

ACCESS CLASS: SESSION ONE THE JOURNEY TO BELONG

Session 1 Prayer Initiators and Passionate People

In the ACCESS classes, we emphasize what we believe to be critically important aspects of being part of the most powerful network in the Universe, namely the Kingdom of God.

In ACCESS, we will look at 12 building blocks for the Kingdom network to work most effectively in your life. These 12 building blocks are discussed under the following headings:

1. Prayer Initiators
2. Passionate People
3. Spirit Empowered
4. Worship Oriented
5. Evangelistically Motivated
6. Fully Participating
7. Growing Holistically
8. Bible Centered
9. Missions Engaged
10. Purposeful Stewards
11. Relationally Based
12. Accountable Leadership

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PRAYER INITIATORS

- Every believer must be active in fervent, continual and heartfelt prayer on an individual, family and corporate (church) level.

What is Prayer?

- A reverent petition made to God, a god, or another object of worship.
- An act of communion with God, a god, or another object of worship, such as in devotion, confession, praise, or thanksgiving

Prayer is Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication; to make a humble, earnest petition

Ten Basic Prayer Requirements

1. _____
 - a. Come like a little child. You don't need to be an expert. Just show up and talk!
2. _____
 - a. Be transparent and loving in your approach to God.
3. _____
 - a. Knowing who you are in relationship to God and acting accordingly.
 - b. Know who you are in relationship to the adversary and act accordingly
4. _____
 - a. God knows everything. Confess sins and weaknesses. Be real (David's psalms)
5. _____
 - a. Don't need to use many words. (Example: the Lord's prayer)
6. _____
 - a. Put your heart into it, not just your head. (Examples: Elijah and David's psalms)
7. _____
 - a. Pray without ceasing (I Thess. 5:17)

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8. _____
 - a. Being open and attentive to what the Lord's responses are to your questions and petitions
9. _____
 - a. Not every thing you say in prayer and hear in prayer should be shared beyond the prayer closet. Discernment is important.
10. _____
 - a. Be consistent. Make it a lifestyle, not just an occasion.

Different Kinds of Prayer

James 5:13-18

1. _____ (13-16)
 - Is any of you in trouble? HE should pray
 - Emphasis on YOU, personal prayer
2. _____
 - Any sick? HE should call for the elders
 - Again, personal responsibility to let elders know of your need for prayer.
3. _____
 - Pray for each other that you may be healed
 - Notice that we must confess our sins
 - *Isaiah 59:2: If we regard iniquity in our heart . . .*
 - *II Chronicles 7:14: If my people . . . turn from their wicked ways*
4. _____
 - The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much
 - Elijah's passionate prayer
 - Effectual: *effective, brings about results*
 - Fervent: *having or showing great intensity of spirit, hot, burning, glowing to boil, passionate*

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PASSIONATE PEOPLE

- Every believer embracing and living life to the fullest
- Jesus came to the church at Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7) and rebuked them for forsaking their first love
- They lost their passion for the Lord
- They lost their passion for the lost
- We must constantly make sure that we don't neglect our relationship with the Lord and become uncaring towards those we come in contact with
- When we are passionately in love with the Lord and we love our neighbors as ourselves, an abundance opens up within us, which becomes the fountainhead for a prosperity of the spirit, mind and body of the believer

Passion: *Force that creates new life --we are all here because of it!*

Definition: Compelling emotion; strong, amorous feeling, love; a strong fondness, enthusiasm or desire for something; suffering of Christ subsequent to last supper

Observation: What you fill your senses with, will become your passion

Five Things Passionate People Do

John 12:1-8

Passionate People _____ (v. 3)

Passionate People _____ (vv. 4-5)

Passionate People _____ (v. 3)

Passionate People _____ (v. 7)

Passionate People _____

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Things To Do

- Read about Daniel's dedication to prayer in Daniel 6
- Make a list of at least ten things to talk to God about
- Stick a note in your wallet/check book, on your steering wheel, mirror or another place to remind you to pray
- Set a time and place to spend at least ten minutes daily to pray. Increase that time as you discover the benefits of prayer.
- Talk to God today while sitting in traffic or standing in line at the store or anywhere else that allows you an extra moment
- Make a list of things that take away from your focus on God. Declare in your heart and with your mouth that nothing will cause you to lose your first love passion for God.
- Make a list of ten people you should pray for and reach out to in the next week.
- Pray for your pastor and leadership team. Pray for the finances and growth of the Church at South Las Vegas
- Commit to show up for at least one corporate prayer meeting per week.
- Commit to worship God with total abandon and with a holy passion

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Session 2

Spirit Empowered and Worship Oriented

SPIRIT EMPOWERED

- Every believer living a Spirit filled life, displaying the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit and empowered for God's work.

