

# ROOTED

## FIRST STEP: Believing God's Word

*Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.*

*Romans 10:9-10 NKJV that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

First Step - BELIEVE

Next Step - BELONG

Leader Step - BUILD

**POINT 1.** Bible is the \_\_\_\_\_, unalterable, inspired Word of God.

*2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

*2 Peter 1:20-21 NKJV knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

**POINT 2.** The Word of God is “\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”

*Hebrews 4:12 NKJV* For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

*Isaiah 55:8-11 NKJV* “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. 9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. 10 “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

**POINT 3.** The Word of God is the Source of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

A. “spiritual and physical”

*Proverbs 4:20-23 NKJV* My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; 22 For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. 23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues (forces) of life.

*Galatians 5:22-23 NKJV* But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

**1 Corinthians 12:7-11 NKJV** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: **8** for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, **10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

**POINT 4.** The Word of God is a “\_\_\_\_\_” that must be \_\_\_\_\_.”

A. Parable of the Sower - triple emphasis.

**Mark 4:14-20 NKJV** The sower sows the word. **15** And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. **16** These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; **17** and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble. **18** Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, **19** and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. **20** But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

**Matthew 13:3-8 NKJV** Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow. **4** And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. **5** Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. **6** But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. **7** And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked

*them. 8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.*

***Luke 8:5-8 NKJV** A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. 6 Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. 8 But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”*

- [recommended reading, “How To Produce Abundance In Your Life” by John Polis]

**POINT 5.** The “heart/spirit” of man is the \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Four types of soil, we can choose which one we will be.
2. Pathway (hardened ground) represents those who are not ready to listen.
  3. Rocky (shallow soil] represents those who get offended. (False expectations)
  4. Thorny (has other things growing in the heart) distracted from purpose.
  5. Good (keeps the word alive in their heart until full understanding comes) (The living Word is speaking to you)

**POINT 6.** How To Become “Good Ground” and produce all the seed promises.

*Luke 6:46-49 NKJV “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say? 47 Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: 48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. 49 But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”*

- A. Information - Reading it
- B. Meditation - Memorizing it
- C. Revelation - Understanding it
- D. Impartation - Empowered by it
- E. Transformation - Changed by it

**POINT 7.** The Word can do \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus could do.

*John 1:1-4 NKJV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.*

**John 1:14 NKJV** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

# ROOTED

## NEXT STEP: Belong

**POINT 1.** Three ways people relate to a LOCAL CHURCH.

F. A place to \_\_\_\_\_

G. A place to \_\_\_\_\_

H. A place to \_\_\_\_\_

**POINT 2.** The Local and Universal Church.

A. Universal Church - all born again believers.

*Revelation 7:9 NKJV After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,*

B. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Universal Church.

*1 Peter 5:4 NKJV and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

C. Local Church - local gatherings of believers into organized groups.

*Acts 14:23 NKJV So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.*

D. Local Churches have \_\_\_\_\_ leaders called \_\_\_\_\_ who are 5 fold gifted.

*Ephesians 4:11 NKJV And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,*

E. Elders are \_\_\_\_\_/feeders

*Acts 20:17 NKJV From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.*

*Acts 20:28 NKJV Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.*

**POINT 3.** \_\_\_\_\_ believers are expected to “assemble together” for God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Lived, worked and played together (Spiritual, Service, Social events)

**Acts 2:42-47 NKJV** *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

B. Mutual \_\_\_\_\_ and avoidance of \_\_\_\_\_

**Hebrews 10:24-26 NKJV** *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. 26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,*

C. God sets us in a “family of faith” for deliverance and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Psalms 68:6 NKJV** *God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; But the rebellious dwell in a dry land.*

