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| **CHRISTIAN’S IDENTITY AND POSITION IN CHRIST** |

**OBJECTIVES**

Students will learn “what identifies with a believer?” Receiving salvation through Lordship of Jesus Christ allow one to reap the benefits of that relationship. It includes our identity and position in Christ. Students will have a greater understanding and recognition of their ‘sonship’ in Christ as an heir, a child and a friend of God. We are called to be priests and kings to reign with Christ.

**MAIN OUTLINE**

**A. Identity and Position in Christ**

1. **New Creatures** (2 Cor. 5:17). The new creation, All new in Jesus Christ.

2. **A Child of God** (John 1:12; Gal. 3:26). Sonship is not based on what we do or not do, is it based solely on God’s grace and his righteousness to call us His own sons.

3. **Friend of God** (John 15:15). I will not call you servants--I will call you friends. What are friends for?

4. **Temporary resident on earth** (Heb. 11:13) – no one lives forever.

5. **We are Disciple/Follower of Christ.** A disciple is a learner or a follower of somebody.

6. **Marks of a Disciple.** (John 13:35), (John 8:31) (Luke 14:26), if we are bearing fruit.

7**. We are the Branches**. We are called to stay connected to Jesus (Vine) (John 15:5), ((John 15:16).

8. **God’s workmanship (Eph. 2:10).**

9. **Ambassadors of Christ- personal representatives of Christ (2 Cor. 5:20)**

10. **Salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13).** The Christian’s task is to be the salt of society, preserving, reconciling, adding taste, giving meaning where there is no meaning, giving hope where there is no hope. It is about the quality of life.

11. **Light of the earth (Matthew 5:14).** Christians are to be torch bearers in a dark world.

**12. Body of Christ (Romans 12:5).** This means each Christian is an equal part of the body of Christ.

**13. Saints (1 Cor. 1:2**). This word means "holy, pure, consecrated to God" and carries the idea of one who has be cleansed and set apart for God's purposes.

14. **Right Standing with Christ.** Chosen generation (1 Peter 2:9, 2 Thess. 2:13). A royal priesthood.

15. **Living Stones (1 Peter 2:5)**. "A living stone" refers to having the life and power of God in us.

16. **Temple of God (1 Cor. 3:16)** You are the temple of the Holy Spirit.

17**. Partaker (companion) of His heavenly calling**

**B. WHAT CHRISTIANS POSSESS?**

1. The Spirit of God (1 Cor. 2:12)

2. The mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16)

3. Every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:3)

Examples of Blessing:

- Our calling

- Power for daily living (through the Holy Spirit)

- Daily provisions

4. Access to the Father thru the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18, Heb. 4:16)

5. The righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21)

6. Power, love and sound mind

**C. CHRISTIAN’S NEW WAY OF LIFE**

1. Living a holy, sanctified, and honorable life (Eph. 1:4)

2. Living by Faith (Gal. 2:20)- standing on the word in the midst of situations

3. For God – fear of God resulting into a changed lifestyle - (2 Cor. 5:15)

**CONCLUSION & APPLICATION**

No matter what people tells you, you are a child of God and a joint heir with Jesus. Therefore, Abraham’s blessings are yours. Your identity is hinged on your creation – when God created you, He created male and female. You are created to reign on the earth; to have dominion on all things except fellow human beings. You are unique creations by God; His own masterpiece and begotten out of His love. You are His greatest purchase that ever happened so you can be assured of an eternal life in Him as you surrender your life with the master Savior. Let us live with that identify and call others who have not known the Jesus yet.

**REFERENCES**

Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible

The Bible Exposition Commentary

The Nelson Study Bible- NKJV

Rick Warren, The Purpose Driven Life

Bruce Wilkinson, The Secrets of the Vine

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| **SCRIPTURE EXPLORATION** |

**OBJECTIVE:**

To discover some of the ways/methods to approach bible reading to the next level.

**INTRODUCTION:**  
 Bible reading is an essential part of our growth as a Christian. The bible says in Hebrews 4:12 that “the word of God is alive and active” and that we are to “keep the book of the law always on your lips [and] meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it” (Joshua 1:8).

**SUMMARY:**

In this course, you will be exposed to a number of different methods to bible reading, namely: SOAP, Manu-scripting, Topic-Focused, Pick-a-person, Chapter Verse, Book Study, S.P.E.C.K, (other suggestions)

**OUTLINE/APPLICATION**

**Activate:** (to check for prior knowledge and hook them to the course)

•The students can play a quick game of “search the book”. There will be two teams – each team will get a non-indexed bible. Then they will try to look for the passage as quickly as possible. (use verses that will be used during the “testing” of the bible reading tools, for example, SPECK)

•They can watch a Bible Project Video.

•They can play “guess which book”. There will be a list of big bible events and/or character names and they will try to guess which book the event or the character is from.

**Acquire/Apply:** (teaching/introducing the different tools as well as giving them opportunity to try them out) • Depending on what game or activation you played, start with the tool that best transitions from the activation.