Acts 1:4b;8

Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you heard me speak about . . . But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

How Do We Become Spirit Empowered?

1. _____
 - a. **(Acts 1: One place and in one accord)**

2. _____
 - a. *Blessed are the **pure** in heart: for they shall see God. (Matt 5:8)*
 - b. *Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a **pure** heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. (Psalm 24:33)*

3. _____
 - a. Acts 1: They were constant in prayer; Acts 4: They were in corporate prayer

4. **Anticipation**
 - a. Attitude of expectation

5. **Hunger**
 - a. Desperation

6. **Willingness to be a witness**

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7. Childlike Faith

- a. Cannot please God w/out it!

8. _____

- a. Jesus said "Wait," and they did until they received, even though it took ten days

What Are The Evidences of A Spirit Empowered Life?

1. _____

- a. Heavenly prayer language; unknown earthly language as a sign to unbelievers

2. _____

- a. Timid Peter became a bold witness

3. _____

- a. People healed and delivered (Acts 3)

4. _____

- a. 3000 on Day of Pentecost

5. _____ of the Spirit (Gal 6)

- a. **Love**
- b. **Joy**
- c. **Peace**
- d. **Kindness**
- e. **Goodness**
- f. **Faithfulness**
- g. **Gentleness**
- h. **Self control**

6. _____ of the Spirit (I Cor. 12 & 14)

i. **The word of wisdom**

- a. Supernaturally disclosing the mind, purpose, and way of God as applied to a certain person or specific situation.

j. **The word of knowledge**

- a. A supernatural revelation of information

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pertaining to a person or event, given for a specific purpose, usually having to do with an immediate need.

k. The gift of faith

- a. A unique form of faith that goes beyond natural faith or saving faith. It supernaturally trusts and does not doubt with reference to the specific matters involved.

l. Gifts of healings

- a. Those healings that God performs supernaturally. The plural suggests that as there are many sicknesses and diseases, the gift is related to the healing of many disorders.

m. The working of miracles

- a. A manifestation of power beyond the ordinary course of natural law. It is a divine enablement to do something that could not be done naturally. Supernatural power to intervene and counteract earthly and evil forces.

n. Prophecy

- a. A divine disclosure on behalf of the Holy Spirit, in response to the Holy Spirit's prompting; an edifying revelation of the Spirit for the moment prompting exhortation or comfort (14:3, 30)

o. Discerning of spirits

- a. The ability to discern the spirit world, and especially to detect the true source of circumstances or motives of people

p. Different kinds of tongues

- a. The gift of speaking supernaturally in a language not known to the individual. These could be known languages or unknown spiritual languages

q. The interpretation of tongues

- a. A gift of interpreting an unknown language for the edification of the listeners

- **All of these gifts are given by the Holy Spirit for the building up and edification of the church. The Spirit distributes these supernatural gifts as He will. We can and should eagerly desire these gifts. You have not**

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because you ask not.

- It is our desire that the Church at South Las Vegas will be a church that operates in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

What Are The Benefits of A Spirit Empowered Life?

1. The ability to discern _____

- a. John 16:13, *However, when He, the Spirit of Truth has come, He will guide you in all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears he will speak; and he will tell you things to come.*

2. The ability to _____

- a. Romans 8:26
 1. Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered.
- b. You don't know how to pray in your own strength
 1. The Holy Spirit is the power source in your prayer life
 2. When you are weak, then you are strong in Him
 - a. Weakness in the Kingdom of God is just a sign of strength, when you know that you need help from the Lord

3. The release of _____

- a. The Holy Spirit imparts gifts
 1. Spiritual gifts are supernatural gifts given by God to be used in ministry to people
- b. Supernatural Gifts are for today and not just for one historical setting
 1. The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8)
 2. We must learn to hunger for, embrace and use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives and at church

4. Great anointing

5. Great boldness

6. Great Vision and Revelation

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7. **Great Results**
8. **Great Resiliency in the face of opposition**
9. **Great Love for God and others**
10. **Great Rewards**

WORSHIP ORIENTED

- Every believer having a lifestyle of worship.

