:9-10**

We know that we are saved by what the Word of God says concerning our salvation. In Rom. 10: 9-10 we see that you believe with your heart and with your mouth confess what you believe, then you are saved. No matter how doubtful we may feel sometimes, this scripture gives us assurance.

From the Word of God, we know that ‘the witness of God is better’ – 1 John 5:9-10. God Himself witnesses that our salvation is assured by the belief in our hearts and the confessions that our mouths made.

b. The Witness of the Holy Spirit: Romans 8:16

“The Spirit Himself beareth witness that we are the sons of God”.

We may not always feel as though we belong to God, but the Holy Spirit always bears witness with our spirit that we are God’s children. He does this through the inward witness. He lets us know by this witness who we are. The Holy Spirit witnesses with our spirit that is alive to God, that we are born and saved of God. We hear Him communicating with us (our spirit) that we are born again.

By the above two means, we are continually assured of the fact that we are saved despite our feelings. It does not matter what our senses tell us. The only important testimony is the one God gives concerning us!

6) Remission for the Unregenerate: Acts 2:38; Matthew 26:28; Ephesians 1:7

- An unregenerate being is someone who is not yet born again (an unbeliever, a sinner). When a sinner comes to Christ, he does not receive forgiveness. An unbeliever needs to get his sins remitted to be born again - he gets remission of his sins when he believes that Jesus is Lord and confesses this with his mouth. Remission is the actual washing away of sins in such a way that the sin never even existed before. This is being born again.
- Jesus Christ, when He died on the cross of Calvary, died for the whole world, both the regenerate (Christians) and the unregenerate (non-Christians). *“For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sin”* (Matthew 26:28).
- This is why the bible says that if any man is in Christ Jesus, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away, and all things have become new. It is wrong, therefore, for an unbeliever to ask God to forgive him of his sins. Forgiveness belongs to those who are already in a relationship with God, but remission is for the sinner. Our redemption came through His blood.
 - Ephesians 1:8: *“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace”.*

ANALOGY: Use Remission of Money (Western Union Money transfer): Once money is remitted it no longer belongs to the remitter. The remitter can no longer claim that money. The recipient who receives the money becomes the New Owner of the money. In the case of a sinner, his sins are once and for all remitted to Calvary.

7) Forgiveness for the Christians: 1 John 1:9-10; 1 John 2:1-3

- It is possible for a child of God (a Christian) to sin, although this ought not to be. When a Christian does what is wrong or makes a mistake, he does not need to confess the Lordship of

Jesus Christ any longer as he did this to get born again. All he needs to do is to be truly sorry and ask God to forgive him as the scripture says and receive forgiveness.

- *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).*
- If we confess our sins, God forgives us. He is not counting our mistakes against us. God sees us as righteous children always. He sees His son Jesus Christ in us, and sees us through His son, even when we make mistakes. If we make a mistake or sin, all we have to do is confess to Him and He forgives us. We must always believe that He has forgiven us, and not brood over our past mistakes.
 - *“...If anyone (born again child of God) sins, we have an advocate with the father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1)*
- Jesus Christ is our advocate. He has already suffered your penalty in your place. All you need to do is confess and believe that you are forgiven, because He has indeed forgiven you.

8) **Man is a Spirit. He has a Soul and lives in a Body:** 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12;

Job 4:19; Job 10:11.

A) The Spirit

- i. **The Spirit Man got saved** 2 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Corinthians 6:17
 - It is the spirit of man that got saved. This is the man mentioned in 2 Cor. 5:17. His body remains the same. His physical / external appearances remain unchanged, because HE IS SPIRIT.
 - The human body that houses a man is not the person. The real person is the spirit, the one who got born again. That is the one alive to God and he cannot be seen with the optical eye.
 - God is Spirit. *“But He who is joined to the Lord is one Spirit with Him” (2 Cor. 6:17).* That tells us that the spirit man is the one that is alive with God.
- ii. **He lives In the Word of God** 1 Peter 2:2; Matthew 4:4; Hebrews 5:12-14
 - We all need to eat food to grow. Just as the human being (our physical bodies) must eat to stay alive and be healthy, so also the spirit of man must feed to be healthy. **The food for the spirit is the Word of God.** The Christian cannot live on bread alone as Jesus said, but on every one of God's Word (Matthew 4:4). When we are born again, we are spiritual babies and we have to feed to grow. Just as a human being who does not eat well will easily fall ill, so will the human spirit that does not feed on the Word of God be susceptible to attack. If we are healthy, we will grow, that's the only way. **Every Christian should be desirous of God's Word, to grow and be nourished by it** (1 Peter 2:2, Hebrews 5:14).
 - As we live by the Word and feed on it our appetite for it increases, hence the development of our spirit is enhanced. **Christians cannot live without the Word.**
- iii. **The fruit of the recreated human spirit: Galatians 5:22-23**
 - Fruit refers to the character that we exhibit externally that tells people who we really are. – *By their fruits you shall know them.*

- Just as a tree produces fruits and is recognized by these fruits, so also the spirit (man's spirit) produces character traits that are Christ's nature. These traits that the believer exhibits are used to identify that he is a Christian.
- For these fruits to grow in us depends on how much of Him we know by feeding on His Word and how much we love Him. Jesus Christ is the vine; we are the branches - the fruit bearing part of same vine.
- These fruits are different from *the gifts of the Holy Spirit*. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are spiritual gifts given to believers by the Holy Spirit as He wills. At every point in time the Christian has the fruit of the spirit because they are in his nature.

B) The Soul (Mind)

The soul is the processing centre of man; it houses his emotions, will, feelings and intellect (sensory perception) and is the window between the Spirit and the Body

i) **The renewal of the mind: Romans 12:1-3; Ephesians 4:21-22**

Before we became Christians our minds and thoughts were filled with things and values of the world, obviously not of God. Therefore, our minds have to be renewed and our thoughts aligned with and consistent with godly living. The mind is the seat of the will, the intellect and the emotion. The information in the mind therefore is what determines what the man will become. Paul said that transformation of our lives comes as we renew our minds. In other words as we take off the old information we had before we got saved and put new ones from the Word of God, our lives will be *transformed*. Old habits that were there before one got born again are stopped as our mind is renewed through the Word of God

ii) **It is renewed by the Word of God: James 1:13-15; 2corinthians3:18**

Paul, in his second epistle to the Corinthian Church, said that as we behold the glory of God, we are transformed into the same image that we see in the Word, from one level of glory to another. Our mind is renewed by the Word of God. The Word of God is the glory of God. As we behold it, our mind is being renewed and our body is being transformed. The glory of God is revealed in our lives. James said that our life could only produce the right fruit when we consistently behold the Word.

C) The Body

Bringing the body under subjection: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Colossians 3:5;

The body has no will of its own. It is either a slave to the senses or a slave to the spirit. Paul lets us know that it is our responsibility to keep our bodies under the rulership of our spirit. The body wants to do what it feels like doing, but many times the feelings in the body may be contrary to the Word of God. At such times, we put the body under subjection to our spirit. In other words, we tell it what to do. Paul says the reason for putting the body under is so that we do not get disqualified after preaching to others. It is possible to be disqualified for the prize. Anyone who walks by the flesh will definitely be disqualified for the prize, that is

why Jesus said that God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth. We do not worship God in the flesh, but in the spirit.

9) New Creation Realities. The New Creation.....

- a. is complete in Him: Colossians 2:9-10; 1 John 2:3

There is nothing else that the believer needs that he does not already have in Jesus Christ. All of God's goodness dwells in Jesus and the Believer is complete in Him.

- b. has eternal life: John 3:16; John 5:24; 2 Timothy 1:9-10; 1 John 5:11-12

Eternal life is more than life that will not end. Eternal life is the very life of God that makes God, God. This life is in Jesus and if we have Jesus we have this life. We have God in Us!

- c. now lives in Zion: Hebrews 12:22-24; Colossians 1:13; John 17:14

Believers are not of this world, they are from Zion. Zion is where God is, a place of rest, a place of all possibilities!

- d. Sits in the place of power: Ephesians 1:19-21; Ephesians 2:6,10; Matthew 28:18-19

Mark 16:16-18.

As believers we sit in the place of power with God. Because of this when we decree a thing it comes to pass. Our words are powerful and they cause changes in situations.

- e. Is God's address: Colossians 1:27; Ephesians 2:21-22; Corinthians 6:19

Every believer carries God in him because His nature is in us. So when people are looking for God, they should see Him in us. We reflect His glory and personality.

- f. is God's extension: Jeremiah 51:20-22; Acts 1:8

We are God's outstretched arm. We represent Him to the world. Where they need healing from God, we lay hands, where salvation is needed, we preach the Word.

REVISION QUESTIONS:

- The bible says you are born of God; this means you have the exact kind of relationship Jesus has with God. How true is that?
- Who are those that belong to the family of God?
- How will I be continually assured of my salvation despite what my senses tell me?
- Fidelis is feeling condemned and guilty because he committed a sin. What should he do as a child of God?
- How is Remission of Sin different from Forgiveness of Sin?
- Write short notes on (1) Spirit, (2) Soul and (3) Body.

TODAY'S CONFESSIONS:

"I am a NEW CREATION. I never existed or pre-existed. I am not refurbished. I am altogether a brand new person, with a new kind of life. My new life comes directly from God. I have the everlasting, indestructible and eternal life of God at work in me. The life of God is in every cell of my body. It's in my soul. It's all over me. I am God's workmanship, created in Christ to do good works. I do good works because I am righteous. I am created with the nature of God in my spirit. I hail from God"

"I am a new creation. I may look the same outside but the truth is that I am completely new inside, in my spirit. Therefore, I now live my life from the inside. I have the divine nature of God in my spirit. I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus"

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a NEW CREATION, old things are passed away and all things are become new" 2 Corinthians 5:17

REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- ROR Topical Compendium Vols.1 & 2
- Understanding Righteousness (Series)
- Now That You are Born Again
- The Concept of Sin (DVD)
- The Essence of Christianity.