D. Equipping for service and growth to maturity.

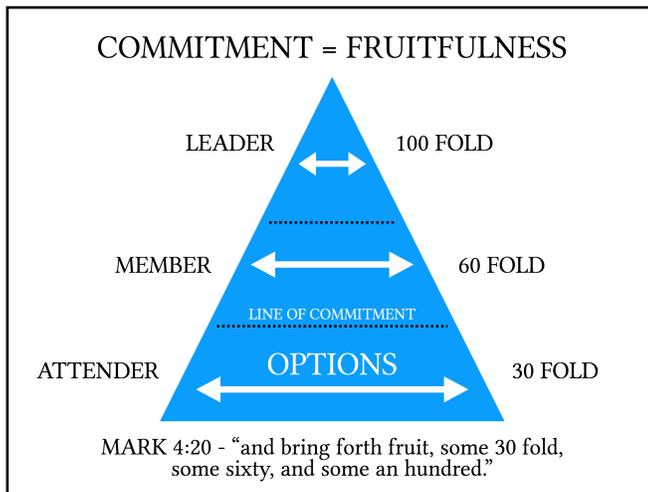
**Ephesians 4:11-16 NKJV** *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may*

*grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

E. The Rock Tumbler.

**POINT 4.** Belonging is a \_\_\_\_\_ to “walk with the flock.”

A. The “triangle of training” illustrates the process of becoming productive.



B. Commitment to belonging is “membership” and produces maturity because we learn vital qualities like...

- Following Godly Leaders

*Hebrews 13:7 NKJV Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.*

- Relating to Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_

*Hebrews 13:17 NKJV Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

- Living Free of \_\_\_\_\_

*1 Corinthians 13:4-7 AMP Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. 5 It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. 6 It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. 7 Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening].*

- Biblical \_\_\_\_\_

*Proverbs 3:9-10 AMP Honor the Lord with your capital and sufficiency [from righteous labors] and with the firstfruits of all your income; 10 So shall your storage places be filled with plenty, and your vats shall be overflowing with new wine.*

- Care For One Another

*1 Corinthians 12:25 AMP So that there should be no division or discord or lack of adaptation [of the parts of the body to each other], but the members all alike should have a mutual interest in and care for one another.*

- Corporate \_\_\_\_\_ (corporate anointing)

*Acts 4:32-33 NKJV* Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. **33** And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

- World Harvest - (FCI is a World Outreach Center, recommend watching **The Big View** on the FCI app)

*Acts 1:8 NKJV* But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- \_\_\_\_\_ to the Community “A city is a community”

*Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV* You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. **16** Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

# ***ROOTED***

## How To Deal With An Evil Report

### **POINT 1.** The Problem

- What causes conflicts in families, churches or organizations to flare out of control and split an entire group?
- What causes close friendships to be broken when neither party offended the other?
- Why are attempts to restore a fallen Christian brother or sister often met with defeat?

### **POINT 2.** A Major Cause:

- Wrong \_\_\_\_\_ to an evil report.

### **POINT 3.** Definition:

- An evil report involves \_\_\_\_\_ of facts, incomplete facts or false information. It is given with \_\_\_\_\_ motivation and causes the hearer to

come to inaccurate conclusions and to respond with unscriptural “solutions”. Evil reports are so destructive that they can even destroy long-lasting, close friendships. “A whisperer separateth chief friends”.

*Proverbs 16:28 KJV A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.*

- **Note:** Wrong should never be covered over. It \_\_\_\_\_ be brought to the attention of those who are responsible and dealt with in a scriptural manner. This necessary process will be damaged by the defilement of an evil report.

#### **POINT 4.** Stages of Defilement

In the medical world, there are stages in the development of a disease. In the same way, there are stages of destruction to a spiritually healthy person:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of “preventive” measures to avoid contamination;
2. \_\_\_\_\_ to one who is “already infected”;
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (defilement) by allowing the “germs” to enter one’s system;
4. \_\_\_\_\_ as the “germs” overcome one’s normal defenses.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ when the infection destroys vital life-supporting functions.

## STAGE 1. IGNORANCE

- Satan will gain an advantage over us if we are ignorant of his devices.

