

Three Steps Toward Christian Maturity



STEP ONE



*NEW MEMBERS AND/OR NEW BELIEVERS
SEMINAR*

STEP ONE

TRI-LIFE

Welcome to Loveland!

(To the new member)

Welcome to God's family!

(To the new Christian)

This seminar is designed both for new Christians and new members of Loveland. New believers in Jesus will gain a better understanding of what it means to be a Christian and grow in a dynamic relationship with Him. At the same time it is also an essential process for new Members to Loveland Church who may already be grounded in their Christian faith to get acquainted with Loveland's Biblical teaching. Finally it allows either to find their own meaningful place within Loveland's many ministries.

This entire seminar requires about sixteen hours of class time and one should allow for about an hour of homework time for every two hours of class time. The seminar leaders will help you through every step along the way. Follow through with your seminar leaders as well as those in your class and this will be a rewarding, motivating, life changing experience. Make your life the fullest and best possible with Jesus Christ leading it, a TRIUMPHANT LIFE.

Class Information

Instructor: _____

Contact Information: _____

E-mail _____

Schedule: This Class is designed to run between 8 – 10 weeks

Class Session Length: 60 – 90 minutes

Materials: Bible, Step 1 Workbook (provided), pen/pencil, highlighter, 3x5 cards (optional)

Attendance: Weekly attendance is expected of every class member. Please arrange your schedule to allow for your class participation. If you must be absent, please call.

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STEP ONE

TRI-LIFE

INTRODUCTION

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Because Jesus is Lord, the mission of Loveland Church is to Worship, Evangelize, Disciple, Serve and Fellowship; Maximizing lives for triumphant living in order to reach the world.

YOUR PLACE IN THE MISSION

Loveland--Maximizing Lives for Triumphant Living:

"Maximum Triumphant Living" is a summary of the vision of Loveland Church as it includes each individual, hence the abbreviation "Tri-Life". If you could express your mission, vision, purpose, or aim for your own life in a sentence or two what would you say? If you have some ideas go ahead and write them down. By the end of this class we anticipate that you will find greater purpose and fulfillment in every dimension of your life.

We invite and challenge every person to reach for their full potential in every area of life. With holistic (undivided) submission of your life to Jesus Christ, set out to triumph over every hurt or difficulty, claiming every opportunity that crosses your path, and realizing your dreams for the absolute best for you.

In order to achieve our maximum, both as a church body and as individual believers, we believe we must follow God's plan for development and growth. When believers serve faithfully according to God's specific will for their lives, they experience personal **fruitfulness and fulfillment**--they become **CHAMPIONS FOR LEADERSHIP IN THE WORLD TO THE GLORY OF GOD!** This allows each person at Loveland to find their own personal life vision within Loveland's vision which is also found in God's vision for His Kingdom.

To clarify our own life vision we will start by first seeking to better understand ourselves. We are three-part beings--spirit, soul and body. Beyond that, we are social and communal beings. The Word of God guides each of these areas and challenges us to our maximum, promising that "we are more than conquerors through Jesus Christ" (Romans 8:37).

A. Body

The body is the _____ of our spirit and soul.

God tells us in 3 John, verse two that His desire is "that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers." God desires that you bring your body to its maximum potential in health.

B. Soul

The soul (or mind) is the seat of (includes) the _____, _____ and _____ of a person.

The soul is different than the spirit. It is where decisions are made. The soul (mind) governs the body, but should also be under the direction of the spirit.

One should seek to set goals that will position their own will in line with the will of God. (2 Timothy 1:7; Isaiah 26:3; Acts 17:11)

C. Spirit

The spirit is the part of a person that _____.

The Word of God feeds and builds one's spirit. One's prayer time challenges and uplifts one's spirit. Through disciplined study of the Word of God and commitment to prayerful communion with God, a believer maintains a steady pace of growth.

D. Social

The social aspect of man defines his _____.

The believer is to honor God through aiming for God's highest in his roles and life relationships. The Bible teaches each of the family roles (father, mother, daughter, son, sister, brother, etc.), friendship roles, church roles and community roles for the individual.

E. Communal

The believer is part of the _____.

One's perspective on life must be global, national, regional and local. While he/she relates most directly with those in the local church, he/she also relates to world affairs, local government, voting, drought and crisis, to people across the street and across the world.

