



RSV. 2016

Baptism & Membership

Leader's Manual

Lighthouse Ministries International Inc.
10727 TUCKER STREET, BELTSVILLE MD 20705

Part One: Introduction

Welcome to Lighthouse Ministries International Baptism and Membership Class. This Class consists of twelve parts designed to biblically guide the believer to living the life that would be pleasing to the Lord. These lessons will show that God has given Christian's specific instructions as to how to live the very best life possible. As a believer why not make a commitment to the Lord right now to complete each of these lessons thereby making you a student of God's word and a child of God committed to living for Christ.

The Salvation Experience

You are a member of God's family because by faith you received the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. This has brought you into a wonderful and fulfilling relationship with God who created you. Receiving Christ as your Savior begins an eternal relationship with God. It is much more than just going to heaven when you die. Salvation is a gateway that begins your new life. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10). ***You must understand that you have been saved FROM sin.***

Everyone in the family of God was a sinner saved by God's grace. "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). We know that you want to live for the Lord and become the best Christian that you possibly can. This is why you are reading this lesson and attending this Baptism & Members Class. May this always be your desire. There are many truths in the Bible that will greatly help you to live the life the Lord wants you too, which is the best you could possibly have.

Part Two: A Command Of Jesus

What is God's Greatest Command?

Jesus gave the disciples some instructions just before He ascended back to heaven as recorded in Matthew 28:16-20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." The word "teach" in verse 19 means to disciple or win the lost to Christ. After a person is saved, the second thing he is instructed to do is be baptized (verse 19). Since the beginning of the first church, believers have given evidence of their faith in Christ by being baptized in water.

We mean a person is to be immersed under the water as a picture or symbol of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. In the Bible, baptism always comes after a person has been saved.

Baptism does not save you or keep you saved.

It is an act of obedience to Christ and pictures what has already taken place in your

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heart. It describes our union with Christ as seen in Romans 6:3-5.

Scriptural Reference(s): Matthew 28:16 - 20

A REVIEW OF THE THINGS WE KNOW ABOUT SALVATION

1. A person must realize he is a sinner.

Romans 3:23 says, *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Before a person is saved, he must first realize he is a sinner and needs to be saved. We are born into sin and must be "born again".*

2. A person must realize without salvation he will eventually end up in hell.

Romans 6:23 says, *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." This death is not only physical death, but spiritual as well. The Bible says, "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:14.)*

Had you died before trusting the Lord Jesus as your Savior, you would have experienced the second death, which is eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire. But praise the Lord, you will now never have to worry about Hell again, because God has saved you and given you eternal life.

God promises, *"That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal 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 3:15, 16)"*

3. A person must believe that Jesus died for them and rose again.

Romans 5:8 says, *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

Do not forget that we as sinners were condemned, but Jesus was not! He is the Son of God who never sinned or could sin because He is God. He, God, came to this earth took our sins on Himself because we as sinners could not save ourselves. He died in our place and took our punishment. (See Isaiah 53, I Peter 2:24). He arose on the third day according to the Word of God. (See 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Romans 5:18)

4. A person must confess Christ as Lord & Savior and receive Him into their hearts.

Romans 10:9 says, *"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."*

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This decision to be saved ***was not to join the church, be baptized or even change your way of living***. It has to be a choice of asking Jesus Christ, by faith, to come into your heart and be your Lord and Savior who saved you from sin.

BAPTISM AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP FOLLOW RECEIVING CHRIST AS YOUR SAVIOR, ARE IMPORTANT TO YOUR CHRISTIAN AND SPIRITUAL JOURNEY, BUT THEY HAVE NO PART IN GOD FORGIVING YOU AND GIVING YOU ETERNAL LIFE. IT MUST BE A CONSCIOUS DECISION YOU MAKE TO LET GOD BE THE RULER OF YOUR HEART AND LIFE.

Complete the student activity "***God's Character and Our Condition***" to understand why it is so important for you to make a decision to follow Jesus.

Student Activity: First Step Towards Baptism – God's Character & Our Condition (WORKSHEET)

Part Three A: Spiritual Action – A Changed Heart

When we understand who is God is and why it is important for us to have a relationship with His Son, then we experience a changed heart. With a changed heart comes the following:

- ✓ Sincere commitment to follow Jesus.
- ✓ Identity with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

Scriptural Reference(s): Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 11:7-14; Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1: 2-5; Luke 3:3-8; John 1:29-31

YOUR ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

John 3:36 says, "*He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life....*"

Definitions: Hath means right now and everlasting means forever and forever.

Now that you are saved, God wants you to have the assurance that your sins have all been forgiven. You are not saved when you get to heaven, but you are saved right now and for all eternity to come.

***Jesus died for all your sins, even the ones you have not yet committed.
Yet, some Christians who lack in spiritual growth do not have this blessed assurance.***

John 10:28 says, that Jesus sheep know his voice, and He knows them, and they follow Him, and He said He gives unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of His hand.

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1 John 5:13 says, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

DO NOT BASE YOUR SALVATION ON HOW YOU FEEL.

Feelings can change from day to day, but God's word remains the same (Matthew 24:35).

A good feeling may be good, but it is not necessary to be saved. Did you know the Bible never says you must have a feeling when you get saved! You are saved because you have done what the Bible says and God has declared you as one of His children. There are some things which might cause you to doubt and not have the assurance God wants you to have:

1. ***Always thinking about your past life can cause doubt.*** God has forgiven all your sins and has forgotten them. He also wants you to forget them. Forget the past! It is all under the atoning blood of Christ (Isa. 1: 18: Psalm 103:12).

2. ***Wondering if God really received you causes doubts.*** When you come to the Lord with a desire to be saved and asked Him to save you, you can be sure He did, because God, who cannot lie, has promised to. Just take Him at His word. John 6|37 says, "...him that cometh, to me I will in no wise cast out."

3. ***Basing your salvation upon feelings or emotion causes doubts.*** Don't forget - feelings change - but the Bible which is God eternal word never does.