CLASS 2: THE HOLY SPIRIT

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Theme Scripture: John 14:16-20

- To introduce the Holy Spirit to the Believer
- To get the new Believer filled with the Holy Spirit
- To acquaint the new Believer with the ministry of the Holy Spirit
- To create a passionate hunger in the heart of the new Believer for a close walk with the Holy Spirit.

1) WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT

- The Holy Spirit is God Himself. He is the 3rd person of the trinity. He is the one that puts to work God's instruction. He is a member of the Godhead. Genesis 1:26
- E.g. in Genesis 1:26, when God said *Let "us" make man in our own image, after our likeness.....*, it was the Holy Spirit that went to work.
- Also we see the Holy Spirit at work in Genesis 1:2 "..... and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." It was the Holy Spirit that created the earth when God spoke.
- He is the angel of God's presence (Isaiah 63:9). He is the person that brings to us on earth the presence of the God the Father. Jesus is in heaven, but His presence can be felt here on earth through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. God dwells between the cherubim of glory, but His presence can be felt in this world through the Holy Ghost.
- Being a Spirit, we cannot see Him with the optical eyes, but we can see His manifestation. He is as real as the person sitting next to you (John 14:17). He has a personality, just as every human being has a personality. He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30), and can talk (Acts 13:2).
- God is too big to dwell in us but He is able to dwell in us by the Holy Spirit. Any time it was recorded that God appeared to men, it was the Holy Ghost that brought to them the presence of God. He is the angel of God's presence. He is one of the same kind with Jesus (John 14:16-20).
- The Holy Spirit is also known as *Allos Parakletos*, meaning another Comforter of the same kind, called alongside to help. He is not of a different kind but of the same kind with the Lord Jesus Christ. He talks, heals, saves and does everything like Jesus. Jesus is just like the Father; it then means that the Holy Ghost is just like the father. This implies that the Father, Jesus and the Holy Ghost are one and the same. The Father says the same things as Jesus, just as the Holy Ghost speaks the very words of Jesus (John 16:13).
- God and Jesus cannot be everywhere at the same time (God is in Heaven and Jesus is seated at the right hand of God), but the Holy Spirit is the one who takes the presence of God everywhere at the same time.

2) THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN

- **Acts 1:8, Luke 4:17-18**
- When a man receives the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit gives him the dynamic ability to live the Christian life successfully.
- It is impossible to win another to Christ without the power of the Holy Spirit.

3) SEVEN SYNONYMS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Apart from being known as the Holy Spirit, there are 7 other ways or revelations a Believer can have of the Holy Spirit that will help him in his walk and relationship with the Holy Spirit.

- **He is our Comforter** **John 14:16-17, 2nd Corinthians 1:3**
The Holy Spirit comforts Christians. There are times when the Christian may be discouraged, or goes through some challenges that may want to discourage him but the Holy Spirit encourages the Christian to move ahead and overcome those challenges.
- **He is our Counselor** **Psalm 16:7, Isaiah 11:2**
It is the Holy Spirit who instructs you in your inward man. He gives you instructions by which he guides your life. For example things that concern daily living such as decision making.
- **He is our Helper** **Psalm 46:1, Romans 8:16**
The Holy Spirit is our Helper. When you receive Him into your life, you should never say again '*I don't have anybody to help me*'. This is because God has the right people in the right place to help you at the right time. God orchestrates help to us whenever we need it via the ministration of the Holy Spirit. There are times that a Christian may be confused about something but the Holy Spirit helps us by witnessing to our spirit.
- **He is our Intercessor** **Romans 8:26**
There are times that we have an urge to pray but we really may not know what to pray about or the exact words to use. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray in words that cannot be articulated. The prayer sometimes may not be about things that concern us specifically but we find ourselves interceding for someone.
- **He is Our Teacher** **1st Corinthians 2:9-11, John 16:13**
The Holy Spirit teaches us deep truth to our understanding. There are times that we may not have full understanding of a matter but the Holy Spirit makes it easy for us to understand by teaching us through our spirit.
- **He is Our Strengthenener** **Philippians 4:13, Isaiah 11:2**
There are times that we feel limited to do some things, maybe physically or mentally. With the Holy Spirit in us, we know that we are strengthened on every side. We can actually receive strength by the Holy Spirit for whatever we need it for.

E.g. some people sometimes pass out because they have high blood pressure - they black out all of a sudden. Such things are not supposed to happen to you. You can stop them by applying the power of the Holy Spirit.

- **He is Our Standby Romans 8:11**

When you run out of everything, strength, information, ideas, and opinion. There is a standby the Holy Spirit. He will give life to your body. He will energize your spirit and supply you with the necessary knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

The Holy Spirit is our Standby, to take over and carry on when we have reached our limits.

4) **HOW TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT - Acts 1:8, Acts 19:6**

Every Christian can receive the Holy Spirit as this is not restricted to a selected few but to all believers. The Christian can receive by:

- ❖ Through the laying of hands
- ❖ We can also confess it

5) **SPEAKING IN TONGUES AND ITS PURPOSES**

When a Christian has received the Holy Spirit, this must manifest by the ability to speak in other tongues. Speaking in tongues is one of the signs of a Believer. Mark 16:17

The reasons for speaking in tongues are as follows:

- ❖ **To Build our faith. Jude 20**

As we pray in the Holy Ghost (speaking in tongues), we see ourselves having received answers to our prayers/petitions and we begin to act as those that have received - this is faith. The more we spend time to speak in other tongues, the more our faith is built up! At a point, we know that nothing is impossible to us!

- ❖ **It is one of the SIGNS of a believer. Mark 16:17**

Speaking in tongues is one of the ways to recognize a believer. When you say you are born again, people look out to see if you speak in tongues as this sets you apart as truly born again.

- ❖ **To Edify yourself. 1Corinthians 14:4**

Example: when you need to make a decision or to know the direction to go in any area of your life (school, job, business, family and finances). As you speak in tongues, your mind becomes quiet then you can pick the information from your spirit.

- ❖ **To Glorify God. Acts 10:46, 1Corinthians 14:17**

True praise and worship can only be by speaking in other tongues. This is because there are not enough words in any of the earthly vocabulary to glorify God.

- ❖ **To Speak Mysteries to God. 1Corinthians 4:2a**

Mysteries are hidden truths only revealed to the initiated, mostly verbalized in esoteric language. It is the language of God and Angels.

6) THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD.

A. Spirit of God **Isaiah 11:2**

a. **The Spirit of the Lord** – 2 Chronicles 15:1 – 2 is known as the Spirit of Lordship or Spirit of Dominion.

B. Spirit of Might **Isaiah 11:1–2**

Samson had the spirit of might that's why he was able to destroy or tear the lion apart, he also pulled a whole building by holding just the pillars. For us Christians the Spirit of Might makes us bold, you can pray to be strengthened with might in your inner man.

C. The Spirit of Fear of The Lord **2 Corinthians 14:4**

This means reverence; when he comes into a place, things change. He disciplines people and sets things in order. When Ananias and Sapphires misbehaved, He struck them dead and great fear came upon the people. (Isaiah 11:2)

D. The Spirit of Wisdom **Isaiah 11:2, 1 Corinthians 1:30**

Is the one who brings you the wisdom of God. Paul prayed for the Christians in Ephesians that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ the father of Glory may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him – Ephesians 1:17-18. The spirit of wisdom is the one who helps you understand the hope to which you have been called. Ephesians 3:18-19.

E. The Spirit of Understanding **Isaiah 11:2**

F. The Spirit of Knowledge

Knowledge according to Webster dictionary is the fact or condition of being aware of something or knowing something with familiarity gained through experience or association. According to the Word of God, knowledge is exact, specific, specialized and absolute. Revelation Knowledge is knowledge from the Spirit of God that is imparted to the human spirit with any material medium. Most times, the difference between a successful, victorious Christian and the one who is not is the knowledge they have.

G. The Spirit of Counsel

The spirit of counsel spoke to Paul where to go to preach (Acts 16:6-10). The (Holy Spirit) is also the extraordinary strategist. Example: Sister Joy's car stopped on the train rail, while she was trying to start the car a train was approaching, suddenly the Spirit of God counseled her on how to start the car immediately she did what God asked her to do. The car engine came alive and she was able to save the car from being destroyed by a train.

7. THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE MINISTRY GIFTS.

a. **The Difference between the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and its Fruit of the recreated human spirit.**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit 1 Cor. 12: 7 – 10 are gifts given to believers by the Holy Spirit as He wills for the common good and the edification of the Church.

- There are nine gifts of the Spirit as outlined in I Corinthians 12:8-11.

(i) Word of wisdom (ii) Word of knowledge (iii) Faith (iv) Gifts of healing
(v) Working of miracles (vi) Prophecy (vii) Discerning of spirits (viii) Diverse kinds of tongues
(ix) Interpretation of tongues.

- The fruit of the recreated human spirit is the product of our recreated nature. We have all of the fruit of the Spirit inside us. They come with our righteous nature.
- **Galatians 5:22** “*But the fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance*”.
- **ANALOGY:** *Just like we can only tell a tree by its fruit, the Fruit of the Holy Spirit are the identifying attributes of the New Creation.*

b. **Ministry Gifts** (Heb. 5:4) is a Calling into an Office in the Body of Christ. The offices are namely: Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher. Those Called into these offices are given the responsibility to PERFECT THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY. In other words, to prepare and build up the saints, so they can fulfill God's purpose for their lives on earth. However, it is not everybody that occupies these offices. It is a calling.