While we acknowledge the hopelessness of a world without Jesus Christ, we also work to make Christ real to a suffering world.

In conclusion, "maximizing Lives for Triumphant Living" is an aggressive, biblical perspective of life and the world. It is a faith perspective, which compels one to claim the biblical principle --"*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*" (Philippians 4:13).

-

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE!

Now that you have been introduced to the ideas of this class, we will challenge you to make an agreement with God to let this process work for you.

SEMINAR COVENANT

During these seminars, covenant with God to do the following:

- ___ A. **PRA**Y for discernment, understanding, and wisdom.
- ___ B. **LISTEN** to the Holy Spirit's leading.
- ___ C. **PARTICIPATE** in each teaching session.
- ___ D. **ASSESS** who God made you to be.
- ___ E. **COMPLETE** weekly assignments in seeking God's direction.
- ___ F. **SEEK** additional insights through consultation.
- ___ G. **OBEY** the Lord's call to serve.

If you will faithfully uphold this covenant, you will allow God to use this seminar to lead you into a meaningful discovery of Him and of yourself so you can truly BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE!

Let's get started...

GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE

A. GOD LOVES YOU!

He demonstrated this love by providing a wonderful plan for your life.

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

"But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

B. MAN'S DILEMMA

You cannot get to God on your own. Being a good person, doing good deeds, having a moral philosophy, etc., is not good enough. Man is sinful and therefore separated from God.

"For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

C. GOD'S PLAN

Because of God's love for you, He has a plan to take away your sins. He paid the penalty for your sins. He gave His only Son Jesus Christ. *Jesus is the only way.* He died in our place. Jesus bridged the gap between God and man.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

"Christ died for our sin...He was buried...He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred..." (1 Corinthians 15:3-6)

"Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

D. MAN'S RESPONSE

What must I do to be saved? It's not good enough to know God's plan for your life. We must receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord by personal invitation through faith. It is only then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on his name." (John 1:12)

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8, 9)

E. HOW YOU CAN RECEIVE CHRIST

You can receive Christ right now through prayer. God is not as concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9, 10)

F. A SUGGESTED PRAYER

"Lord Jesus, I need you. I open the door of my heart and life to ask you to come in. I ask that you would forgive me for my sins and take control of my life. Make me the kind of person you want me to be. Thank you for forgiving me and making me a new creature. Thank you for making my life new and for giving me eternal life in You."

AMEN

If have said those words or similar ones and they accurately express your thoughts and feelings, you are a Christian. All that means is that you realize you need Jesus to have a true relationship with God. You are trusting Jesus to do what you know you could not do for yourself; take away your sins.

The next page is a basic outline that will help you grow in your relationship with God.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SPIRITUAL PROGRESS

Some of these suggestions may be foreign to you. That is O.K. Living as a Christian does not come naturally to us. It is a distinct change from the way the world teaches us to live. The purpose of this class is to help move us along in this new relationship with God that ultimately effects how we live. Many of the things listed below will be covered in class over the next several weeks. Find a believer who is more mature in the faith and ask them questions about living as a Christian. Outside of the Word of God and the Leading of the Holy Spirit, they will be your greatest resource in this new life.

7 Action Points

- Go to God in prayer daily (John 15:7).

- Read God's Word daily (Acts 17:11)-start with the Gospel of John.

- Obey God's Word (John 14:21).

- Witness for Christ by your life and words (John 15:8).

- Trust God for every detail of your life (1 Peter 5:7).

- Walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and allow Him to control your life and witness (Galatians 5:16, 17; Acts 1:8).

- Church attendance is a must. God's Word admonishes us not to forsake "the assembling of ourselves together" (Hebrews 10:25). God's desire is that we grow in Him. Don't wait – start right away! Find a good church where the Word of God is being preached.

You are always welcome at Loveland!

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Memorize: 1 John 5:11-12

“And this is the record, God has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. He that has the Son has Life; He that does not have the Son of God, does not have life.”