* Start with including a short discussion on the Relevance of the Old and the New Testament. Also, do a brief introduction to the different types of translations and what would be good for simple reading up to studying the bible. Mention bible facts like how it was written in Greek and Hebrew originally, etc.
* **SOAP**: SOAP stands for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. This is a journaling technique most people follow as it is very simple and straight forward.
  + Format: Scripture, Observation, Application, Prayer
* **SPECK**: SPECK stands for **S**in to avoid, **P**romise to claim, **E**xample to follow, **C**ommand to obey, and **K**nowledge about God.
  + Format: Either one of SPECK-O, Reflection, Prayer (optional)
* **Chapter Verse**: To start with this method, you will pick a chapter from any book, and eventually pick a verse to remember.
  + Format: Chapter, Observations, Reflection
* **Pick-a-person:** This method will require a little bit of a research. You start by picking a person you want to learn about from the bible.
  + Format: Person, Scripture, Scripture, Lesson Learned/Reflection
* **Topic-Focused:** This is similar to pick-a-person except that you are focused on a topic.
  + Format: Topic, Scripture, Lesson Learned/Reflection:
* **Book Study/Manuscript:** This will probably take the longest out of everything and will require a lot of inquiry. You first have to research context for the book of your choice: Who wrote this? To whom was it written for and why?
  + **Format:** Book,About the book: Who wrote the book? To whom was it written for and why?Chapter/Verse: What are the main points? What did I learn?*Add as many chapter/verses you need…*Short Summary and Reflection:

Notes:

* All of these methods are good for personal or group devotions and will always encourage that you always try to reflect on what you learn so you can apply. They are all fairly similar to each other depending on how in depth and what purpose you have for reading the bible. These different approaches can make bible reading really exciting and fun. If you have any further questions, always reach out to a leader or a pastor for clarifications. Also, try to aim to memorize verses – after all, it is our best weapon against the enemy (Ephesians 6:13-17).
* Main Focuses:
  + SOAP (one verse, VOTD): Reflecting – simple, basic method; great for personal devotions
  + SPECK (one verse, VOTD): Reflecting – A little bit more specific, great for personal devotions
  + Chapter Verse (one chapter): Summary/Study – would require a little research, great for personal devotions
  + Pick-A-Person (one verse, one chapter): Study – Studying the life of someone, great for personal and group devotions
  + Topic-Focused (one verse, one chapter): Study – Who is God? What does the bible say about real life issues? Great for group devotions
  + Book Study/Manuscript (one book): Study – contextual, ask questions about the word, great for group devotions

**CONCLUSION:**

The best way to start being consistent with bible reading it to simply start. Set a time for it and be strict about it. Try to find an accountability partner that can keep you accountable.

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| **THE ART OF PRAYER, FASTING & SPIRITUAL WARFARE** |

**OBJECTIVES**

At the end of the course, it is expected that the students will understand that through prayer, we can build boundaries of protection and through intercession, we engage in spiritual warfare against the enemy for the unbelievers to be won to Christ. Students will be taught to stand in the word of God in the midst of their battles; and that the weapons of warfare are not carnal, but mighty thru God. The areas of the mind and flesh where we fight all the time are discussed and how to put on the full armour of God to subdue the enemy. The biblical models for fasting and prayer will also be presented.

**INTRODUCTION**

The life of a believer is engaging in spiritual warfare to ensure that the enemy’s ploy does not only undermine his/her faith but ensure that Christians are waging the war against the enemy through prayer and fasting. Jesus, although God, walk in human form and with that, prayed on many occasions. He even prayed to God the Father.

**OUTLINE**

1. **PRAYER:** is the most intimate communion with God. James 4:8. Is a very close conversation, communication, and communion with God. God commanded it. Jesus even provided us many examples of when, and how He prayed.

Matthew 6 “Lord teach us how to pray”. The Lord’s Prayer - Matthew 6:9-13 (Address to who, Praise God, His will be done, Ask for your needs & forgiveness)

How to Pray: Be spontaneous (not repetitious prayers). Be specific on what your needs are. Ask the right way (ask, seek and knock). Pray using the word of God (scriptures). Pray with all your heart. The Lord wants empty vessels. Pray fervently & consistently. Expect answers to your prayers.

Sample Pattern of Prayer **– ACTS** **Adoration** (Psalms 95, 46). **Confession** (1 John 1:9; Psalms 51) **Thanksgiving**; expressing gratitude and praise/worship to God (Ps. 103:2; 1 Thess. 5:18) **Intercession**; – Ezekiel 22:30; 1 Tim. 2:1-4. **Supplications** asking for petitions (Phil. 4:6; Ps. 27:1-4).