Ministry gift is a calling into an office but the gifts of the Holy Spirit can actually be desired.

c. **Every Christian can walk in the power of the Holy Spirit Acts 2:38 – 39**

- The Holy Spirit is received after salvation. It is the Holy Spirit coming upon man to enable him do the supernatural. It is man receiving God's ability, becoming identified with the omnipotence of God by the enablement of the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 1:8 says: “*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...*”
- The power here means *Dunamis*. It is the dynamic ability to cause changes. God's ability is received after the Holy Ghost comes upon one's life. The Holy Ghost is received by faith and He's mostly received by the laying on of hands (Acts 9:17, Acts 8:17, Acts 8:6).
- Receiving the Holy Ghost means receiving the anointing for Christian Service (1 John 2:20, 27; 2 Corinthians 1:21). It is God equipping you with the ability to do what He would have done if physically present on earth. You receive the power to preach the gospel, heal the sick and raise the dead. The Holy Ghost is for every child of God and is received by faith (Gal. 3:2). This is a gift (Acts 2:38). Since it is a gift you don't

have to work it - you only receive it when you hear that God desires to fill you with His Spirit. Once you believe and act on the Word, the Holy Ghost comes upon you immediately.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the importance of Speaking in Tongues?
2. What is the Difference between the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Fruit of the Recreated Human Spirit?
3. List the 7 Spirits of God and explain 3 of them with Scriptural references.

CONFESSION

I'm full of the Holy Ghost, in Him I live, move and have my being and I declare that in whatever I do I do by the Power of The Holy Spirit that causes me to triumph daily.

I can never be defeated, discouraged or helpless because the Holy Ghost lives in me and I manifest His character, Glory to God!

CLASS 3: CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

*That participants would understand the fundamental doctrines of the things that are most surely believed in the new Christian-dom on Righteousness, Laying on of hands, Sanctification, Holiness, and Baptism and what their role is in fulfilling these doctrines in their life.

1. “We are in a new Kingdom, operating by a different set of rules”

In Hebrews 12:22-23, the Bible says,

*“...Ye are come unto Mount Zion and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem; and to an innumerable company of angels, **To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect**”*

When we received Christ into our lives, He made us new creatures (2 Cor. 5:17)

- We are now in a New Kingdom (Col. 1:12-13).
- In this New Kingdom, we have a lifestyle which is based entirely on the faith of God’s Word (Romans 12:3, Hebrews 11:6).
- When we were in the world, there were certain mannerisms, lifestyles or ethics that we learnt, either consciously or unconsciously. We now evaluate them in the light of God’s Word and also take on the God-kind of lifestyle in the New Testament.
- This class deals with these lifestyles which have become doctrines in the church of God, and especially this local assembly Christ Embassy.

2. Meaning of Doctrine

- A doctrine is a recognizable principle of beliefs, teachings, values or instructions that are adhere to, believed, taught and practiced by a given set of people.
- Most doctrines are transferable concepts, which have been handed down to us formally or informally; for example in the new testament, we have these major doctrines – Righteousness, Baptism, Sanctification, Prosperity, etc. Each of them is important in ensuring that we live a sound Christian life.
 - a. It means teaching or learning: 1Timothy 4:13; Acts 2:42
 - Learning can be conscious (e.g. School, Ministry Materials, etc.) and unconsciously (e.g. TV, News, etc.)
 - Learning can be through culture or society and similarly the Church is a place of learning.
 - b. Being established upon the truth: Ephesians 4:14; Acts 20:28-32

3. Doctrine of Righteousness : Heb. 5:17

- a. We are God's Righteousness Romans 5:17, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 10:1-40, 2 Corinthians 4:13.
 - It is the very nature of God that you received that moment you gave your heart to Christ. Just as a baby can't be more human than himself, you also cannot be more righteous than you are from the day you got saved.
 - Righteousness is the nature of God that gives us a right standing in His presence. It is righteousness that gives the ability to reign in life, living in God's presence without a feeling (or any sense) of guilt, inferiority or condemnation.
 - It is a gift bestowed upon us by God irrespective of whatever good we have done. This gift is received by faith, not of works.
 - Your Righteousness is the same as that of Jesus Christ irrespective of what you do. For example "Tarzan" was raised by monkeys but he is still a man. You are the righteousness of God irrespective of who you move with or what you do.
 - It is our tool of dominion. It is received by faith because it is a gift and not by observing the works of the law. Romans 5:17
 - We submit to God's righteousness by ceasing to trust in our own works (Romans 10:1-5). (Philippians 3:9).
- b. Access to God's presence: Ephesians 2:18, Ephesians 3:12
 - It gives us the ability to stand before God without a sense of guilt, inferiority or condemnation.
- c. Gives you boldness: Proverbs 28:1, Hebrews 10:19
- d. Gives you peace: Isaiah 32:17, Romans 5:1
 - We are now called Saints, Just, and Righteous. That is who you are today. Answer your name!

4. The Foundational Doctrines of Christ: Hebrews 6:1-2

- Certain truths contained in the Word are referred to as foundational principles of the doctrines of Christ. They are fundamental to faith and form the foundation of a sound Christian experience.
- *Heb. 6:1-2. "Therefore living the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment".*
- Any doctrine that in any way disagrees with these fundamental doctrines is according to the standard of God's Word a **false doctrine**. They therefore form a good reference point for judging any doctrine.

i. Repentance from dead works: Hebrews 9:12-14, Gal. 2:16.

- It is essential for a Christian to realize that he is justified by the faith and not by any thing that he did or does. That is all that is required for salvation.
- In Heb. 9:11-14, the writer lets us know that through the blood of Christ, we have our consciences purged from dead works to serve the living God.
- What are these dead works? Studying from verses 11-13 of the same chapter, we can see that the Apostle Paul was talking about the ritual by which people of the Old Testament came to God. He is letting them know that no act of sacrifices on our part to please God is acceptable. Rather God sees them as dead works. All that is required for us is to believe and be justified.

ii. Faith towards God: Hebrews 11:1-6, Romans 1:17, 2 Corinthians 5:7.

- The Bible says in Hebrews 11:1-2, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report”.
- The life of the believer is a life of faith, and God has called us to live in the realm of faith. As God’s children, we walk by faith and not by sight. ‘Sight’ here means sensory perceptions. (2 Cor. 5:7).
- Before we got born again, we were led by our sensory perceptions, but now God wants us to change. He wants us to live in His realm, the realm of faith.
- To some people, the life of faith is a struggle, but it shouldn’t be like that for a Christian, because we are born in faith. The Bible says in Romans 12:3, that we have received the measure of faith.
- This is the measure of faith that brought us to Christ by our responding to the Word of God (Romans 10:9-10).
- It is every believer’s responsibility to develop his faith. “Now faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17). As we hear the Word of God, we are building up our faith; so every believer must make conscious efforts of continually hearing the Word of God not just by attending church gatherings or being in meetings where the Word of God is taught, but also by buying relevant audio and video tapes and other faith-building materials.

iii. Baptisms

- The word ‘baptize’ is derived from the Greek word ‘baptizo’, which means to ‘immerse completely into’.
- a. Baptism of the Holy Spirit (New Birth): 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:4-5
 - This is Baptism into Christ: This is what happens when a man is born again, by the Holy Ghost. He is buried into Christ in identification. He thus partakes of His death, burial and, consequently, resurrection into a new life.
- b. Water Baptism: Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Peter 3:21
 - Baptism by immersion in water: This is one of the sacraments of the church of Christ. It is the immersion of one completely into water, and is an outward manifestation of what happens to a man when he is born again, and baptized into Christ. It was commanded by the Lord Himself as a sign of faith, showing the world that we have believed and identify with the redemption of God for mankind.

iv. **Laying on of hands:**

- The main reason for the laying on of hands is for the impartation of grace upon an individual either for healing or empowerment or to impart a gift. During the laying on of hands that has to do with imparting a spiritual blessing, it often goes along with a prophecy. For example in Numbers 27:18-23, where Moses laid hands on Joshua to impart his authority, we find that, by the Spirit, Moses gave him charge. Deuteronomy 34:9 later records that Joshua was full of the Spirit of wisdom because Moses laid hands on him.

- a. Healing: (Mark 16:18);
 - The example of Pastor in Healing School
- b. The infilling of the Holy Spirit: (Acts 19:6);
 - For those that are yet to receive the Holy Ghost
- c. Impartation of spiritual gifts: (1 Timothy 4:14);
- d. Ordination into the ministry: (Acts 13:1-3)

v. **Resurrection from the dead** : John 5:28-29, 1 Thess. 4:13-16, 1 Cor. 15:19

- The scriptures record that it is appointed for a man to die once and after that, judgment (Heb. 9:27). But from the understanding of God's Word, we know that death is an enemy.
- God never means for a man to die but through the disobedience of man death came into the earth.
- The bible says in Rom. 5:17. "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ".
- Death reigned until the obedience of Christ. Now Christ has abolished death (2 Tim. 1:2-10) and has given us the power to choose life.
- In Christ Jesus, death is a choice for the believer. Death cannot reign over us, but those who died in Christ have hope in the resurrection. (1 Thess. 4:13-16).
- We believe in the resurrection of the dead because the word of God teaches us so. Man is a Spirit being and does not go to extinct when he dies. His spirit goes to his master – either God or the devil (Rom. 6:16) but his body is buried and returns to dust.
- Scriptural References: John 5:28-29, 1 Thess. 4:13-16, Heb. 9:27

vi. **Eternal judgment**

The scriptures record that it is appointed for a man to die once and after that the judgment (Hebrews 9:27). We have two types of judgment, one for believers and the other for unbelievers:

- a. Christian Judgment for Reward: Romans 14:10, 1 Corinthians 3:11-16

Judgment Seat of Christ: The judgment seat of Christ is where Christians receive rewards for the deeds they performed while on earth (1 Cor. 3:13-15). Note that the Christian will not face the judgment seat to be condemned or judged. There is absolutely no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1, 14:10).

- b. Judgment of the unbelievers for condemnation: Revelations 20:11-15

The Great White Throne Judgment: This is when the non-Christians will be judged or condemned for not accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Here the Church also will be present together with God to pass judgment on the non-Christians (1 Cor. 6:2-3).