Who gives eternal life? _____

Who has eternal life? _____

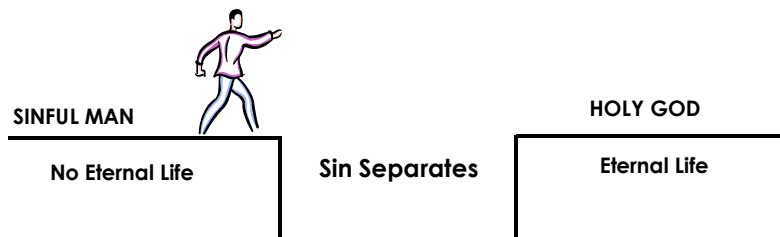
Who does not have eternal life? _____

THIS IS THE RECORD

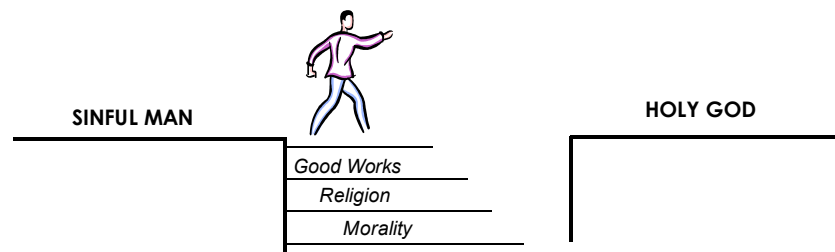
1. Why does John say he wrote the book of John (John 20:31)?

2. What is the result of man's sinfulness, according to Romans 6:23?

The following is an illustration of man's condition in sin:

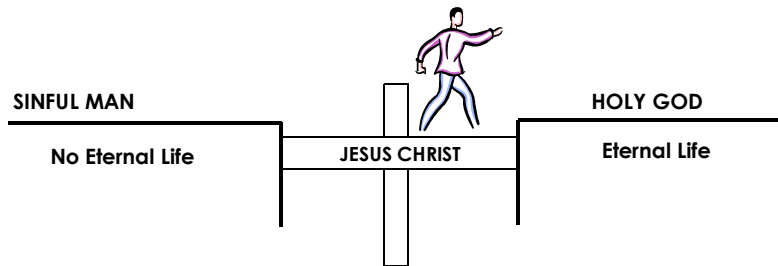


3. Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:5. How can someone reach God?



Name at least two works that people often do (or you have done) to try to work their way to God, but that come short:

4. How does 1 Peter 3:18 explain what God has done to bring man back to Himself?



5. How did John say a person receives the gift of salvation in John 1:12?

HE THAT HATH THE SON HATH LIFE

1. According to John 5:24, what three things are the results of hearing, believing, and receiving?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

2. What did Jesus promise His followers in John 10:27-29?

3. What takes place when a person becomes a Christian, as described in 2 Corinthians 5:17?

4. How do you know that you have eternal life? (Circle the correct answer)

- (1) I have done many good works throughout my life.
- (2) I have tried to live a righteous life.
- (3) I have a really good feeling about it.
- (4) I have attended church regularly most of my life.
- (5) I prayed to receive Jesus and believe the Word of God.

Application:

Tell one person that you have Jesus in your life. Comment below on your experience (i.e. How did they respond? Was it positive or negative? How did you feel? Nervous? Excited?)

Read over 1 John 5:11-12 a few times then turn the page and try to write it out from memory. Check your work.

Find a "buddy" or class partner this week. Share with each other your memory verse and your experience above.

Challenge:

- ♥ How would (or has) your salvation and relationship with Jesus Christ change your "life vision statement" or your purpose in life?
- ♥ What is the difference to you between "religion" and a "relationship" with God?
- ♥ How would you explain to a non-Christian what it means to be "saved"?

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Memorize: 1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness”.

WHAT IS SIN?

The Christian who allows Christ to direct his life faces daily struggles with temptation and sin. The Apostle Paul states in Romans 14:23, "Whatever is not of faith is sin." The word "faith" in the Bible means "to trust in" or "to rely upon". When we rely upon and trust God for everything in our lives, we will have "faith" that "... all that happens is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into His plans," (Romans 8:28, Living Bible). Thus, if there is an area of our lives in which we are not trusting in and relying upon God, we are committing sin.

Therefore, sin is not just a matter of cheating, lying, being immoral, etc.; these actions are only the result of an attitude of sin. Sin is any lack of conformity to the will of God. What are other symptoms of a life separated from God? In addition to some of the obvious sins mentioned, there are worry, irritability, lack of purpose in life and depression. A good definition of sin is doing what we want instead of what God wants-in attitude and/or in action.