Prayer Killers

1. Prayerlessness – James 4:2
2. Un-confessed sins – Isaiah 59:2
3. Inadequate faith – James 1:5-8
4. Disobedience – 1 John 3:21-23
5. Un-forgiveness or unresolved relational conflict – Matt. 18:22; Matt. 5:23-24; 1 Peter 3:7
6. Wrong motives – that represent selfishness – James 4:3
7. Idols in our lives – Ezekiel 14:3
8. Disregard for God’s sovereignty – Jeremiah 1:5
9. Uncaring attitudes; disregard for others – “Me, Myself, and I” – Proverbs 21:13
10. Un-surrendered will – Psalm 139:23-24

How does God speak to Christians Believers – Genesis 3:8; Exodus 33:11

1. Disciple’s Fast – Loosen the bonds of wickedness.
2. Ezra Fast – Ezra 8:23 - Undo heavy burdens.
3. Samuel Fast - Let the oppressed go free (Isa. 58:6).
4. Elijah Fast – v. 6 – to break every yoke.
5. Widow’s Fast – v. 7 - Give bread to the hungry and provide for the poor.
6. Paul’s Fast – v. 8 - allow people’s light to break forth.
7. Daniel Fast – v. 8 - health to spring fort.
8. John the Baptist Fast – v. 8 - cause righteousness to go before men.
9. Esther Fast – v. 8 - cause the glory of God to be our reward.

**II. FASTING**

Fasting is deliberately abstaining from food, water/other fluids) for spiritual purposes -Matt. 6:1-18)

Biblical Models (based on Isaiah 58)

1. Disciple’s Fast – Loosen the bonds of wickedness.
2. Ezra Fast – Ezra 8:23 - Undo heavy burdens.
3. Samuel Fast - Let the oppressed go free (Isa. 58:6).
4. Elijah Fast – v. 6 – to break every yoke.
5. Widow’s Fast – v. 7 - Give bread to the hungry and provide for the poor.

Benefits of Fasting

1. Restores loss of the "first love" and return to the Lord.
2. Practice humility - in the sight of God (Psalm 35:13; Ezra 8:21).
3. Allows the Holy Spirit to reveal our true spiritual condition.
4. Prayer life will become richer and more personal experience.
5. Personal revival of own life thereby making you a channel of revival to others.

Types of Fasting

1. Normal fasting
2. Absolute fasting (Acts 9:9).
3. Partial fasting (Daniel 10:3
4. Supernatural absolute fasting (Deuteronomy 9:9; I Kings 19:8).

Guidelines for Fasting

1. Do not start yourself for long period of fasting. Try short periods and advance as you go.
2. During the fast, spend more time reading the Bible, praying and meditating the Word. Focus on God and if possible, do not engage in your usual routines.
3. Identify specific goals or targets for your fasting. If you wish to outline a prayer target, do so in writing.
4. If you are suffering from diseases or taking medication, seek medical advice first from your doctor.
5. At the start of the fast, you will experience dizziness, headache or nausea, which are signs of physical reactions. They will tend to subside later on during the fast.
6. When breaking a fast, do it gradually so as not to extra burden your system.
7. **PRAYER & INTERCESSION**

**Intercede**- to act between 2 parties, to mediate, to represent one party or person to another. **Christ,** the Ultimate Intercessor; was both man & God & the attorney (mediator) for both sides

* **Intercessory prayer** is an extension of the ministry of Jesus through His body, the church to reconcile the world (unbelievers) to God. Jesus is calling many people today as intercessors. If we want to bring heaven here on earth, we need to enlist an army of intercessors to therefore bring about the harvest of souls.
* **Intercession** means carrying away the burden of others.

Thru **prayer**, we can build boundaries of protection.   
Through **Intercession**, we make spiritual warfare with the enemy for the unbelievers to be won to Christ.

**IV. HOW TO WAGE SPIRITUAL WARFARE?**

**Main Text:** **Ephesians 6:10-17.** What are we believers fighting for? Even though Jesus already fought the devil and won – Colossians 2:13-15/Luke 19:13; we are to take our stand in the word of God against the enemy's attacks - 1Co 15:1 We are not fighting in the carnal flesh; we are fighting in the Spirit realm - Eph. 6:10-17. Therefore, consistently stay fighting the good fight of faith- 1 Timothy 1:18-19

**Main Areas of our battles**: 1. Mind- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (part of the soul area). 2. Flesh - James 4:1-2

**How do you wrestle with demons or evil spirits?** To Wrestle means to sway - fighting thru holding fast to our faith - 1 Tim. 6:12)**.**

* 1. Put on the whole armour of God - Ephesians 6:10-17**.**
  2. Keep on running the race no matter what happens - Hebrews 12:1**.**
  3. Renew our mind daily – Romans 12:12**.**
  4. Stay under the protection of God - Psalms 91

**CONCLUSION & APPLICATION**

Now that we have learned the principles of prayer, fasting and wrestling with the devil and his cohorts, is important to be conscious of the battles we are fighting on a daily basis. When our prayers seem not to be answered, there is no problem with God because His promises are always Yes and Amen. The problem lies on us and we should check the presence of sins, even the hidden ones, have a heart check and come back to fellowship with Jesus again.

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| **THE POWER OR PRAISE & WORSHIP** |

**OBJECTIVES:**This course provides the ‘real’ definition of worship. It differentiates between praise; explores the meaning of true worship through an examination of singing songs, hymns and heart attitude while being in the presence of God. Different forms of worship practices are described. It reflects on the role of the Praise & Worship team as they relate to several aspects of ministry such as expression of preaching in songs, music, prayer, and the dramatic and visual arts in worship. Those who are called Praise & Worship Ministers will be introduced the principles and practices of vital worship leadership identifying the difference between performing in an audience and leading the congregation into the Holy of Holies. This session will provide opportunities for the leaders to develop basic skills in leading worship and public communication before a larger audience.