5. Doctrine on Sanctification: Hebrews 10:10, 1 Corinthians 6:19, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, 1 Corinthians 1:30

This means ‘consecration’ or separation from others for a special use. It is twofold:

- The first fold is the separation of the believer from the world when he gets born-again. This is instantaneous upon receiving Christ.

In this first fold, God takes you from the world. It’s like taking you out from the mud. *“But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified in the name of the lord Jesus and by the Spirit of God”*. **1 Cor. 6:11** see also **Heb. 10:10, Jude 1**.

This first fold of Sanctification is done by God and God alone through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- The second fold is the ultimate separation of the believer unto God.

This is by the Word of God affecting his whole being – (Spirit, Soul & Body).

This is gradual. It is not progressive or procedural, but it is and should be continuous.

In this second fold, the world is taken out of the believer. Remember that in the first fold He took the sinner out of the mud, now in this second fold, the mud is taken out of the believer. It’s like taking a bath with water and soap. *“Sanctify them through thy word, thy word is truth”* **Jn. 17:17**.

It is your personal responsibility to receive the Word into you through meditation, study and listening to the Word of God diligently e.g. buying and actually using our ministry materials.

Scriptural references: **Heb. 10:10, 1 Cor. 6:11, 1 Cor. 1:2, 1 Thess. 4:4, 2 Tim. 2:22**

6. Doctrine on Holiness: 1 Corinthians 6:19, Hebrews 3:1

- Holiness is our positioning - where we are in Christ.
- The example of when we give our offering. While it is still with us, it is ours but once we drop it on the altar it is no longer ours. That’s why you don’t collect change when you give offering.
- Your Holiness has nothing to do with what you do, it is who you are.
- What makes you holy is the fact that your body is now the temple of the Holy Ghost who dwells in you. **1 Corinthians 6:19**
- You are no longer your own. You are bought with a price.

7. Doctrine on the law: Romans 8:1-3, Ephesians 2:15, Hebrews 7:18-19

A law functions and it is effective whether or not you are aware of its existence.

The Bible talks about 3 Important laws:

i. **The Law of Moses –**

- Was never for the gentiles but even so,
- Christ has abolished the law **Ephesians 2:15**;
- For the Love of God that is shed abroad in our heart (Rom. 8:5) is the fulfillment of the law (Rom. 13:10)
- You therefore no longer have to keep the letters of the Ten Commandments and all the other laws of Moses, yet these laws are fulfilled in us as we do the Word and walk in love.

ii. **The law of Sin and Death –**

- Is the nature at work in the natural unregenerate man that causes man to tend to do wrong always, that brings death, sickness, failure and everything evil upon the natural man.
- Like the law of gravity (all that goes up must come down) man is helplessly subject to this law.
- But in Christ we are more than mere men because we have received inherent power by the Holy Ghost.

iii. **The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus -**

- This is the law of God that is at work in every born-again child of God.
- **Illustration:** Like the law of Lift (that enables a plane to fly and remain up there for as long as it wants to despite the existence of the law of gravity), so are we (the new creature in Christ) able to rise above the elements of this world and every fiery dart of the wicked.
- You have to be aware and live in the consciousness of this law so that you will constantly activate it, by faith through your faith proclamations.
- You can rise above the common flu or plague, sickness, fear, failure, lack, etc. by the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.

8. Doctrine on Deliverance: Colossians 1:12-13; Mark 16:17

- The word deliver means ‘to take out’ ‘to save’ ‘rescue from’ for example from danger. Salvation is the central theme of the gospel, and one of its benefits to the new creation is deliverance.
- God had delivered us out of the control and the dominion of the darkness. We are free from the power, hold, dominion or authority of darkness – Col. 1:13.
- This is a present tense reality; Jesus came to redeem man not just by paying a price (ransom) but by force Exodus 6:6.
- Jesus made a public display of Satan’s defeat. He conquered and disarmed the power of darkness and spoiled them, that is, He took everything they had that was of value from them – Col. 2:15.
- This victory secured our deliverance. What’s more? He translated us into the kingdom of His dear son. He brought us “out” to “take us in”.
- We “have been” delivered (past tense) out the domain of failure, fear, poverty, sickness ... Not “will be” delivered. It has happened already. It is our present-tense possession.

God did not stop here; He also gave us authority over satan and all his cohorts in the name of Jesus – Eph. 1:22, Phil. 2:9-11.

- We have been given the power of attorney to use His name and in that name, we cast out devils Mark 16:17.
- The power of darkness that we used to be afraid of is now like you knowing someone that used to scare you with a toy gun, but now that you have a real gun (AKA 47) in your hand, you are now the terror to him. Now think how silly it will be for you with a live gun to be scared of or hide from a bully with a toy gun!

REVISION QUESTIONS

1. List the ___ Foundational Doctrines of Christ. Discuss briefly on each one.
 - a. Repentance from dead works
 - b. Faith towards God
 - c. Baptism
 - d. Laying on of hands
 - e. Resurrection of the dead
 - f. Eternal judgment
2. Analyze the other Doctrines of Christ
 - a. Righteousness
 - b. Deliverance
 - c. Holiness
 - d. The three important Laws

TODAY'S CONFESSION

I am the Righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Love is my nature.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

“But ye are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect” (Hebrews 12: 22-23).

REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- ROR Topical compendium Vol. 1 & 2
- Changing hopeless situations: Understanding Righteousness(series)
- Power for Change (DVD)
- 3 Kinds of Wisdom
- How to Make Your Faith Work
- Praying the Right Way
- The Priestly Ministry of the Believer (DVD series)

CLASS 4: EVANGELISM AND CELL MINISTRY

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this class, participants should:

1. Know about the importance of Soul winning.
2. Be able to identify their chariots
3. Be inspired to cultivate a lifestyle of winning souls
4. Know the importance of joining a cell (as a place to learn and grow in the Word by asking questions a member cannot ask during church services).
5. Understand the Cell structure as a support system for Christian living and for winning souls.

A. EVANGELISM AND SOUL WINNING

1. The Great Commission: Matthew 28: 18-20

- God has given every Christian the responsibility of soul winning- The Ministry of Reconciliation: 2 Corinthians 5:18-21. The reason God does not take us to heaven after we are born again is that He expects us to win others to Christ. He has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
- It is God's Number 1 Business.
- We are God's ambassadors here on earth. It is a divine assignment given to us Christians. It is such an important task for which God counts on us very much as even angels cannot preach the Gospel.
- It is indeed a privilege and honor for us as Christians.

2. Soul Winning is a command, not a suggestion: Mark 16:15-20

- This is a mandate given to every believer.
- He said go ye therefore, and teach all nations. (A nation is any group of individuals that share a common interest, like a vocation, or a geographical)
- He also said to baptize those that believe.

3. Importance of Soul winning: Romans 10:13-15, Mark 16:15-16.

- The Holy Spirit was given to us majorly for the purpose of witnessing- Acts 1:8
- The Gospel is the saving power of God.
- It is the way by which men are reconciled to God.

Illustration

We are His legs and His hands. We are God's extension here on earth. If you are presently not engaged in a job, do not say you don't have a job because you indeed have a job. When give quality time to soul winning your other job will come sooner than you think. If you are an accountant, you are first of all a soul winner before you are an accountant. If you are a medical Doctor, the same thing applies.

B. Join this Chariot: Acts 8:26-35

1. What is your chariot?

- Your chariot is your vehicle or platform through which you reach your world with the Gospel.
- Where you live, work, school, or do business is your chariot.
- Chariots are different areas of life where we have contact with peoples of the world and influence them with the Gospel of Christ.

2. Who is qualified to win souls? Acts 1:8, Acts 4:18-20

- The primary reason why the Holy Ghost was sent to us was for soul winning.
- Everyone who has received Christ has the ability to win souls.
- Immediately you get born again, you are enrolled into the league of soul winners.

3. Rewards of soul winning: Daniel 12:3, 1 Corinthians 9:16-18, 25

- He that wins souls is wise. He walks in high level wisdom
- He shines as stars
- He is God's partner.
- God is unable to abandon a soul winner.

Illustration

If Jesus can leave the glory and splendor of heaven to come and die for mankind, we whom He paid this price for should be ready to go about His work. That is the least we can do for Him.

C. What does it mean to teach all Nations? Mark 16:15

Teaching all nations means preaching the gospel to every creature and making them observe all that we have been taught by Jesus Christ.

Making disciples of all nations (group of people)

- Disciples are disciplined followers of Christ i.e. people who have come to know Christ and follow Him in nature, character and lifestyle.
- Nations refers to different groupings i.e. group of Bankers, Nurses, Lawyers, Engineers, etc.

Our Lord Jesus asked us to carry the gospel to the various groups we are part of or that we interact with in the course of our everyday life. Christianity delivers a better life. We are called to offer to people that higher and more excellent life.

As believers, we have superior intelligence and higher knowledge and information which we must make others to benefit from.

D. Praying for souls: Psalm 2:8, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 , Ephesians 6:10-12, James 5:16

- Prayer is a very important aspect of soul winning.
- Soul winning is spiritual and as such for it to be effective, prayer is the winning tool.
- Prayer helps to loosen men from the hold of the devil so they can receive Jesus Christ.
- Prayer creates the appetite of the new creation in a young Christian.

E. The need for Training: Ephesians 4:11-16

- To be an effective soul winner, training is important.
- God trains His children. An example is David who was trained through tending his father's flock. He was later to become the greatest king of Israel. Moses also underwent training for 40 years to be able to lead God's people.
- The basic tool of training is the Word of God- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

THE CELL MINISTRY

4. The Cell System

The cell is the smallest unit of the church.

Reasons a member must belong to a cell (A member belongs to a support group and is not alone. He has someone looking out for his well-being, nurturing and praying with him when necessary) Acts 4: 32-35.