Read: Ephesians 2:8 and Romans 5:1

-- FAITH - ASSURES - NOT FEELINGS --

4. ***Trust God:*** Live as He commands - you will have assurance.

a. 1 John 2:3. Do you really want to obey.

b. Rom. 7:15-25. A War is going on.

Student Activity: First Step Towards Baptism – God's Gift & Personal Application (WORKSHEET)

Part Three B: Natural Action - Immersion – Into large water, out of large water!

As it is in the spiritual, so it is in the natural.

Let's examine the natural/physical significance of baptism:

- ✓ Biblical Greek - baptism- plunging, submersion, washing
- ✓ Total Immersion -all sin life is buried
- ✓ Raised Up – a new and resurrected life
- ✓ Outward Statement of Repentance

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- ✓ Inward Statement of Faith In God

Scriptural Reference(s): Matthew 3:13 -17; John 3:22 – 23

We will examine the various forms of baptism later.

Student Activity: First Step Towards Baptism – Visual 1 & 2 (WORKSHEET)

Part Four: To Be Done Following Salvation

After we have admitted our sins, accepted and believe in our heart that Jesus Christ alone can save us, then the next step would be to proclaim it to the world.

“HE WHO BELIEVES AND IS BAPTIZED WILL BE SAVED”

Scriptural References: Mark 16:15 – 16 Mark 16:16

Following the Salvation Experience there are some changes that will take place:

- ✓ **A Change. I.e. Having a changed heart**
 - *Scriptural Reference(s): Acts 2:36 – 42*
- ✓ **Renewed Belief**
 - *Scriptural Reference(s): Acts 8: 5-6; 12-13*
- ✓ **A Time to Rejoice**
 - *Scriptural Reference(s): Acts 8:34-39*
- ✓ **Instructions for Life**
 - *Scriptural Reference(s): Acts 9:3-8; 17-18*
- ✓ **Desire for the Salvation of Family and Others**
 - *Scriptural Reference(s): Acts 16: 13-15; 27-34*

When we were saved by trusting in Christ, we became a part of the Body of Christ, the Church. Before our salvation, we served our own desires and Satan's wishes. But now, as a child of God, we have a new relationship with God. We must not take this lightly, because God doesn't take it lightly.

The Bible says in I Corinthians 6:19-20:

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

THEREFORE, SINCE WE ARE NO LONGER OUR OWN, WE CANNOT DO AS WE PLEASE!

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This sounds like we are losing something, doesn't it? It sounds *like* becoming a Christian means giving up pleasure and joy. Now we have to be as a slave, losing our freedom of choice and being under bondage to satisfy another.

The fact is this:

Apart from God, we will continue to sin. We will be in the bondage to sin and its destructive influence in our lives. Never forget that SIN is destructive.

Look at what sin will cost you:

Jesus said, ". . . Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." (John 8:34)

This is what the Bible says regarding submitted believers: "*Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*" (Romans 6:18)

In other words, the Lord sets the believers **FREE** from the destructive results of sin, and then guides the believer's life toward righteousness.

Righteousness = simply doing that which is right and is the opposite of doing that which is wrong.

What are the effects of sin in a believer's life?

✓ SIN SEPARATES US FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OF GOD

Isaiah 59:2 "*But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*"

The first thing sin does in a Christian's life is to **separate** us from the fellowship of God. God is holy and will not look upon sin. ***Our sin causes God to turn His face away.*** When fellowship is broken we can pray, BUT there is no answer.

Psalm 66:18 says, "*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me*"

✓ SIN WILL DESTROY THE JOY OF OUR SALVATION

David was a man after God's own heart; he enjoyed the presence of the Lord and God blessed him until sin destroyed that joy. David wept with grief, desiring that joy again. David wrote this in Psalm 51:12, "*Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*"

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The second phase of sin in a Christian's life is the lost of joy in their salvation. The joy of going to church, the loss of joy in testifying to others for God, the joy of seeing souls saved. When this happens, we normally start finding fault with everything and everyone.

✓ SIN WILL BRING THE CHASTENING HAND OF GOD

Hebrews 12:6 "*For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*"

Just as a good parent corrects and chastens his disobedient child, so is God forced to chasten us because of our disobedience and unwillingness to confess our sin. This chastening may come in different ways. It may be through disappointments; financial lose; it may be trouble upon trouble, but God our Father, must chasten us for sin. Don't ever forget that He does it because **He loves us!!**

✓ SIN CAN BRING PREMATURE DEATH

The most serious state of sin is when God's patience is exhausted and He turns you over to the devil for the destruction of the flesh (not the soul). This can occur when a believer refuses to turn from his sin and God after much chastening and conviction takes their life to stop them from sinning.

1 Corinthians 5:5 "*To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.*" 1 John 5:16 "*If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.*"

✓ SIN CAUSES GOD TO TAKE AWAY SOME PRECIOUS THINGS

Because of David's sin God took away someone precious to him, his child that was born out of a sinful relationship. 2 Samuel 12:14 "*Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.*"

A saved person who turns away from the Lord into sin and refuses to confess and make things right is headed for great sorrow. If necessary, God will take that which is most precious from us in order to bring us back to Him.

✓ SIN TAKES AWAY ONES TESTIMONY AND OPPORTUNITY TO GLORIFY THE LORD.

I can truthfully say, I have never seen a husband or wife who led their spouse toward receiving Christ who did not live a consistent Christian life themselves. I have never seen a neighbor, relative, friend come to Christ under the influence of a professing Christian who was not actively fighting sin in their own lives and living for the Lord.

Jesus said, "Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. . . .Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." (John 15:2,8)

✓ SIN STOPS A CHRISTIAN FROM MATURING

Over our years in ministry we have seen that it is the obedient believer who matures in the Lord. The believer who is obeying the Bible and trying to live by God's Word has trouble just like everyone else. However, the difference is that the maturing believer is able to go through difficult times and not misrepresent the one who has called him or her to salvation.