PROBLEM OF SIN

1. Who has sinned (Romans 3:23)?

2. Temptation is the initial impression to sin.

a. What causes you to be drawn into temptation (James 1:13-15)?

b. What is the difference between sin and temptation?

Every member of the human race is born with an old sin nature (the rebellious part of us that loves to sin) because of Adam's disobedience. The outer symptoms of sin result because of the inward attitude. It can be said that "you're not a sinner because you sin; rather, you sin because you're a sinner."

THE BASIS FOR FORGIVENESS OF SIN

1. According to John 1:29, what was Jesus called and what did he accomplish?

2. Read Hebrews 10:1-18.

a. What did Jesus do for our sins? Was it acceptable to God (vs. 12-14)?

b. How many of your sins did Christ forgive when He died for you (vs. 10-12)?

If you are a Christian, your sins have been forgiven. You do not have to carry the guilt of sin! Jesus Christ is the perfect sacrifice which gave us perfect forgiveness of our sins and which was perfectly accepted by God. We cannot add anything to what Christ has already done. We simply accept His forgiveness and cleansing by faith.

POWER OVER SIN

According to Romans 6:1-18, Christ not only died for our sins and forgave us of our sins, He also delivered us from the power of our sins.

1. Read Romans 6:1-18.

a. What does God's Word tell you happened to your old sin nature when you became a Christian (vs. 6)?

In those verses, Paul describes how the Christian is identified with Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. When Christ died, we died; when He rose, we rose with Him. So, just as Christ conquered the power of sin with His death and resurrection, he also struck a death blow to our old sin nature (that part of us that loves sin).

b. According to verse 11, what must you do? Practically, how will you do that? (vs. 12-14)

2. According to 1 Corinthians 10:13 what limit does God place on the temptations that you face?

a. What does He promise to provide when you are tempted?

CONFESSION OF SIN

1. If we sin, what should we do if we want to enjoy God's love and forgiveness again?

Confessing our sins makes what God has done for us through the death of His Son real in our own experience. Confession of our sins allows God's love and forgiveness to flow into our lives. God cannot fill us with His power to live the abundant life that He wants for us if we do not let go of our sins.

2. When we are in fellowship with God, certain things are happening within us, according to *Philippians 2:13*. What are they?

a. _____

b. _____

The following steps are helpful descriptions of confession and repentance:

1. Agree with God that it is sin and ask Him to forgive you.
2. Thank Him for forgiving you (appropriation).
3. Change your attitude towards sin and decide to obey God's direction, which allows Him to change your conduct (repent).
4. Move on, knowing that you have cleared the channels through which God's power can now flow (faith in operation).

Application:

- Take a few moments to quietly reflect on your own life. Are there any sins that you have never confessed? Release them to God in faith and receive His loving forgiveness now as suggested in this lesson. Do the same for every one that comes to your mind.
- The Holy Spirit may then show you those who you need to go to, to also ask their forgiveness. Respond to God's leading and conviction in your heart. If memories of your past continue to bother you ask to see a pastor about help in claiming God's healing in those areas. God's love accepted by faith in Jesus will set you free.

Challenge:

* Have I really confessed my sin if I intend to do it again?

* If I have already confessed my sin before God and received forgiveness but still feel guilty, then what might be the cause?

* Will God forgive me for the same sin I confessed before and fell into again?

Write your memory Verses.... *From memory if you can.*

ASSURANCE OF SALVATION:

1 John 5:11-12

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

1 John 1:9

ASSURANCE OF ANSWERED PRAYER

Memorize: John 16:24

"Until now you have asked nothing in my name: ask, and you shall receive, that your joy may be full."

One attack of Satan may be to cause you to doubt the effectiveness of prayer. He may whisper to you, "You don't think that God is really *personally* interested in you, do you? He's so far away and concerned about much more important things. Surely, you don't think that He'll hear your prayers--much less answer them?" However, with Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, through Him, you have the unique privilege of speaking directly to your Heavenly Father. God wants you to come confidently into His presence, through Christ, and to talk with Him about everything. (Philippians 4:6 and Hebrews 4:14-16) He wants to be intensely involved with you and with your needs.