Illustration:

If a member of a cell is getting married or is planning a similar occasion, the member can rely on members of his/her cell to be there for him/her. There have been occasions when members have made material contributions towards such events. Cell members are often present, making such occasions grand. Best of all is that members pray for their brethren.

The cell is a member's address in church. Members of the cell can become a member's social support group.

In a church as large as Christ Embassy, it is easy for a person to be lost in the crowd. A person who joins a cell and is active in his cell, locates himself and can easily be located.

- a. The structure of the cell (Leadership, meeting) e.g. Cell Leader, Assistant cell leader, Secretary, etc.

5. The Cell is a Missionary Unit:

Missionary Christian: Psalm 67:2 (TLB). Ephesians 4:12

A missionary Christian is available and eager to preach the gospel to his world. He is also ready to invest his resources in the gospel. Ephesians 4:15-16

It is often said that you put your money and other resources where your heart is. The Missionary Christian sets his eyes on soul winning and does not allow any distractions. He invests in soul winning. He also does not lack because the Lord takes over his cares.

6. Importance of Corporate Evangelism

- a. Corporate evangelism in the cell (cell outreach)
- b. Corporate evangelism in the church (church outreaches)
- c. Corporate evangelism in the ministry (ministry outreaches e.g. Higher Life Conferences, Night of Bliss, etc.)

7. Pastoral Care in the cell: Acts 2:44-47, Hebrews 13:7

The cell member has access to the pastoral counsel and care through the leadership hierarchy of the cell.

8. Principles of Prayer : James 5:16-18, Acts 6:4-7

- Men ought always to pray and not to faint.
- When we pray we change situations like Elijah prayed. Because I prayed about a situation in the office a whole department was shaken because one person decided to pray and not take no for an answer.
- Prayer is fellowship with God, and when we pray we use God's Word in prayer because He can only respond to His Word so we don't use human words.
- We pray in the Name of Jesus, we don't pray through the Name of Jesus.

REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- The Cell Manual
- Join This Chariot
- Praying the Right way
- The Missionary Christian (Audio & Visual CDs)

CLASS 5: CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the end of this class, participants should:

- Have learnt how to study God's Word.
- Know the importance of the Christian growth.
- Understand the purpose of prosperity.

The new creation man has a new lifestyle (new way of living) that needs to be developed. This class addresses this new faith lifestyle.

1. The Importance of growth for a Christian (Galatians 4:1-2)

“[1] Now I say, that the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; [2] But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father”

Growth will enable the Christian (heir) to walk in his inheritance and demonstrate the difference between the Christian and the non-Christian (servant).

- **God designed us for growth** (Ephesians 4:15-16)

“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 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.”

- The illustration of the growth of a baby that depicts that of the new born Christian; The incorruptible, majestic, durable, lofty, expansive growth of a cedar of Lebanon is the way the Christian should grow

2. Studying the Word

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth”(2 Tim. 2:15).

- The Christian is a student for life, Pastor Chris says you may have a D in school but you cannot afford to have a D in life. Life is spiritual therefore there is need for serious spiritual education.
- The Berean Christians were more noble because of their checking up the scriptures.
- The Christian is a worker and must be rightly educated for the work. Rightly dividing the Word of truth will help us pray the right way and confess the right things.

A. Reason for study

- *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2)*
 - Study is essential for our growth and development as Christians. The Word is our necessary food.

- *“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Ephesians 4:14)*
- Study will help us to be stable Christians and protect us from the deception of wrong teachings. When we understand the Word we will no more be like children who pick up one thing today and drop it tomorrow; we will be stable in the faith.

B. Necessity of Daily Study

- *“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”(Acts 17:11).*
- Man is a spirit and must feed his spirit man daily just like a man who feeds his body daily. Imagine a soldier who has not eaten for days going to war. Similarly, the Christian is continually fighting the fight of faith and must be spiritually fit. A plant needs constant water to flourish and do well, so is the life of a Christian.
 - *“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart” (Acts 2:46).*
- The daily (day by day) walk of faith of the early Christians is of note. Even as a tree grows 24 hours a day 7 days a week and is constantly connected to its source; the Christian is typified as a tree in Psalm 1 that grows by the river. You must stay connected to the source of your life. **(Deut. 32:46-47)**

C. Rhapsody of Realities: An effective study guide

- We have a daily devotional developed to help our study of God’s Word.
- We should not speed read our Rhapsody devotional like a newspaper but study and underline striking words in it.
- Follow the Bible reading plan.
- There are people who read the newspaper daily but we as Christian people should develop the habit of investing our time in things that edify us and nourish us spiritually.

3. Fellowship (Church Services, Cell meetings)

- The Bible talks about the togetherness and participation of each of us with one another in the body of Christ. In Christianity, no man is an Island just like the eye needs the ear, etc.
 - *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved”. (Acts 2:42-47)*
- The early Christians are examples of believers walking together in fellowship. Their testimony caused increase in the body of Christ as the Lord added more to the church daily as should be saved.

- The Cell System of Christ Embassy is a fellowship group where Christians gather together in more intimate groups and are involved in each other's lives.
 - *“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”. (Ephes. 4:16)*
- We all need each other to grow and develop fully.

- **Illustration:** How the human body works that all the members are dependent on each other.

Consistency in Service.

- *“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (Hebrews 10:24).*
 - We must develop the habit of going to church whether we feel like it or not. The Bible teaches that some have a manner of neglecting Christian gatherings. We must have the right attitude in attending church services not just to fulfill all righteousness but to learn. It is like going to a spiritual school. If you can go to work daily why can't you attend church services which is just twice a week, remember that the money you seek wisdom can give.
 - God expects you to be in service and will minister to you if you are present. Some people have missed their ministration by being absent at church services/meetings.

4. LOVE *Greek word- AGAPE*

- Agape is the God kind of love and is different from the world's kind of love.
- Agape is love that is unconditional, it gives in spite of the recipient.
- Love is the emblem of the Christian. The Lord said that is how people will know we are His disciples when we love one another. 1Cor.14:1 says we should hotly pursue Love (make it our great quest).
- If you are going to live the faith life you will have to work in love for faith works by love.
- Love is the key to spiritual gifts 1Cor.14:1 says follow after love and desire spiritual gifts.

Note:

1. 1 Cor. 13 is the chapter that explains love (for a good rendering check the amplified version).
2. Note that in Gal. 5:22. We read that the Fruit (*singular*) of the spirit (the recreated human spirit not the Holy Ghost) is (*singular*) Love. This connotes that all the other listed fruits are in the first one -Love fruits. A Christian does not need to ask God for the ability to love, he has love like he has faith. The Bible says the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:5). We are born of Love. We are born with it so we can only grow in the manifestation of the fruits.

“A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye love one to another”.
(John 13:34-35)

3. The 10 commandments have been abolished and do not apply to the new creation. The new commandment for the new creation is to love as Christ loved us.

“And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God should love his brother also”. (1 John 4:21)

The proof of your love for God is your love for your brothers and sisters.

“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor”.(Ephes. 5:1-2)

Illustration

Just like children copy their father we should imitate God by walking in love. Imagine a child who wears his father’s shoes and tie acting like his father.

5. OUR CONFESSION/MANNER OF LIFE

- CHRISTIANITY is called the great confession. There is a connection between our confession and the way we live.
“We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak” (2 Corinthians 4:13).
- Christianity is a life of confession. Confession comes from the Greek word 'Homologia' which means, speaking the same things with God in consent. The Bible says that what we speak is not what we see, think or feel. We speak what we believe.
- In the book of Hebrews, the Bible says,
“Let your conversation be without covetousness and be content with such things as ye have: for he has said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may BOLDLY SAY, the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Hebrews 13:5-6).
- God has spoken so that we may boldly say what He has said concerning us in agreement with Him. This is the Christian life.
- It is our confessions that put our faith to work. Salvation is sealed by confession. Merely believing in the mind does not do anything until we declare who we are, what we have become, etc. Confession puts the power of God to work. The Bible says, *“That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus....”* and also, *“...With the mouth confession is made unto salvation”*.
- Our confession sets our lives on course.
- Our life goes in the direction of our confession. Bible says, “For by faith we understand that the world was formed by the word of God...” (Hebrews 11:3).

“Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philip. 1:4-6)

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself”. (Philip. 3:20-21)

- Our citizenship is in heaven. We come from a higher kingdom and live by a different set of rules. The bible is our constitution and that is how we know our rights and privileges. We are like ambassadors in a foreign land who have divine diplomatic immunity.

“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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”. (Romans 10:9-13)

- We start out the Christian life with confessing the lordship of Jesus Christ and continue the Christian life by this same process of confessing the things we believe.

“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any”. (1 Cor. 6:12)

- You must learn to leave the good for the best.

A. Life and Death is in The Power of the Tongue

This is an extension of the last point we made concerning confession. The last point deals with saying the same things with God. In other words agreeing with what God has said with our words, but this one deals with the power of our tongue. The tongue has the power to kill or make alive. The reason why we have to agree with God and say what He says is because His words are spirit and they are life (John 6:63). Therefore, His words will produce life for us. Any other word will produce negative things because there is power in the tongue.

The Bible says, *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof”* (Proverbs 18: 21). This is very strong. The power to control life lies in the tongue even though the tongue is one of the smallest members of the body.

The Bible declares: *“For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell”* (James 3:2-6).

The Bible shows that the tongue controls everything about life. Jesus said in Mark 11:22, that we shall have whatsoever we say. We must keep speaking the Word of God. The Bible says we should hold fast our confession.

Questions

- 1) Life and death are in the power of the tongue. Discuss this exhaustively with scriptures.
- 2) You shall have whatsoever you say. Explain.

B. Faith Walk

The Christian walk is a walk of faith. The Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God because he that "...cometh unto God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6).

We do not walk by what we see but by what the Word says. Our sight should be focused on nothing else but on the Word. The Bible says, "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: For the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18).

