

# HOPE HAS A HOME



A 21 DAY STUDY & PRAYER GUIDE

# Hope Has a Home

A 21 DAY STUDY & PRAYER GUIDE

“Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more.”

**MARK 4:24**

“But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

**HEBREWS 5:14**

**ANCHOR CHURCH**

*MYANCHORCHURCH.COM/PRAYER*

# CONTENTS

**VISION: Know God – Discover Purpose – Change Your World**

## KNOW GOD

WEEK 1 *INTRO*

**Day 01**

Day 02

Day 03

Day 04

Day 05

Day 06

Day 07

RECEIVING JESUS

**SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES**

THE ONE TRUE GOD

PUBLIC AND PERSONAL FAITH

HOW TO KNOW YOU ARE SAVED

CAN I LOSE MY SALVATION

WHAT HAPPENS IF I QUIT?

THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU

## DISCOVER PURPOSE

WEEK 2 *INTRO*

**Day 08**

Day 09

Day 10

Day 11

Day 12

Day 13

Day 14

TRUE DISCIPLESHIP

**SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES**

MY ONE PURPOSE

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

PRACTICING JESUS

HOW PEOPLE CHANGE

A FRIEND OF JESUS

YOU CAN MAKE DISCIPLES

## CHANGE YOUR WORLD

WEEK 3 *INTRO*

**Day 15**

Day 16

Day 17

Day 18

Day 19

Day 20

Day 21

SPIRIT EMPOWERED IMPACT

**SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES**

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THIS IS EVANGELISM

ADDICTED TO MISSIONS

SERVING YOUR WORLD

A “MAKE ROOM” CULTURE

HOPE FOR ONE MORE

# **GOD'S VISION IS FAMILY.**

This is His only vision. He planned family. He designed family. He ordained marriage. He ordained covenant love and has always existed to be glorified through all He has made.

He established the Church. The church is His vision. Jesus is the Senior Pastor. He's the sole author of our faith. He's even the lead servant. We are His people and His plan is for us to exist to:

## **KNOW GOD**

Anchor Church seeks to Know God and help others know Jesus as Lord and Savior, personally. We do this primarily through what we call "Corporate Encounters" that are aimed to lead people to "Daily Encounters" with God.

## **DISCOVER PURPOSE**

All of our ministry is to "Make Disciples of Jesus". We can only discover our purpose in the context of Jesus-centered discipleship. We know the full experience is found in continually maturing and growing in the fulfillment of God's greatest commandments to Love God and Love people.

## **CHANGE YOUR WORLD**

We cannot change "the world" but we can change "our world." Our world is our areas of influence. Our world are the people we are capable of spending up to 10 minutes per day with.

We are empowered by the Spirit of God to build the Kingdom of God through demonstrating the ways of Jesus by the power of His Spirit. This is why we activate the gifts of the Spirit and steward our abilities, resources, and experiences. We change our world by serving others and expand the Kingdom of God on earth.

# **HOW TO MAXIMIZE YOUR DEVOTION TIME**

## **SCHEDULE YOUR READING**

Set aside a time and a place to meditate on God's word. Create a distraction-free environment to dive deeper into the scripture.

## **LISTEN IN STILLNESS BEFORE YOU READ**

Ask God to reveal his truths as you read. Pray for consistency and clarity.

## **READ WITH A BIBLE CONCORDANCE**

A Bible concordance is a list of Biblical words sorted alphabetically, with any scriptures that include that word. We recommend "The New Strong's Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible." You can also use Bible apps such as Blue Letter Bible, [biblehub.com](http://biblehub.com), or other Bible apps.

## **READ WITH A FRIEND**

Do your reading plan with someone that will hold you accountable to your daily reading. Get on track with someone else and sharpen each other by knowing you're not doing this important, deep work alone.

Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

## **SHARE WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING**

Don't just read it! Share how God's word is speaking to you! Write. Post. Blog. Message others.

# HOW TO S.O.A.P.

Items needed for each day:

*Which verse stood out to you?*

## **S — SCRIPTURE**

Open your Bible to your reading for the day. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day and write it in your journal.

*What is God saying to you?*

## **O — OBSERVATION**

What do you feel God is saying to you in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

*How can you apply it today?*

## **A — APPLICATION**

Personalize what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this scripture can apply to you today.

*Ask God to help you use what you've learned.*

## **P — PRAYER**

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.

# ADVANCED DEVOTION PLANNING GUIDE

ADVANCED DEVOTIONAL PLANNING GUIDE	
QUESTION	ANSWER
How much daily time is reasonable for you to commit to during the Anchor 21 days of Prayer?	
How many days are you committing to completing?	
When is the best time of day for you to commit to for your devotion?	
What things do you benefit from during your personal devotion time? <i>Reading, music, praying out loud, walking, sitting, eating, drinking, writing, typing, studying, memorizing verses, meditating, writing observations</i>	
Where will you do your daily personal devotion time?	
Will you use music during your time? <i>What kind? What device will you use?</i>	
What will you use to read the Bible?	
Who comes to mind that you think would be beneficial to at least text each day to hold each other accountable for sticking with your plan?	

## Psalm 5:3

*"In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly."*

## Psalm 42:8

*"By day, the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me - a prayer to the God of my life"*

KNOW  
GOD



# WEEK ONE INTRO

## RECEIVING JESUS

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” **John 1:12**

“And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true god, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” **John 17:3**

At some point in life, everyone who has ever lived wonders, “who am I, where did everything come from, why am I here and what happens when I die.”

If a person doesn't discover AND personally receive the answers to these questions then their life is much like living in the dark. The lights do not come on regarding life purpose until a person knows God. Knowing God is the beginning of experiencing light and life becoming full of light.

“I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.” **John 12:46.**

Here are the basics of beginning to know God:

- **I believe in God by faith**

“Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” **Hebrews 11:1**

“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God,” **Hebrews 11:3**

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” **Hebrews 11:6**

- **I believe Jesus is the son of God.**

“If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.” **I John 4:15**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” **John 3:16**

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...” **Acts 16:31**

- **I believe I am a sinner who experiences the consequences of sin and death and I need help knowing God.**

“For all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God.”  
**Romans 3:23**

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

- **Jesus died for me, rose from the dead, and is the only way to God.**

“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **Romans 5:8**

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’.”  
**John 14:6**

- **Jesus saves me through by grace through faith in Him. He empowers me to trust His word, ways, and power.**

“As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.” **John 1:12**

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”  
**Romans 10:9**

## **5. Jesus makes it possible for me to know God**

“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world.” **John 1:12**

Jesus said, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the father.” **John 14:9**

Jesus said, "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved." **John 10:9**

Jesus said, "No one comes to the Father except through me." **John 14:6**

The appropriate response to these basic truths is to open your heart and receive this as the foundational truth of your life. This is what it means to "receive Jesus."

"As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name." **John 1:12**

Darkness does not have to be your reality any longer. You can fully come into the light and walk in the light right now. Today, take a look at where you are in your journey with God and do a thorough evaluation. Is He your God and have you received Him? Receive Him today and experience the light of life right now.

## **HOW CAN I KNOW GOD?**

### **SALVATION**

God sent Jesus to live a spirit-filled and spirit-led life perfectly. Jesus succeeded in this. He taught the world how to live in relationship with God. He modeled how to Know God.

The religious leaders killed him for changing "The Way" to Know God and for claiming to be God in the flesh. They didn't realize that in killing Jesus, the salvation of the world was becoming a reality.