Definition: Worship

“reverent honor and homage paid to God or a sacred personage, or to any object regarded as sacred. Adoring reverence or regard.”

The Bible says in **John 4: 23** “But the hour is coming and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.”

Psalm 22:3

“Yet, you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.”

- David is worshipping God and he states first that GOD IS HOLY.

We must understand that we are worshipping and praising a holy God.

- Second, he reveals that God is ENTHRONED in the praises of Israel.

By our praise and worship, we build a throne for the God we are worshipping. The word enthroned or inhabits means this: to sit down, to remain, to settle, or to literally come and be married to.

Your praise and worship builds a throne for God to come and sit, settle and remain in your situation.

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“The word enthroned indicates that wherever God’s people exalt His name, He is ready to manifest His kingdom’s power in the way most appropriate to the situation.” –Jack Hayford

In fact, praise and worship create an entry point for God’s kingdom to come and His will to be done in human circumstances.

What throne would be built if everybody worshipped like you do regularly? Would it be an apple crate or a magnificent throne?

What do you give a God who has everything? You give Him praise and the worship He deserves!

When we get people to really worship, we will see things that we never saw before. We will build an entry point for God to explode onto the scene of our circumstances and challenges.

Who are we worshipping? A Holy God

What happens when we worship? We are building a throne for God to come and sit, settle and saturate our environment with His Kingdom rule and power. We build an entry point for God’s Kingdom and perfect will to enter our impossible situations.

John 12: 1 -8

6 Characteristics of Worship

1. It is _____ Not Corporate v. 3

2. It is _____ Not Cheap v. 3

3. It is _____ Not Chaotic v. 3

4. _____ Not Clear (to the uninitiated) v. 4 – 6

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5. _____ Not Caustic v. 7

6. _____ Not Confined v. 8

Conclusion

1. Begin today to have an attitude of Worship
2. Begin today to have actions of Worship
3. Begin today to think on God, who He is and, what He has done
4. Begin today to read a Psalm a day to get the Spirit of Worship moving in your life
5. Begin today to listen to worship music

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Session 3

Evangelistically Motivated & Fully Participating

EVANGELISTICALLY MOTIVATED

1. Every believer active in _____ & _____

- **Definitions**

Evangelistically

NOUN:

1. Zealous preaching and dissemination of the gospel, as through missionary work. 2. Militant zeal for a cause.

OTHER FORMS:

e·van gel·is tic (-j -l stk) — adjective

e·van gel·is ti·cal·ly —adverb

Motivated

TRANSITIVE VERB:

Inflected forms: **mo·ti·vat·ed** ,**mo·ti·vat·ing** ,**mo·ti·vates**

To provide with an incentive; move to action; impel.

OTHER FORMS:

mo ti·va tor —NOUN

1. **Vision for** _____

1 *A song of ascents.* I lift up my eyes to you, to you whose throne is in heaven. 2 As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he shows us his mercy. (Ps 123:1-2)

2. **Vision for** _____

“Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. 3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. (Hab 2:2b)

3. **Vision for the** _____

35 Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. (Jn 4:35)

2. **Born Again To** _____

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John 3:5-8

5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no-one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Gen. 1:28

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.

Four Major NT Scriptures (Turn to each of these)

1. Matt. 28:18 (Great Commission)
2. Acts 1:18 (Be my witnesses)
3. Mk. 1:17 (Fishers of men)
4. John 15:1-8 (Vine/branches)

Yet, 95% of Christians don't lead one person to Christ. ***Why is that?***

3. Different Reasons For Not Sharing

1. Fear of _____
2. Easier not to bother
3. _____ opposition
4. _____ about responsibility
5. Fear of _____
6. Not fully convinced of _____
7. Past _____
8. _____ don't call to evangelize

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4 Different Styles

1. _____ (Turn or burn approach)
2. Intellectual (Paul with the Greeks and Jews)
3. Testimonial (Until Jesus came . . .)
4. Relational (Friendship evangelism)
5. Statistically Most Successful?
 - a. _____% gave heart because of a friend
 - b. _____% of people in a church service because of a friend

5 Evangelism With The Roman Road

Illustration:

Someone once said, "All roads lead to Rome."