Everything the senses can perceive is temporal. They are subject to change but the Word of God abides forever. So the Bible says we walk by faith and not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5:7). Our walk of faith is based on the law of faith. The Bible declares in 2 Corinthians 4:13, "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak". This is why God said, 'let the weak say, I am strong'.

Questions

- (1) Explain, "For we walk by faith and not by sight".
- (2) Explain the law of faith.

C. Christianity is a Life of Submission

The Christian life is a life of submission - submission to the Word of God. When we submit ourselves to one another or to authority (both spiritually and earthly) we are submitting to the Word, because it is the Word that admonishes us to live in submission. There are three levels of authority that the Bible asks the Christian to recognize and submit to. They are:

(i) Authority in the home:

This basically makes reference to the relationship between the husband and the wife and between the children and the parents. For the husband and the wife, the Bible says, "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and He is the savior of the body" (Ephesians 5:22-23).

Notice that it did not say "Wives submit yourselves to all husbands". It says "to your own husbands". While the wife is submitted to her own husband, her husband is asked to love her: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself to it" (Ephesians 5:25).

Authority has given the husband to be the head over his wife and so God commands the wife to submit herself to the husband's authority. The authority that the husband exercises over his wife is likened to the one Christ exercises over the church, and the wife is to submit herself to

her husband the way the church submits to Christ. On the other hand, children are asked to obey their parents while the fathers were asked to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1-3).

(ii) Civil Authority:

In relating with the state, the Bible instructs also that we should submit to the authority of the state or sovereign as long as he/she does not by his authority violate the authority of the Word of God. Bible says, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation" (Romans 13:1-2).

The reason why we should submit to the leaders is because, God is the one who establishes them and so any rebellion against the sovereign is directed towards God. The Bible says, "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shall have praise of the same. For he is a minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid..." (Romans 13:4). Paul admonishes us further to pray for those in authority so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. (I Timothy 2:1-2)

(iii) Authority in the Church:

God has set up government in His church. He lets us know how to relate with those in positions of authority in the body of Christ. Bible says, "Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves, for they watch for your souls as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief, for this is unprofitable for you". (Hebrews 13:17)

Every Christian is admonished to submit to the authority in his/her local assembly because those in authority are not ruling with their own abilities. It is the power of God that established them where they are. Whoever resists them is resisting the anointing and this is very dangerous. The Bible says it will not be profitable to do this.

6. SETTLING DISAGREEMENTS

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. [16] But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. [17] And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican" (Matthew 18:15-17)

There is a way Christians should settle disputes amongst themselves that is different from the way of the people of the world. You'll call the party involved and talk with him. If he doesn't listen to you invite another Christian, yet still if there is no change tell it to the Pastor of the church. If this still does not work you can treat the person the way you would treat a stranger.

7. SANCTIFYING YOUR THOUGHTS

“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death”. (James 1:13-15)

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things”.(Phillip. 4:8)

- As Christians we have to take charge of our thoughts
- Thoughts can come to you from God, from your mind based on the information you receive and from the devil.
- As a Christian you should not allow your mind to dwell on just anything
- The Bible gives us a list of things we should dwell on in Phillip. 4:8
- Be careful on what you dwell on because your mind is the doorway to your spirit.
- Be careful about the things you watch, read and hear like movies, books, magazines, news, etc. because they could influence your thoughts positively or negatively.

PRINCIPLES OF PROSPERITY

1. WHAT IS PROSPERITY?

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago” (2 Cor. 8:9-10)

“Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success”.(Joshua 1:7-8)

2. PURPOSE OF PROSPERITY

“And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day”. (Deut. 8:17-18)

The Purpose of Prosperity for a Christian is to be a blessing to the kingdom of God (i.e. furtherance of the Gospel) and other people especially fellow Christians.

There are several blessings associated with giving offerings to God, some of these offerings are explained below with various supporting scriptures:

- **TITHES**

“Bring ye all the tithes 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”. (Malachi 3:10)

“And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all”. (Genesis 14:20)

“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone”. (Matthew 23:23)

“But woe unto you, Pharisees! For ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone” (Luke 11:42)

“In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims”. (Genesis 15:18-20)

- **FIRST FRUITS**

“Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me”. (Exodus 22:29)

“For if the first fruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches”. (Romans 11:16)

“The first fruit also of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him”. (Deut. 18:4)

- **FREEWILL OFFERING**

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again”. (Luke 6:38)

- **SEED OFFERING**

“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness ;) Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God”. (2 Cor. 9:6-11)

- **PARTNERSHIP**

“And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow labourers, whose names are in the book of life”. (Philip. 4:3)

“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity”. (Philip. 4:10)

“Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus”. (Philip. 4:15-19)

TODAY’S CONFSSION:

I am love. Love is my nature. I am patient and I am kind

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Amplified

CLASS 6: THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY AND BELIEVERS' LOVEWORLD INC.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- The student would understand the Universal Church – the purpose and functions of the Church through its individual members
- The student is well informed about the ministry and the leadership structure of the ministry.
- The student has a better understanding of the Cell System as it integrates with the universal church.
- The student should understand his/her role and what it means to give one's life a meaning; understanding of the vision of the ministry, his/her role in outreach programs and our emphasis on training at all levels.
- The student is at home with what we believe and preach in this ministry as summarized in our statement of faith.

INTRODUCTION

“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all” Ephesians 1:22-23. The scripture lets us know that the church is the body of Christ. He is the head, while the church is his body. *“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” Ephesians 4:11-12.*

1. WHAT IS THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH AND THE BODY OF CHRIST?

It is very important that you get to understand what the universal church is and also know how one becomes a member. It must be understood that the church is one. The universal church therefore comprises every member of the body of Christ in the whole world round. This is the whole family of God that meets in every part of the world from Christ to date. **Ephesians 3:21.**

We find that Christ Himself being the head of the Church, appointed (or gave) the five ministry gifts. (i.e. Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers) for the perfection, building up (edifying) of the church. The church is God's peculiar treasure. **Colossians 1:18, 24.**

The church is the God's peculiar treasure. The Word of God declares in **Psalms 16:3** *“But to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight”* The church is God's delight. The NKJV reads *“and to the excellent ones”*. It's great to belong to the church (i.e. the body of Christ).

I Corinthians 12:18 God Himself sets His children into the particular local assembly they should belong. You are not here by chance. God positioned you in this particular local assembly in line with His predestined purpose for you and I. The Universal body of Christ needs you. **Romans 12:4-5**

2. HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

To become a member of the universal church (or the church precisely), one has to be born again. This is the only pre-requisite for becoming a member of the church. To be born again is to appreciate for yourself the salvation that Jesus brings. All you have to do is to act on the Word of God as it is in **Romans 10:9-10.**

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thy heart that God 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”

By reason of this proclamation or declaration one is baptized into the body of Christ through the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit. This is being born again (i.e. Holy Ghost baptism).

3. EVERYONE SHOULD BELONG TO A CHURCH

It is very important that every Christian belongs to a church (i.e. local assembly). We had seen in **Hebrews 10:25** that the Apostle Paul admonishes that we should not forsake the gathering of ourselves together as the bad manner of some is. We should not make ourselves church supervisors, going from one church to another under the pretext that God spoke to us, for there is no such thing as that. We should be committed to a local assembly. The only time God will speak to you to leave a church for another according to the scriptures is when His Word is not taught there. He would now (by the Holy Spirit) direct you to a proper place. **See Acts 2:42; Hebrews 2:13**. Also, going from church to church would not allow you to be built up. It rather helps to raise questions, doubt and suspicion.

It was the custom of Jesus to go the temple, same also with the disciples. They are our examples. We should follow after them; also it is important that we go to church to be built up too. Finally, we go to church to worship God, to pour out our heart to Him, to praise and glorify Him. **Luke 4:16**

That is why we need local assemblies; it enhances fellowship and causes every member to contribute his or her own part in the work of the ministry. Also the unity of the brethren is adequately enhanced. **I Corinthians 12:12, 18-27; Ephesians 4:16** The whole body is fitly joined together and compacted as each one of us supplies our own expected (ordained) quota to the work of the ministry.

Secondly, local assembly enables brethren to identify what office or role they can perform. **Romans 12:4-5** The Universal body of Christ needs you. We depend on one another just as God depends on us. That is why we must care for one another and honor one another.

4. PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

Primarily the purpose of the church can be seen to be three-fold

- a. Firstly, to glorify God
- b. Secondly, to witness to the world
- c. Thirdly, to build up the saints

a. **To Glorify God, Ephesians 1:9-12, Ephesians 3:20-21**

“Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself. That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth, even in him. In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his will. That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ”

God’s plan and desire is for the church to glorify Him and to show forth His glory, (i.e. His Excellency, His perfection).

b. To Witness to the world

Apart from glorifying God, the church should also be involved in witnessing to the world our Lord Jesus Christ. This talks of soul winning and it is God's number one job. It is God's heartthrob. Every Christian should make soul winning a priority. Involvement with witnessing is not negotiable both singularly and corporately, the church should evangelize and disciple the world for Jesus. See **Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2nd Corinthians 5:17-19, and Mark 16:15-16.**

c. To Build up the saints

Every member of the church is called to be saints (**1Cor. 1:2**) and we all have the responsibility of contributing to the building or edification of the body of Christ. The things that we are taught by the ministry gifts (i.e. Pastors, Prophets, Evangelists, Teachers, and Apostles) and the Holy Spirit, should also be used to teach others and bring them up in the faith. As Christians, we should take up our appropriate responsibilities; **soul winning and soul development**. It is not enough to witness to somebody of Jesus but adequate follow up should be mounted to win and develop him to the level that he also becomes involved in winning and developing others. See **Ephesians 4:11-16.**

5. WHO BUILDS THE CHURCH?

a. 'UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY CHURH'

In **Matthew 16:13-19**, you will discover that many people have erroneously interpreted Jesus' statement or words to mean that Peter is the rock. We must get it right and this can only come as we take this in context. You see after Peter answered that *"thou art the Christ the son of the Living God"* and Jesus acknowledged his answer by saying *flesh and blood hath not revealed it to you but his father which is in heaven"*

He went further to tell Peter that upon this rock I will build my church. The rock Jesus referred to there is "the revelation that Peter received, that Jesus is the Christ" So we find that Jesus Christ is the rock upon which the church is built. Other scriptures reveal this clearly; 1st Corinthians 3:11. *"for other foundation can no man lay than is laid, which is Jesus Christ"*. See **Ephesians 5:23-25, Ephesians 2:18-20** and **1st Peter 2:4-7.**

When the Lord would have built up Zion, then He will come in His glory. We have seen that Jesus is the rock which the church is built on **Matthew 16:18**. Jesus therefore is the builder of the church. He is the head of the church, **Ephesians 5:23**. He is the author and the finisher (or perfecter) of our faith, **Hebrews 12:2.**

b. Also, every member of the church is equally building the church. In **Ephesians 4:12-16**, you will find that the reason for which Jesus gave the ministry gifts for equipping and perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the building up (edifying) of the body of Christ (i.e. the church). This therefore makes us partners with deity. God is building His church through us. The Word of God declares that we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works. **Ephesians 2:10**, importantly also we find in **1st Corinthians 3: 9-10** *"For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's buildings. According to the grace of God, which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon"*.