Because Jesus never sinned, his death on the cross wasn't just a murder event or mere capital punishment. It was a willing personal sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Jesus paid the price for sin. Jesus took our place. We deserve death for sin so Jesus died for us and offers eternal life for all who receive Him.

### **PRAYER OF SALVATION**

*Jesus, today I confess "You are Lord, God and Messiah". I believe in my heart that God raised you from the dead and you are the*

*Savior of all who receive you. By your grace, I give you my life and receive You as my Lord and my Savior.*

*Father God, thank you for sending your one and only Son, Jesus, to the world to save us, even me. Thank you for forgiving me. Thank you for giving me eternal life. Thank you for reaching down and offering hope to me personally. Lord God, I receive you today. In Jesus, Name - Amen.*

WEEKDAY: <b>Sunday</b>	SERMON TITLE:
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:	SPEAKER:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

WEEKDAY: <b>Monday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>Isaiah 45:5-6</b>
Time:	<b>Prayer Theme:</b> Knowing the True God

### THINK ABOUT HIM:

The One True God

**Isaiah 45:5** says, "I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God."

**Isaiah 45:6** says, "...people may know there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other."

Knowing God requires absolute exclusivity. There is zero tolerance in the Christian faith for a person to worship false gods. There is no worship of Jesus and any other.

There are spiritual beings mentioned in the Bible that are called "sons of God" or "the council" and other titles. There are angels, fallen angels, and a multitude of other spiritual beings, but there is only one God, and His name is Yahweh. In the Bible, when you see the word "LORD" in all-caps, it is the name "Yahweh" in Hebrew. This is the name of the one and only true God almighty.

The name, Jesus is "Yeshua" in Hebrew. It means "The LORD Saves." Jesus is the one and only son of God and the only Savior of the World. He is the only way to the Father and He is the exclusive authority on all morality, faith, and holiness.

Christians may disagree on many things, but this one thing is essential to faith in the one true God. He is the first and the last. He is the exclusive beginning and eternal God. He has no equals and there is none who is God but him.

**Isaiah 44:6** says, "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.' All things, including you, exist for His glory. Actually, your greatest and most fulfilling experience in life will always be when your life brings Him the most glory. AMEN.

## Experience Him

S - Scripture

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O - Observation

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A - Application

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P - Prayer

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WEEKDAY: <b>Tuesday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>II Corinthians 13:14</b>
Time:	<b>Prayer Theme:</b>

**THINK ABOUT HIM:**  
Water Baptism and The Trinity

Before Jesus ascended before the eyes of many witnesses, He said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." **Matthew 28:19**

There is no such thing as an unbaptized believer in Jesus. In the book of Acts, there are a multitude of examples of every single person who repented of their sins and confessed faith in Jesus Christ as Lord – IMMEDIATELY entered the waters of baptism to publicly be identified with Him and to demonstrate:

1. I have died with Him. I've died to the flesh. I've died to my old self. I am crucified with Christ.
2. I am buried with Christ in baptism. My sins are removed from me and in the watery grave of baptism; I am united with Christ.
3. I am raised with Christ. Just as Christ was raised from the dead, I am raised to live new life.

This is what Jesus Commanded. This is what happened in Acts 2. This is what happened in Acts 8, Acts 9, Acts 10, Acts 11, Acts 16, Acts 18, Acts 19, Acts 22. This is what the Apostle Paul taught in Romans 6:1-4, Galatians 3:26-27, Colossians 2:11-13, and other places.

The burial in water symbolizes the uniting work of the Spirit in our becoming saved in Christ (I Corinthians 12:1-3). The physical baptism in water is both symbolic and supernatural. Something physical, spiritual, and emotional happens in this powerful act of obedience.



One thing is clear about baptism . . . it is to be done immediately by all believers in Christ. If you truly believe, then your first step in following Jesus is straight into the waters of baptism.

Delayed obedience is disobedience.

## THE TRINITY

Jesus himself teaches that baptism is a physical and spiritual declaration of unity in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is a very clear reference to our One God in three Persons.

**II Corinthians 13:14** says, “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

This is often referred to as the Trinity Prayer. It is so powerful for you to personally and verbally say out loud all that the “Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ” means. It’s also powerful to express all that is packed into the phrase: “The Love of God” (this refers to The Father). And it is so special to deepen your knowledge of the meaning of “The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit.”

God is knowable and personal. He is one God and has always existed as what is known as the Trinity. It is impossible to fully understand everything about the Trinity (or anything else), but it is possible for you to get a solid understanding of what it means for God to exist as three in one.

There is one God who eternally exists as three distinct persons – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There are 3 important truths related to this:

1. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons.
2. Each Person is fully God.
3. There is only one God.

The Bible says the Father is God (Philippians 1:2), Jesus is God (Titus 2:13), and the Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4). The Bible doesn’t teach us that these are just “roles” that God plays - It clearly teaches that these are three distinct Persons.

Consider, The Father sent the Son into the World, (John 3:16), these are two different Persons. The Son returned to the Father (John 16:10), the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit into the World (John 14:26; Acts 2:33). This simply means, the Holy Spirit

is God, but in an unexplainable way is also distinct from the Father and the Son.

Sometimes the Personhood of the Father and Son is appreciated, but the Personhood of the Holy Spirit is neglected. Sometimes the Spirit is treated more like a “force” than a Person. But the Holy Spirit is not an “it,” but a “he” (see John 14:26; 16:7-15; Acts 8:16). The fact that the Holy Spirit is a Person, not an impersonal force (like gravity), is also shown by the fact that he speaks (Hebrews 3:7), reasons (Acts 15:28), thinks and understands (I Corinthians 2:10-11), wills (I Corinthians 12:11), feels (Ephesians 4:30), and gives personal fellowship (2 Corinthians 13:14). These are all qualities of personhood.

One of the most powerful benefits in growing in your knowledge of God as being eternally three Persons in One Godhead is how beautiful and deeply this enriches your prayer. The general pattern of prayer in the Bible is to pray:

1. To the Father
2. Through the Son
3. In/by the Holy Spirit.

**Ephesians 2:18** says, “For through Him, (Jesus) we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.”

The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit each has all of the attributes of God, and no one Person has any attributes or abilities that are not possessed by the others. Each Person is real and not just a different way of looking at God.

God’s being and nature is so much greater than ours is. He beautifully reveals Himself to us as an undivided being who makes Himself known into interpersonal relationships in a way that is infinitely beyond our own human experience.

As you grow in your faith, stay in awe of our amazing God. He is worthy of the total devotion of your heart and your passionate pursuit of Him all the days of your beautiful life.

Best Ahead!

## Experience Him

S - Scripture

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O - Observation

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A - Application

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WEEKDAY: <b>Wednesday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>Jeremiah 17:10, II Chronicles 16:9</b>
Time:	<b>Prayer Theme:</b> The Gift of the Holy Spirit

## **THINK ABOUT HIM**

### The Gift of the Holy Spirit

Once upon a time, there was a young boy who had a fatal heart condition. His heart pumped bad blood. The blood was carried through flawed veins, vessels, and capillaries. The entire circulatory system was flawed. He inherited it from his father, his father's father, and so on.

Because he lived with this condition, his organs were flawed. His breathing was flawed. His energy was sporadic but mostly, deeply low. His thinking was unclear and often irrational. He made decisions based on his feelings and his feelings were seriously tainted by his circulatory system.