The believer who follows the Word of God is being prepared in advance for the trials that will come their way. One real hindrance to our overcoming sin is to ignore the problem. Many times we know it is destructive, yet we try to justify it in any number of ways.

The most common excuse we use is to plead, "~~I'm too weak.~~" The fact is you really are, however that excuse doesn't hold water when we read, "*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*" (Philippians 4:13)

Our pretext to make us feel better is dissolved in the face of Paul's exclamation, "*And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.*" (Colossians 2:10)

A believer has the God's power and in Christ we can overcome ANYTHING!

Another pretext we use is to say, "~~I am not really so bad, I don't do really terrible things~~", Another excuse is, "~~I have come a long way from what I was, in time maybe I will overcome this thing also~~".

The real problem these folks had was that they do not except that - ALL- sin, is sin. God does not give us the latitude to commit any sin. Why? **Because ALL sin is destructive.**

The effects of sin are accumulative:

A sin that is allowed to remain will affect your soul.

Think for a moment about why God commands us to turn immediately from all sin. What would you think of a parent who lets his/her child drink alcohol, but would not let them have hard drugs? A foolish parent indeed is one whose thinking is so warped.

GOD WANTS **NO** SIN IN OUR LIVES! HIS STANDARD IS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

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He wants us never to have to experience the harmful effects of any sin. What kind of God would he be if he overlooked our so called little sins. Two verses of Scripture put everything into proper perspective. Carefully read the following verses:

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." (Romans 8:29)

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Student Activity: First Step Towards Baptism – New Life in Christ (WORKSHEET)

QUESTIONS: There is only one question for this lesson: In your own words, what do you think that the previous two verses personally mean to you. WRITE DOWN and share next class.

Part Five: A Clean Heart By Relationship with Jesus As Savior, Lord and Master

- ✓ Confession: Salvation - Romans 10:9 -10
- ✓ Grace: Salvation - Ephesians 2:8 - 9
- ✓ Confession: Praying Regularly - 1 John 1:7-9

A relationship with Jesus means that you have been:

- ✓ "Crucified With Christ" - Galatians 2:20
- ✓ "Raised With Christ" - Ephesians 2:1, 5-6
- ✓ " Denied yourself to follow Him" - Mark 8:34 -37

Student Activity: First Step Towards Baptism – The Change (WORKSHEET)

Part Six: History and Doctrine of Baptisms

In Hebrews 6:2 the Hebrew writer is referring to water baptism(s), perhaps using plural terminology to illustrate the two main agents of Christian baptism: water and Spirit. The second possibility could be that the Hebrew writer, through the divine inspiration of God, was indicating that church members need to have a grasp of all forms of previous biblical baptisms, concluding with the fact that under the church dispensation there is only water baptism and baptism for the remission of sins.

We believe both aspects and positions are noteworthy, but the latter provides the Christian student with a clear pattern of Gods plan and leaves the person with the ability to contend for the faith more perfectly. The Bible does speak of other types of baptisms in the Old and New Testaments, but it is clear

that by the time of this writing (the book of Hebrews) there was one Lord, one faith and one baptism (Ephesians 4:5).

Baptism Defined

- ✓ *Baptized/Baptizo*: To submerge and to make fully wet for a religious purpose. It is to be identified with Christ and His teaching as was the case with the Israelites (1 Corinthians 10:2). Example: Acts 2:41

- ✓ *Baptism/Baptisma*: The result of being dipped in water. It is the completed act of baptism, the physical and the spiritual. Example: Colossians 2:12

- ✓ *Baptisms/Baptismos*: Ablution & washing. Example: Hebrews 6:2

Part Six B: Non Biblical Baptisms

Some cultures, denominations and norms have various meanings, significance and forms of Baptism.

Some common non-Biblical uses of Baptism include:

- ✓ When an infant
- ✓ Before a true conversion
- ✓ Mixed in a false religion

First Corinthians 10:1-4 illustrates that the passing through of the Red Sea was a type of Israelite baptism for the Jews. In addition, the teaching and doctrine of Moses was a type of baptism for the Nation of Israel. The teaching of Moses, as given to him directly by God, was the way in which they learned to identify with the only true and living God (Deuteronomy 32:1-4). Moses likens his divine teaching of God as various forms of water encountering and covering God's Old Testament people. The previous Mosaic passage resembles an action describing what Christ did for His bride/church, "*That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word*" (Ephesians 5:26).

Part Six C: The Mechanics and Explanation of Why Water Baptism is practiced.

Around the time Ephesians 4:5 was recorded (A. D. 60-64) the church had been established for a few decades and only water baptism existed. Below is a list of all New Testament conversions. Each conversion/baptism consisted of the element water.

1. Acts 2:38, 41 (First believers)
2. Acts 4:4 (Second group of believers)
3. Acts 8:12-13; 8:36-39 (Samaritans & Eunuch)
4. Acts 9:18
5. Acts 10:47-48 (House of Cornelius)
6. Acts 16:15 16:33 (Lydia & household/Philippian Jailer & all his)

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7. Acts 18:8 (Crispus & household)
8. Acts 19:1-5 (The 12)

There has been the age-old debate as to whether or not baptism is essential to salvation. Water baptism is a doctrine of Christ and is required for one to enter into the Kingdom of God (Mark 16:15-16; John 3:3-6; Acts 2:38).

Many people are confused over the necessity of water baptism because they fail to make the connection between God's Old and New Testament covenants. Although the Old Testament Law has been nailed to the cross (Colossians 2:13-14), the Old Testament scriptures speak to and compliment the New Testament (Isaiah 52:15).

We baptize with using full immersion today to follow Jesus' example:

9. Making a true commitment to God
10. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit- The Lord Jesus Christ

Males of the Israelite Nation did not have to be baptized in water they had to be circumcised at the age of 8 days (Genesis 17:10-12). This was a necessity without option that indicated a male was a child of God. Circumcision marked him as Gods elect. The biblical connection is made between Old and New Testament scripture as evidenced by Colossians 2:11-12 which speaks of the spiritual circumcision known as baptism. Based on verse 12 of the above passage, through water baptism God operates on the penitent believer and washes their sins away.