**I. PRAISE & WORSHIP**

David’s Exhortation Psalms 150:1-6

**A. Definitions:** In examining the Greek and Hebrew words **PRAISE** – is define as a simple, joyful experience or celebration**. WORSHIP** – implies a deeper and more meaningful communion with God. What does it mean to worship “in Spirit”? What does it mean to worship “in Truth”?

**B. The Three aspects of corporate worship: 1. Vertical Aspect – ministering to the Lord2. Horizontal Aspect – ministering to one another 3. Inward Aspects – ministry which we received inwardly**

**C. GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRAISE:** Why We should Praise the Lord - Psalms 107:1, 2, 8. Who Should Praise the Lord? When Should Praise the Lord? Where We Are to Praise the Lord.

**D. BENEFITS OF PRAISE:** Release hand of God to act in our behalf. Brings Health Proverbs 17:22. Brings Peace Isaiah 60:18. Changes Us 2 Corinthians 3:11, 18. John 3:1,2. Brings Deliverance from Evil Spirits Samuel 16:14-17. Brings God's Manifest Presence. Psalms 22:3. Releases Strength. Nehemiah 8:10b; Psalms 28:7. Brings the Desires of Our Hearts. Psalm 37:4.

*Notice that* ***praise*** *is to come* ***FIRST****, before we receive.   
Praise puts our priorities in order, and then God can grant us the desires of our heart.*  
  
**II. PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF WORSHIP**  
1. BIBLICAL METHODS OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP: David was a "man after God's own heart" who restored the use of music and singing for worshiping the Lord. There are nine ways that the Israelites learned to express themselves in their praise and worship.

The three main categories: VOCAL actions. HAND actions. BODY actions

**A.** First, we will look at methods of worshiping the Lord using our VOICES: **Thanksgiving**—speaking words of gratitude to the Lord. **Singing.** Psalm 47:6. Psalm 147:1. Col 3:16. **Shouting**. Psalm 32:11;

**B.** Secondly, we will examine the methods of expressing our worship using our HANDS. Playing music Psalm 150:3-51. Lifting of the Hands. Psalm 134:2. Clapping. Psalm 47:1; 98:9

**C.**  Three methods of expressing our worship using our BODIES: **Bowing and Kneeling**. These are signs of reverence and respect Psalms 95:6. Genesis 24:52. **Standing.** People respectfully stand when a king passes by. 2 Chron 20:19; Rev 7:9, 10; **Dancing and Leaping**. Dancing is not more important that the other expressions of praise, but it is more controversial and needs more explanation than some of the other forms.

**Definition of Dancing** is highly demonstrative. It requires the use of the whole body in order to express joy, praise and worship before the Lord. Hebrew and Greek words translated dance mean "leaping, skipping, lifting up the feet, jumping." Something spontaneous and unstructured in nature. Acts 3:8; Psalms 149:3; 150:4

Examples of dancing in the Old Testament. In Celebration. Israel danced to celebrate deliverance when they were delivered from the Egyptians. Exodus15:20. They rejoiced because of restoration when the ark of the covenant was returned. 2 Sam 6:14-16

**Spiritual Dance** - The spiritual dance is spontaneous and unsophisticated in style and can be expressed in skipping, whirling, leaping, and jumping. Sometimes accompanied by music from instruments.

\***Singing and Dancing.** Singing and dancing often went together. 1 Samuel 29:5  
\***Time to Dance -** There is a right time to dance. Ecclesiastes 3:4  
\***Dancing Before the Lord**. This expression of praise is an act of obedience to God' s Word that we are to praise Him in the dance. As an act of our will, no matter how we feel, we obey God and dance before Him.  
\***Dancing in The Spirit -** is when our whole body is yielded to the control of the Holy Spirit. Believers are "lost" in the Spirit and so captured by the move of the Holy Spirit's power upon their body that they are unaware of themselves or others around them.

**WARNINGS ABOUT DANCING:**

\*Beware of Carnal Dancing. Dancing of a carnal nature is also associated with backsliding, idolatry, and worldliness. Satan has a counterfeit for everything. Counterfeits only show there is a genuine and original.

\*Not for Show. The purpose of dancing in praise to God was never intended for a "show" or performance drawing peoples' attention to the dancers. Dance as an expression of praise is to be a spontaneous and intensive physical expression of praise to God that involves the whole assembly of believers. Our dress and our actions must always be those that will glorify the Lord and not call attention to ourselves.

\*Enter In. Some of the greatest "breakthroughs" happen as the move of the Holy Spirit comes upon a body of believers when each one is dead to self and moves in obedience to the Holy Spirit, entering in as David did, "dancing before the Lord with all of his might."