His circulatory system affected every area of his life. The only way he could ever live a full and abundant life would be for a complete overhaul and surgical implantation of a brand new system.

- He needed to qualify for the surgery (Can you be saved?)
- He needed to know the new system would work (Can you trust?)
- He needed to receive the new system (Can you live a new life?)

### **1. QUALIFICATION**

Does He Qualify for the New System?

Qualification would mean the legal work would be taken care of making him a qualified recipient.

**Spiritual Parallel:** this is the purpose of the death of Jesus. It was the required legal work that makes YOU QUALIFY for salvation.

**Hebrews 9:22 says,**

"In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

Q: Did you know that the shedding of blood was a requirement for forgiveness?

**Hebrews 13:20**

"Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought our Lord Jesus back from the dead ..."

Q: Did you know the blood of Jesus was used to raise Him from the dead? If it qualified Him for resurrection, then how much more so you and me?

**2. FUNCTIONALITY**

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the primary evidence that the Spirit of God works. His resurrection assures you that the same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead can work to raise you from the dead and from any dead way of living.

**Romans 8:11**

"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies BECAUSE of his Spirit who lives in you."

**3. APPLICATION**

How does one receive the new? How does one live new? This is all about the application. It is working out your salvation. It is persevering in the faith. It is the "means of grace" by which God keeps you, preserves you, empowers you, guides you, and forms you into His likeness.

This is essentially what Christianity is all about. It's all about application. Walking in the Spirit. Praying in the Spirit. Worshiping in the Spirit. Keeping in step with the Spirit. Ministering in the Spirit.

Application is 100% relational.

The gift of the Spirit fills you in every way by giving you complete access to the fullness of God in you personally. The gift is God's invasion into your broken condition. There are many fruits, evidences, and benefits of being Baptized in the Holy Spirit, but

the bottom line is HE is God's gift and work of Salvation IN you. He is also God's power in keeping you, guiding and working through you.

## **SUMMARY**

If the young boy successfully received the "new circulatory system," then his life changed. He may even say, "Thank you for salvation." But, if he were to say, "Thank you for the New System!" he would be saying the same thing as "Thank you for salvation." The Gift of the Spirit IS salvation and all of the benefits, including the indwelling presence of God.

Salvation is the finished work of Jesus fully applied to you and in you by the person and presence of the Gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and everyone God calls (Acts 2:38-40).

Many followers of Jesus operate in the divine abilities of the Spirit - others don't. Some do not experience "more" because they don't know how or haven't been taught. Some don't experience "more" because they simply do not believe the Holy Spirit still operates through us as He did in the first century leaders.

However, every single thing the Lord has ever done on earth through His people is available today, and arguably – even more. We believe the fullness and complete whole life-giving power of the Spirit of God is fully available to everyone who is "saved" or "has the gift of the Spirit." He is available to operate through us as He wills, when He wants, as He wants.

We believe this and we willingly participate and pursue His gifts and workings through and in us.

## **PRAYER**

*Father, today I thank you for the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Help me receive Him and empower me to live according to the flow of New Life in me. You are more than just a new system – you are eternal life. I receive you today. Thank you for filling me and for the work you are doing in me. Teach me more about you alive in me. In Jesus' Name, amen.*

## **FOR FURTHER STUDY**

Romans 8, Galatians 5, John 5, Hebrews 13:20, I Corinthians 12:13, Acts 2:38, Acts 19:1-4.

## Experience Him

S - Scripture

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O - Observation

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A - Application

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P - Prayer

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WEEKDAY: <b>Thursday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>Luke 24:49</b>
Time:	<b>Prayer Theme:</b> The Benefits of the Holy Spirit

## THINK ABOUT HIM

### What Is Possible In My Life, Now?

The preconceived notion that the Holy Spirit is weird is common. Many believe that if they build a relationship with the Holy Spirit, He's going to make them weird. Satan has worked to make being filled with the Holy Spirit seem weird and even controversial.

The reason he does this is because of the four benefits that the Bible says being filled with the Holy Spirit brings to believers. These benefits help us live our lives in right standing with God, and they give us power. In fact, power is the first of the four benefits.

1. **Power:** Acts 1:8 says, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." Many Christians spend their entire lives without the power available through the Holy Spirit.
2. **Love:** One of the Holy Spirit's roles in our lives is to fill us with God's love (see today's verse), and if we don't open our hearts to Him, we have a difficult time walking in love.
3. **Fruits:** In Galatians 5:22, Paul talks about the fruits of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
4. **Gifts:** We will look more in depth into these divine abilities later in this study experience.

The Holy Spirit is wonderful, kind, sensitive, and personal. He's my best friend and He wants to be yours too.

## PRAYER

*Holy Spirit, please reveal to me any lies I've believed about You. Show me the truth of who You are. I want to know You better and*

*operate in the power, love, and benefits You bring. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

**FOR FURTHER STUDY**

Luke 24:49; Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 2:4–5; Galatians 5:16–26

## Experience Him

S - Scripture

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P - Prayer

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WEEKDAY: <b>Friday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>Acts 10:11, Psalm 138:6</b>
Time:	<b>Prayer Theme:</b> Overcoming Apathy and Unbelief

## THINK ABOUT HIM

Destroying Apathy and Unbelief

**Psalm 138:6** says, *“Though the Lord is on high, yet He regards the lowly; but the proud He knows from afar.”*

The first time someone asked me, “What is God saying to you?”, It made me angry, like, ‘you mean what does the Bible say? That’s the only way God speaks’.

They tried to make me feel like I didn't "have something" that they had ... like hearing God was a “special graduate level privilege” for the super spiritual elite. It was like I had to catch “it” or become something in order to get it.

I judged people who were “sensational” as ungrounded ignorant quacks. I saw them as naïve. Unfortunately, every critical judgment I made of them became a HUGE barrier to my own personal experience.

**Get this:** I refused to embrace the Spirit of God speaking to me – because **I didn’t know Him**. I didn’t pray in His power and guidance. I didn’t walk in submission. I didn’t serve in His power. I was ignorant and prideful. I needed to change. I had to repent. I needed my theology shattered.

### Will you consider this today:

Eventually, His written Word will come alive in you and you will begin to know His voice - different than any other voice. Today, repent of every single judgment you’ve ever made against God and get your heart humbled before Him. He still speaks.

## **PRAYER**

*Holy Spirit, please forgive me for any lies I've believed about You or what it looks like to receive you. I lay down my pride and desire to do things my own way. I invite You to come into my heart and change me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## Experience Him

S - Scripture

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O - Observation

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P - Prayer

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WEEKDAY: <b>Saturday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>Acts 19:1-3</b>
Time:	<b>Prayer Theme:</b> Knowing the Holy Spirit

### THINK ABOUT HIM

Is There More?

**Acts 19:2** says, "Paul asked them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

One day in a worship service, I said to myself: "Yes, I received the Holy Spirit when I believed. I already (eyes roll) "have" the Spirit". Then I had a thought (which was the Spirit counseling me): "*Jeff – YOU KNOW you know you don't have the fullness of ME in your life. You know there's no power in your ministry. You don't expect anything except the applause of men. You hope people change, but you know there's nothing relational with me in this. Don't resist giving up control. Don't fear looking weird or sounding naïve.*"

This was not my own reasoning; this was God's Spirit – who was already IN me – guiding me, teaching how to understand.