Paul gave us a great road map to lead others to saving faith in Christ in the book of Romans. Few seem to have yet appreciated its riches. Let us learn how to appropriate it in all aspects of our relationships, witnessing experiences and correspondence.

Rom 3:10

"As it is written, 'There is none righteous not even one.'"

Rom. 3:23

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Rom. 5:12

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world and death through sin and so death spread to all men because all sinned."

Rom. 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Rom. 10: 9-10

"If you confess with your mouth, Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the

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heart man believes resulting in righteousness and with the mouth he confesses resulting in salvation."

Illustration:

Pastor Joel Osteen, of Lakewood Church in Houston asks people to pray this simple prayer each week. "Lord Jesus, I repent of my sins and ask you to come in to my life as my Savior and Lord." That is a great summary of Rom. 10:9-13

Rom. 10:13

"For whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

Call out to the Lord for His saving power to rescue you from the kingdom of darkness, from self-destructive sinful chains and from a life that is headed for hell, judgment and eternal separation from God. Do not just think you can do this with a flippant attitude. Just as the man cried, "Jesus, save me." Do it with total sense of your need for salvation, for forgiveness and for deliverance from sin, judgment and hell and He will give you the free gift of eternal life that can never be taken away. You are the only one who can give it away.

6 What is our strategy?

1. I _____

Invest yourself. Give your time, love, energy, compassion and resources. Just be their friend. But know that this friendship will not happen by accident. You must intentionally develop relationships with people who are disenfranchised with the church. We all know that the longer we are Christians, the fewer non-Christian friends we have. I believe that a primary mark of Christian maturity is whether or not you are investing in people who are not following Christ. How are you doing? Who are you investing in?

2. I _____

There will come a time when it's right to invite them to your church. Don't be discouraged if they say no. And don't take it personally if

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you they say yes and don't show. Most importantly, don't dump them as friends if they won't come to church as soon as you would like. You may need to be very patient. It may take months. You may need to ask a number of times. You will need to pray with passion that God softens them and that they will eventually accept your invitation. You certainly may make a one-on-one personal invitation for your friend(s) to receive Christ. Different people will come to Christ in different ways. Some will respond to a public invitation in a worship service, others may commit to Christ in a small group or a Sunday School class, others still may say yes to the claims of Christ in a one-on-one setting. Keep the options alive and invite! By the way, who is it that you have recently invited to your church?

3. _____

Follow-up is critical. Our church has simple and obvious passageways for people to connect to the body of believers. There are many different and creative ways to connect pre-Christians our church. Your friendship and the friendship of others helps people connect, but a new believers class or discipleship process introduces them to the Word much more deeply.

FULLY PARTICIPATING

Every believer actively involved in the life of the church.

At The Church at South Las Vegas, we are actively building a community of believers who have faith in God, and whose faith is expressed in actions and works that confirm that faith in the church and community at large.

14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. (James 2:14-18)

One of the best ways to describe a person, who is fully participating, is someone who is engaged in biblical fellowship.

Acts 2:46-47

So continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

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What did they share? How did they participate?

- T _____
- T _____
- T _____
- E _____
- _____
- Knowledge and experience

Some observations regarding true followers of Christ:

- They desire to be in God's presence _____
- They are dedicated to each other
- They are devoted to the mission of evangelism and discipleship

1. The Importance of Fellowship

Disclaimer: Fellowship is not just "hanging out" together. It involves caring, sharing and reaching out. It is work, since it requires effort and dedication.

▪ I belong in God's family

Eph. 2:19 (TLB)

You are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

Rom. 12:5 (NIV)

So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

What significance does a finger have apart from the hand?
When you are missing, the body suffers loss and is less effective and efficient.

▪ I need _____ to grow spiritually

Hebrews 10:24 (Phillips)

Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds

Eccles. 4:9-10, 12 (GNB)

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Two are better than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him... Two people can resist an attack that would defeat one person alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break.

- _____ is present when we fellowship together

Mt. 28:20 (NIV)

19 "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

There is great power when people pray together (v19) See Acts

- I need _____ to grow spiritually

Prov 27:17 (JB)

Every day ... keep encouraging one another so that none of you is hardened by the glamour of sin

Prov. 27:17 (GNB)

People learn from each other, just as iron sharpens iron

Sin seems glamorous . . . outwardly it smells good, it tastes good!