**ADDITIONAL WAYS WE MAY EXPRESS OUR WORSHIP TO THE LORD**

1. **Falling Prostrate** - Revelation 5:14. 2 Chronicles 5:14  
2. **Silence -** Ecclesiastes 3:7. Psalms 46:10  
3. **Tears -** Acts20:19, 36-37. Lk 7:37, 38. Ps 126:5, 6  
4. **Laughter -** Psalms 126:2; Job 8:20,21  
5. **Marching - J**oshua 6:2-5

**III. HINDRANCES TO PRAISE**

**Excuses Often** Given "I'm just not outgoing!" "I'm too shy; I feel self-conscious!" "I'm not demonstrative. "

*PRAISE IS A COMMANDMENT FROM GOD AND THERE ARE NO VALID EXCUSES! Psalms 150:6  
Hindrances to praise that must be dealt with*

1. **Sin**. Ps 66:18; Isaiah 59:2. Solution: Confess our sin, or sins, and to accept His forgiveness-

2. **Condemnation** Solution: Romans 8:1 Take thoughts off yourself and put them on Jesus.

3.**Worldliness**. Solution 1 Peter 5:7 Philippians 4:8 1 John 2:15 Romans 12:2

4. **Indifference**. Revelation 2:4. Solution: Malachi 3:7

5.**Rebellion** 1 Sam 15:22-23. Solution: Hebrews 13:17

6.**Discouragement.** 2 Corinthians 4:8-9. Solution: Isaiah 51:11

7. **Anger.** James 1:19-20. Solution: Ephesians 4:31-32

8. **Worry John** 14:27. Solution: Focus our eyes on Jesus and the promises of His Word

9. **Depression.** 1 Peter 4:12-13. Solution: Isaiah 61:3

10. **Wrong Concept of God.** Solution: John 3:16; Rom 8:31-32, 38-39

11. **Religious Traditions.** Solution: The answer is to carefully expose our traditions to the Word of God and to let the Holy Spirit show us the right way.

12. **Pride** - Matt 23:1-2, 5-7 Solution: Matthew 23:11-12; Rom 12:3; 1 Cor 4:10

13.**Fear of Man. Fear. of any kind, is the opposite of faith**. Pro 29:25, 9:10. Solution: When we put God in His rightful place in our lives, when we begin to know Him as He is, the fear of others will disappear.

14.**Satanic Oppression** Solution Mark 16:17 James 4:7

15. **Ignorance.** Solution: Hosea 4:6

16. **Being "in the flesh"** Solution: We as His children should freely express our heartfelt praise and worship Him on a continual basis. To react is to be restricted and held in bondage to religious traditions and fear of man.

**CONCLUSION:** *An inability to praise and worship indicates a basic problem which needs to be dealt with. Seek God until you know the problem and the deal with it honestly. If you still cannot enter into praise to God, go to a mature Christian and seek his or her help.*

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| **GENERATE THE SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY** |

**OBJECTIVES**:

* To understand the concept of tithing
* To differentiate the Old Testament & New Testament Giving
* Having understood the principles of giving, abundant life, acts of kindness towards the poor, the hungry and the disadvantaged in society, will instill in the students’ hearts to give to provide for Kingdom expansion.
* To demonstrate cheerful giving.

**INTRODUCTION**

**Main Texts:** 2 Corinthians 8:1-24, Malachi 3:10, Luke 6:38

1. **THE PRINCIPLE OF TITHING**

The word "tithe" came from an Old English word meaning "one tenth."  Most believers speak and talk about it as the tithe or "10 percent” of one’s income or business revenues. God does not need our money. The spirit of giving is for us as believers – trusting God as we give, we are left to use for our own needs and protects us from Satan who is the thief (John 10:10). Proverbs 3:9-10 asked us ‘honor the Lord with our possessions and first fruits. When we fail to give our tithes, our finances are flowing in a bag full of holes. When we give, we allow our finances to increase giving us more increase to give money. We are just channels of God’s blessings.

1. **THREE BIBLICAL MODELS OF GIVING**
2. **Old Testament Giving:** In the Old Testament, studies showed that tithes which is 10% of individual’s annual production from the land, vineyards, farming, etc. were given on two occasions – yearly and every three years. The average tithes was about 23.3 percent of an individual’s annual produce. Not only are the people giving their tithes, they also give freewill offerings and personal giving above and beyond the tithes. These are mostly directed to the priests or workers in God’ temple or tabernacle. Others were designated for the poor. In Abraham’s time, the tithes were given ([**Genesis 4:17-20**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=ge+4:17-20)) and in Jacob ([**Genesis 28:22**](http://www.biblestudytools.com/search/?t=niv&q=ge+28:22)).
3. **New Testament Giving** (Hebrews 7:1-10): There are many contentions and doctrinal confusion in the church today regarding New Testament giving. Many questions the fact that in the OT, 10% was considered a law. In the NT, which is a better covenant with better promises, many believe the tithes are gone. I believe that in the NT, it expects more than giving of the tithes. The gospel is free, but delivering the gospel especially across the nations is expensive. Jesus demonstrated the spirit of generosity. In the same way, as disciples of Christ, we should follow Him in giving offerings, donations and extending Jesus’ love through acts of kindness to the poor. Giving also include giving time, resources, talents and giftings in serving God thru the local church.
4. **Jesus Christ’s Model of Giving**

*2 Cor. 8:*9 “You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” How did Jesus model the spirit of giving? He gave His own life because of God’s love (John 3:16). God the Father sent His Son, Jesus, so He could have many sons & daughters.