EXPLORING JOHN 16:24

What is prayer? _____

In whose name should we pray? _____

What results from prayer? _____

UNTIL NOW YOU HAVE ASKED NOTHING IN MY NAME

1. What does Jesus teach about prayer in Matthew 7:7-8?

2. What are some important conditions for answered prayer?

a. John 15:7

b. 1 John 5:14-15

ASK AND YOU WILL RECEIVE

1. What are God's answers to prayer?

a. Jeremiah 33:3 _____

b. Ephesians 3:20 _____

2. According to James 1:17, what kind of gift does God give His children?

3. Read Philippians 4:6-7

a. What is the wrong reaction to have toward difficult circumstances?

b. What is the right response?

c. What is the result of the right response?

YOUR JOY WILL BE COMPLETE

1. Based upon Philippians 4:7, what results from the peace that comes through prayer?

2. Read Luke 1:13-14. What resulted when Zachariah and Elizabeth prayed for a son?

3. What are some hindrances to answered prayer?

a. James 4:3 _____

b. Psalms 66:18 _____

c. 1 Peter 3:7 _____

d. Mat. 6:14-15 _____

FOUR IMPORTANT AREAS OF PRAYER

ADORATION Reflecting upon God Himself. Praise Him for His love, His power and majesty and His wonderful gift in the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONFESSION Admitting your sins to God. Be honest and humble. Be specific. Remember, he knows you and loves you still.

THANKSGIVING Telling God how grateful you are for everything He has given to you, even the unpleasant things. Your thankfulness will help you to see His purposes.

SUPPLICATION Making specific requests for others and for yourself.

The first letters of these four words form "**ACTS**." This outline is a helpful mental guide to use for a balanced prayer life.

Application:

- Memorize John 16:24.
- Review 1 John 5:11-12 and 1 John 1:9.
- Start your own prayer list of people or situations that are on your heart but that you might forget to pray about. Pray about each item on your list at least once this week. It might be convenient to keep the list in this notebook or in your Bible.
- Pray through the ACTS outline given in this lesson.
- Find a friend to pray *with*. Get together and pray in person or over the phone!!

Challenge:

- How often should you pray? How can you practically do that? How did Jesus do that?
- What do you think are God's answers to prayer? Does He ever say "no" to a believer praying in faith? How does that fit with John 16:24?

ASSURANCE OF POWER

Memorize: Galatians 5:22, 23

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such things there is no law."

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. Who did Peter believe the Holy Spirit to be (Acts 5:3-4)?

2. From John 14:16-17 and Ephesians 4:30, how do we know that the Holy Spirit is a person rather than an impersonal force or power?

NOTE: The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead (traditionally called the Trinity) -Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is a person equal in every way with the Father and the Son.

WHY DID THE HOLY SPIRIT COME?

When you received Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit came to live in you (1 Corinthians 3:16). Look up the following verses and list some of the reasons why the Holy Spirit came.

1. John 16:13-14

2. Acts 1:8

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Essentially, the filling of the Spirit means that God's Spirit *who is already in the believer* is allowed to move into new areas of his life. John 15 describes our relationship with Christ as branches connected to a vine. Each of us, as branches, are vitally connected to Christ and dependent on Him for life.

As a new Christian (a twig), do not become discouraged if you do not bear as much fruit as a more mature Christian who has been abiding in Christ for some time. You can be just as spiritual as the more mature Christian, because the same life of the vine is in both of you. Look forward to maturing and producing more fruit as you continually draw on the life of the vine.

1. Why does Jesus prune the branches (John 15:2)?

2. What fruit will the Holy Spirit produce in and through your life as a result of His filling you (Galatians 5:22-23)?

WHY IS IT THAT CHRISTIANS DO NOT EXPERIENCE THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

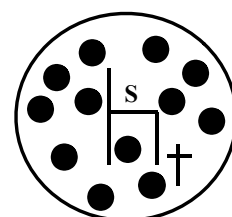
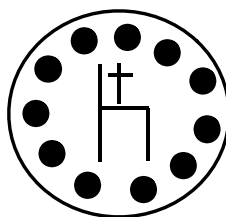
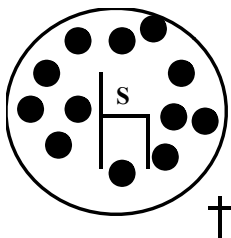
1. In 1 Corinthians 2:14-3:3, three kinds of people are described. They are:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

These diagrams represent the three kinds of people Paul describes in the above scripture:



The first circle represents the life of the natural man, the person who has never received Christ. The interests of this life are directed by self, often resulting in discord and frustration.