Then my mind/flesh said, "But all of those big 'baptism in the Spirit' experiences in the book of Acts were limited only to the Apostles and they were just one-time signs for those people. I can't expect that." Then the Spirit ministered to me, saying: "who told you that?"

I muttered something like, "Well, it's basic Biblical Interpretation rules. It's pretty logical – there are only 4 examples of radical outpourings happening and each time it was in the presence of one of the 12 apostles."

Bottom line - my theology professors, childhood heroes, peers, and my own mindset landed me there. This was driven into me as "Anti-Charismatic Doctrine" during my early years. Maybe you learned this way also. Then the Spirit gently counseled me, "Why do you limit God to your own understanding, Jeff? You do this with many things in your life. Do you see the pattern of your mind? It is

pride and unbelief, Jeff. Your pride is grieving me and quenching all I have for you.

Your pride is keeping you stuck in sin and even shame. You have believed a lie, Jeff. You have stuck ME in a box called 'Jeff's Control and Understanding'. I am the same yesterday, today, and forever. I am not limited to only working in the First Century. You must repent of this thinking and surrender all of your life to being filled daily & continually by me." (That's a summary of what I remember)

Weeks later I remember thinking out loud, murmuring under my breath, while sitting on the second row of a conference, "I'm no longer going to limit you Holy Spirit – whatever you want to do in me, I receive you. I want you to fill me." I meant it - in that moment - as deeply as I've ever meant anything from my will.

This time in my life was the BEGINNING of major sledgehammering breakthrough ... it was the first major whack of God's truth shattering my pride. It was a shattering of my understanding. It was the first step in the death of my arrogance and intellect-only pursuit of God.

MY FRIEND, this is not a one-time experience where you "get filled". This is about a daily immersion into the will of God empowered by His Spirit. Joy follows! If there is pride in your life holding you back from receiving all the Holy Spirit has for you, you must change your way of thinking. You need to repent.

### **Be Filled With The Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)**

*"What we should seek (and this applies to all Christians) is that God pour his Spirit out upon us so completely that we are filled with joy, victorious over sin, and bold to witness. And the ways he brings us to that fullness are probably as varied as people are. It may come in a tumultuous experience of ecstasy and tongues. It may come through a tumultuous experience of ecstasy and no tongues. It may come through a crisis of suffering when you abandon yourself totally to God. Or it may come gradually through a steady diet of God's word and prayer and fellowship and worship and service. However it comes, our first experience of the fullness of the Spirit is only the beginning of a life-long battle to stay filled with the Spirit." - John Piper, March 8, 1981*

The Bible says that when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, we are filled with joy and given power from on high. There is a major



difference in life, ministry and personal experience with God and faith after being filled with the Spirit and daily walking IN the Spirit.

Do you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit? You don't have to wait. Receive Him today. Maybe you already have and you're just not living in the fullness of His presence. No one really always does. We need to be filled daily with his joy, love, presence and power. Everything about faith is weird to the carnal mind – but, for those with the Spirit, it is Abundant Life. (1 Corinthians 2:11-16).

## **PRAYER**

*Holy Spirit, today I completely surrender my will to you. Teach me who you are. Reveal your ministry and work to me. I give you my understanding and my constraints. I repent for judging others and for fearing other people's judgements. If you have it for me, I want it. If you are doing it, I want in on it. If you are teaching it, I receive it. Amen.*

## **FOR FURTHER STUDY**

Acts 7:51 ... Please discover exactly what it means to “resist the Holy Spirit.” Of course it means refusing to do right. It also means refusing to change or be changed. It also means refusing to humble yourself and submit your knowledge and understanding. This is a very serious issue. What is the Spirit saying to you today?

## Experience Him

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DISCOVER  
YOUR  
PURPOSE

# WEEK TWO INTRO

## DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE

*Your purpose in life is to grow in the likeness of Jesus in character, community, and ministry for the glory of God. We believe this happens through relational-discipleship in the context of community. The gifts and ministry of the Spirit are God's workings to equip you and the whole body of Christ for life and ministry.*

### WHAT ARE THE GIFTS AND MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT?

Spiritual Gifts are when the Spirit manifests His presence and imparts His power into Christians to enable them to exceed the limitations of their finite humanity in order to fulfill ministry tasks for building up the body of Christ. Each of these abilities is filtered through the observation and limitations of "human beings." Any work the Spirit of God does through a person is . . . through a person.

Because of this, when a person speaks, serves, acts, or does anything else, it is done with personality, soul, and even flesh the person. This makes it difficult for other people to see and recognize the actual ministry of the Spirit because it's being demonstrated through a person.

Have you experienced a difficulty sensing the Spirit's work because of it coming through another human? Have you also limited your own ministry through the Spirit because of judging yourself and limiting His work through your own humanity?

As a result of imperfections, limits, and other things, there's a pretty broad division in the Church today as to whether the Spirit even operates through the sensational gifts as seen in Scripture today. All would agree - If the Holy Spirit wants to work, He can work and do as He wills. But other limitations surround our expectations, filters, and experiences of the Spirit of God in ministry today.

### DID THE GIFTS CEASE OR ARE THEY STILL FULLY ACTIVE?

One popular question among Christ-followers today is, "Did some of these more sensational abilities of the Spirit cease in the First Century or are they still active today in the church?"

Regardless of what you believe about this, one fact is clear from I Corinthians 13:8: "Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away. As for tongues, they will cease. As for knowledge, it will pass away."

The entire church can at least agree that there will be a time when at least these 3 spiritual gifts - tongues, prophecy and knowledge, will cease. The dividing question is of course, "When"? Verse 9-10 says, "We know in part, we prophesy in part. But when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away."

So - there is clearly an event or time when the perfect comes and these gifts will expire because they're no longer needed. Here are the different interpretations of "when the perfect comes":

1. **When Christ returns.** This is what I personally believe.
2. **When the Bible/Cannon and inspiration is complete.** This is what I was taught to believe growing up, but haven't agreed with for the past 30 years.
3. **When the Church is perfect in mature love.** I believe this is the same thing as #1.

Today, consider making this part of your sincere prayer:

- "Holy Spirit, teach me to obey the command to 'Eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of Prophecy.'" 1 **Corinthians 14:1**
- "Holy Spirit, teach me to fully obey the command to, 'try to excel in the gifts that build up the church.'"
- "Holy Spirit, teach me so that I will not be or act ignorantly about your gifts and ministry in the church today." 1 **Corinthians 12:1**

## MEMORIZE THIS

### I Corinthians 12:27-31

*"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? Now eagerly desire the greater gifts."*

WEEKDAY: <b>Sunday</b>	SERMON TITLE:
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:	SPEAKER:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

WEEKDAY: <b>Monday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>Matthew 7:20-23</b>
Time:	Prayer Theme: Knowing Jesus Personally

## THINK ABOUT HIM

### How to Know I Am Saved.

There are many famous people whom I know and have met, but do not have a two-way personal relationship with. In order for there to be a two-way personal relationship between two people, there has to be a mutual investment in time, communication, and agreement with each other – especially at the values and honor level.

The same is true spiritually. In order for there to be a two-way personal relationship between Jesus and me, there really has to be an agreement between Jesus and me regarding who He is, what the standards for relationship are, and what it means to know and be known.

There should be an agreeing confirmation in me where God's Spirit testifies in me that I'm a child of God in harmony with God. This is something every Jesus-follower grows in knowing and understanding personally through their faith, worship, obedience, and disciplines.