There is a reward waiting for us for how we build on the foundation; for our work in the ministry. When we stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Then we shall receive our eternal reward. **1st Corinthians 9:25, 2 Timothy 4:8.**

6. YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR LEADERS

Christianity is a Life of Submission- submission to the Word of God. When we submit ourselves to one another or to authority (both spiritually and earthly) we are submitting to the Word, because it is the Word that admonishes us to live in submission. There are three levels of authority that the Bible asks the Christian to recognize and submit to.

(Refer to “Christianity is a Life of Submission” in Class 5).

- *The Bible says we should obey our spiritual leaders and submit to them (Hebrews 13:17)*
- **Loyalty: 1Cor. 16:15-16:** We all like the house of Stephanas should be addicted to the ministry of the saints. It is a decision that has eternal rewards in this world and the world to come. This loyalty is demonstrated in our obedience to our leaders **1Chron. 20:20**
- **Submission:** Your spiritual leader has been given the charge by God to watch over your welfare. The leaders in the church have the responsibility of training people who are under them, to full maturity. This responsibility could be a lot easier when the followers humble themselves in obedience to their leaders. Your attitude should be such that your leaders would give your report with joy and not with grief.
- In **1st Samuel 15:22-23**, this scripture like many other places clearly explains that “*obedience is better than sacrifice*”. This is one of the very important required characters of a Christian in his relationship to his leader. In other words, rebellion and stubbornness are serious sins. Scripture equates them to WITCHCRAFT and IDOL WORSHIP, sins worthy of death. Refer to **Exodus 22:18, Leviticus 20:6.**
- Also **Numbers 16**, we read how Korah who was a Levite, and already one of the leaders rebelled against Moses and was punished. God does not take insurrection lightly.
- **Can You Speak Against Your Leaders Even If He Does Something Wrong? (Numbers 12:1-6)**
- As Christians, it is not in our position to speak against our leaders even if they do something wrong. This is because they are ordained by God and are answerable to Him or their leaders, and not to you who is under them. (**Romans 13:12**) says “*let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power that be but God’s; the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resists the power resists the ordinance of God: and they that resist the powers shall receive to themselves damnation.* Just like the example of Miriam and Aaron in **Numbers 12:1-6.**
- Another example of bad leadership is the Scribes and Pharisees, whom Jesus still admonished the people to still obey what they say and not what they do. **Matthew 23:2-3**

What Do You Do?

- **Pray for the leader. 1st Timothy 2:1-2**
- **Paul urges us to pray for people, particularly for our leaders. This is not when they have been good to us but even at times when things are not well.**
- **Speak to someone senior to him in love, not complaining.**
- **Forgive him in love.**

QUESTIONS

1. What is the church?
2. What do you understand by the universal church?
3. How can one become a member of the church?
 - a. What is the purpose of the church?
4.
 - i. Is Apostle Peter the Rock?
 - ii. Who is the Rock and give two scriptures to back up your answer.

BELIEVERS' LOVEWORLD INCORPORATED

7. CHRIST EMBASSY AND YOU

The book of 2nd **Corinthians 5:20** says that we are ambassadors for Christ. Like any other ambassador here on earth posted to another country, we are also ambassadors (representatives) of Christ to reconcile the world back to Him. We are posted into the world though we are not of the world. We are to win the world to Christ. Zion is our home country because we are on an official assignment. In doing this, we give people's lives a meaning i.e. salvation, healing, prosperity, peace, etc.

The Vision of the Ministry

Win souls, build them and send them. We are to take the manifest presence of our Lord Jesus Christ to the people of the World with signs, wonders and miracles via the agency of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God and give their lives a meaning.

QUESTION: What are my responsibilities as an Ambassador of Christ?

8. THE CELL SYSTEM

This is a set of fellowships and outreach units working together as a whole for the growth or development of the Mother church.

- a. It serves as a basis of identification for our members as everybody must belong to a cell.
- b. It serves as a place for the exploitation of leadership potentials. To win souls and take responsibility over them. One can rise from being a bible study teacher who is responsible for at least two souls he won into the cell, to becoming a PCF leader. A PCF leader is responsible for about ten cells or more.
- c. It is a unit of outreach
- d. It is a unit of fellowship.
- e. It is a unit to cater for the immediate needs of brethren as they arise. The philosophy of the Cell system is: **win souls, build souls, and send them.**

PCUs (Pastoral Care Unit) are made up of at least 3 cells and **PCFs (Pastoral Care Fellowship)** are made up of at least 3 PCUs.

The PFCC (Pastoral Fellowship Coordinating Center) supervises the running of the Cell system. We have cells for Teenagers, Singles and the Married.

9. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MINISTRY

The Ministry started as a fellowship at the then Bendel State University Ekpoma, Nigeria. It was known as “**Youth for Christ**”. The name later changed to “**Believers’ LoveWorld Campus Fellowship**”. On graduating from campus, Pastor Chris Oyakhilome started Christ Embassy (the first church) in Benin and later handed it over to Rev. Tom Amenkhienan and came over to Lagos, Nigeria. In Lagos, Christ Embassy began at Adeniyi Jones in Ikeja, Lagos. Today, we are in all seven continents of the globe.

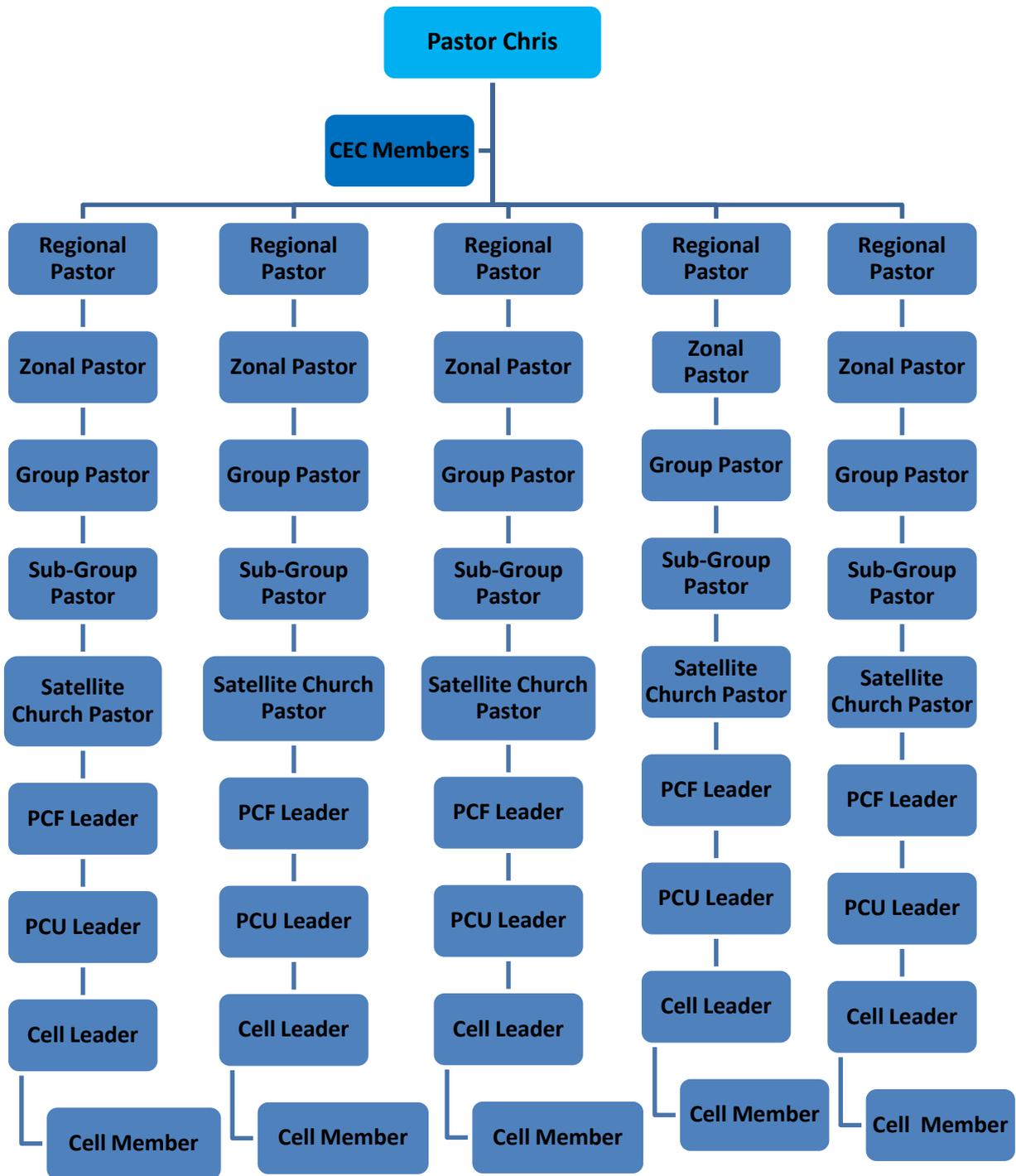
10. THE LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

At the helm of the BLW Inc. (aka. Christ Embassy) ministry affairs is **Pastor Chris Oyakhilome (PhD)**. He is the President of BLW Inc. and Head of the **CEC (Central Executive Council)**, which is the highest decision making body of the ministry. Members of the CEC include the Director of Church Ministry and Organization, Rev. Tom Amenkhienan, the Secretary-General, Rev. Ray Okocha, Rev. Ken Oyakhilome, Evangelist Eddy Owase, Pastor Tuoyo Edun, and Pastor Ambrose Isesele.