The second circle represents the life of the spiritual man, the person who has invited Jesus Christ to come into his life and who is allowing Him to direct and empower his life.

The third circle represents the life of the carnal man. The carnal man is trusting in his own efforts to live the Christian life. He has an up-down spiritual experience. He cannot understand himself - he wants to do what is right, but he cannot. He fails to draw upon the power of the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life.

A Christian becomes carnal when he develops a continuing attitude of running his own life rather than allowing Christ to do so. You do not become carnal simply by committing sins, but by refusing to confess your sins and allowing God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.

2. What is the solution to carnality (Galatians 5:16-17)?

HOW ONE CAN BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. What is Jesus promise to us in Luke 11:9-13?

2. What are we commanded to do in Ephesians 5:18?

3. What results are described in Ephesians 5:19-21?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a once-and-for-all experience. God commands us to be constantly and continually filled, directed and empowered with the Holy Spirit as a way of life.

PRAY IN FAITH TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

We are filled with the Holy Spirit ***by faith alone***. However, true prayer expresses your faith. The following is a sample prayer:

"Dear Father, I need you. I acknowledge that I have been in control of my life and, as a result, I have sinned against You. I thank You that You have forgiven my sins through Christ's death on the cross for me. I now invite Christ to take control of the throne of my life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit as You have commanded me to be filled, and as You have promised in Your Word to do if I ask in faith. I now thank You for taking control of my life and for filling me with the Holy Spirit."

Does this prayer express the desire of your heart? If so, you can pray and trust God to fill you with the Holy Spirit right now.

SERVANT HOOD

CONTRASTING SERVILITY AND SERVANT HOOD

(Our Heart Motivation)

I Chronicles 29:17, 18; 2 Chronicles 25:2

God is concerned about our attitudes toward and motivation for all of our life activities, including ministry. Through confession of known sin and asking for God's Spirit the believer is filled with the Holy Spirit. This results in a change in their motivation and attitudes, causing an outward expression of love in serving others. The filling of the Holy Spirit produces love toward God and toward each other. This changes our attitude to one of eager service for God and for others with all that He has given us.

This change in our motivation and attitude describes a clear difference between half-hearted and whole-hearted service. The whole-hearted attitude of service may be called "servant hood" and anything less than whole-hearted may be called "servility" as contrasted below:

A Christian prompted by...	Servility (Half-hearted)	Servant hood (Whole-hearted)
Serves out of	_____	_____
Is motivated to serve by _____	_____	_____
Serves with attitude of _____	_____	_____
Has a ministry mind-set that says	_____	_____
Serves with a spirit of	_____	_____
The results are	_____	_____

THE MIND OF CHRIST - JESUS WAS A SERVANT (Our Example) Philippians 2:1-11

We need to think and feel as Christ thought and felt! **"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus"** (Philippians 2:5). This is not an option for believers, but an imperative (a direct command).

A. Jesus was committed to _____ mobility (Philippians 2:5-8)

God **EMPTIED**

Man **HUMBLED**
Servant **OBEYED**
Death **PURPOSED**
God **HIGHLY EXALTED** (Philippians 2:9)

B. We are to be of **ONE** _____ (vs. 2).

C. Serving means having the **BEST INTEREST OF** _____ in mind (vs. 3-4).

This mind-set provides practical principles for a proper perspective on serving.

1. We are called to serve **PEOPLE**. (Galatians 5:13; Matthew 20:28)
2. Serving **PEOPLE** is actually serving **CHRIST**. (Colossians 3:17, 23-24; Matthew 25:40, 45)
3. Serving Christ through serving others is an act of **OBEDIENCE**. (Galatians 5:13)
4. Serving is a form of **WORSHIP**. (Romans 12:1)

D. Ironically, the result of true giving in service is ultimately personal _____.
(Hebrews 12:2)

ASSURANCE OF FELLOWSHIP

Memorize: Romans 6:4

"Therefore, we are buried with Him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life."

I. BAPTISM

Baptism is one of the two ordinances of the New Testament Church. Communion (or, the Lord's Supper) is the other.

A. According to Matthew 28:19-20, what is to happen with preaching the gospel?

B. Who is to be baptized (Mark 16:16)?

C. When should baptism occur, according to Acts 2:41 and 18:8?

D. Why was Jesus baptized, according to Matthew 3:13-17?

NOTE: Jesus gave us the perfect example of obeying every word of God. Jesus, who was God in the flesh, did not have to be baptized. However, in order to fulfill the act of righteousness, He obeyed His own law and was baptized by John, thereby putting His stamp of approval on John's ministry and ending it.