The other element that is often missed in understanding the baptismal command is the purpose of blood. Under Old Testament Law it was the blood of sacrificed animals that atoned for the sins of Israel, i.e. Leviticus 16:20-30. In the New Testament it is the blood of Christ that was shed for the remission of sins. The Hebrew writer said "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22). The entire chapter 9 of the book of Hebrews speaks to the reality of the sacrifice and blood of Christ being more powerful and precious than that of animals.

It is baptism that **declares** that we have started a new life in Christ (Romans 6:4). It **symbolizes** that the Christian has been washed by the blood of Christ (Revelation 1:5).

Why Do we Use Water?

To understand the essentiality of baptism a person must realize they need to be washed and the methodology of the washing. For the Apostle Paul to enter into the Apostleship he had to be personally taught by Christ (Galatians 1:12) and baptized into the body of Christ. If baptism was necessary for a man as awesome as Paul, surely it is required for individuals today.

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In relationship to the methodology, God said to Paul, “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). For Paul to become a Christian he had to be immersed into water for the remission of his sins. Not only is baptism essential, it has the spiritual ingredients to save through a symbolic representation of the blood of Jesus atoned for our sins (1 Peter 3:20-21).

The doctrine/teaching of baptism rests in the fact that it is of water and is also one where the child of God receives the baptism (gift) of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; Romans 5:5; Titus 3:5).

Student Activity: The Biblical Basis for Baptism (WORKSHEET)

Part Six D: Are There Other True Baptisms?

11. Remission of sins

- a. Before Christ instituted baptism for the remission of sins** (Acts 2:38), a man named John the Baptist, the second cousin of Jesus (Luke 1:36), paved the way for Christ to come, preaching the baptism of repentance (Matthew 3:11; Acts 19:1-5). Although the baptism of John the Baptist was a baptism in water it was not for the remission of sins (Mark 1:9-11).

12. Baptism of Repentance

- a.** If men and women refuse to be baptized with the one baptism of today, they will eventually receive the final baptism of Christ, but it will not be for salvation it will be for damnation. John the Baptist spoke of the baptism of repentance, baptism of the Holy Spirit and the baptism of fire (Matthew 3:11-12)

13. Baptism of Fire

- a.** Nobody wants to receive the baptism of fire because it will be the casting of disobedient and self-centered people into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20; 20:10, 14-15, 21:8). The second death will be the sinner’s baptism of fire. This will be the immersing of the sinner into unquenchable fire for eternity.

14. Baptism of The Holy Spirit

- a.** Hebrews 6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God
- b.** Hebrews 6:2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

EXAMPLES OF THE SIGNIFICANCE AND SYMBOLISM OF BAPTISM THROUGH OUT THE BIBLE:

- ✓ **Before The Cross, Flood and Ark:** Genesis 7:15 – 17; 7:23; 1 Peter 3:18-21

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- *There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*
- ✓ **Before the Cross, Red Sea and Moses:** Exodus 14:21 -22; 26; 30-31; 1 Corinthian 10:1-2
 - *All were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.*
- ✓ **The Cross, John The Baptist and Repentance:** Matthew 3:1-2; 5-6
- ✓ **Cross of Jesus – Our Example:** Matthew 3:13 -17
 - Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.
- ✓ **After The Cross Into The Body Of Christ:** 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 14; Galatians 3:26 – 28; Romans 6:1 – 6; Ephesians 1:13 – 14; Ephesians 4:4 – 6; Colossians 1:13 – 14; Colossians 2:9 -13
- ✓ **The Cross Of The Holy Ghost and Power:** Acts 1:4 – 8; Acts 2:1 -4; Acts 10:44 - 48
- ✓ **After The Cross With Fire:** Luke 3:16

Part Seven: Let's Learn Church Doctrine

Definition: *Noun*

- ✓ A belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a church, political party, or other group.
- ✓ E.g. A stated principle of government policy, mainly in foreign or military affairs: "the Monroe Doctrine".

Synonyms: tenet - ism - teaching – dogma

Apostle Paul had much to say about doctrine and its importance. Doctrine is simply the teachings of the Bible, God's Word. As Christians, we should know what the Bible teaches. Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:13, "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Here are some of the doctrines of Lighthouse Ministries International:

Doctrine of The Bible

We believe in the Bible as the inspired word of God (every word inspired and completely given to us), as we find in the original manuscripts. All portions of scripture are equally inspired and contain no contradictions. The 66 books we have complete the Bible, never to be added to or taken from. *Scripture References:* 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:1; 1 Peter 1:18-21; Rev. 22:18-19.

Doctrine of God

We believe the Godhead exists in three persons - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are eternal. These three make one God, which is called the Trinity. They are equal in all respects. *Scripture References:* Gen. 1:1, 1:25; John 1:1, 14; John 14:16-17; 1 Tim. 3:16.

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Doctrine of Jesus

We believe that Jesus is God the Son (deity), born of a virgin, begotten by the Holy Spirit. He was God and man - the God-Man. He is the only way of salvation, He died, was buried, and rose again the third day. He is coming back for us, the church. He was without any sin whatsoever.

Scripture References: Isa. 7:14; Luke 1:35; 1 John 1:1-4; John 10:30; John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:4-6.

Doctrine of The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is God and equal with the Father and Son. He is a person, not just an influence. He convicts, regenerates, indwells, seals, infills, empowers and guides the believer. When you got saved the Holy Spirit came into your heart. *Scripture References:* John 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 1:13; 5:18

Doctrine of Man

We believe that God created man in His own image and that man sinned against God. All men are born with sinful nature, and must be born again or he will be eternally lost in hell. *Scripture References:* Gen. 1:26-27; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23; Rev. 20:11-15; Rev. 21:8.