**Romans 8:15-17** says, "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs..."

## EVIDENCES OF SALVATION

- **Desire to know and be known by Jesus**

**Matthew 7:20-23** says, *"On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in*

*your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”*

- **Willful submission to Jesus as Lord and leader of my life in my work, fun, and influence of other people**

**Matthew 7:21** says, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in Heaven.

- **A pattern of following and practicing the ways of Jesus**

When I blow it, there should be a drawing in my heart to run to Jesus and find mercy and restored close fellowship. There shouldn’t be a pattern of hardening my heart and running willfully in the wrong direction with no change of heart.

**I John 1:9-10** says, “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness. But if we say we have not sinned, then we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our hearts.*”

- **An echo between my heart and God’s Spirit**

There should be a confirmation or echo inside me from God’s Spirit that is in agreement with my attitude toward God. Do you have a new spirit that is growing in relationship and wanting to follow and submit to Jesus?

**Romans 8:17** says, “*The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs...*”

It is a tragic mistake to think that your eternity is secure because of a one-time prayer or by believing the story of Jesus and God. There absolutely must be an inner witness of personal faith that is confirmed in relationship.

It’s also a tragic mistake to think that your performance in the relationship is what saves you. Your salvation is completely the work of Jesus Christ, and He wants you to know with absolute certainty that you are saved and that you know God. This is why he calls you to know Him and know God.



When you walk in the light of fellowship with Him, not only are you secure but you deeply and personally know with certainty who He is and who you are in him. You know Him and He knows you; and this is eternal life. Knowing Jesus and being known is eternal life.

**John 17:3** says, *“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”*

## Experience Him

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WEEKDAY: <b>Tuesday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>Romans 12:11</b>
Time:	<b>Prayer Theme:</b> Eternal Security

## Think About Him

Can I Lose My Salvation? What if I Quit?

### John 10:27-30

*I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My father who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.*

The phrase, "Once saved, always saved," is a popular one among Christians. In fact, when many people join a church, they ask the pastor, "Pastor do you believe "once saved, always saved" or they'll ask, "What do you believe about eternal security?"

No person needs to get saved again after being saved the first time. You can't lose your salvation and then do something to get it back again. All saved people continue in their faith by turning from their sin, confessing their sins, and walking in the ways of Christ in fellowship with Him. God's sovereign grace has saved you completely. You are His elect and He will empower you to endure.

Also, there's severe danger of drifting, turning away, deliberately sinning, and telling yourself, "I can do whatever I want and I'll always have time to repent and come back later." It's dangerous for many reasons, including:

**Abusing Grace:** This is one core evidence that a person may not actually believe the truth about Jesus and may actually not even be saved. No one can believe in Jesus, never change, and live however they want to. (Romans 6:1-4)

**Hardening the Heart:** Quenching the Holy Spirit is the process of rejecting His voice, all warnings, consequences, and discipline. The end result of this is a mind that is corrupted and so full of self-deception that it is impossible for

them to get the roots of deception out of themselves. This is a very dangerous and unfruitful way to live. (Hebrews 10:26)

**Develop a Carnal Mind:** a carnal mind is one that is always on the flesh and has no real faith. It wishes for change but cannot do anything to please God because there is no connection of faith in the heart. All of the motives become corrupted by self and fear. (Romans 8:8)

## WHAT HAPPENS IF I QUIT?

**Hebrews 10:36** says, "For you have need for endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised."

**Hebrews 10:39** says, "But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls."

## IF YOU ARE TRULY SAVED...

1. **God will finish what he started in you.** He will give you all the help you need to endure until the end.

**Philippians 1:6** says, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

**I Corinthians 1:8-9** says, "...who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful . . ."

2. **He keeps you saved.** When you commit your life to Jesus Christ and from your heart believe in Him, then He is powerful to keep you in His grace and continually cover you and save you till the end.

**II Timothy 1:2** says, "I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return."

3. **Jesus Keeps You From Falling Away.** The Bible calls sin, stumbling. We all stumble. But ultimately stumbling is referring to "falling away". If you are saved, you don't have to fear falling away. Jesus is powerfully working in you to keep you.

Jude 1:24 says, "Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy."

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN IF A PERSON QUILTS?

- **Any belief they ever had was not actually saving faith, saving faith holds on.**

I Corinthians 15:1-2 says, "I want to remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you - unless you believed in vain."

It is possible to receive the message of Jesus, believe it, and not hold on to it. If a person doesn't hold on to it, then they were never saved. If they hold firmly to it, then they are truly saved.

- **They were never truly saved, being truly saved is evidenced by continuing.**

I John 2:19 says, "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us."

This is a strong statement of how powerful God's grace is to keep people who are saved.

- **They never were known by Jesus. Knowing God requires being known by Jesus. This means there is genuine submission to His will and His way of life. He must be Lord.**

Matthew 7:21, 23 says, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ... I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you; away from me, you evildoers.'"

## **WHAT ABOUT YOU?**

Today is a brand new day. Praise God for all the ways He has kept you from quitting and all the ways He keeps winning you over with his kindness and love.

## Experience Him

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WEEKDAY: <b>Wednesday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>James 5:19-20</b>
Time:	<b>Prayer Theme:</b> The Power of Community

## **Think About Him**

God Uses Community to Keep You Saved

**James 5:19-20** says, “My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

God uses people to continually bring me back to Him. He has used counselors, parents, coaches, principals, friends, pastors, teachers, teammates, and friends. He has also used me in many ways to bring people back to Him, such as:

- A husband hardened against God and his spouse
- A young lady hurt by her father and several boyfriends who wasn't trusting men any more
- A son hardened against God and his parents
- A married couple bitter against the church and religion
- A single mom jaded by life and bitter toward the church
- A wife burned out on church who no longer trusted men
- A mother hurt by life and medicating with alcohol and food
- Parents who did not believe God would change their family

Get this: the people around you are either making you or breaking you. You have to surround yourself with people who can help you on your journey and aren't afraid to speak life into you in times you are hurting or wandering away from your roots and foundation in faith.

## **TWO RELATIONAL WAYS GOD KEEPS US SECURE IN OUR SALVATION?**

- 1. God Uses People to Bring Back Straying People.**



Let this sink in. This is how powerful Christian community is. God designed human beings to influence others out of sin. You have to get over feeling judged by people, especially when God is sovereignly using them to bring you back from straying and rebellion in your life.

## **2. God Uses People to Cover a Multitude of Sins.**

Get this: God uses people to cover a massive dose of your personal sins by helping you get out of your slump and back into confession, repentance and community with Jesus Christ. God keeps his children through the work of His children. We are the voice of God in people's ears speaking on behalf of God, "Dear friend, don't throw away your faith."

## Experience Him

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WEEKDAY: <b>Thursday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>Matthew 22:36-40</b>
Time:	<b>Prayer Theme:</b> Your Personal Role Discipleship

## THINK ABOUT HIM

This is Discipleship

**Matthew 22:36-40** says, “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Every coach has a system. You can't play in a sport under the authority of a coach and not comply or follow their system. Their system is their “way.”

Likewise, Jesus has a “way” and He empowers His people with differing abilities and gifts to help others in their own faith and journey of becoming like Jesus.

When Jesus came to the frontlines of the Jewish community in the First Century and began to assemble his team, he did so by teaching them a way of life that was much different from previous leaders they had. He often used phrases like, “You’ve heard it said, ... but, I tell you ...” These statements were pillars of clarity regarding his program for eternal life.