E. What does baptism symbolize, according to Romans 6:3-5?

F. Does water baptism give you this salvation? _____

What does Romans 10:9-10 have to say about this?

II. COMMUNION (THE LORD'S SUPPER)

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 11:28

Communion is the second ordinance of the scriptural church. In the Greek language (the original language the New Testament was written in), the word for communion is "koinonia" which means "having in common," "partnership" or "fellowship."

Therefore, coming together for the Lord's Supper, we should have communion, "koinonia," something in common - JESUS!

A. According to Matthew 26:26-29, who instituted communion?

B. What is the purpose of communion, according to Matthew 26:28?

C. Acts 2:42-46 says communion is also

D. What does John 6:48-58 show us is the spiritual meaning of communion?

E. According to 1 Corinthians 11:28, what must you do to prepare for communion? How will you do that?

III. OBEDIENCE

Obeying God's Word step-by-step and day-by-day is vitally important to the success of the Christian life. 1 Samuel 15:22b says, "Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice..." No matter what you are willing to give up, God prefers your obedience to His Word. We will cover two areas under obedience.

A. Obedience in the Christian's life.

1. According to Romans 6:17, where does obedience begin?

2. What has God given to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32)?

3. According to 1 Peter 1:22, do we obey God on our own?

4. As Christians, what two Biblical ordinances are we to obey?

5. What is the answer that Peter and John gave concerning obedience in Acts 4:19?

B. Obedience and Relationships

1. With what relationships are we dealing, according to Acts 5:29?

2. According to Ephesians 6:1-4 and Colossians 3:20, with what relationships are we dealing?

3. What do Ephesians 5:21-23, Colossians 3:18-19 and 1 Peter 3:1-7 have in common?

4. What does Hebrews 13:17 say about your relationship to your pastor and other spiritual leaders?

NOTE: Obedience in our daily relationships with our family and friends is a vital part of the success of our Christian lives. It is not always their attitude toward us that is so important, as is our attitude toward them. Obey God and His Word and you will never go wrong.

SUMMARY NOTE: Baptism, Communion, and Obedience go hand-in-hand based upon God's Word. Obedience is the overall duty of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Baptism and Communion are the results of our obedience to God and His Word.

Application:

- If you have never been water baptized, note the times that Loveland offers it and make plans to do so promptly.
- Note that Loveland offers the Lord's Supper each month. Make plans to join in that time of worship and communion.
- Review your memory verses and then quiz a partner.
- Visit a Loveland Bible Discovery class or a home TLC.

Date Visited _____ Leader/Teacher's Name _____

Comments (i.e. Did you feel comfortable? Would you go again? Do you feel like it met some of your needs?)

- Invite one person who has never attended to join you and visit Loveland.

Comments (i.e. How did they respond? Was it positive or negative? How did you feel? Nervous? Excited?)

Share your experience with your class partner and host on the phone this week.

Challenge:

- What exactly "happens" to you in baptism and in communion? If you don't fully understand what God commands should you still obey?
- How do the physical elements teach us about what the Christian experiences in the spiritual realm in his life?

ASSURANCE OF PROVISION

Memorize: 2 Corinthians 9:7

"Every man according as he purposed in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver."

1. What do these scriptures teach about the importance of giving unto God?

a. Psalm 24:1-2 _____

b. 2 Corinthians 9:6-10 _____

c. Matthew 25:40 _____

2. What benefits does your giving bring to the kingdom of God?

a. Matthew 28:19-20 _____

b. 2 Corinthians 9:9 _____

c. Haggai 1:8 _____

d. Galatians 6:6 _____

e. 1 Samuel 9:8 _____

f. 1 Corinthians 9:3-9 _____

3. What does God command us to do, according to Malachi 3:8-10?

4. What is a tithe (Hebrews 7:2; Deuteronomy 26:2; Proverbs 3:9)?

5. According to 2 Corinthians 8:5, what did the Macedonians do before they gave their money to God?

6. Why is the giving of money an important part of our Christian life, according to 2 Corinthians 8:7?

7. What kind of givers does God love in 2 Corinthians 9:7? _____

8. According to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, to whom do we and all of our possessions belong?

9. According to Exodus 36:3-7, when God asked for an offering to build His tabernacle, how did the people respond?

10. What is the natural (carnal) response to giving?

What is the Spirit-filled response to giving?