Doctrine of Salvation

We believe a person is saved when he repents of his sin and turns in faith by accepting Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. The believer is kept by power of God and is eternally secure in Christ.

Salvation includes access to the forgiveness of sins past, present, and future, which gives us a right standing before God in Jesus Christ. Death fixes the fate of a person, no second chance after death. *Scripture References:* John 1:12; John 5:24; John 10:28, 29; 1 Peter 1:5; Eph. 2:8-10; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:11-15.

Doctrine of The Church

We believe the local church is:

- ✓ Composed of members of the Body of Christ who are Spirit-governed, and who make up the universal Body of Christ.
- ✓ Composed of believers baptized in the Body of Christ.
- ✓ Composed of believers who are organized and have ministry gifts in operation such as Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher, Helps, etc.
- ✓ Composed of believers who meet regularly for fellowship, worship and Bible study.
- ✓ Composed of believers who observe ordinances of Baptism and Lord's Supper.
- ✓ Composed of believers who carry out The Great Commission.

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Scripture References: 1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:41, 47; Heb. 10:35; 1 Cor. 11:23; Matt. 28:18-20.

Doctrine of Satan and Fallen Angels

We believe that Satan is a personal being, created perfect by God, but sinned and became the arch enemy of God and His creation. He is the believers' chief adversary. He seeks to keep men from Christ and believers from living for the Lord. He is in command of a host of fallen angels (demons) who carry out his orders. He has only the power God allows him, and will one day be cast into lake of fire forever.

Scripture References: Ezekiel 28:12-19; Isa. 14:12-15; Rev. 12:10; Rev. 20:10.

Write out and memorize 2 Timothy 3:16:

Part Eight: Welcome To The Family at Lighthouse Ministries International?

Now that you have accepted Jesus as Savior, decided to declare it to the world, or renewed your commitment welcome to the Family of God at LHMI.

Learn about Lighthouse Ministries International and Why Membership with us is GOOD:

To read our History visit the church's website www.lhmiinc.org; click on "About" and click on "History" near the bottom of the page.

Our Core Values

- ✓ *Love for God and Man*
- ✓ *Faithfulness to Jesus and His Word*
- ✓ *Loyalty*
- ✓ *Integrity*
- ✓ *Respect for our family*
- ✓ *Respect for Spiritual and Civil Authority*
- ✓ *Humility*

Our Vision

- ✓ *To advance the principles of God's Kingdom on earth.*

Our Mission

- ✓ *Our mission is to exalt Jesus Christ through evangelism, worship and Biblical living.*

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Our Statement of Allegiance

- ✓ *We believe that Lighthouse Ministries International will fulfill its God given purpose as long as its Pastors, leaders and members live in complete obedience to God and His Word.*

Our Belief & Faith

- 1. We believe the Holy Bible to be the inspired Word of God, without error, the all-sufficient authority in matters of Faith, Doctrine and Christian Living. II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21*
- 2. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Genesis 1:26; I John 5:7*
- 3. We believe in the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ and that He is the true God and man. He died on the cross for our sins. He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father and is now our High Priest and Advocate. Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23-25*
- 4. We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore, lost. Only through regeneration by the work of the Holy Spirit can man's salvation and spiritual life be obtained. Acts 4:12*
- 5. We believe that eternal salvation is the free gift of God, entirely apart from man's works and is possessed by any and all who have faith in Jesus Christ and have received Him as their personal Lord and Savior. John 3:16; John 6:47*
- 6. We believe in a regenerated church membership: that is, persons old enough to understand their need for Jesus Christ and of their own free will accepted Him as their personal Lord and Savior. Acts 2:38-41*
- 7. We believe that baptism is by immersion, and the Lords Supper is a memorial to His suffering and death on the cross. They are ordinances to be observed by the church in its present age, but should not to be regarded as means for man's salvation. Matthew 3:13-17; Matthew 26:26-28; Matthew 28:18-20*
- 8. We believe in the personal, bodily, imminent, and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ and that His second coming inspires believers for dynamic and zealous life and service for Him while waiting for His return. I Thessalonians 4:16-18; Matthew 24:1-51*
- 9. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in heaven, and the eternal punishment and separation from God of the unsaved in hell. Matthew 25:41-46; I Thessalonians 4:13*
- 10. We believe in the autonomy of the local church which shall manage its own affairs and not be subjected to any other religious body or organization. Ephesians 1:20-23*
- 11. We believe that all the gifts of the Spirit were given for the edification of the Saints and the advancement of the Kingdom of God on earth. I Corinthians 12:4-11; I Corinthians 12:27-31*
- 12. We believe that tithing is a Biblical principle God has instituted for the propagation of the Gospel. Malachi 3:6-12; I Corinthians 16:1-4*

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13. *We believe that all disputes must be settled according to the scriptures. Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 6:1-12*
14. *We believe that it is the responsibility of every believer to be witnesses for the Kingdom of God. Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20*

Part Nine: Responsibilities of a New believe/A Christian and /or A Member

WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A NEW BELIEVER/A CHRISTIAN AND/OR A MEMBER?

Now that you are saved and have this assurance from the Word of God, God wants you to continue on in your Christian life.

Remember that Ephesians 2:8, 9 tells you that you were saved "by grace through faith" and not by good works you have done or ever will do. After a person is saved, he becomes a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17) and all things become new.

You now have a desire to do what is right and the spiritual ability to live a godly life because you have God's Spirit or new nature. When we obey and allow the Holy Spirit to direct us we are being obedient to God's Word.

Ephesians 5:18 tells the Christian "*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.*" Being filled with the Spirit means to allow Him to direct and be the guiding influence in our lives. As a new Christian and Member you will want to do things that please the Lord.

Let's look at several of the things required of you:

✓ Share the Gospel

We have responsibilities to the Lord to let other people know that you have been saved. Let your friends know what has happened to you. We should not be ashamed of Christ (Romans 1:16).