1. Jesus was rich when He was crucified, the soldiers did a lottery of his clothes. This signified the quality of the things he wore. During Jesus’ birth, the Magi presented him gifts. His parents must have kept them for his use.

2. Jesus became poor for us Because of the ministry entrusted to Him by God the Father, Jesus was not concerned about the earthly wealth that we know today. He never purchased something for himself like a home or a donkey.

3. The Great Exchange by Jesus’ poverty, we might become rich. The heart of Jesus is beyond financial abundance. He wants us to have a relationship with Him that assures us of an eternal life with Him. When we give, the more we receive.

**III. PRINCIPLES OF GENEROSITY (***2 Cor.* **8:10-9:5)**

1. **Obedience to God’s Word-** Many scriptures are attributed to giving. God expects us to honor the commitments we have to pay the local church our tithes and give offerings as well. Obedience is better than sacrifice.
2. **Starts with Own Surrender-** You can’t give something you haven’t received, be it resources, your time or anything else. This means giving of oneself. v5 says, “And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will.” Jesus even said that “where your money is, there will your heart be also” which means where your passion is, the finances follows. -
3. **Give by Grace-** Giving is a gift from God. God gave His only begotten Son, who would have sacrificed his own son to die? While He gave we should do the same. The talents, gifts, resources, intelligence even our physical looks are all gifts from God. If you have the gift of giving and the resources to give, it’s because God has enabled you and motivated you to do so. We should embrace the spirit of giving, a generous heart.
4. **A Cheerful Heart-** The Lord loves a cheerful giver; an attitude of the heart; given not because of guilt, coercion from the leaders or out of obligation, but a giving heart. It is a privilege more than an obligation or rule of law. Malachi 3:10 says ‘running over’ and Eph. 3:20 says that God will do exceedingly, abundantly above all we dare ask or think”.
5. **IS PROSPERITY RELEVANT TODAY?**

*Deut. 8:18* ***18****But remember the*Lord*your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.”*

The purpose of riches is not for believers to buy all that they wanted, engaged in all money-spending free. The purpose is to confirm God’s covenant of giving and therefore extend that wealth for the gospel and help the poor. Blessed rich Christians can leverage wealth for the kingdom of God. While the gospel is free, delivering them costs money especially in todays’ world – television, satellite, web sites, social media, airplanes, purchasing church building, sending missionaries to the world, rentals for stadiums & venues for evangelistic meetings, staff resources, including logistics all are very expensive.

1. **Spiritual prosperity** – one needs to have a relationship with Christ called the born-again experience (John 3:3)
2. **Physical or health prosperity** – soul or mind area controlling your mind, will and emotions through a renewing of the mind (Romans 12:2 and physical health and healing – 1 Peter 2:24
3. **Financial prosperity** – finances. It is God’s will for us to prosper if we are obedient to God’s words. As we walk daily in the light of His words, we are to prosper in all areas of our lives (Proverbs 4:20)

**CONCLUSION & APPLICATION**

There is a 1994 song entitled “Little Becomes Much when God is in It”. What do you have in your hands right now? God is the God of multiplication and increase. If we place what we have in the hands of the Master, He can double or triple them; even receive a hundredfold return. However, if we withhold or spend our tithes, then we open the doors for the devourer to ravage our finances. Obedience is better than sacrifice. Let’s offer our gifts to the altar.

The spirit of generosity is in the heart of God, He first gave His Son to die on the cross for you and me. That spirit should also be in us so we are able to minister to others also in the area of our finances. Giving is an act of worship, a surrendered heart giving back to God what we receive. Start from somewhere and then let God provide you the wisdom on the next steps of giving. Trust Him today!

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| **THE HOLY SPIRIT THEOLOGY** |

**Course Objectives**

* To understand the third person in the Trinity.
* To fully grasp the role of the Holy Spirit in our everyday Christian Life.
* To have a revelation of the gifts of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
* To walk a Spirit-led life understanding the operations of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

**MAIN OUTLINE**

1. **HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of God is the 3rd person in the Trinity – three-person in one God. He is the manifestation of the God who was present with God the Father & the Son in creation, especially in human beings (Genesis 1:1-5). The HS is referred to 80x in the OT and 240x in the NT. That’s exactly how powerful.