- It's when sin pulls you down that you begin to realize that it is sweet in your mouth, but bitter in your stomach!
- We really need to encourage one another so we don't get trapped by the glamour of sin.

- Fellowship is a _____ to the world

Jn 17:21-23 (NIV)

21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Jn 13:35 (TLB)

Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

The world has heard the promises, they have heard about the power, but they are looking for proof!

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- I am _____ to every other Christian

The moment you become a Christian, God endows him/her with spiritual gifts

** A spiritual gift is the special ability given by God to the believer for the purpose of MINISTERING (or serving) others.

1 Cor. 12:5, 27 (TLB)

There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving ... all of you together are the one body of Christ, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.

a. 1 Pet. 4:10- (TLB)

God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other

b. Romans 12:6 NKJV

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them.

God's will is our peace and there is no other peace. God's service is perfect freedom and there is no other freedom. –Brother Andrew

WE NEED EACH OTHER! WE NEED FELLOWSHIP AND WE CANNOT BE IN FELLOWSHIP UNLESS WE FULLY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF OUR LOCAL CHURCH

The "One Anothers" of Fellowship (a partial list)

1. _____ one another (Rom 12:10)
2. _____ one another (Rom 13:8)
3. _____ one another (Rom 15:7)
4. _____ for one another (1 Cor 12:25)
5. _____ one another (Gal 5:13)
6. _____ with one another (Eph 4:2)
7. _____ to one another (Eph 4:32)
8. _____ one another (Eph 4:32)

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9. _____ to one another (Eph 5:21)
10. _____ one another (1 Thess. 5:11)
11. _____ one another (1 Thess. 5:11)
12. _____ for one another (Jas. 5:16)

As you look at this partial list, you can see that unless you show up and fully participate, we will not be able to fulfill this list of responsibilities and taste the good fruit of being a growing and maturing Christian.

The pastoral staff of The Church at South Las Vegas is committed to present our fellow believers with many opportunities to live out the full spectrum of Christian experience and to ensure the edification and mobilization of each believer.

However, it is only when we all commit to being fully involved, fully immersed and fully invested that we will realize the full potential of each believer among us.

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Session 4 Growing Holistically and Bible Centered

GROWING _____

- Every believer growing in all aspects of human life; spiritual, physical, emotional, relational, and mental.

Key Scripture- 2 John 3:1

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in ALL THINGS, and be in HEALTH, even as our SOUL prospers

Definitions

Growing: To spring up and develop to maturity

Holistically: Relating to or concerned with wholes or with complete systems rather than with the analysis of, treatment of, or dissection into parts.

Spirit

We grow from being born again (spiritual babies) into a place of knowing the foundational doctrines, moving beyond that to maturity and exercising our gifts as we serve in God's Kingdom.

Being

Unless a man is born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God (John 3:3)

_____ VS

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1 Corinthians 3:1-22:

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"; and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." Therefore let no one boast in men. For all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come--all are yours.

- Carnal, worldly
- Foundations
- Tested by Fire
- God's Temple
- Becoming a fool to be wise
- You are Christ's people

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FOUNDATIONAL DOCTRINES

Hebrews 6:1

- Foundational aspects of faith important, but only a start

SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR SERVICE

- Romans 12
- 1 Corinthians 12

Soul

We grow in the soul realm by being renewed in our minds, transforming our thoughts, desires, decisions, and emotions.

Realm of the Mind

Pursue _____

- Romans 12:2
Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by “the renewing of your mind.” Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

How do we renew our minds?

1. _____

- So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God (Romans 14:12)
- I set before you life and death, blessing and cursing, but you choose (Deut 30:19)

2. _____

- If you have some areas of your life that are not together yet, you probably need some changes in your thinking.
- My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge... (Hosea 4:6)

3. _____

- Change is a CHOICE, not a feeling

ACCESS CLASS: SESSION FOUR THE JOURNEY TO BELONG

4. _____ and take 100% of the responsibility for adopting it in the first place.
5. Replace wrong thoughts with _____
6. Practice _____ the new thoughts until you are “fully persuaded,” like Abraham was regarding God’s promises.
 - Yet, he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith, gave glory to God, being **fully persuaded** that God had power to do what He promised. (Romans 4:20-21)

Your mind consists of three parts:

1.

- Used to express desire, choice, willingness, consent, or in negative constructions, refusal
- Determination of attitudes, words, and actions

2.