It will also strengthen you in the Lord, because as you obey and do what the Bible instructs you grow and mature as a Christian. It is like a child who begins to attend school in the first grade. The teacher instructs the child in learning the alphabet. If the child obeys and learns them, then soon he is beginning to read.

✓ Grow and Mature

Maturing in Christ is similar. God's word is our text book to teach us how we should live. It tells us how to live the best life we possibly can. As we obey the commandments of the Lord, we learn them and then go on to learn other lessons. As a new Christian you should seek to obey the Bible, which is God's instruction book on life.

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✓ *Honor Your Membership and Be Faithful in Attendance*

In Acts 2:41, we find that when a person was saved, he was baptized and joined the local church. This baptism identifies you with the local church. The church is God's place for Christians to be taught the Bible, to have fellowship with other Christians, and a place to pray and worship the Lord.

**NOTHING CAN REPLACE THE CHURCH,
NOT EVEN SUNDAY MORNING T.V. OR RADIO PREACHING.**

You need to be in church! You should immediately be baptized and join the local church after being saved. This is one of your first opportunities to obey the Lord and please Him.

Hebrews 10:25 tells us to be faithful in our church attendance. This means you should attend church as often as you are able. *It is understandable that if a person is working or sick they can not attend.* However, unless you are providentially hindered you should attend church.

Today, many believers ignore Bible Study Class. They feel content to attend only on Sunday Morning. Each service and meeting the church has is designed to help and aid the Christian in living abundant lives in Christ. In the Sunday morning service there will be more visitors, and generally lost people in church. The messages tend to be more evangelistic and the subject is generally geared toward salvation.

The Evening Service (when applicable) is attended by the faithful members of the church, and the messages preached, at helping them to grow in the Lord. Church members who only attend the one service miss a great opportunity to receive the deeper spiritual truths of the Bible. You see, faithful attendance will be a key to your Christian life and growth.

Support the special services also with your attendance, such as church fellowships. The last part of the Lord's instructions to the Disciples in Matt. 28 tells us to teach new converts the Word of God. ***This is done through the ministry of the local church in each of its services.***

Pastor, First Lady and Leaders are faithful in being on duty, prepared to teach and preach God's Word to help you grow in Christ. Your privilege is to attend and avail yourself of the opportunity; to respect that the Pastor, First Lady and Leaders also have other commitments but take time out to serve you and the community.

One note on preaching and teaching:

Many Pastors really pray and seek God's guidance in what to preach. They study really hard and spend a great deal of time in preparing their lessons and messages. It is estimated that most good pastors spend from four to six hours on each message. Being lead of the Lord they come and deliver God's message to

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the church. However, if church members are not there they do not hear what God has to say to them as a local church.

So if or when you choose not to attend Sunday Service, Bible Study, Prayer meetings and Special Services/Events you in fact are voting to discontinue them. You also are telling your neighbors and others in the church you do not think that these services are important. You miss the opportunity to show your love and dedication to the Lord, by faithful supporting the total ministry of the church.

We know that it takes time, effort and expense to attend all the services of the church. However, the benefit received will out weight any sacrifice on our part. One verse of Scripture that instructs how dedicated to Lord we should be is found in Romans 12:1-2. "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*" (Romans 12:1-2).

✓ *Participate in the Lord's Supper*

The Lord's Supper and baptism are two ordinances of the church. The Lord's Supper is also **only** for the saved person.

I Corinthians 11:23-26 tells us what it represents. The bread represents Christ's body and the wine represents His blood which was shed for us. This is a reminder of what Christ has done for us until He comes back. This is a serious time and should never be taken lightly. If sin resides in your life, repent before partaking of the Holy Sacraments less you drink damnation unto yourself.

✓ *Give To the Lord*

Give Yourself and Time

Giving of yourself is important. Apostle Paul says in Romans 12:1, we should, ". . . *present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*" The Lord wants YOU more than anything else you might give to Him. Surrender yourself **TOTALLY** to Him and determine to follow Him and be obedient to Him. Let Him have control of your life.

Giving Your Praise and Thanksgiving

Hebrews 13:15 tells us to *offer to God our praise for all that He has done for us.* We praise Him with our lips through prayer and telling others about what Christ has done for us.

Giving of our Money & Possessions

2 Corinthians 9:7, tells us that *God loves a cheerful giver.* God told His people in the Old Testament to bring their tithes into God's storehouse. A tithe is 10% of what you earn or receive.

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God promised to bless those who tithed in the Old Testament (Malachi 3). In the New Testament, His faithful consistent giving in cheerfulness is confirmed. 1 Corinthians 16:2 gives us an example, to give every Sunday (first day of the week), to the local church, as God has prospered. **Stop right here and read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.**

Believe what God says about His blessing for you and then obey Him every Sunday. This also is another way of expressing to the Lord your love and thanks. **God wants you to grow spiritually and become a mature Christian.** Some Christians have a real struggle with making the commitment give to the Lord. Christians who have been obedient understand the value of regular giving of offerings to the Lord.

Note that as you read 2 Cor. 9:7, it says, "*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*" You should make it a matter of prayer as to how much you are to give the Lord. Surely, it should be at least ten percent, as is required in the Old Testament. But you may want to give more. Remember what verse 6, says "*But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully*". (2 Corinthians 9:6)

This is a matter between you and the Lord. Nonetheless, a husband and wife should discuss the matter and prayer about it **together**. If a wife has a husband that is lost, and has no regular income, she should give from what she receives. The same applies to children who are saved. It is a good idea for the parent to instruct the child in Scriptural giving from their allowance or money they earn from chores. Remember, this is a matter between you and the Lord. It is a matter of exercising faith in the Lord to supply your needs. **God has promised to meet your needs and to bless you materially when you faithfully give.** See Philippians 4:10-19.