Two thousand years later, the ways of Jesus still exist and are revealed to us by God through the Scriptures. People who learn and live His Way are His disciples and they have eternal life.

### THREE ESSENTIAL KEYS TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP:

- **DISCIPLESHIP REQUIRES A LEARNER.**

A disciple of Jesus is a learner. Anyone who is a

committed learner of Jesus is someone who is committed to learning His ways and putting His ways into practice.

- **DISCIPLESHIP REQUIRES DISCIPLE MAKERS**

This is purely relational. It happens over lunches and even in the context of small groups or settings where guidance and feedback are possible. A disciple maker sometimes teaches, sometimes guides, encourages, and even corrects a person into growing in their own giftings and knowledge of Jesus.

New learners need help understanding. So, it is essential that people who are older in their process of learning Jesus help people who are new in the process.

- **ALL DISCIPLES ARE CAPABLE OF HELPING OTHERS**

Regardless of how long a person has been learning Jesus and putting his ways into practice, every single person has a responsibility to help others become followers of Jesus.

## **AT ANCHOR CHURCH . . .**

We desire to see people growing in their personal devotion to the Lord, contributing to the ministry with their time, talents, and resources, and growing to become a person who can help others grow in their faith.

We value developing resources such as this one and others to help guide people in their faith. We also value small groups and believe that in small groups, people are most likely to deepen their personal faith and growth.

We also believe that our corporate weekend experiences are helpful to lead a person to Encounter God with others and that their personal encounter can lead to ongoing daily encounters with God.

Whatever we do, we want to help people grow in becoming like Jesus. He's worthy.

## DISCIPLESHIP

**We see these seven characteristics as markers of a Disciple of Jesus Christ:**

1. **SAVED: Are You Saved?** Have you personally believed in Jesus and surrendered to Him as God and the only true way to salvation and eternal life?
2. **BAPTIZED:** Have you been water Baptized? Have you gone public in professing your faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?
3. **SPIRIT IS ACTIVATED:** Is the Holy Spirit activated in your life and service through the gifts of the Spirit?
4. **IN COMMUNITY:** Are you actively in community with other believers serving and growing?
5. **CONTRIBUTING:** Are you actively contributing with your resources AND service?
6. **SELF-DEVELOPING:** Are you growing in becoming a person who is able to be self-taught through your personal study, devotion, resources, and relationships?
7. **SERVING/REPRODUCING:** Are you intentionally using your life to influence others to know Christ – even reproducing what you know into the lives of others?

## Experience Him

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WEEKDAY: <b>Friday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>I Corinthians 12:11</b>
Time:	Prayer Theme: Spiritual Gifts

## THINK ABOUT HIM

### Understanding the Gifts of the Spirit

**DEFINITION:** Spiritual Gifts are when the Spirit manifests His presence and imparts His power into Christians to enable them to exceed the limitations of their finite humanity in order to fulfill ministry tasks for building up the body of Christ.

Spiritual Gifts are mentioned 155 times in the Bible.

### ARE GIFTS THE SAME AS TALENTS?

There is room for natural talent and not everyone who has a natural talent; but not everyone's natural talent is a predictor of how the Lord will gift them to serve in the body. Just because you are talented as a nurse or counselor doesn't mean the Spirit will gift you to work different healings. Just because you are talented in decision making and judgment doesn't mean the Spirit will necessarily gift you to discern spirits.

**The Gifts of the Spirit belong to the Holy Spirit** - and He distributes them as He wills to whomever He wills for the purposes of God. It is extremely necessary for believers to distinguish the difference between talents and spiritual gifts. Gifts enable you to **EXCEED** the limitations of your finite humanity.

Talented people can speak and draw hearers, but the gift of prophecy, the gift of teaching, the gift of evangelism, the gift of wisdom, and words of knowledge literally change the entire destiny of others by revealing sin, righteousness, Jesus, and hope.

The Spirit gives gifts to a believer as He wills. Whatever gifts you may receive is always determined by the Holy Spirit, not by you.

**1 Corinthians 12:11** says, “All these (spiritual gifts) are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who distributes to each one individually as he wills.”

I used to believe that when you were born again or saved, God gave you certain spiritual gifts and that was it. But there's much more to it. There's an ongoing distribution of the Gifts to anyone the Spirit wills and at any time they're needed.

It's not true that you get certain gifts at salvation and then they're yours to figure out. That's not what the Bible teaches.

The Bible teaches to eagerly desire Spiritual Gifts and the Spirit distributes them as he wills. Here are a few examples of this:

**1 Corinthians 14:1** “Eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.” Here's Paul telling believers to desire the gift of Prophecy.

**1 Corinthians 14:12** “Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.” Here's Paul telling believers to try to excel in gifts other than tongues.

**1 Corinthians 14:13** “If anyone speaks in a tongue, they should pray that they may interpret what they say.” Here's an example of Paul telling believers they should pray for a specific gift of the Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 14:5.** “I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues,”

Here, Paul encourages believers to pursue some gifts over others. Before we study the gifts of the Spirit more in depth, I want to encourage you to check your level of desire when it comes to building up the Body of Christ.

Do you desire to build up other people? Do you eagerly desire supernatural power to build up other people? Do you hunger for the Spirit of God to work through you to strengthen and encourage other people?

Will you consider adding this to the top of your daily priorities?



**TEST:** For the Next 10 Days - spend at least 5 minutes a day doing the following:

Read Verses about the ministry and love of Jesus.

Get a picture in your heart of people in need of a word from the Lord, a gift of support, mercy, wisdom or some other need.

Ask the Spirit to give you power to build others up.  
Receive strength to do it effectively.

Then Go do it!

Then Praise God for the grace to change your world.

**FOR FURTHER STUDY**

Romans 12:4-8, I Corinthians 12:7

## Experience Him

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WEEKDAY: <b>Saturday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>Matthew 28:19</b>
Time:	Prayer Theme: Your Purpose to Influence Others

## THINK ABOUT HIM YOU CAN MAKE DISCIPLES

*“Therefore go and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. . .*  
(Matthew 28:19, NIV)

Many of my childhood friends and their families were evangelistic. I grew up in a rather hyper-evangelistic culture. We were taught and encouraged to share our faith with others at an early age.

One of my childhood heroes in the faith was Phil Robertson. Phil was kind, humble, sweet-spirited, and full of tenacious-bold zeal for the Lord. Phil's house had a reputation of being a place where many people were taught the Bible and led to faith in Christ.

Alcoholics flocked to Phil. Redneck rebels coming off of dope flocked to Phil. Broken marriages ended up restored in Phil and his wife, Kay's, living room. Phil made disciples of Jesus using the scriptures He knew and put into practice the words he read and preached.

None of us are called to be like Phil in the level of our impact. But all of us are called to be completely faithful in being intentional to help other people grow in their faith according to the abilities, gifts, and anointing we do have.

**Here are 5 Ways Everyone can Make Disciples of Jesus:**

### **S.H.A.R.E.**

#### **1. Speak**

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Do whatever you can to invite, include, speak, teach. Verbally influence others. Share

your faith with people by telling your story over lunch. Speak words of faith to restaurant servants, co-workers, partners in business, colleagues and peers.

## **2. Hospitality**

Open up your space to other people for their benefit. Open your house, apartment, condo or wherever you are to connect with people for their benefit. Host a Bible study. Host a group. Host people and in doing so help people grow.