1. **Main Function of the HOLY SPIRIT**
2. Encourager – a comforter in our time of need.
3. Testifier about Jesus / John 16:8-11 - convict unbelief, testify to Jesus resurrection, assure us of the enemies’ defeat.
4. Comforter
5. Gives us the boldness to witness Christ to others – Acts 1:8
6. Helper - John 14:16 - helps / John 14:26 –
7. Teacher & Guide - reminds us / John 14:27 - peace / John 15: 26.  He teaches and guides usin the way that Jesus has set before us in following Him – *John 16:13****13****But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.*

**The Holy Spirit Guides us in four areas:**

 1. Guides us to the TRUTH

2. Guides us away from sins

3. Guides us to our purpose

4. Guides us to the will of God in our lives

III. **PARTNERING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT for LIFE TRANSFORMATION**

1. Change LIFE

* Fruit of the Holy Ghost - Galatians 5:16-26

God expects every follower of Christ to bear much fruit; fruit that abounds to every good work.  The fruit of the Spirit is centred on the love of God that ultimately produces LOVE - JOY - PEACE - PATIENCE - KINDNESS - GOODNESS - FAITHFULNESS - GENTLENESS - SELF CONTROL. These are foundational to a Spirit led life.

1. Influencing Others – Ministry of the Spirit

* THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - 1 Corinthians 12
* Word of Wisdom
* Word of Knowledge
* Faith
* Gifts of healing
* Working of Miracles
* Prophecy
* Discerning of the Spirits
* Different kinds of Tongues
* Interpretation of Tongues

**CONCLUSION & APPLICATION**

***Luke 11:11-13 “****Which of you fathers, if your son asks fora fish, will give him a snake instead?****12****Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?****13****If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him”*

*"Living for Christ cannot be understood apart from the Spirit's empowerment. How else are believers capable of expressing the love of Christ? How else do they overcome their fallen human nature and have lives pleasing to God? How else can they achieve victory over the powers of darkness? Instead of succumbing to sin and moral weakness, the Spirit becomes the dominating force in our lives."*

--**Bill Gibson, Author of Celestial Fire 365 Days with the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit revealing Christ to us is not about head knowledge but to personally know Jesus in the most intimate way, to worship and follow Him. The Father is more than willing to give us the Holy Spirit and let Him take us for the ride of our life. Holy Spirit leads us, empowers us, helps us pray, bears witness to our being God’s children, strengthens us as we face suffering for Christ.  Without the Holy Spirit the church could not exist, which means you and I can never experience a wonderful life transformation. **The Holy Spirit seals us until the day of redemption.**One of God’s great desires is for us to feel secure in His love and power so that we go out to be witnesses to the world (*Acts 1:8****8****But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* Everything else in life are unpredictable, nimble, and unstable—our health, job, relationships, and the world; they can vanish quickly. However, our identity in Christ and eternal destination are completely sealed, and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

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| **HEARING FROM GOD** |

**OBJECTIVES**

* To help the people to understand the different ways of hearing from God
* To assist them how to familiarize thyself with the voice of God thru the inner witness
* To practice a consistent listening ear for discernment and identifying the sources of voices we hear.
* To cultivate a hearing heart and spirit with the assurance in the word of God as the final authority in one’s life.

**MAIN OUTLINE**

**INTRODUCTION:**

In my many years of ministry, I often been asked the question, how do you hear from God? How come I seem not to hear anything? Do people need to be ‘special’ or pastors (5-fold ministers) to hear from Him? Is God speaking to me?

*John 10:27* ***27****My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me’.* *Of course, the answer is ‘YES’, God indeed speaks to us. God does not play favorites. Most of the times He is already talking to us. The problem is not the source, but the receivers – US. We are so bogged down with the issues of life, there are so many voices around us that we don’t actually hear from God or even pay attention to Him. God wants to have intimacy with us, fellowship and friendship with us. However, either we don’t want to have anything with him or we are so just busy with the things of life – the pride of life, the deceitfulness of riches and others. The very purpose of hearing from God is to spend time with Him, an intimacy like husband & wife that we want to be with God, know His heart and allow Him to speak to us. God desires to speak with us, in fact, He longs to be with us.*