David understood this principle and wrote, "*I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*" (Psalms 37:25) "*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*" (Luke 6:38)

The money you give to the church pays the utility bills, buys literature, maintains the building, supports our missions & outreach programs and pays for the ministry of the church including the pastors and staff financial support. When some of the members of the church do not give on a consistent basis, these material expenses of the church can be neglected, causing strains on the operations of the church. A church will not have to pinch pennies, neglect missions, scrimp on purchasing literature, property or not properly support their pastor if all the members will give. God will supply the need but only through

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those who faithfully give and let themselves be used as a channel to carry out God's work in the local church.

✓ *Read Your Bible*

The Bible is God's Word to man. It reveals the plan of God for all of mankind. It reveals the nature of God, the sinfulness of man, the plan of salvation in Christ, the prospects of heaven for the saved, the doom of the unsaved in hell, guidelines for the Christian to follow in order to live and act as he should. ***It is God's love letter to US.*** It is the most important object we have on this earth. We are to love it, learn it, and then live by it.

God puts great emphasis on His Word. In fact, the longest chapter in the whole Bible (Psalm 119), speaks entirely about the Bible and its place in our life. God wants to talk with us and teach us. 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that all scripture is "inspired" of God and is profitable to us. This is called the doctrine of the "inspiration of Scripture".

It means every word that the writer wrote down was exactly what God wanted written. This is also called the doctrine of "verbal plenary inspiration", or in other words every word was inspired of God and was without error. *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* (2 Timothy 3:17)

The Bible Is Our Food

The Bible is spiritual food to the Christian and is absolutely necessary if you are to grow and develop into a strong and mature Christian. We must have physical food to live, but also must have spiritual food to stay healthy spiritually. A new believer in Christ is called in the Bible a spiritual babe. Peter tells us that new babes in Christ are to desire the sincere milk of the word that they might grow thereby (1 Peter 2:2). The only way a baby can develop and grow to adulthood is to eat properly. A Christian needs to eat from the Bible every day. A baby is not fed once or twice a week, but has to be fed constantly.

The Bible Is Our Light

The Bible is called a light, because it guides our daily walk with God. It tells us what to do and how to live. David said in Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." The Word of God and the Holy Spirit give us direction.

The Bible is Our Spiritual Weapon

Ephesians 6:11, 17 says we are to put on the whole armor of God that we might stand against the tricks of the devil. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, He met every temptation with God's Word (Matthew 4:3-11). We can do the same. The Bible is our sword in the battle against Satan's temptations. Psalm 119:11 says, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

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How To Study The Bible

Since the Bible is God's Word to us, and He is the author, then we must read and study it, so that our spiritual sensitivity may be sharpened. The Bible is very important to us and is very profitable to us. We must therefore study it and live by it. There are different ways to feed on God's word in order to grow spiritually.

Study The Bible By Hearing It

Romans 10:17 says, "faith" cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. We need this faith in order to live properly for the Lord. One of the best ways to study the Bible this way is to hear it preached and taught at church. That is why it is so important to be in church as much as possible.

Study The Bible By Reading and Medicating On It

Apostle Paul told 1Timothy in 4:13 to ". . . give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." Every Christian should read the Bible every day of his life.

When we read the Bible, God is speaking to us. We must set aside a time everyday to read and study the Bible. Normally the best time is first thing in the morning. Get up a little earlier so you can spend some time with the Lord in reading His word and prayer. We must do more than read, we must study the Bible. Think about what you are reading.

AS a believer, don't expect to understand all you read. It may not all seem to make sense at first, but if you are patient and sincerely study, you will find the Bible fits together. This is why it is important to attend Bible Study. A casual or brief glance once or twice a week, will not teach you the Bible. As you read, underline verses in the Bible that are special to you. Keep a small notebook beside you when you read and write down thoughts the Lord gives to you. Have a Bible reading schedule and mark it as you read.

✓ *Have A Prayer Life*

After a child is born, he begins to grow. He must have proper food. What a joy for those parents when he begins to walk. They look forward to that day when they hear their baby talk. The words "da da" and "ma ma" are sweet to the ears of a parent. So it is with the Christian.

The Christian needs spiritual food = the Bible. He begins to walk with God. And it also delights the heart of God when His children talk to Him and call His name. **This is what we call prayer.** Talking to God as a child would talk to his father, for He is our Heavenly Father.

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As children of God, we can come to God as our Father and expect Him to hear our requests because the new Christian is a Child of God. As a member of God's family presenting our praise, thanksgiving and petitions to our heavenly Father. Hebrews 4:14-16 tells us of this wonderful privilege. As born-again Christians, we can claim this promise. "*Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast {our} confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all {points} tempted as {we are, yet} without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*" (Hebrews 4:14-16)

PRAYER IS POWERFUL

James 5:16b says, "...*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth (succeeds) much.*" This simply means that when we prayer as God wants us to, then our prayers affect the way things happen and the way God does things. God who knows all things, and what will happen before it happens, still desires us to pray that He can hear and answer of requests. All of us have things we should pray about.

Prayer can do anything that God can do, and that is powerful.

Prayer is a powerful weapon against the enemy.

Examples of People who used the potent weapon of Prayer:

Solomon prayed for wisdom and became one of the wisest men to live. Elijah prayed and fire fell from heaven at Mt. Carmel. Elijah prayed that it would not rain for 3 years and it didn't. Daniel prayed and God delivered him from a den of lions. The church prayed in Acts 12 that Peter would be delivered from jail and while the group was praying, Peter was delivered and came to the door of the house where they were assembled. There is power in prayer!!

George Muller, who operated a children's home prayed in several hundred thousand dollars over the years to finance the home. Have you ever prayed for something and received it? If you are saved, you prayed that Christ might come into your heart and save you, **AND HE DID !!** But don't forget the small things God gives to you in answer to prayer.

How Do I Go About Praying As I Should?

Many people want to know HOW am I suppose to pray? Don't feel bad if you are asking this same question. The disciples also had to come to Jesus and say, "Lord, teach us to pray"(Luke 11:1). Don't forget that praying is talking to God with a sincere heart.