*2 Corinthians 2:11 NKJV lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

- Ignorance is not being **aware** of the destructive power of untrue or distorted words

*James 3:6 KJV And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity... it **DEFILETH** the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.*

- A. Ignorance of how words \_\_\_\_\_ close friendships:

*Proverbs 17:9 KJV He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.*

- B. Ignorance of how the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, rather than the clean influencing the unclean.

*Haggai 2:11-14 NKJV Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Now, ask the priests concerning the law, saying, 12 "If one carries holy meat in the fold of his garment, and with the edge he touches bread or stew, wine or oil, or any food, will it become holy?" ' ' Then the priests answered and said, "No." 13 And Haggai said, "If one who is unclean because of a dead body touches any of these, will it be unclean?" So the priests answered and said, "It shall be unclean." 14 Then Haggai answered and said, " 'So is this people, and so is this nation before Me,' says the Lord, 'and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there is unclean.*

C. **Ignorance of what constitutes an evil report:** It is an \_\_\_\_\_, distorted, or false report which influences us to form an evil opinion about another person.

D. **Ignorance of how evil reports are given:** Evil reports are \_\_\_\_\_ by words, facial expressions, gestures, and tonal patterns. They can be subtle or obvious, quiet or angry, sweet or bitter.

E. **Ignorance of who gives evil reports:** Giving bad reports is part of the \_\_\_\_\_ nature of every person.

- WHISPERER: One who \_\_\_\_\_ or privately passes on evil reports to others.

*Psalm 41:7 KJV All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt.*

- GOSSIP: One who \_\_\_\_\_ and sensationalizes rumors and partial information.
- SLANDERER: One who seeks to \_\_\_\_\_ another's \_\_\_\_\_ or reputation with damaging facts, distortion of facts, ore evil suspicions.

*Numbers 14:36 KJV And the men, which Moses sent to search the land, who returned, and made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land,*

- BUSYBODY: One who \_\_\_\_\_ up evil reports and makes it his or her business to spread them by means of gossip, slander, or whispering. Such an action is as great a sin as murder or stealing. It is classified with these by God when He warns:

*1 Peter 4:15 KJV But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.*

**F. Ignorance of what motivates an evil report:**

*James 3:14-18 KJV But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. 15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. 16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. 17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. 18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.*

- \_\_\_\_\_: Reacting because of personal hurts;
- \_\_\_\_\_: Justifying an independent spirit;
- \_\_\_\_\_: Believing that evil reports are right to give;
- \_\_\_\_\_: Wanting to exalt self;

- \_\_\_\_\_: Justifying past actions or attitude;
- \_\_\_\_\_: Desiring what another has.

G. **Ignorance of \_\_\_\_\_ we are to evil reports:** We enjoy hearing them because they exalt us. They bring down or hurt those whom we dislike.

H. Ignorance of how Satan uses evil reports:

- To \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual leadership.
- To cause Christians to close their spirits toward one another.
- To \_\_\_\_\_ conflicts and produce more ungodliness.
- To prompt non-Christians to \_\_\_\_\_ Christianity and \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.

## **STAGE 2. EXPOSURE**

*Proverbs 27:12 KJV A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished.*

A. Exposure is entering into conversation with a person who is a carrier of an evil report.

- How does God want us to respond?

*Psalm 101:5 KJV Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer.*

*Ephesians 5:10-12 KJV Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. 12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.*

*Romans 16:17 KJV Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*

- We have protective physical defenses to warn us about physical contamination. We can smell it or see it or taste it. Sometimes, however, we are unaware of contamination until it is too late. In the same way, God gives us protective spiritual defenses to warn us about spiritual contamination. We can sense the prompting of God's Holy Spirit, follow the warnings of God's Word, and obey the wise counsel of our human authorities. Sometimes, however, we are unaware of spiritual danger until it is too late.

## **B. How to detect a carrier of an evil report:**

1. A carrier will usually \_\_\_\_\_ before giving you the evil report. Any evidence of a compatible spirit in you will encourage him to give you the report.

2. A carrier will usually \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ of his report before giving it to you. He may do this by asking for your opinion about the person or dropping a negative comment and observing your response to it.
  
3. A carrier will often \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ for the evil report by creating curiosity about it. Some starters are: “Have you heard about (the person)?” or “Wait ‘til I tell you about (the person)!”
  
4. A carrier may communicate an evil report by \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ or by sharing a concern for the person involved.
  
5. A carrier may use evil reports to \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ him or her because of being on the inside and having access to privileged information.
  
6. A carrier is usually one who \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ of evil and will even search them out. God condemns such “detectives of darkness” whose tongues are like sharp swords.

**C. How to detect an evil report:** Five questions to ask before listening to a carrier:

1. “What is your reason for telling me?” Widening the circle of gossip only compounds the problem.

2. “Where did you get your information?” Refusal to identify the source of information is a sure signal of an evil report.
3. “Have you gone to those directly involved?” Spiritually is not measured by how well we expose an offender, but by how effectively we restore an offender

*Galatians 6:1 KJV Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*

4. “Have you personally checked out all of the facts?” Even “facts” become distorted when not balanced with other facts or when given with negative motives.
5. “Can I quote you if I check this out?” Those who give evil reports often claim that they are “misquoted”. This is because their words and overriding impressions are reported.

### **STAGE 3. DEFILEMENT**

*Proverbs 26:22 KJV The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.*

**Defilement is receiving an evil report from another person and**

\_\_\_\_\_ **that it is true.** In the same way that touching a diseased person will defile one’s hands, listening to an evil report will defile one’s mind. It is a reality which must be properly dealt with:

*Hebrews 12:15 KJV ...lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.*

**A Classic illustration of many listening to an evil report:** Absalom used an innocent-sounding evil report to steal the hearts of almost an entire nation and lead it in a revolt against his own father, King David. The report emphasized his “concern” for suffering people, his “deep desire” that justice be done and his “ability” to be a better administrator than his father. Actually, Absalom was bitter because his father did not bring judgment to Absalom’s half-brother for immorality, so he took matters into his own hands and was rejected for it. (See 2 Samuel 15)

*2 Samuel 15:1-6 KJV And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. 2 And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel. 3 And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee. 4 Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice! 5 And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him. 6 And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.*

#### **STAGE 4. INFECTION**

*Proverbs 14:15 KJV The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going*

*Proverbs 26:21 KJV As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife*

1. He gathered and organized a group that would be \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, rather than to the one whom he served.
2. He was energetic and disciplined.
3. He made himself \_\_\_\_\_ to the people.
4. He \_\_\_\_\_ out those who had grievances.
5. He had a personal interest in people.
6. He took up the \_\_\_\_\_ of those who had been hurt.
7. He \_\_\_\_\_ people from their authority by giving an evil report about his leadership.
8. He offered to be the representative to make sure things were done right.
9. He would use his new position to increase his loyal following.
10. He \_\_\_\_\_ acceptance and recognition as well as authority.
11. He carried out a tragic takeover of the nation with the help of those who were defiled and infected with an evil report.

**Infection is responding to an evil report with human reasoning and emotions rather than with spiritual understanding and genuine love.**

*Proverbs 17:4 KJV A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips*

If the defilement of an evil report is not cleansed, \_\_\_\_\_ attitudes, opinions, conclusions, and actions will follow-even toward very close friends:

*Proverbs 16:28 KJV A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.*

**SYMPTOMS OF INFECTION:**

1. Believing that the evil report is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Forming \_\_\_\_\_ opinions based on the report.
3. Focusing on \_\_\_\_\_ aspects of the person involved.
4. Interpreting the person's words and actions as "supporting evidence".
5. \_\_\_\_\_ motives on the basis of the evil report.
6. Backing \_\_\_\_\_ from the person in your spirit.
7. Telling the evil report to \_\_\_\_\_.

## STAGE 5. DISEASE

*Proverbs 17:4 KJV A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips*

- Disease is being mentally and emotionally \_\_\_\_\_ by the evil report and by the destructive spirit of the one who gave it to us.

*Proverbs 26:24-25 KJV He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him; 25 When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart.*

*Leviticus 19:16 KJV Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour; I am the Lord.*

- A diseased Christian has \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit by taking up the offense of others, making them his own, and adding to them.

### A. Symptoms of disease

- Developing \_\_\_\_\_ and/or rebellion, even though the person involved did not directly offend us.
- Setting ourselves up as the \_\_\_\_\_ in matters which are God's responsibility, and recruiting others to "our side".
- \_\_\_\_\_ out evil reports and using them to give the worst possible impression:

*Proverbs 16:27 KJV An ungodly man diggeth up evil and in his lips there is as a burning fire*

- Believing that such actions are actually accomplishing God's will rather than realizing that we give non-Christians occasion to blaspheme God's name because of our lack of genuine love:

*1 Corinthians 6:5-8 KJV I speak to your shame...brother goeth to law with brother, and that before unbelievers. Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you...ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren."*

B. Often we do not act on information when we should do so because the defilement or infection hinders God's grace in us (see Hebrews 12:25)

- Attempts to restore a Christian who has been overtaken in a fault will usually fail unless the defilement of listening to an evil report is first cleansed and then replaced with the spirit of Christ's love, humility, and forgiveness.

### **POINT 5.** How To Cleanse Our Minds From An Evil Report:

A. Ask God to \_\_\_\_\_ your mind from the defilement of an evil report.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ for God to give you genuine love for each one involved in the evil report.

C. \_\_\_\_\_ your mind with the appropriate scriptures:

- **Have I accepted the evil report as true?**

*Proverbs 14:15 KJV The simple believe every word: but the prudent man looks well to his going*

*Psalms 19:13 KJV Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins*

- Presumptuousness is taking a matter for granted and assuming it to be true in the absence of proof to the contrary.

- **Has the evil report affected how I feel toward the person involved?**

*Proverbs 15:4 KJV A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach of spirit.*

*Romans 2:1 KJV Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.*

*1 Peter 4:8 NKJV And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."*

*1 Corinthians 13:5,6 KJV Love...thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity...*

- **Do I have an urge to tell someone else the evil report?**

*Ephesians 4:29 KJV Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.*

*Proverbs 11:13 KJV A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.*

*Proverbs 17:9 KJV He that covereth a transgression seeks love, but he that repeats a matter separates close friends.*

D. I know my heart is clean:

- When I \_\_\_\_\_ my urge to tell someone else the evil report
- When I \_\_\_\_\_ over the fact that a report was given
- When I have genuine \_\_\_\_\_ toward the person involved in the report
- When I am prompt to \_\_\_\_\_ my own life for failures

E. Act on what you heard:

- Is God directing you to contact the one who gave you the evil report?
- To ask the five questions which identify an evil report?
- To emphasize the importance of speaking the truth in love?

*John 17:20-26 KJV Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou*

hast sent me. **22** And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: **23** I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. **24** Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. **25** O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. **26** And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

**Philippians 2:1-4 KJV** If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, **2** Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. **3** Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. **4** Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

- Is God directing you to contact the person involved in the situation in order to check out the facts and help to restore them in the spirit of meekness?

**Matthew 18:15-18 KJV** 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. **18** Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

**Galatians 6:1 KJV** Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

- Is God directing you to contact those who are spiritually responsible for the situation?
- Once they are informed, the responsibility of further action rests with them.
- Your responsibility is to continue to pray for those involved in the situation.

# **ROOTED**

## Building The Church

Intentional Christian Living Involves Three Important Areas.