The Assistant Secretary-Generals are Pastor Kayode Adesina, Pastor Biodun Lawal, Pastor Karen Victor and Pastor Afolabi Oketunji.

The **GEC (General Executive Council)** is made up of all the Pastors in the ministry. This comprises of the Pastors of Christ Embassy Churches, Satellite Church Pastors, Campus Pastors and other ordained Pastors in the ministry. They meet at the International Pastors’ and Partners’ Conference (IPPC), which holds annually.

NOTE: Identify and know your CEC members facially, and know the Christ Embassy chapters they pastor.



11. THE VARIOUS ARMS OF THE MINISTRY

We all jointly ensure that the gospel is made available to all men (around the world) as much as possible. Our partnership seeds and pledges to the various arms make this possible.

a. Church Ministry (and Missions)

The name of the church is Christ Embassy. All the churches in this ministry are addressed as Christ Embassy. These comprise of the chapter churches headed by the CEC members, other Christ Embassy churches headed by non-CEC members and the satellite churches. The Satellite churches are offshoots of the main Christ Embassy churches.

b. Media Ministry

The term media refers to the mode of transmitting information of news. This is done either by print or electronically. For the ministry, we transmit the good news (Gospel) through our CDs, DVDs, TV programs and the Internet.

c. Publishing Ministry

Our vision is translated in the message we preach and how we preach it. The Rhapsody of Realities daily devotional is going around the world, giving simplicity to the gospel. Our ministry books also portray the vision. A standard is set for these materials because of the quality we place on the gospel.

Our individual involvement in the distribution or marketing of our Rhapsody, Bibles, and Books also help to achieve our desired end of spreading the gospel.

d. Healing Ministry

The Healing School is taking the divine presence of God, and bringing healing to the peoples of all nations. Acts 10:38 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him”.

The world-renowned Healing School of Christ Embassy is the healing ministry of Pastor Chris Oyakhilome which manifests the healing works of Jesus Christ, and has helped many receive healing through the operation of the gifts of the Spirit.

Many people who had hitherto been given for dead have been touched by the healing power of God at the various healing school sessions organized by the Man of God Pastor Chris. At the Healing School, the miracles of healing which were recorded in Bible days are re-enacted. Indeed, greater signs and wonders have been witnessed at the Healing School; proving the Lord Jesus Christ is still the same; yesterday, today and forever.

e. Inner City Mission

Our ministry to the destitute children in the inner cities of the world; where we provide them shelter, food and education as we build their souls for the Lord.

f. BLW Campus Ministry

The BLW Ministry as previously stated started from the campus. Pastor Chris has a unique ministry for the youth, which is why we have the results we get from our campuses. It is in line with the vision of the ministry. Today, we have our BLW fellowship in Universities, and Colleges all around the world. The name of the Campus Fellowship is **Believers' LoveWorld (BLW) Campus Fellowship**. The Campus Ministry is divided into zones. Training programs are held from time to time to empower them for the work of the ministry.

QUESTION: Why do you think God told Pastor Chris to start from the Campus?

g. LoveWorld Ministerial College

The growth rate of this ministry is very fast and thus there's need for trained hands to handle the responsibility of nurturing new converts in the various ministries and the doctrine of Christ. LMC is not a bible school but a training ground for leaders. Every member of the ministry is a potential leader. LMC affords us the opportunity of being trained in the Word, the vision of the ministry, for the work of the ministry and the edifying of the body of Christ. This is done in our own unique way. This is the highest level of training in the ministry. It offers courses in GS (General Studies), Church Administration, Lay Pastoring and Pastoral courses.

h. International School of Ministry

Pastor Chris Oyakhilome (PhD), envisioned the International School of Ministry, specifically to train and equip ministers of the gospel of Christ, building in them the realities of God's Word and empowering them to carry the message of eternal life in Christ Jesus to their world, with great demonstrations of the miraculous power of God. The vision of ISM is teaching, demonstration and impartation.

Since inception in 2007, the ISM has trained and equipped over 2000 ministers from different nations of the world; providing the opportunity of networking with the Man of God, Pastor Chris; to be taught and imparted by him.

12. PARTNERSHIP ARMS OF THE MINISTRY: These Include:

1. Rhapsody of Realities
2. Healing School
3. Inner City Mission
4. Internet Multimedia
5. LoveWorld TV (UK)
6. LoveWorld SAT
7. LoveWorld Plus

13. MINISTRY PROGRAMS

These are programs that are held either annually or quarterly or at the discretion of our Pastorate. Some of these programs are:

a. International Pastors' and Partners' Conference (IPPC)

This is the most significant of all the programs we hold. Everyone who identifies with this ministry comes for this program irrespective of whether they reside in Nigeria or not. It is a time to hear from God. We also hear of the great strides taken in the current year and the plans for the coming year. The various churches and campus fellowships tender reports, and prizes are awarded. At IPPC, you as an individual can take advantage of the period to hear from God by yourself on your way forward.

b. Total Experience or Higher Life Conference

This is purely a meeting with the Holy Spirit in total control. Its aim is to create an avenue for the Holy Ghost to move mightily in the lives of people, especially for salvation of their souls and healing of their bodies.

c. Finance Convention

This program is a Holy Spirit inspired program in which the brethren are taught on the prosperity of the spirit, soul, and body of the new creation. One very peculiar aspect of this meeting is that the brethren are inspired by the Holy Spirit to give of their substance to the Lord for the work of the ministry as a lifestyle and not as a once in a while thing.

14. THE BELIEVERS' LOVEWORLD STATEMENT OF FAITH

This is the statement of Bible doctrine as believed and taught by the Believers' LoveWorld Inc. aka Christ Embassy. This statement of faith has its source in the Bible and is in total agreement with the foundational principle of the doctrines of Christ.

1. We believe that the Bible contains the inspired and infallible Word of God. **(2Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)**
2. We believe that there is only one God eternally existent in three (3) persons; God the father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. **(Eph. 4:5-6, 2 Cor. 8:16; Gen. 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17)**
3. We believe in the deity of Christ: **(John 1:1-4; John 10:30; Heb. 1:1-5)**
 - (a) He was born of a virgin; **(Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:30-35)**
 - (b) He was conceived of the Holy Spirit; **(Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:30-35)**
 - (c) He died; **(John 19:30-35)**
 - (d) He rose again from the dead bodily; **(John 20:25-29; Luke 24:36-40)**
 - (e) He ascended into heaven bodily; **(Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thess. 4:16)**
4. We believe in the rapture of the church and the second coming of Christ. **(1 Thess. 4:16-17; Matthew 24:29-30)**
5. We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin is repentance and faith in the precious blood of Jesus Christ. **(Acts 3:19; Luke 24:47; Eph. 1:7)**
6. We believe that regeneration by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God is essential for personal salvation. **(Titus 2:5; John 3:3-5; Eph. 5:25-27)**
7. We believe that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides divine healing for the body and salvation for the soul of everyone that believes. **(1Peter 2:24; Acts 3:16; Acts 9:32-35)**
8. We believe that when an individual receives the Holy Spirit, he receives divine enablement for Christian service and witness. **(Acts 1:8; 2:4; 3:1-26; 4:5-12)**
9. We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit **(Romans 15:16; 1 Cor. 6:11)**
10. We believe in the final resurrection of both the saved and the lost; the former to eternal life and the latter to eternal judgment. **(Rev. 20:11-15; 1 Cor. 15:12-23)**

14. OUR STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

1. We are convinced that the gospel is God's only saving power [Romans 1:16-17; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13-14; 1 Timothy 1:15].
2. We are convinced that the gospel is the answer to all human problems [John 3:16; 1 John 4:18].
3. We are convinced that the gospel is committed to our trust [1 Timothy 1:11; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2].
4. We are committed to the gospel.
5. We are convinced that Jesus Christ is the only way [2 Corinthians 5:11a; John 14:6].
6. We are convinced that the gospel is the power of God [2 Timothy 2:4; Mark 16:17-18; Romans 10:13-15a; Romans 1:16-17; 1 Timothy 1:15].

15. TENETS OF THE GOSPEL

These are basic principles that the gospel of Jesus Christ holds for every Christian in the New Testament. They are the present day possessions of the Believers in Christ Jesus.

- I. Eternal life (Zoë) is ours in the new birth [John 3:16; 1 John 5:11-12; Romans 6:23].
- II. Righteousness is ours through faith in Christ Jesus [Romans 5:1; Romans 5:17].
- III. Deliverance is ours in the gospel [Colossians 1:12-13; Psalm 107:2].
- IV. Healing is ours in the gospel [1 Peter 1:24].
- V. Peace is ours in the gospel [Romans 5:1; John 14:24; Philippians 4:6].

QUESTION

With reference to the eight (8th) statement of faith of the ministry, differentiate between the baptism of the Holy Spirit and receiving the Holy Spirit.