- Talk with God as you would your Father, humbly, respectfully, sincerely. He is your Heavenly Father who has saved you from your sin.
- Approach God boldly, but also in a respectful way, realizing He is Holy and Righteous. But don't be afraid, for He loves you and wants to talk with you and you to talk with Him.

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- Take time everyday to get alone with God and pray. This is a good time for your daily devotion in the Bible too. Before studying, pray to the Lord.
- Just be honest and tell God what is on your heart and let him know you desire to hear what's on his heart as well. Express how you feel and what you desire.

Some people have begun as a new Christian to follow a simple rule of praying. You don't have to follow this exact pattern, but it might help you to develop a good pattern for praying. Make sure it doesn't become mechanical, **for God is REAL and your praying should be real.**

Use ACTS to help you develop and grow your prayer life:

A = Adore and worship the Lord first in praying.

C = Confess any sin and disobedience in your life and ask forgiveness.

T = Thank the Lord for all He has done for you, not only in salvation but for daily things.

S = Supplication, which means praying for others and their needs and also for yourself and the needs you have.

DON'T FORGET TO PRAY EVERYDAY! Write out and memorize John 15:7

Answer the following questions in quiet review and reflection.

1. What is prayer? _____.

2. What can we obtain and find at the throne of God?

(Heb. 4:16) Obtain _____ and find _____.

3. What does each letter stand for in the pattern of praying called ACTS? A _____

C _____

T _____

S _____

4. What does I John 1:9 tell us about our sin?

5. Name some hindrances to prayer:

6. Will you seek to pray every single day? _____

✓ *Be A Witness for Jesus and Win Souls*

Proverbs 11:30: ". . .he that winneth souls is wise". 2 Timothy 2:2: "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

We have a responsibility to pass on to others what we have received. We have received Christ and His salvation. We should tell others of Christ and the way of salvation. Mark 16:15 tells us to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Every Christian can and should witness for Jesus Christ. Jesus also promised us the power when the Holy Spirit came, He would give us power to be witnesses for Christ. (Acts 1:8)

A witness is simply one who tells what he has heard, seen and experienced. **IS IT IMPORTANT?** YES!!! The work of winning souls is the greatest job on this earth. The eternal souls of men, women, and children depend upon our telling them. If we don't tell them of Christ and His desire to save them, they will perish in hell forever.

So, let's consider the A B C 's of soul-winning.

1. **APPEARANCE** (A) Many would not think this to be important, but it is. The unsaved person has many ideas about Christians, so we should be the best representatives of Christ we can. Don't forget, the neighbors are watching the appearance of you, your family, your yard, and even how you keep your house. Be a good example.

2. **BEHAVIOR** (B) When you go to homes to visit, remember these few things. Always be nice to people, regardless of the circumstances you might find. Try to win the persons confidence and friendship even before witnessing to him. Talk about things that interest him.

3. **COMPASSION** (C) This may be the most important of the three. Always be mindful that when you witness to a person, he or she will live forever either in heaven or in hell. Before you go, be sure to pray and ask God to help you. The Holy Spirit will guide and help you in witnessing. We never go alone, for He is with us always.

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ROMAN'S ROAD TO SALVATION – Use the Roman's Road to Salvation to assist you in the witnessing process. Usually witnessing starts with a casual conversation, asking a question like this. "May I ask you a question? If you were to die today would you know you would go to heaven?" Unless they are saved, they will usually reply, "I hope so," "I don't know," "No," etc. Then you might say this, "Do you mind if I show you from the Bible how you can be saved and know it?" Most people will allow you to do it. Now is when you open your New Testament (use a small Bible).

Try to sit beside the person you are talking with, so they can see what you are reading. Ask if they have a Bible and let them look up the references with you. You would then start with Romans 3:23, and read aloud to them, "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*"

Be sure to include yourself when explaining how all have sinned. Regardless of how good or bad we are, we have all been sinners until we choose to accept Christ as Lord and Savior.

Read to them Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Explain that sin pays wages, death, but that God gives a gift which is life through Christ. Then read him or her Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Even though we are sinners and deserve to go to hell, Jesus died for us so we could be saved. He died in our place as our substitute. He shed His blood for us to wash away our sins. **CHRIST IS THE ONLY ANSWER AND HOPE TO A PERSON'S NEEDS.**

Then tell him or her what God desires them to do, read him Romans 10:9, 13, "*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 whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*"

WE MUST BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED FOR US, WAS BURIED AND AROSE FROM THE DEAD AFTER THREE DAYS. CALL UPON THE LORD IN PRAYER TO SAVE HIM.

God will do what He has promised, for God cannot lie. Invite them to come to church with you the very next service. Encourage him or her to share their salvation experience with others. Every Christian should and can be a soul-winner. Witness in your neighborhood and to your family, and if you are led join the outreach ministry.

[Part Ten: What's Next?](#)

Baptism Candidates

In order to be prepared for Baptism Ceremony, please have the following:

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- ✓ Bring your written testimony (use the Sample Testimony in the Worksheet as a guide). Be prepared to share it over the microphone with the entire congregation or gathering.
- ✓ Meet at the time/place specified for information
 - Dress comfortably (Males: No spanx. Wear a full T-Shirt and Pants. Females: Wear supporting undergarments under a dress.
 - Bring a towel and change of clothing
- ✓ Instructions on where to change; where to sit before and after your baptism will be given on the day of the ceremony.
- ✓ Verify your name to be printed on your Certificate of Baptism.

Membership Candidates

- ✓ Plan to attend the Baptism Ceremony in support of the Candidates going under the waters of baptism.
- ✓ Bring your written testimony (use the Sample Testimony in the Worksheet as a guide). Be prepared to share it over the microphone with the entire congregation or gathering.
- ✓ All Candidates will be seated in front right row of the service. Plan to be on time.
- ✓ Verify your name to be printed on your Certificate of Membership.
- ✓ You will receive a copy of the Constitution of LHMI vs.1.2008

Both Baptism & Membership Candidates are expected to be present before the Church Board for their individual interview.

NOTES:
