



Salvation 101

We're glad you have chosen to find out more about our church! This class is the first of our four basic courses, an introduction to the plan of salvation and to our church family that will clearly explain who we are and what we are about.

NOTE: Scripture quotations used in our basic courses are taken from a variety of Bible versions. We use the King James Version for its ACCURACY, the New Living Translation for its READABILITY, and other versions occasionally for CLARITY.

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS



My goal in taking this class is that I will gain Biblical understanding about the experience of salvation and the role of the church in my life.

The word “church” is used **80 times** in the New Testament. Only **4 times** does it refer to the church worldwide – every other time, it refers to a **LOCAL CHURCH**. There are more than **30 commands** in the New Testament that you cannot obey unless you are a **FAITHFUL MEMBER** of a local church! Joining a church family is probably the most significant decision you will make in your Christian life.



In a family, some members are mature, some are immature, some are strong, some are weak, some are sick, some are healthy – but all are LOVED! That’s how it is at The United Pentecostal Church!

The most important thing we do in Salvation 101 is review God’s plan of salvation – after all, that’s the only way to become a Christian! Some of you may have been believers for a long time, perhaps coming from another church in another city; some of you may be brand new believers, who have never been part of any church before; some of you may have had religious teaching from a church denomination you grew up in; and some of you may still be “on the edge,” just

The L.I.F.E. Course Salvation 101

Our church exists to help people find **LIFE** in Jesus Christ by ...

- L** eading them to salvation
- I** nstructing them in maturity
- F** itting them for ministry
- E** quipping them for evangelism

considering the claims of Jesus Christ. Whoever you are – Welcome to the United Pentecostal Church!



The crucial thing is to know what the BIBLE says about salvation, not just what a CHURCH teaches. Contrary to what you might think, they are not always one and the same!

WHY AM I HERE?

Most people live their entire lives without ever knowing “**WHY?**” They exist year after year with no idea of why they live or God’s purpose for their lives. The most basic question a person can ask is, “**What is the meaning of my life?**” Everyone wants to be happy, and people try to achieve happiness in many ways:

- Some look for happiness by acquiring **possessions**.
- Some look for happiness by experiencing **pleasure**.
- Some look for happiness by gaining **prestige**.
- Some look for happiness by seeking **power**.

But real happiness only comes from finding my **PURPOSE!**

1. I was created by God to have a personal relationship with Him.

“So God created human beings, making them in His image. He blessed them, and said ... live all over the earth and bring it under control. I am putting you in charge.” (Genesis 1:27-28)

“Jesus said, ‘I have come in order that you might have life — life in all its fullness!’” (John 10:10)

2. When I love the Lord and live in harmony with His purpose, it produces incredible benefits!

Power and Strength Philippians 4:13	Real Life and Peace Romans 8:6	Help with Weaknesses Romans 8:26
Purpose Romans 8:28	Confidence Romans 8:31	Security Romans 8:39

Clear Conscience Romans 8:1	Fulfillment Philippians 4:19	Freedom John 8:32, 36
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If this is the kind of lifestyle that God intends for us to live, why are most people still searching for real happiness?

WHAT’S THE PROBLEM?

1. Man has a natural desire to be his own boss and to ignore God’s principles for living. The Bible calls this attitude SIN.

“All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, and each of us has turned to his own way.” (Isaiah 53:6)

“If we say that we never sin, we are only fooling ourselves, and refuse to accept the truth.” (1 John 1:8)

2. Sin breaks our close relationship with the Lord and causes us to try to live our lives outside of His will.

“The trouble is that your sins have cut you off from God.” (Isaiah 59:2)

“All have sinned and fall short of God’s glorious ideal.” (Romans 3:23)

3. When people have problems, they often try many different ways of coping before turning to God.

“There are ways that seem right to man, but they only end in death.” (Proverbs 16:25)

4. Even when we realize that our deepest need is God, we often try wrong ways of getting to know Him.

- “I come from a Christian family”
- “I’ll give up all my bad habits.”
- “I’ll work real hard and earn salvation.”
- “I’ll be religious and go to church.”
- “My religion teaches it a different way.”
- “It doesn’t matter what you believe – just be sincere.”
- “I’m as good as the next guy.”

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

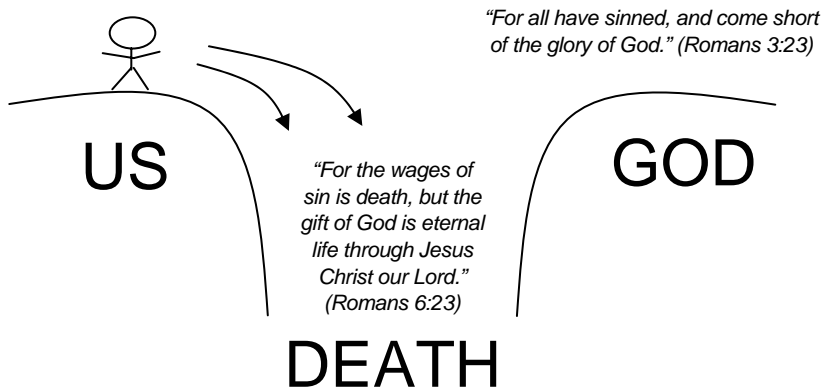
1. God came to earth as a human being to bring us back to Himself. The solution is a **SAVIOR!**

"(Jesus said) I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me!" (John 14:6)

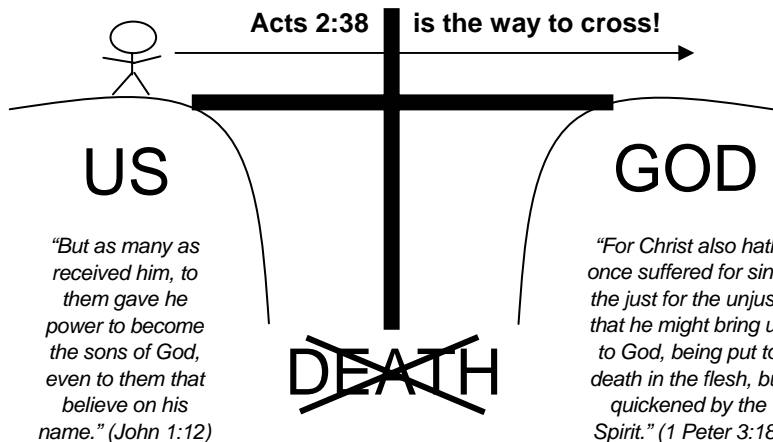


All of the major world religions attempt to **POINT THE WAY** to truth. But Jesus Christ says, **"I AM the truth!"**

2. Jesus has already taken care of your sin problem!



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



"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38)

3. God did this for us because He loves us and He wants us to have a **second chance to be His children through being BORN AGAIN.**

"God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still separated from God by sin, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

"For there is only one God, and one Mediator who can reconcile God and people. He is the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5)



God has already done His part to restore our relationship with Him. He took the initiative! Now He waits for each of us to individually receive what He has done for us.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO DO?

1. **ADMIT** that there is a problem! Tell God that you are willing to set aside your own selfish will, give Him first place in your life and receive His gift of salvation.
2. **BECOME** a Christian by obeying God's salvation plan given to us in the Bible. (God requires more than mere intellectual belief – He wants to really change your life!)
3. **COMMIT** yourself to a church family where you can receive encouragement as you begin your new life.

Faith

1. The Bible teaches that it is absolutely essential to **believe** in God, or we will never take another step toward being saved.

"So, you see, it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him." (Hebrews 11:6)

2. Faith by itself is incomplete. Believing alone doesn't constitute salvation. Real faith becomes the propelling force that causes you to act on what you believe.

"Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone." (James 2:14)

"In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." (James 2:17)



The Bible says that even demons BELIEVE in God – and tremble in terror! (James 2:19) But that doesn't mean they are SAVED!

3. Every step toward God must be accompanied by faith. Otherwise, we would never obey Him!

"For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith." (Hebrews 4:2)

"(God says) 'And a righteous person will live by faith. But I will have no pleasure in anyone who turns away.' But we are not like those who turn their backs on God and seal their fate. We have faith that assures our salvation." (Hebrews 10:38-39)

Repentance

REPENTANCE is actually the first step with action involved that we take toward salvation. Faith precedes repentance; it is the inward work that makes us want to repent. Repentance is a personal but often public step bringing about positive results in our lives. Because we have a sinful nature, and have committed sinful acts, it is essential that we repent.

1. Repentance is not the same as PENANCE, which is doing certain acts of devotion required by a priest to receive "absolution" for sin. This is not Biblical, but merely religious tradition.

"We are all infected and impure with sin. When we proudly display our

righteous deeds, we find they are but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall. And our sins, like the wind, sweep us away." (Isaiah 64:6)

2. Repentance is not merely "feeling sorry" for your sins, although that is part of it. In fact, it is this "godly sorrow" that causes us to repent!

"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death." (2 Corinthians 7:10)

3. Repentance is biblically defined as a "turning around" or an "about face" – an inward change of attitude leading to an outward change of action. Unless both of these occur, real repentance has not taken place.

"... that they should repent and turn to God, and do works and live lives consistent with and worthy of their repentance." (Acts 26:20)

"Prove by the way you live that you have really turned from your sins and turned to God." (Matthew 3:8)

4. Repentance is absolutely essential for salvation. God wants to save us, but requires us to respond to His love by turning from sin.

"Don't you realize how kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Or don't you care? Can't you see how kind he has been in giving you time to turn from your sin?" (Romans 2:4)

"People who cover over their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy." (Proverbs 28:13)

"... And you will also perish unless you turn from your evil ways and turn to God." (Luke 13:3)

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

5. When I repent, I am applying the DEATH of Christ to my life, making it effective in me!

"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there." (Galatians 5:24)

“Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin.” (Romans 6:6-7, NLT)

Water Baptism in the Name of Jesus

WATER BAPTISM is the second step that God requires in obedience to His salvation plan. **Repentance must always precede baptism**, for they work together to accomplish the forgiveness of sins. In the same way, **repentance without baptism is incomplete**. God’s Word teaches that water baptism is **ESSENTIAL** for salvation, and gives us very **specific** requirements as to the **MODE** (what is DONE) and the **FORMULA** (what is SAID) of baptism. For the purposes of our study, we are referring to baptism as a “**second step**,” but it should be remembered that there is only one **NEW BIRTH**. The Bible commands baptism in the same strong terms that it commands repentance – **they are inseparable**.

LET’S ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ...

- **WHO** should be baptized?
- **WHY** should I be baptized?
- **WHEN** should I be baptized?
- **WHAT** happens at baptism?
- **HOW** should I be baptized?

1. Who should be baptized?

- Every person who has **believed** the Gospel of Jesus Christ and **repented** of their sins.

*“Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost ... **Then they that gladly received his word were baptized ...**” (Acts 2:38, 41)*

*“But **when they believed** what Philip was saying about God’s kingdom and about the name of Jesus Christ, **they were all baptized.**” (Acts 8:12)*

- Those who are old enough to **understand** the meaning of repentance.

At The United Pentecostal Church, we wait until our children are old enough to understand the meaning of baptism before we baptize them. Some churches practice the baptism of infants, but this custom did not begin until about 300 years after the Bible was completed. This is different from the baptism that is taught in the Bible, which was only for those old enough to believe and repent. Instead of baptizing infants, we dedicate them to God in a ceremony intended to be a covenant between the parents and God. The parents promise to raise their child in the faith until he is old enough to make his own personal decision to obey the Word of God.

- Those who have been baptized previously in a **different way** than the baptism specified by the Apostles for the New Testament church.

*“Then what beliefs did you acknowledge at your baptism?” [Paul] asked. And they replied, ‘What John the Baptist taught.’ Then Paul pointed out to them that John’s baptism was to demonstrate a desire to turn from sin to God and that those receiving his baptism must then go on to believe in Jesus, the one John said would come later. **As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**” (Acts 19:3-5, TLB)*

*“On hearing this **they were baptized [again, this time] in the name of the Lord Jesus.**” (Acts 19:5, AMP)*

2. Why should I be baptized?

- To follow the **example** set by Jesus Christ.

*“At that time Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan, and came to John to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. ‘I ought to be baptized by you,’ John said, ‘yet you come to me!’ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do **all that God requires.**’ So John agreed.” (Matthew 3:13-15)*

- **Because the Lord commanded it.**

*“And [Jesus] said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**” (Mark 16:15-16)*

- **Because the Apostles preached it and the New Testament church practiced it.**

*“And [Peter] **commanded them to be baptized** in the name of the Lord ...” (Acts 10:48)*

*“And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing **believed, and were baptized.**” (Acts 18:8)*

3. When should I be baptized?

- **As soon as you have believed and repented.**

*“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and **the same day** there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” (Acts 2:41)*

*“**That same hour** the jailer ... and everyone in his household **were immediately baptized.**” (Acts 16:33)*

*“And now, **why delay?** Get up and **be baptized, and have your sins washed away,** calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)*

- **Before you “get your life straightened out.”**

We don't get good to get God, we get God to get good! If you wait around until you perfect yourself, get everything “fixed up” in your life, or feel worthy enough to be baptized, you will never do it. If you have truly repented, and are ready to leave your sin behind (with God's help), you are ready to be baptized – NOW! There is no reason to delay your obedience.

- **Promptly, without delaying for other people.**

While it is a wonderful thing for family members to witness

your baptism, or be baptized together at the same time, it is not wise to delay your obedience to the Word of God on their account. Baptism is a Bible command, not a family tradition.

4. What happens at baptism?

- **My sins are washed away or remitted, accomplishing God's full work of forgiveness.**

*“And that **repentance and remission of sins** should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” (Luke 24:47)*

*“Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins,** and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38)*

*“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and **wash away thy sins,** calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)*

- **My conscience is washed and cleansed, so I can be free from my past way of thinking.**

*“And baptism, which is a figure [of their deliverance], does now also save you [from inward questionings and fears], not by the removing of outward body filth [bathing], but by [providing you with] the answer of a **good and clear conscience** (inward cleanness and peace) before God [because you are demonstrating what you believe to be yours] through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 3:21, AMP)*

- **My body is buried in a “grave of water,” portraying the death of my old life.**

*“Have you forgotten that all of us who were baptized into Jesus Christ were, by that very action, **sharing in his death?**” (Romans 6:3)*

*“And when you were baptized, **it was the same as being buried with Christ.** Then you were raised to life because you had faith in the power of God, who raised Christ from death.” (Col. 2:12)*

- **I am born again “of the water,” portraying the birth of my new life.**

“Jesus replied, ‘I assure you, unless you are **born again**, you can never see the Kingdom of God ... The truth is, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without **being born of water and the Spirit.**” (John 3:3, 5)

- I am brought into God’s covenant of salvation, portraying the “cutting off” of my fleshly desires.

“When you came to Christ, you were ‘**circumcised**,’ but not by a physical procedure. It was a spiritual procedure—the **cutting away of your sinful nature**. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized ...” (Colossians 2:11-12, NLT)

“In Him also you were **circumcised** with a circumcision not made with hands, but in a [spiritual] circumcision [performed by] Christ by stripping off the body of the flesh (**the whole corrupt, carnal nature with its passions and lusts**). [Thus you were circumcised when] you were buried with Him in [your] baptism ...” (Colossians 2:11-12, AMP)

- I take upon myself the name of Jesus Christ, which is the only saving name.

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have **put on Christ.**” (Galatians 3:27, KJV)

“All of you who were baptized ‘into’ Christ have **put on the family likeness** of Christ.” (Galatians 3:27, PHI)

“Only Jesus has the power to save! **His name is the only one** in all the world that can save anyone.” (Acts 4:12, CEV)

“Jesus is the only One who can save people. **His name is the only power** in the world that has been given to save people. We must be saved through him.” (Acts 4:12, NCV)

- I apply the burial of Christ to my life, making it effective in me.

“We were **buried** therefore with Him **by the baptism into death**, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious [power] of the Father, so we too might [habitually] live and behave in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4, AMP)

“In other words, when we were **baptized** we went **into the tomb with him** and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father’s glory, we too might live a new life.”

(Romans 6:4, JER)

“**Buried with him in baptism**, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.” (Colossians 2:12)

- I demonstrate publicly that I am beginning a new life, committing myself to Christ and His church.

“Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and **added to the church** – about three thousand in all. They joined in with the other believers and **devoted themselves** to the apostles’ teaching ...” (Acts 2:41-42, NLT)

“That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They **committed themselves** to the teaching of the apostles ...” (Acts 2:41-42, TM)

5. How should I be baptized?

- In a PUBLIC SERVICE if at all possible ...

- Because it is a testimony to others.

Your baptism is a public declaration that you have committed your life to Christ and His church. If you choose in advance when you are going to be baptized, we encourage you to invite all your relatives and friends to attend the service. You will also be given a certificate to commemorate your baptism.

- Because it is an encouragement to you.

One of the pastors will lead the congregation (your new family!) in praying for you, then he will lower you briefly under the water and speak the name of Jesus over you. When you are raised from the water, you will sense God’s presence in a special way as everyone rejoices with you. Take advantage of this time to worship the Lord fervently – many people receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost as they rise from their “watery grave!”

- By being IMMERSED in water ...

- Because Jesus was baptized by immersion.

“After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water ...” (Matthew 3:16)

- **Because every baptism in the Bible was by immersion.**

“He ordered the chariot to stop. Then they both went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. After they had come out of the water ...” (Acts 8:38-39)

- **Because that’s precisely what the word baptism means.**

The Greek word “**baptizo**” literally means “to immerse or submerge under water.” It also has the significance of washing or cleansing oneself.

- **Because it is the best portrayal of a burial and resurrection.**

“For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.” (Rom. 6:4)

- **In the NAME of the Lord Jesus Christ ...**

- **Because every baptism in the book of Acts was performed in Jesus’ name.**

THE DAY OF PENTECOST: *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38)*

THE SAMARITANS: *“Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized **in the name of the Lord Jesus.**)” (Acts 8:15-16)*

THE HOUSE OF CORNELIUS: *“And he commanded them to be baptized **in the name of the Lord.** Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.” (Acts 10:48)*

THE DISCIPLES OF JOHN: *“When they heard this, they were baptized **in the name of the Lord Jesus.**” (Acts 19:5)*

PAUL’S BAPTISM: *“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, **calling on the name***

of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)

- **Because the epistles conclusively teach baptism in the name of Jesus.**

*“For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ** have **put on Christ.**” (Galatians 3:27)*

*“Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized into Jesus Christ** were **baptized into his death?**” (Romans 6:3)*

*“**Buried with him in baptism**, wherein also ye are **risen with him** through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.” (Colossians 1:12)*

*“And **whatsoever** ye do in word or deed, **do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” (Colossians 3:17)*

- **Because Jesus is the only name that has the power to save us.**

*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me** in heaven and in earth.” (Matthew 28:18)*

*“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him **a name which is above every name:** That **at the name of Jesus** every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil. 2:9-11)*

*“Neither is there salvation in any other: for **there is none other name** under heaven given among men, **whereby we must be saved.**” (Acts 4:12)*

- **Because Jesus is Almighty God!**

The most important reason to be baptized in the name of Jesus is that He is God! The Bible teaches that Jesus is the Father (Isaiah 9:6), the Son (Matthew 1:21), and the Holy Ghost (2 Corinthians 3:17-18). All the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Christ bodily (Colossians 2:9), and the name of Jesus represents all the power and authority of God (Matthew 28:18, Acts 4:7,10). **No wonder the Bible requires us to be baptized in Jesus’ name!**

study, we are referring to the baptism of the Holy Ghost as a “**third step**,” but we must always remember that there is only one **NEW BIRTH**.

BAPTIZED “IN THE NAME”	
<i>“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 28:19)</i>	
<i>“I am come in my Father’s name ...” (John 5:43)</i>	The Name of the Father is ...
<i>“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus ...” (Matthew 1:21)</i>	The Name of the Son is ...
<i>“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name ...” (John 14:26)</i>	The Name of the Holy Ghost is ...
<i>“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power ... Buried with him in baptism ...” (Colossians 2:9-10, 12)</i>	

JESUS

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost

Receiving **THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST** is the third step that God requires in obedience to His salvation plan. God’s Word teaches that this “Spirit baptism” is **ESSENTIAL** for salvation, and promises the Holy Ghost to every believer! The Holy Ghost is the indwelling Spirit of God, which gives us the power to live a Christian life. For the purposes of our

1. Throughout the Word of God, the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is prophesied.

- It was prophesied by Isaiah.
 - Isaiah foretells God using stammering lips and another tongue (Isaiah 28:9-12)
 - Paul makes reference to Isaiah’s prophecy in writing to the New Testament church (1 Corinthians 14:21)
 - Isaiah refers to the joyfulness of this experience as drawing water from the wells of salvation (Isaiah 12:1-6)

- It was prophesied by Joel.
 - Joel foretells the outpouring of the Spirit upon all flesh (Joel 2:28-29)
 - Peter informs us that the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) is the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy (Acts 2:16-18)

- It was prophesied by John the Baptist.
 - All four gospel writers record John’s prophecy of Christ baptizing with the Holy Ghost and fire (Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:18, Luke 3:16, John 1:33)
 - Jesus himself declared that John the Baptist was a prophet (Luke 7:24-30)

- It was prophesied by Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus alludes to the Holy Ghost as rivers of living water (John 7:37-39)
 - The Holy Ghost is the living water (John 4:10-14)
 - When Jesus spoke of being born of the Spirit, without question He meant being baptized with the Holy Ghost (John 3:1-8)
 - Jesus foretells of the coming Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost (John 14:16-17, 14:26, 15:26, 16:7-13)
 - Jesus promises His followers that they will be baptized with the Holy Ghost shortly after His ascension to heaven (Acts 1:5)
 - Jesus ascended to heaven to fulfill all these promises (Acts

2:1-4)

2. What is the Holy Ghost? First and foremost, it is the Spirit of God. Each of the following are synonymous terms ...

- It is called the Spirit of Christ.
 - The terms “Spirit of God” and “Spirit of Christ” are used interchangeably because Jesus is God (Romans 8:9-11)
 - Jesus spoke of being WITH us and also being IN us; the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of God coming into our lives (Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:16-18)
- It is called a baptism.
 - The Holy Ghost is an “immersion” of the Spirit; God’s Spirit baptizes us into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13)
 - Being baptized with the Holy Ghost completes our “one baptism” into Bible salvation (Ephesians 4:5)
- It is called a birth.
 - Two distinct elements constitute the “born again” experience – water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost baptism (John 3:5)
 - Jesus likened the Holy Ghost to birth of the Spirit (John 3:6-8)
- It is called a seal.
 - God gives us the Holy Ghost to seal us until the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, 2 Corinthians 1:22)
- It is called the earnest of our inheritance.
 - As great as the baptism of the Holy Ghost is, it is only a “down payment” on what we will receive in the end if we are faithful (2 Corinthians 1:22, 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14)
 - Paul refers to this experience as “the first fruits of the Spirit” (Romans 8:23)
- It is called a rest.
 - Jesus invited us to come unto Him and find rest for our souls (Isaiah 28:12, Matthew 11:28-30)
 - In Christ, we cease from our labors and enter into the rest (“Sabbath”) of the Holy Ghost (Hebrews 4:1-11)