- The affective aspect of consciousness: FEELING
- A state of feeling
- A psychic and physical reaction (as anger or fear) subjectively experienced as strong feeling and physiologically involving changes that prepare the body for immediate vigorous action

3.

- The power of knowing as distinguished from the power to feel and to will: the capacity for knowledge
- The capacity for rational or intelligent thought

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Body

_____ of the Holy Spirit
(1 Cor. 6)

_____ Isaiah 6:1-5 (Desire
for purity)

Temple

Woodshed or Temple?

- Nutrition
- Proper rest
- Exercise

Our bodies are the vehicles that carry us through this world. They sometimes break down, but we have a special blessing as believers:

_____ is provided for in the New
Covenant. B

By His stripes, we are healed! (1 Peter 3:24-25)

You can lengthen your physical life by obeying the 10 Commandments:
Honor your parents!

The Church at South Las Vegas wants for you a holistic growth track,
which incorporates your spiritual life, soul life, and physical life.

CENTERED

**Every believer living by the principles of the Word of God, applied to
their daily walk of faith.**

ACCESS CLASS: SESSION FOUR THE JOURNEY TO BELONG

Introduction: Parable of the Sower

- **The issue was that of the seed, the Word of God, tell on different kinds of soil.**

18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: **19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. **20** But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; **21** yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. **22** Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. **23** But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." (Matthew 13:18-23)

- Here are some lessons regarding the Word of God and those who receive it:
 1. It is possible to "not understand" the Word of God. If you don't ask for a greater understanding, the enemy will come and steal it from you.
 2. It is possible to be excited and joyful as you hear and accept the Word of the Lord. If you are not rooted and founded on the Foundation (Jesus Christ), the effects of the Word will be dissipated by the pressures of troubles or persecution which WILL COME, because of the word in your life. In such cases, the person falls away.
 3. It is possible to receive and accept the Word of God, but to be sidetracked by the worries of life and the deceitfulness of wealth or riches.
 4. Finally, and this is how we want everyone to be in our church, someone can be good soil, where the Word is understood and embraced, resulting in a crop (reward) that yield a hundred, sixty, or thirty fold.

We are to be _____

What kind of soil do you want to be for the Word of God?
You can have 100 fold return on your life!

**ACCESS CLASS: SESSION FOUR
THE JOURNEY TO BELONG**

ACCESS CLASS: SESSION FIVE

THE JOURNEY TO BELONG

Session 5

Missions Engaged and Purposeful Stewards

1 _____ Engaged

Every believer is globally minded and active in giving, praying, and going to the peoples of the world locally, regionally, nationally and internationally

DEFINITIONS

Missions

- from Latin, act of sending, from *mittere* to send
- assignment to or work in a field of missionary enterprise
- a ministry commissioned by a religious organization to propagate its faith or carry on humanitarian work

Engaged

- involved in activity :**OCCUPIED**
- greatly interested :**COMMITTED**
- to hold the attention of :**ENGROSS**

KEY SCRIPTURES

❖ Mark 16:15-18

- 15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. 17 "These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

❖ Jeremiah 31:13

- 13 Then the young women will dance and be happy, and men, young and old, will rejoice. I will comfort them and turn their mourning into joy, their sorrow into gladness

❖ Acts 2:17

- 'In the last days, God said, I will pour out my Spirit *upon all people*. Your *sons and daughters* will prophesy, your *young* men will see visions, and your *old* men will dream dreams.

❖ Rev. 5:9b

- And they sang a new song with these words: "You are worthy to take the scroll and break its seals and open it. For you were killed, and your blood has ransomed people for God *from every tribe and language and people and nation*.

❖ Acts 17:22-30

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- **22** So Paul, standing before the Council, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious, **23** for as I was walking along I saw your many altars. And one of them had this inscription on it – 'To an Unknown God.' You have been worshiping him without knowing who he is, and now I wish to tell you about him. **24** "He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, **25** and human hands can't serve his needs – for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need there is. **26** **>From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand which should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.** **27** "His purpose in all of this was that *the nations* should seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him – though he is not far from any one of us. **30** God overlooked people's former ignorance about these things, **but now he commands everyone everywhere to turn away from idols and turn to him.** **31** For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.

❖ Gal. 3:28

- There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

We must exercise _____ and ask for greater boldness!

❖ _____ ward

- **Call out for the lost: In the Gap**
Ezekiel 22:30

I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so that I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.