1. Believing
2. Belonging
3. Building

**The Mission of Jesus Christ.**

*Matthew 16:18 NKJV And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

**POINT 1.** Building The Church Universal

A. \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 2:46-47 NKJV So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising*

*God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

1. People are saved from sin and its consequences.

- Penalty - eternal \_\_\_\_\_ from God.

***Revelation 21:7-8 NKJV** He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. **8** But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*

- Power - the sin nature is removed and a new nature is given.

***Ephesians 2:1-3 NKJV** And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, **2** in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, **3** among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*

***2 Peter 1:4 NKJV** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ - there is NO SIN in heaven.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ born again person is COMMISSIONED to evangelize the lost.

**Mark 16:15-17 NKJV** And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. **16** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. **17** And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

- (Recommended reading - How To Give Away Your Faith, Paul Little.)

3. Every born again believer is COMMISSIONED to make \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

4. The goal of discipleship is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Matthew 4:19 NKJV** Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

5. This twofold commission is called The Great Commission.

6. Believers in Jesus Christ the been give the ministry of \_\_\_\_\_.

**2 Corinthians 5:18 NKJV** Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

7. Believer are called “ambassadors for Christ”

*2 Corinthians 5:20 NKJV* Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

8. Equipping the saints for this \_\_\_\_\_.

*Ephesians 4:12 NKJV* for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

9. The believers equipment.

- Word of God

*2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV* Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

*1 Peter 3:15 NKJV* But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

- Spirit of God

*Acts 2:4 NKJV* And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

*Acts 4:31 NKJV* And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

*John 7:37-38 NKJV* On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He

*who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”*

## **POINT 2.** Building the Church Local

- A. The new believers remained \_\_\_\_\_ and were steadfast in four important areas.

*Acts 2:40-47 NKJV And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” 41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. 42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ - apostles doctrine.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ - gathering in small groups for encouragement in the faith.
3. Breaking bread - socializing with believing friends.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ - learning the life of prayer in the corporate gathering.

## B. Building through “gifting.”

- All believers are gifted by God for \_\_\_\_\_.

**Romans 12:4-8 NKJV** For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, **5** so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. **6** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; **7** or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; **8** he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

(Fill out the spiritual gift test in the appendix)

- The Local Church grows in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by what each member contributes.

**Ephesians 4:15-16 NKJV** but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— **16** from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

As a member of FCI you will meet with the Spiritual Gift Coordinator to learn of all the ministry opportunities available and where your gifts and interests may be.

## C. The FCI Mission Statement

- Encounter God - Restore Lives - \_\_\_\_\_ The World.

D. We accomplish our mission through the five CORE VALUES.

1. Evangelism
2. Discipleship
3. Fellowship
4. Ministry
5. Worship

*(Please watch The Big View on the FCI App to learn our history and impact in the nations.)*

E. Building the Local Church means we are contributing of our Time, Talent and Treasure to fulfill the The Great Commission on Jesus Christ.

1. **TIME.** Our scheduled services all contribute to “people building” into the image and likeness of Christ, including the Public gathering on Sunday morning and the Home Church meetings twice monthly.

*Acts 20:20 NKJV how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house,*

- We believe that the both of these special gatherings are necessary to produce the results of maturity and productivity.
  - Other special ministry opportunities include Iron Men Ministry, Women of Faith, YAH Seniors and numerous events planned to serve our community.
2. **TALENT.** All of us have different backgrounds and experience, along with our God given gift/talent making each one unique in terms of what we can offer to build our local church.
  3. **TREASURE.** We believe and practice the Law of First Things, meaning the first ten percent of our incomes belongs to God and is returned to Him thru our local church. All members are expected to practice biblical stewardship including the tithe.

*(Please read How to Produce Abundance In Your Life by John Polis for understanding of this vital subject.)*

After completing Rooted, if you want to become a member of FCI, please fill our the membership application in the Appendix and turn it in to the office along with your spiritual gift questionnaire.

The Staff and Members welcome you to be part of what God does through this ministry.