## **3. Ask**

Open your eyes and your heart and first ask the Lord, "Who do you want me to serve with your Word or help in their walk with you?" Then be open to connecting with that person and building a personal friendship with them.

At some point, ask them if they're willing to growing in their faith and if they would like to meet with you regularly just to study, discuss or share scripture. Be open to many different ways to do this. If you need help, seek one of our pastors for help.

## **4. Relational (and Relax)**

Task-oriented people struggle with relationships. Some can get too uptight about goals and the mission and end up failing miserably at genuinely connecting and caring for people. Don't be a discipleship monster who is high on the task and low on the connect-ability.

Focus on genuine friendships. Be a person others come to and want to follow. Relax about the mission and focus on the relationships. Jesus was a natural. He just loved people and followed His Father and openly taught and explained what He was receiving all along the way.

## **5. Encourage**

No matter what you do for others, you are never more necessary than when you encourage others. Discipleship is full of encouraging others with teaching, correction, compassion, gifts, time and true help in following Jesus.

Don't defeat people or beat them up with humanistic expectations. Look at how Jesus treated Peter on the other side of the resurrection.

Look at how Jesus treated his disciples who were seriously lacking in many ways. Look at how he treated Judas even up to the point of being kissed on the cheek in betrayal.

On the night Jesus was arrested and hours before he was crucified, his lead-follower Peter denied that he even knew who Jesus was. Peter abandoned Jesus.

After Jesus was raised from the dead, He appeared to Peter and the other disciples many times. On one occasion, Jesus completely loved, forgave, and restored Peter. Look at how pastoral and encouraging Jesus was after Peter denied he even knew Jesus.

Set your heart toward growing in getting Jesus' heart for others and genuinely care for the people in front of you.

## Experience Him

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CHANGE  
YOUR  
WORLD

# WEEK THREE INTRO

## THE ADDICTION TO IMPACTING OTHERS

**I Corinthians 16:15-16 (KJV)** says, “I beseech you, brethren, ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have **addicted** themselves to the ministry of the saints, that ye submit yourselves unto such, and to everyone that helps with us, and laboreth.”

Here's a more understandable translation:

**I Corinthians 16:15-16** says, “You know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have **devoted** themselves to the service of the Lord's people. I urge you, brothers and sisters, **16** to submit to such people and to everyone who joins in the work and labors at it.

The household of Stephanas addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints and the Holy Spirit urged everyone to come into full alignment to such people. THE GOAL . . . to see Jesus Christ enthroned in the hearts of all people. This is the goal of ministry. This is what Stephanas was addicted to.

### WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

- **EVANGELISM IS SOVEREIGN.**

God's divine work in a person's salvation is loving, wise and just. God carries out his very inclusive plan to reach people by taking initiative through a variety of means. Sometimes God may directly intervene, or he may carry out His purpose through both working through nature or removing his protection. All of these are sovereign ways God is working to win a person over to seek Him and find Him.

- **EVANGELISM IS PERSONAL.**

Here are a few thoughts about how to personally engage in evangelism:

**Responsibility:** Accept the personal responsibility to intentionally persuade others to follow Jesus Christ.

**Relationship:** Build a relationship with people needing Jesus.



**Story:** Practice sharing your personal story with others. If you don't know your personal story, meet with a friend or pastor and get help discovering your personal faith story.

**Invitation:** Always give a personal invitation to come hear the gospel in the different settings you know it will be shared in-person, online, or in church.

### 3. EVANGELISM IS TEAM

Here are different expressions of evangelism that each of us experience and express with different levels of ability:

**Hospitality:** Opening up your space for the benefit of others to hear of Jesus or experience Christ.

**Teaching:** The ability to explain the Scriptures in a way that helps people understand.

**Invitation:** The ability to magnetically include others, invite them, and bring them in making them feel welcome and included.

**Preaching:** The ability to proclaim the gospel boldly and with power to persuade.

**Serving:** The ability to do things for others in Jesus' Name and demonstrate the gospel in action.

**Worship:** As servants minister to the Lord and each other through singing, worship, and praise, people experience the power of God's presence, and that atmosphere is in many ways evangelism in the proclamation of the gospel through music.

**Confrontation:** The ability to boldly confront sin in a way that convicts people and leads them to repentance.

**Apologetics:** The ability to persuade skeptics who struggle to believe intellectually or emotionally.

There are other styles of evangelism, but these are to prompt you to pray and seek God for ways He wants to use you today to change your world.

WEEKDAY: <b>Sunday</b>	SERMON TITLE:
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:	SPEAKER:

[illegible]

WEEKDAY: <b>Monday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>Luke 24:48-49</b>
Time:	Prayer Theme: Spirit-fueled Impact

## Think About Him

### Spirit-Led and Spirit Empowered Evangelism

**Luke 24:47-49** says, *“repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”*

**Get This:** AN EVANGELIST is someone who proclaims the gospel or good news of Jesus Christ and His wonderful grace to save people from sin, hell, and the grave.

**Get This:** EVANGELISM isn't a word in the Bible, but it is a modern term to refer to the work of ministry that proclaims the gospel of Jesus to people affecting their salvation from sin, hell, and the grave.

**Get This:** Jesus sent his followers out to evangelize the whole world in a way that would result in making disciples of all nations.

**Get This:** Jesus told his disciples to not do ANYTHING until they were clothed with power from on High. This meant, don't do any work in Jesus' name without the Holy Spirit empowering you with boldness, zeal, power, and truth.

**THIS IS ESSENTIAL:** The work of ministry and especially evangelism is not about plans, techniques, or special events. It is not about talents, charm, or human winsomeness.

Evangelism is designed by God to be a result of being FULL of the Holy Spirit and that sacred holy fire inside of you permeating your world around you through your talk and your walk.

## Experience Him

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WEEKDAY: <b>Tuesday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>John 16:14</b>
Time:	<b>Prayer Theme:</b> Discerning God's Voice

## **Think About Him**

### **A CULTURE OF SERVING**

James 5:19-20 says, "My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins."

I'm not a great shopper or gift-giver. I tend to over think gift-giving. I always think the person is so much more valuable than what I can buy and so I just freeze when thinking of something special

Then I think of what people have done for me over the years. It's the really simple thoughtful things that really stand out. When people think of you and do something to you and for you, it always feels special. God designed it this way.

Serving is entry way to every heart on the planet. Serving people is the fastest way to their heart because serving people shows them their true value and shows them they're loved.

### **A CULTURE OF SERVING OUR WORLD**

**NO COP-OUTS** - Here are some serving cop-outs:

- No one is going to notice if I help, so I'm not going to help.
- There are plenty of other people serving, I'm not really needed anywhere.
- I don't really have enough to make a difference.
- If I had more resources or better ideas, then I would help.

It's very true that none of us can solve the world's problems. None of us can change the world, but all of us can change our world. We can do something and what we do matters.

## **GIVE AND SERVE WITHOUT LOOKING FOR GLORY**

Go out of your way to pay someones bill, give a gift or take care of a need without hanging around to bask in the glory of your service being noticed. Make it a point to serve the Lord in what you do and bless him in your service. He will reward you with love, peace and true joy.