Psalms 2:8

Only ask, and I will give you the nations as your inheritance, the ends of the earth as your possession.

❖ _____ ward

❖ Acts 4:29

And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and **give your servants great boldness in their preaching.** **30** Send your healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus." **31** After this prayer, the building where they were meeting shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. **And they preached God's message with boldness.**

❖ II Timothy 1:7

- **7**For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. **8**So you must never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord.

❖ Romans 1:16

- For **I am not ashamed** of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes – Jews first and also Gentiles.

❖ _____ ward

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Connecting with all kinds of people wherever you go!

❖ **Acts 8:4-8**

- Those who had been scattered **preached the word wherever they went**. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. **So there was great joy in that city.**
- *Paul the apostle used to go first to his own people, then to the Gentiles (non-Jews)*

Four Powerful Ways To Be Engaged in Missions

❖ **P** _____

Mt 9:38

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Lu 10:2

Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly *is* great, but the labourers *are* few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

❖ **P** _____

Mark 16:15-18

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and **preach** the gospel to all creation.

Matt. 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **Teaching** them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you *always, even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

❖ **P** _____

Resourceful Sponsors

Acts 4:32-36

All the believers were one in heart and mind. *No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.* With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. *There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.* Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called *Barnabas* (which means *Son of Encouragement*), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

❖ **P** _____ **In The Face Of Persecution**

- **There will be opposition to the mission**
 - **Acts 6:8-11**

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- Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called) --Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia. These men began to argue with Stephen, but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke. Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak words of blasphemy against Moses and against God."
- ***There is a great reward for those who persevere in the face of opposition***
 - ***Acts 7:55***
 - But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."
 - ***Jesus arose from His throne to welcome Stephen in eternity***

"No In Outreach"

❖ ***Global***

○ **Mark 16:15-18**

- 15 And He said to them, "**Go into all the world** and preach the gospel to all creation.

❖ ***All Generations***

○ **Jeremiah 31:13**

- 13 Then the young women will dance and be happy, and men, young and old, will rejoice. I will comfort them and turn their mourning into joy, their sorrow into gladness

❖ ***All Ethnic Groups***

○ **Gal. 3:28**

- **There is neither Jew nor Greek**, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

❖ ***Both Men and Women***

○ **Gal. 3:28**

- There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, **male nor female**, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

❖ ***All Religions*** (remember Jonah; Paul on Mars Hill)

One Sows, One Waters, But Gives The Increase

Acts 2:41

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Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were **added unto them** about three thousand souls.

Acts 2:47

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord **added** to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 5:14

And believers were the more **added** to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

I Cor 3:6

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

The Field of Our Harvest Has

- ❖ Taking Goats with Sheep
 - Matthew 25: Parable of Sheep and the Goats

- ❖ Taking the _____
 - Matthew 13:30: Parable of the Wheat and the Tares
 - Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.”

- ❖ Taking the _____
 - Matthew 13:47: Dragnet parable
 - Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away.

- ❖ Taking the _____
 - Matthew 13:44: Treasure in field parable
 - The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

- ❖ Taking the _____
 - I Timothy 1:12-15: The apostle Paul
 - And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

At the Church at South Las Vegas, we endeavor to be fully engaged in the mission of reaching out to all people, in any spiritual condition, in any location, preaching the Good News and teaching them to obey the teachings of Scripture. We will reach out powerfully by means of persevering in praying, presenting the truth and paying out of

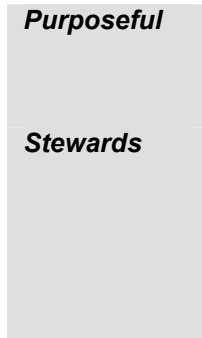
ACCESS CLASS: SESSION FIVE

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our time, talents, treasures and energy to secure an eternal harvest.

2 P _____ S _____

Every believer engaged in the planned and responsible use of their time, talents, skills and finances to further the work of the Kingdom in the local church; i.e., prosperity with a purpose



- having a purpose (something set up as an object or end to be attained : INTENTION) :
- as a: MEANINGFUL <purposeful activities> b : INTENTIONAL <purposeful ambiguity>
- one who actively directs affairs : MANAGER
- 1 : one employed in a large household or estate to manage domestic concerns (as the supervision of servants, collection of rents, and keeping of accounts)
- a fiscal agent

If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his life.