NOTE: Stewardship (management) in your life is important in the overall success of being like Christ. Jesus Christ was the perfect example of stewardship. Should we strive to be any less?

Application:

- Make a monthly budget by listing all of your monthly expenses. How can you make giving a priority in your budget? What could you exclude or cut down on to let your giving reflect Jesus' right position as Lord in your life.
- Review your memory verses.

Challenge:

- Discuss what it means to you to "budget" and "live within your means (income)"?

ASSURANCE OF INVOLVEMENT

Read: Matthew 16:18.

Who does the "church" belong to? _____

Who does the building of the church? _____

What is the foundation of the church according to 1 Corinthians 3:11?

Read through purposefully the biblical basis for our lives together in Christ as expressed in the following excerpts from Ephesians 3:20-4:16.

"Now glory be to God who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of-- infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes..."

I beg you...to live and act in a way worthy of those who have been chosen for such wonderful blessings as these. Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love...

We are all parts of one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future... However, Christ has given each of us special abilities--whatever he wants us to have out of his rich storehouse of gifts...

Why is it that he gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God's people will be equipped to do better work for him, building up the church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity...

Under his direction the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

We are seeking to manifest the body of Christ with...

A position for every person and a person for every position at Loveland.

Responsibilities in the Body of Christ:

Ministers (The Royal Priesthood)

According to 1 Peter 2:9, _____ Christian is a "priest" or "minister". Every Christian has a vital role to play in the body of Christ. Though you may not have the office of pastor or be a licensed minister representing a church fellowship, you are called to be a minister.

Your position is just as _____ as the senior pastor's, or anyone else's. We all need you!

Your participation in ministry indicates your commitment to...

- 1. _____ fellowship (Matthew 6:24)
- 2. Corporate _____ (Psalm 150:1; Hebrews 10:23-25)
- 3. A _____ group (Matthew 18:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:15) that provides _____ and _____.

- 4. Personal spiritual _____ (Matthew 6:6; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 1; 19:14)
- _____
- _____

- 5. Developing your _____ (1 Timothy 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 14:12)
- 6. _____ to leadership (Hebrew 13:17-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)
- 7. _____ service (1 Chron. 28:9-10; Col. 3:23; Deut. 20:1-8)
- 8. BE-attitudes (Luke 9:23; Ephesians 6:7-8; Colossians 3:23)

Be _____ Be _____

Be _____ Be _____

Be _____ Be _____

- 9. _____ (Philippians 4:8; 1 Thessalonians 4:1)

It is not _____. It is _____.

Staff

Staff members (vocational ministers) have the same ministry responsibilities as outlined above, plus the additional task of helping to guide others toward ministry satisfaction. The staff is committed to helping believers realize...

1. _____ Staff members provide an overview, orientation and training in the areas of their ministry responsibilities, serving as facilitators for their fellow ministers to maximize their ministry effectiveness.
2. _____ Staff members promote a sense of teamwork and create an atmosphere of encouragement which generates energy for ministry and fosters positive attitudes toward service.

They are servants' servants!

Getting Started:

1. Before we can be available to God to be used in ministry at church, we must be available to Him at _____ (1 Timothy 3:4, 5)
2. Start _____ (Zechariah 4:10; Matthew 13:31-32)
3. Do not view a ministry as just a _____ (1 Corinthians 12:7, 14)
4. Appreciate the principle of _____ (Matt. 25:21; 2 Tim. 2:2)
5. Give yourself and the ministry _____ (Ecclesiastes 3:1-11)
6. Be _____ when leaving a ministry (Proverbs 3:5-6)
7. You are not the _____ person!

You might be the _____ person in the wrong _____. (Eph. 2:10; Phil. 1:6)

Following Jesus will be a revelation of restoration from failure, truth and power. **God NEVER gives up on His children. He is committed to you. He has called you. He is always drawing near to you and saying, "FOLLOW ME."**

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LOVELAND
2970 Inland
Blvd
Ontario, CA
(909) 4664800

LOVELAND CHURCH
2970 Inland Empire Blvd.
Ontario, CA 91764
(909) 466-4800
www.lovelandchurch.org