**IMPORTANCE OF HEARING FROM GOD** (Ross Tooley)

1. Fellowship & Enjoying God’s Presence –enjoying His presence, friendship and fellowship is foremost to our God. “I don’t call you servants any longer, I call you friend.” (Psalm 100:4; Psalm 26:6-7, Psalm 103:7)
2. Spiritual Encouragement – we receive revelations from God concerning His word and we become strengthened knowing He is there for us at all times (Judges 7:9-15, 2 Chro. 16:9, 1 Thes. 5:21)
3. Discernment– how do we determine whether the voice is our own (flesh), that of the devil or God Himself. (Psalm 19:1-4, John 17:3, James 2:5, Romans 2:14).
4. Facing Temptation– Luke 4:2-14. We need the Holy Spirit’s guidance when we are faced with different trials, challenges, problems, and temptations. We can overcome the wiles of the enemy as we seek God and hear Him.
5. Praying Effectively – hearing from God will give us instructions what and who to pray for. He reveals things only the Spirit knows about people and situations and mostly we avert bad things thru the Spirit’s intercession in our behalf.
6. Effectiveness in Serving/Ministry – every step we take, the gifts and callings we have in God can only be realized as we hear from Him.
7. **METHODS ON HEARING GOD:**There *is* good news—God is speaking to you all the time. [A.W. Tozer](http://awtozer.org/home/) said, “It’s the nature of God to speak.” He wants to have friendship & fellowship with you, and He wants you to hear Him and be in tune with His spirit —all the time. (KCM).
8. **Reliable Methods – First Category**
9. Written word - One sure way to know if you’re hearing God’s voice is the message (or vision, dreams) should line up with the written Word of God. *“All Scripture is inspired by God.” –2 Timothy 3:16.*
10. Character of God – both exemplified in the written word and His creation. (Jonah 4:2, Matt. 7:11, James 4:3, Psalm 66:18, Romans 5:3). God is a good God, a loving Father, merciful, just, fair. God’s guidance will always be in line with His character as revealed in the scriptures. Who is God to you?
11. Voice of the Holy Spirit – including the burden received in prayers. This is the still small voice impressed by the Holy Ghost to our Spirit and the communicated to our minds. (Acts 11:12, Acts 10:44-46, Isa. 30:21 ‘and your ears shall hear a word behind you…’ God always want to speak to His church through you to an unbelieving world.
12. Unction of Peace – before making any plans or even saying “yes or no”, let the peace of God guides you. Whether they are small or big decisions, peace should be our umpire. The Holy Spirit can witness or say yes or no to something we are considering. The impression is simply the awareness of peace – or lack of it – in our hearts. (John 14:27, Col. 3:15)
13. Body of Christian believers – all the things you hear can be confirmed for guidance by elders or a trusted Christian leader (e.g., pastor, etc.). God uses spiritually mature individuals to discern, confirm, reject or deny what you heard as guidance from God. (Acts 13:2-3, Acts 16:2-3
14. **Second Category - Less Reliable**
15. Visions – patriarchs in both OT & NT saw visions such as Moses, Isaiah, Daniel, Peter, Paul, John, etc. (Rev. 1:17, Eze. 11:24-12:2, Acts 16:9-10, Acts 18:9-11) Visions can be counterfeited by Satan, so it should be checked by the written word. When a vision is really from God, it will definitely make an impact and influence many others. Vision should not be the sole guidance; it needs to be balanced.
16. Dreams – again the guidance is, dreams should line up with scriptures and you should have peace. Are the dreams we have always coming from God? Not really, dreams can be from God or of the devil, could be what we desire to happen and what we were denied in life that we want to have them. Be careful. (Matt.2:12)
17. Angels – exercise your discernment and hear from the Spirit. (Acts 5:20, Acts 8:26)

The above does not happen daily, but they are scriptural. However, they can be counterfeited by Satan, so we should check whether they line up with the scriptures. If not, just reject them.

1. **Third Category - Least Reliable**
2. Prophecy – prophets are one of the 5-fold ministry. (1 Sam. 15:23, 2 Sam. 12:7-14, 2 Chro. 16:7-10, Acts 11:28, Acts 21:10-11). (*1 Cor. 14:31-32 “For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.****32****The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets.)*
3. Audible Voice – be very careful about this, it would rather be that the written word is the source. Some well meaning people who claimed hearing from God are in psychiatric care.
4. Situations or Circumstances – life fleeces; be careful about this; they are tricky and can deceive us greatly.
5. **WHAT KEEPS US FROM HEARING GOD’S VOICE?**

1. Sin – cuts our fellowship with God. Isaiah 59:2 “your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.” Anything out of the commandments of God is outright sin – pride of life, disobedience, doubt/unbelief, lust of the flesh, etc. (Colossians 3:5)

2. Disobedience - He teaches us how to be led by the Spirit and not to disobey.

3. Rebellion – brings us under the curses of the devil and his attacks.

4. Impatience – we should learn to wait on God’s perfect timing. Lam. 3:25 “the Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul that seeks Him.”

5. Pride – we have to embrace humility at all costs.

6. Doubt or Unbelief – faith comes by hearing (Rom. 10:17).

The above should only serve as confirmations of what the Lord has told you already. These are unsafe as primary sources of direction as they are open to many other factors that can be controlled by God, Satan, evil men & women who have their own agendas, and others.

1. **HOW DO YOU KNOW IT’S GOD’S VOICE?** (Source: YWAM)

**There are seven ways to test what is heard:**

1. Does it agree with the Bible? The final authority is the word of God
2. Does this make me more like Christ? (James 3:14-17; Galatians 5:22-23)
3. Does my Christian community confirm it? (Ephesians 3:10; Proverbs 11:9)
4. Is it consistent with how God has shaped me? (Ephesians 2:10)
5. Does it concern my responsibility? (John 21:18)
6. Is it convicting rather than condemning? (Revelation 3:19)
7. Do I sense God's peace about it? (1 Corinthians 14:33; Philippians 4:6-7)

The Lord is not going to scream, yell and demand that you pay attention to what He is saying. He is always speaking to you (whether you are aware or not), but He speaks in “a still small voice” (1 Kings 19:12, NKJV). So to hear Him, you have to tune in and listen carefully. God speaks in a still small voice. God communicates from His Holy Spirit to your own spirit. Then your spirit communicates what you hear from God to your mind.

**CONCLUSION & APPLICATION**

**Personal Reflection:**

1. How do you know without a shadow of a doubt that you are hearing the voice of God among other voices?
2. How can you stay in-tune with God through the Holy Spirit?

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