## **BE GENEROUS TO MAKE PEOPLE FEEL SEEN**

Go out of your way to connect with people you think may feel disconnected or longing to feel value. They sit alone. They stand alone. They isolate themselves from people trying to prove they're unlovable. They may even sabotage themselves by acting like a porcupine to keep people away. Serve them in a way that makes them here, "I'm here for you. God cares about you. You are not alone today."

## Experience Him

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WEEKDAY: <b>Wednesday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>Exodus 3:1-17</b>
Time:	<b>Prayer Theme:</b> Being Led by the Spirit

### Think About Him

Serving is the Highest Rank in Following Jesus

**Philippians 2:5-7** says, "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature[a] God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."

In my first year of ministry, I got a phone call from a friend who referred me to go visit a woman whose husband had just died from a sudden heart attack. I didn't know what to say. I didn't know how to pray. I didn't know what to do. I didn't know much of anything. Thankfully, I remembered this text from Henri Nouwen's book, "The Practice of the Presence of God",

*My own desire to be useful, to do something significant, or to be part of some impressive project is so strong that soon my time is taken up by meetings, conferences, study groups, and workshops that prevent me from walking the streets. It is difficult not to have plans, not to organize people around an urgent cause, and not to feel that you are working directly for social progress. But I wonder more and more if the first thing shouldn't be to know people by name, to eat and drink with them, to listen to their stories and tell your own, and to let them know with words, handshakes, and hugs that you do not simply like them, but truly love them. - Henri Nouwen*

I went to the store, bought flowers, and went to her house. I walked in and asked questions and listened. She talked for an hour and I listened. She introduced me to several of her friends who needed what she experienced that day. I visited them too.

Every visit led to another person who needed a visit. Every one of them had sons and daughters who needed help. Eventually, many people in the church began going overboard to take care of people. The church started growing and people came to hear



about Jesus as a result of someone just coming to their house and serving in a simple way.

Here's something to consider: God will bless those who serve people. Here are a few suggestions today:

- **Ask God to open your eyes to needs.**
- **Lay down your fear of not knowing what to do.**
- **Believe Jesus has something to offer through you.**
- **Give stuff away like crazy.**

## Experience Him

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WEEKDAY: <b>Thursday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>I John 4:11, 19, I John 3:17</b>
Time:	Prayer Theme: Jesus Working Through Me

### **Think About Him** You Were Made to ECHO

**I JOHN 4:11, 19** says, "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another....We love because he first loved us."

I'll never forget the day I stopped saying, "Well, we'll be praying for you." I was in the driveway of Ray and "Sam" Morris in Baton Rouge and a young couple from China were being introduced as new believers in Christ. They had just received Christ and were baptized, renouncing everything they had ever known in Buddhism and the faith of their parents.

They needed to move from their apartment to another part of town. When they expressed their need, my friend, David, said, "Well, I'll for sure be praying for you guys." He was sincere, but Ray Morris was an echo of real love. Ray said, "Well, they don't need prayers, they need a pick-up truck."

An echo is a repeat on earth of what God says and desires in heaven. He's constantly loving people.

**I John 3:17** says, "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"

Being an echo of God's voice, love and presence is being full of God's practical word and help in timely solutions to people's needs around us. We are responsible to do what we can with what we have. Wherever we are, we intentionally help people experience faith, hope, and love in Jesus Christ.

**Proverbs 3:28** says, *"Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back tomorrow and I'll give it to you"-- when you already have it with you."*

What would happen if you spent some time praying attentively to the needs of others and then responded as God led you?

**Here are some ways God acts and we echo:**

- He provides for us and we provide for others.
- He forgives us and we forgive others.
- He speaks to us by His Spirit and through His Word, and we share that with others.
- He demonstrates mercy on us and we are merciful to others.
- He removes a barrier so we can work and prosper and we remove barriers for others so they can prosper.

Being the echo of God is not just hearing his voice and then speaking, it's experiencing Him and then helping others experience Him also.

## Experience Him

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WEEKDAY: <b>Friday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>Luke 15:7, 10</b>
Time:	Prayer Theme: Making Room For One More

### **Think About Him**

Intentionally Making Room For Others

**Luke 15:7** says, "I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."

This is a beautiful picture of how intentionally God is about personally going after one single person who is lost or has strayed away from Him. He makes room for even one.

Luke 15:10 says, "there will is rejoicing in the presence of angels of God over one sinner who repents" Again, this is the importance of just one person to God.

As a follower of Jesus, you will become like him more and more as you realize how much he loves you, your friends, your heroes and even your enemies.

'MAKE ROOM' is a value-phrase we use at Anchor Church to refer to our heart for loving all people and continually doing all we can to see people – love people – find people – serve people – include people and care about people experiencing God's love.

This happens in the lobby, in the parking lot, before worship, after worship, in the service, in the community, online, during the week, and all throughout our lives. We want to feel compassion for people and care about helping them experience God's love.

Every call you make matters. When you see people and feel for them, it matters. When you invite, include, notice, reach out, share, give, or even pray – it matters. We do all we can to make room for one more. That's the heart of Jesus.

## Experience Him

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WEEKDAY: <b>Saturday</b>	Today's Scripture <b>Mark 16:15, I Corinthians 15:1-4</b>
Time:	Prayer Theme: Effective Evangelism

## Think About Him

### THIS IS EVANGELISM

**Mark 16:15** says, And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.”

**I Corinthians 15:1-4** says, “Now brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel, . . . that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.”

The gospel is the good news of Jesus life, death, burial, and resurrection from the dead – for the sins of the World. This gospel saves people.

Never mistake that the goal of sharing His Gospel with others is persuasion. Also never mistake that it is not a sales pitch. It is telling people the truth and inviting people to come experience truth. Evangelism is deeply loving and contagiously missional.

A personal hero of mine, Dr. David Shibley wrote in his book, *The Missions Addiction*, “Any church that does not have rescuing the lost at the core of its purposes for existence should forfeit it’s right to exist as a church.”

Dr Shibley also said, “In my opinion, no theological issue could be more crucial for evangelism and missions than how deeply we really believe that people without Christ are eternally lost, and that there is salvation in no one else and there is no other name given that can redeem them”.

When we came to the city of McKinney in January 2015 we began immediately looking for people God had already prepared to



welcome us and partner with us. Our goal was to build a team of believers who had a heart to love the city and to see many rescued by the love of Jesus Christ.

We spent months and now seven years building a team of believers who desire to see Jesus glorified and do our part in His redemptive plan to rescue people from sin and death.

## **KEY PRIORITIES OF EVANGELISM**

**DESIRE** to see God's kingdom advance.

Matthew 28:19 - Go make disciples of all nations

Mark 16:15 - Preach the gospel to every person

Luke 24:47-48 - Repentance and forgiveness of sin is to be preached in His name to all nations

John 20:21 - Jesus is the one who sends us out on His behalf

Acts 1:8 - We are Jesus' witnesses to the ends of the earth

**CONVICTION** in the power of the Gospel of Jesus

Romans 1:16 says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes."

**SCRIPTURE** is the standard in evangelism

God's Word is cross cultural and it even transcends culture. it works everywhere. (Jeremiah 23:29, Hebrews 4:12).

**JESUS' NAME** is the authority to rescue people. (Acts 3:16)

**JESUS' BLOOD** is the power to take down the enemy, fill the mouth of a believer with powerful testimony, cleanse completely from sin and forgive people. (Revelation 12:11)

**THE HOLY SPIRIT** is always working in and through us in the mission. (Zechariah 4:6)

## Experience Him

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