- It is called the spirit of adoption.
 - Through the Holy Ghost we have been adopted as sons of God (Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:4-7, Ephesians 1:5)
- It is called living water.
 - Those who have the Holy Ghost have tasted spiritual water from a “spiritual Rock” (1 Corinthians 10:1-4)
 - Living water is refreshing and revitalizing; that’s what Jesus said the Holy Ghost is like (John 4:10-14, 7:37-39)
- It is called power from on high.
 - We are weak and need power outside the human realm; God has provided this through the Holy Ghost which is power from above (Luke 24:49, Acts 2:1-4, 1 Peter 1:12)
 - The Holy Ghost gives us power to be witnesses and live as God directs us in His Word (Acts 1:8, Galatians 5:16)
- It is called the comforter.
 - Jesus calls the Holy Ghost by several names identifying His roles: Comforter, Spirit of Truth, a Guide, a Testifier and a Reprover (John 14:16-17, 14:26, 15:26, 16:7-13)

3. Who can have the Holy Ghost? The Bible teaches that God is no respecter of persons, so ANYONE can receive this wonderful gift.

- God’s promise of the Holy Ghost is to be poured out on all flesh (Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:16-17).
- John the Baptist didn’t exclude anyone in his preaching about the Holy Ghost (Matthew 3:11).
- Peter declared that the Holy Ghost was for the Jews and those “afar off” (Acts 2:39).
- God has promised to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him (Luke 11:13).
- God’s Word declares that He will give the Holy Ghost to those that obey Him (Acts 5:32).



God has given “conditional promises” to those who want the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38 is one of them – once you repent and get baptized, you

are ready to receive His gift!

4. What is the initial evidence of receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost? The Bible teaches us that it is speaking in tongues.

- When the New Testament church began on the Day of Pentecost, the disciples spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4).
- Isaiah prophesied of God giving spiritual rest and speaking to His people through stammering lips and another tongue (Isaiah 28:9-12).
- Simon the Sorcerer observed “evidence” when the Samaritans received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost by laying on of hands (Acts 8:14-20).
- Cornelius’ household, who were gentiles, spoke with other tongues when they received the Holy Ghost (Acts 10:44-48).
- Paul had this experience (Acts 9:17-18), for he spoke with tongues more than anyone in the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 14:18).
- Believers who had only experienced John’s baptism were re-baptized and spoke with tongues (Acts 19:1-6).

5. Why did God choose speaking in tongues as a sign? We cannot be absolutely sure, but we must accept His plan by faith. Here are some possible reasons ...

- God is sovereign and can do what He wants to do (Isaiah 40:13-14)
- The Bible teaches that “from the heart the mouth speaketh” (Matthew 12:34)
- The tongue (our speech) is the chief means of expression (Proverbs 18:20-21)
- The tongue is the most difficult member of the body to control (James 3:2-8)
- Speaking in tongues is an obvious, universal, external and uniform sign (Acts 11:15-17)
- God often uses things that are unusual, foolish or despised to do

His will (1 Corinthians 1:25-29)

- Speaking in tongues reverses the confusion of the Tower of Babel, showing the unity of the church
- God has historically used outward, physical signs to accompany His covenants with man
- Speaking in tongues provides “certainty” since it signifies Spirit baptism at a definite point in time

6. What will the baptism of the Holy Ghost do for me? It provides inner power to help me live for God!

- It brings me rest, peace and joy (Isaiah 28:11-12, Romans 14:17)
- It helps me pray (Romans 8:26, 2 Corinthians 14:14-15, Jude 20)
- It gives me power to witness to others about the Lord (Acts 1:8, 4:31)
- It teaches, guides and shows me things to come (John 14:26, 16:13)
- It gives me power over the enemy (Luke 10:19-20, Isaiah 59:19, 1 John 4:1-4)
- It opens the door to other Gifts of the Spirit in my life (1 Corinthians 12 & 14)
- It gives me assurance in my heart that I am truly saved (Romans 8:16)

7. How important is the baptism of the Holy Ghost? The Bible teaches that it is essential for me to receive this experience.

- The Holy Ghost is such a sacred thing that Jesus warned us not to blaspheme (“speak against”) the Holy Ghost (Mark 3:28-30).
- Without the Holy Ghost we will not be in the rapture of the church when Jesus returns (Romans 8:11, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).
- Without the Spirit of Christ we are “none of His” – we do not belong to the family of God (Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 12:3, 2 Timothy 2:19).

- The Bible teaches that we cannot even call Jesus the Lord of our lives except by the power of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 12:3).

8. I want to receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. What do I need to do?

- Believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ and repent of your sins (Luke 24:47, Acts 20:21)
- Be baptized in Jesus' name for the remission of your sins (Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38)
- Be comfortable – you don't have to be in a certain posture to receive God's gift (Acts 2:2)
- Ask and believe for God's gift – you do not have to earn it or beg for it (Luke 11:9-13, Acts 5:32)
- Offer worship to God, for nothing pleases Him more – talk to Him like you would talk to your best friend (Hebrews 13:15, Psalm 116:17)
- Let the Spirit of God submerge your spirit and flow through you (John 4:14, 7:37-38) – forget human reasoning and lose yourself in God (Isaiah 55:9)
- Become like a little child, surrender your tongue to the Spirit's control, and don't be afraid to speak in an unknown language (Matthew 18:2-4, Galatians 4:6, Isaiah 28:11, Acts 2:4, Psalm 81:10)
- Emotions become affected by what is happening in the spirit, and you may express yourself in a variety of ways – everyone is unique (Acts 13:52)
- You will be in control at all times, and can stop speaking at any time – but the Spirit baptism cannot be fully enjoyed until you drink long and deep (1 Corinthians 14:32, John 4:14, 7:37-38)



Remember that it is IMPOSSIBLE for God to fill people with His Spirit when they refuse to yield. No one can be filled with SELF and GOD at the same time. Neither can two languages be spoken at

once. Since God will not take your vocabulary away, you must VOLUNTARILY yield yourself to His control. GOD does not speak in tongues – PEOPLE speak in tongues as His Spirit gives the words. What an incredible experience it is to surrender completely to God!

“As bad as you are, you still know how to give good gifts to your children. But your heavenly Father is even more ready to give the Holy Spirit to anyone who asks.” (Luke 11:13)

The Holy Spirit is Given to “Believers”	
First believe then receive!
<i>“And these signs shall follow them that believe ...</i>	<i>... in my name ... they shall speak with new tongues.” (Mark 16:17)</i>
<i>“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water ...</i>	<i>... But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive ...” (John 7:38-39)</i>
<i>“... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ...</i>	<i>... ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38)</i>
<i>“... after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed ...</i>	<i>... ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.” (Ephesians 1:13)</i>
<i>“... how much more shall your heavenly Father give ...</i>	<i>... the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Luke 11:13)</i>
<i>“... God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ ...” (Acts 11:17)</i>	<i>“... Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” (Acts 19:2)</i>

When Jesus was crucified and buried, these were ACTS OF MEN. But when He resurrected, it was an ACT OF GOD! When we repent and get baptized, these are ACTS OF MEN (in obedience to God's Word). But when God fills us with His

Spirit, it is a miraculous ACT OF GOD!

When I receive the Holy Ghost, I am applying the resurrection of Jesus Christ to my life, making it effective in me!

The Gospel of the NT Preachers

Chart by David Bernard

All the New Testament writers and preachers taught the same salvation message in answer to the question of what a person must do to be saved. The elements (excluding faith) necessary to experience salvation in one's life as are follows:			
Preacher	Repentance	Water Baptism	Spirit Baptism
John the Baptist	Matthew 3:2,8, Luke 3:8	Matthew 3:6, Mk. 1:8, Lk. 3:3	Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16
Jesus Christ	Matt. 4:17, Mk. 1:15, Lk. 13:3-5	Matt. 28:19, Mark 16:16, Jn. 3:5, 4:1	Acts 1:4-8, Lk. 11:13, Jn. 3:5, 7:38-39, 20:22
Peter	Acts 2:38, 3:19	Acts 2:38, 10:48	Acts 2:38, 11:15-17
Philip		Acts 8:12,16	Acts 8:15-16
Ananias		Acts 22:16	Acts 9:17
Paul	Acts 17:30	Acts 19:3-5	Acts 19:2,6
Author of Hebrews	Hebrews 6:1	Heb. 6:1, 10:22	Hebrews 6:1, 10:15
John the Apostle		1 John 5:8-10	1 John 5:8-10

THE ROMAN ROAD

A Roadmap to the Plan of Salvation from Paul's Letter to the Romans

- **Romans 3:23** – How many people have sinned?
- **Romans 6:23** – What is the eternal penalty for sin?
- **Romans 5:8** – What is the only remedy for sin?
- **Romans 2:4** – What is the right response to God's love?

- **Romans 6:4** – How do I put an end to my old sinful life?
- **Romans 8:11** – Where do I get power to live a new life?

Answers: All, Death, Jesus Christ's Death on the Cross, Repentance, Water Baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Baptism of the Holy Ghost



At our church, our Mission Statement identifies “what we do,” our Statement of Faith defines “what we believe,” and our Lifestyle Statement summarizes “what we practice.” Together, they help define our PURPOSE.

Our Mission Statement

Our church exists to help people find **L.I.F.E.** in Jesus Christ by ...

L eading them to salvation
I nstructing them in maturity
F itting them for ministry
E quipping them for evangelism

Our Statement of Faith

In essential beliefs — we have UNITY.

“We are all one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future. There is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and there is only one God and Father, who is over us all and in us all and living through us all.” (Ephesians 4:4-6)

In non-essential beliefs — we have LIBERTY.

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters ... Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls ... So then each of us will give an account of himself to God ... So

whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” (Romans 14:1-22)

In all our beliefs — we show CHARITY.

“... If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains — but have no love, I amount to nothing at all.” (1 Corinthians 13:2)

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE ...

About the Bible

We believe the Bible to be inspired of God, the infallible Word of God. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” (2 Timothy 3:16)

The Bible is the only God-given authority which man possesses; therefore, all doctrine, faith, hope, and all instruction for the church must be based upon, and harmonize with, the Bible. It is given to be read and studied, and can only be clearly understood by those who are anointed by the Holy Spirit. (1 John 2:27) “No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” (2 Peter 1:20-21)

About the One True God

We believe in the one ever-living, eternal God; infinite in power, holy in nature, attributes and purpose; and possessing absolute, indivisible deity. This one true God has revealed Himself as the Father, in creation; through His Son, in redemption; and as the Holy Spirit, by emanation. (1 Corinthians 8:6, 2 Corinthians 5:19, Joel 2:28, Ephesians 4:6)

“The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord.” (Mark 12:29, Deuteronomy 6:4) “One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” (Ephesians 4:6)

Before the incarnation, this one true God manifested Himself in various ways. In the incarnation, He manifested Himself in the Son, who walked among men. As He works in the lives of believers, He manifests Himself as the Holy Spirit.

About the Son of God

We believe the one true God, Jehovah of the Old Testament, took upon Himself the form of man, and as the Son of man was born of the virgin Mary. “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto

the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” (2 Timothy 3:16) “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.” (John 1:11) This one true God was manifest in the flesh, that is, in His Son Jesus Christ. “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.” (2 Corinthians 5:19)

We believe that “in [Jesus] dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” (Colossians 2:9) “For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell.” (Colossians 1:19) Therefore, Jesus in His humanity was man; in His deity He was and is God. His flesh was the lamb, or the sacrifice of God for our sins. He is the only mediator between God and man. “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” (1 Timothy 2:5)

Jesus on His Father’s side was divine, and on His mother’s side was human. Thus, He was known as the Son of God and also the Son of man, or the God-man. “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given ... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the prince of peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

About Human Beings

In the beginning God created man innocent, pure and holy; but through the sin of disobedience Adam and Eve, the first of the human race, fell from their holy state, and God was forced to banish them from their paradise in the Garden of Eden. Thus, by mankind’s disobedience, sin entered into the world and the human family. (Genesis 1:27, Romans 3:23, 5:12) Although every human being has tremendous potential for good, each of us is marred by our inborn sinful nature and its actions, separating us from God and causing many problems in our lives. All men are eternally lost outside of the redemptive work of Christ. (Ephesians 2:12, Galatians 2:15-16, 5:6, Romans 3:23-26, 6:23, Mark 16:16)

About Salvation

We receive salvation not by our own merit, but by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are made partakers of this salvation through obeying the Gospel in repentance from sins, baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and by receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the initial sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. We are baptized by this one Spirit into the Body of Christ. (Romans 5:1, 6:1-6, 6:17, Ephesians 2:8, Acts 2:38, 1 Corinthians 12:13) There is no salvation outside of obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

About Holiness

Godly living must characterize the life of every child of the Lord, and we must live according to the pattern and example given in the Word of God. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." (Titus 2:11-12)

Issues of holiness are not salvation issues in and of themselves; rather, they are Christian maturity ("sanctification") issues. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14) However, if we choose not to obey God in these areas, our willful disobedience will eventually become a salvation issue. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 2 Corinthians 6:17 - 7:1)

About Eternity

We believe in the personal and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ to "catch away" His church (the Rapture), and in a subsequent period of intense distress for those who remain on the earth (the Tribulation), which will be followed by the Lord's personal return to earth with His saints to rule for one thousand years (the Millennial Reign). Thus, the people of God should earnestly and hopefully look forward to the Second Coming of Christ. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, Acts 1:11, 3:19-21, 2 Thessalonians 2:1, 1 Corinthians 11:26, 15:51-54, Philippians 3:20-21, Revelation 22:20, Titus 2:13-14, Matthew 24) In the end, all the dead will be summoned before the Great White Throne for their final judgment, and all whose names are not found written in the Book of Life will be cast into the Lake of Fire. (Matthew 25:41, Revelation 20:15, 21:8) The redeemed will live for all eternity in the presence of God. (Revelation 21:2-4, 21:23-27, 22:3-5, 22:14) Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

Our Lifestyle Statement

Many people say that they believe the Bible, but beliefs are not worth much unless they are translated into **ACTIONS**. Based on what the Bible teaches, we feel very strongly about the following practices ...

A *attitude of submission*

The Bible teaches that every believer needs to be a faithful and committed member of a local church family, and strongly emphasizes that we must be submitted to God, to the spiritual

leadership He has placed in His body, and to one another. By placing ourselves in submission to our pastoral leadership, we receive the spiritual protection and accountability we need.

"Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they know they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this joyfully and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit." (Hebrews 13:17)

P *priesthood of every believer*

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to "full time" Christian service, regardless of their vocation. We emphasize the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service in the local church. Every believer has direct, personal access to God through the Bible and prayer.

"But you are God's chosen and special people. You are a group of royal priests and a holy nation. God has brought you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Now you must tell all the wonderful things that he has done." (1 Peter 2:9)

O *overcoming spiritual life*

We understand that the only way possible to live the Christian life is by the power of the Holy Ghost within us. So we practice the daily spiritual disciplines of prayer and Bible reading, and cultivate a dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to overcome sinful thoughts and actions and do what is right.

"So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The old sinful nature loves to do evil, which is just opposite from what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are opposite from what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, and your choices are never free from this conflict." (Galatians 5:16-17)

S *sole authority of the Bible*

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is, "What does the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and helps us to do what is right.” (2 Timothy 3:15)

T *tithing to support God’s work*

The Bible teaches us to practice tithing for the support of the church, its leadership and ministries. We realize that giving ten percent of our income is God’s Biblical standard. Tithing is not the same as giving an offering. The ten percent tithe belongs to God already, and anything we give above that is an offering.

“A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” (Leviticus 26:30)

O *outward appearance*

Real Christianity affects every area of our lives, major and minor. When the Bible’s standards of godly appearance are present in a believer’s life, they indicate that a real internal change has indeed taken place. In addition to glorifying God, our personal outward holiness has the effect of testifying to others around us.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

L *lifestyle of evangelism*

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the good news of the Gospel with those God brings us into contact with. Witnessing is not only the words we say, but also the life we live in front of others. We should use every opportunity to influence others toward Christ and His church.

“Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life. Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope.” (1 Peter 3:15)

I *individuality of every believer*

We understand that every believer grows at a different rate, and is at

a different stage of development and commitment in their life with Christ. We therefore accept each person in their diversity, while encouraging all to grow to maturity in Christ.

“If our faith is strong, we should be patient with the Lord’s followers whose faith is weak. We should try to please them instead of ourselves. We should think of their good and try to help them by doing what pleases them.” (Romans 15:1-2)

C *conduct becoming a Christian*

God requires us to avoid things that defile our minds or bodies, since sinful thoughts and actions separate us from Him. Our old nature is not eradicated but merely subdued within us, so our flesh still has the ability to commit sinful acts. We alone make the choice to yield to God’s Spirit and conduct ourselves in ways that keep us close to God and away from sin.

“Therefore, come out from them and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don’t touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.’ Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete purity because we fear God.” (2 Corinthians 6:17 - 7:1)

Our Church Family

“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace ... Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40)

In the animal kingdom, no creature can grow above nine inches without a skeleton. In the same way, every local church needs a supporting structure if it is to be healthy and grow properly. Since the church is a God-ordained institution, its structure should not be determined by culture, business practices, or even denominational traditions. Rather, the **NATURE** of the church should determine its **STRUCTURE**. At The United Pentecostal Church, we believe what the church is should determine how it is organized.

1. The church is a FELLOWSHIP.

- **The top priority in a fellowship is unity.**

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond

of peace.” (Ephesians 4:3)

- **Any attitude that causes disunity is sin.**

“Now, dear brothers and sisters, I appeal to you by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to stop arguing among yourselves. Let there be real harmony so there won’t be divisions in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose.” (1 Corinthians 1:10)

2. The church is a FAMILY.

- **Families operate on the basis of relationships, not rules.**

“You should be like one big happy family, full of sympathy toward each other, loving one another with tender hearts and humble minds.” (1 Peter 3:8)

- **The stronger the relationship, the fewer rules you need.**

“(A Pastor) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his family, how can he take care of God’s church?” (1 Timothy 3:4-5)

3. The church is a BODY.

- **We are a body, not a business. We are an organism, not an organization.**

“And the church is his body; it is filled by Christ, who fills everything everywhere with his presence.” (Ephesians 1:23)

- **We therefore function on the basis of spiritual gifts, not merely elected offices.**

“There are different ways God works in our lives ... A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.” (1 Corinthians 12:6-7)

4. The church is a FLOCK.

- **It is therefore cared for and led by shepherds.**

“To the elders I say ... Be shepherds of God’s flock, serving as overseers ...” (1 Peter 5:1-2)

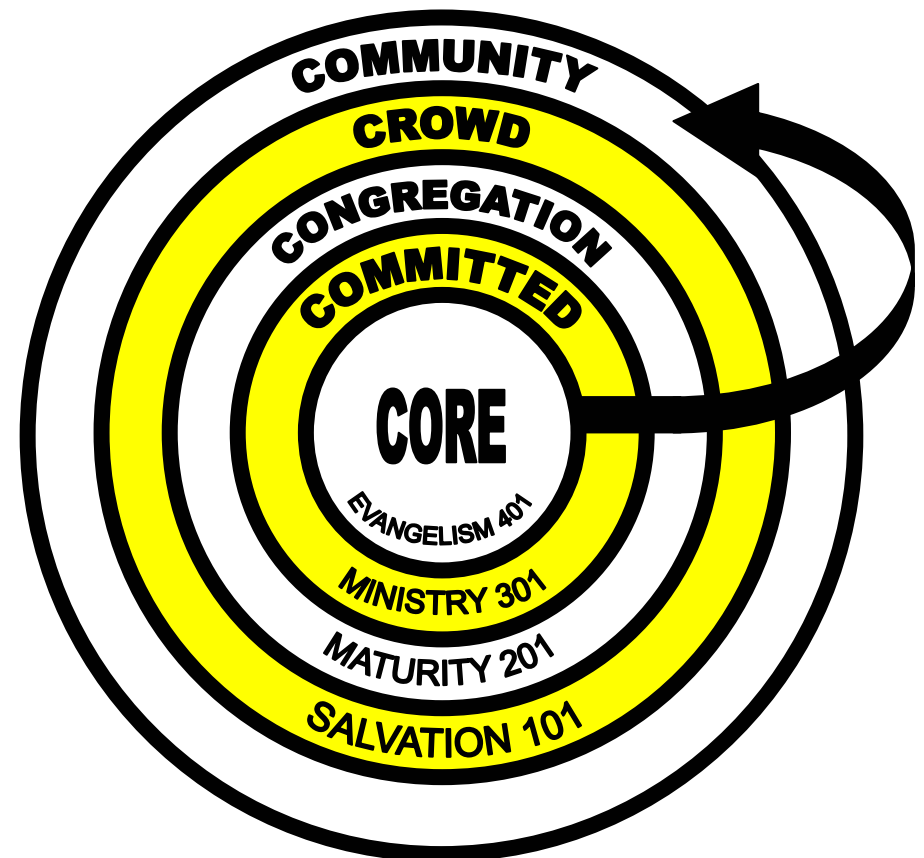
- **This Biblical structure frees the pastors to be the**

administrators and the people to be the ministers.

“God gave ... some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God’s people for works of ministry ...” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

At The United Pentecostal Church, our process for seeing lives changed by the power of God can be diagrammed in five concentric circles, as illustrated below. Our goal is to keep people moving from the outside to the center by encouraging spiritual commitment.

Your Commitment



As you move through these five circles, along the way you will be asked to make **FOUR COVENANTS** with God and your church family: a **Salvation** Covenant, a **Maturity** Covenant, a **Ministry** Covenant, and an **Evangelism** Covenant. At our church, we never ask our members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches, but we do expect them to do the things the Bible expects of every Christian. And we do ask people to enter into these three covenants because **WE BECOME WHAT WE ARE COMMITTED TO.**



The difference between church attenders and church members, and between the spiritually immature and the spiritually mature can be summed up in just one word – COMMITMENT!

The difference between being an attender and a member is like the difference between living together and getting married. If two people are just living together there is no commitment; either one can walk away at any moment. Marriage means you are committed for the duration!

A person who says, “I’m committed to Jesus Christ but I don’t want to be committed to a local church,” is obviously a very immature believer. The Bible tells us that the church is the Body of Christ on earth and the Bride of Christ in Heaven. Jesus gave His life for the church. The more like Christ we become, the more we are willing to give our lives for the church! Church membership is not just a ritual; it is a step in your spiritual development.

At our church, we recognize the need for a **COMMITMENT** to a local church family for the following reasons ...

1. A Biblical reason
(our example is Christ’s commitment to the church)
2. A cultural reason
(It is an antidote to our society’s lack of commitment)

3. A practical reason
(It defines who can be counted on by the leadership)
4. A personal reason
(It produces spiritual growth in the individual)

Congratulations! You have now completed the first level of United Pentecostal Church’s basic courses, Salvation 101.

My Salvation Covenant

Having experienced Bible salvation, as taught in the book of Acts, I now wish to become a member of the United Pentecostal Church family. In doing so, I declare before God and the members of my church ...

I have experienced the New Birth (Acts 2:38) ...

- By repenting of my sins
- By being baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of my sins
- By receiving the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues

I will protect the unity of my church ...

- By submitting to the leadership
- By acting in love toward other members
- By resolving conflicts in a Biblical manner

I will share the responsibility of my church ...

- By praying for its leadership and growth
- By being faithful in my attendance
- By inviting the unchurched to attend and welcoming those who visit

Signed: _____

Dated: _____