--Billy Graham

KEY SCRIPTURES

❖ Malachi 3:8-12

- "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings. _ You are under a curse--the whole nation of you-- because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit," says the LORD Almighty. Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land," says the LORD Almighty.

❖ Luke 6:38

- Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

THE POWER OF NEW TESTAMENT GENEROSITY

Acts 4:32-36

All the believers were one in heart and mind. *No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.* With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. *There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.* Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called *Barnabas*

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(which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Are You Serving God or

*?

***Strong's Definition**

3126 **mammonas** {mam-mo-nas}
Of Aramaic origin meaning (confidence, i.e. wealth, personified)

- 1) mammon
- 2) treasure
- 3) **riches (where it is personified and opposed to God)**

Mt 6:24

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Lu 16:9-10

I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. (Use money to build eternal relationships)

Lu 16:11

If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous **mammon**, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*?

Lu 16:13

No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and **mammon**.

Beware Of

❖ **Ananias and Sapphira**

❖ **Acts 5:1-5**

- Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet. Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God." When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened.

Three Ways To Give To Your Local Church

1. _____ (of your income that belongs to the Lord: aka the tithe)

- Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. (**Mal. 3:10**)

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- “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone. **(Matt. 23:23)**
2. **Bring** _____
- Give to the LORD the glory *due* His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. **(Ps. 96:8)**
 - Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. **(Phil. 4:15-16)**
3. _____ **to those in need**
- There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need. **(Acts 4:34-35)**
 - Cornelius stared at him in fear. “What is it, Lord?” he asked. The angel answered, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God. **(Acts 10:4)**

How To Give Unto The Lord

- ❖ **2 Cor. 9:6-13:** _____
- Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: “He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

Inquiry of a Troubled Investor

- ❖ **Mark 10:23-30**
- Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.” ***Peter said to him, “We have left everything to follow you!” “I tell you the truth,” Jesus replied, “no-one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age (homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields--and with them, persecutions) and in the age to come, eternal life.***

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- ❖ Hundredfold in this world and in the world to come; with persecutions

Invest In Because It Is Easy To Invest In The Wrong Direction

- ❖ **I Timothy 6:10**

- *The love of money* is a root of all kinds of evil, **for which some have strayed from the faith** in their greediness, and pierced themselves with many sorrows.
 - Don't exchange your first love for Jesus Christ for the love of money—you will stray from the faith and lose what matters most. Don't gain the world, only to lose your soul!

- ❖ **Revelations 3:14-19**

- "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm--neither hot nor cold--I am about to spit you out of my mouth. **You say, 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.'** But you do not realise that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so that you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so that you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so that you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.

At the Church at South Las Vegas, we want each believer to invest in what matters most, namely the Kingdom of God. We want each believer to be purposeful stewards of the resources and skills at their disposal, to maximize the eternal returns on our earthly investments.

- ❖ **Matthew 6:19-21**

- "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- ❖ **Hebrews 13:5**

Let your conduct be without **covetousness**; be content with such things as you have.

Covetousness is marked by inordinate desire for wealth or possessions or for another's possessions, **or** having a craving for possessions

ACCESS CLASS: SESSION FIVE THE JOURNEY TO BELONG

- Within the next year, attend a biblically based workshop on financial management
- Read the Book of Ecclesiastes and note Solomon's ultimate verdict on material wealth.
- Conduct a financial audit to determine what percentage of your discretionary income is going to charity.
- Did you pay your tithes last year? Did you give beyond the tithe in offerings and alms to the poor?

**ACCESS CLASS: SESSION SIX
THE JOURNEY TO BELONG**

**Session 6
Relationally Based & Accountable Leadership**

1 _____ BASED

Every believer is connected relationally in authentic, unified fellowship and community with other members of the church

<i>Relationally</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• of or relating to kinship• characterized or constituted by relations
<i>Based</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the fundamental part of something

Therefore, the Church at South Las Vegas is founded/based on people who are actively involved in relating to God and each other in meaningful fellowship and shared community.

KEY SCRIPTURES

❖ **Acts 2:46-47**

- So continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

The Importance of Christian Relationships

1. *I belong in God's family with other believers*

Eph. 2:19 (TLB)

You are members of God's very own family, citizens of God's country, and you belong in God's household with every other Christian.

Rom. 12:5 (NIV)

So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

- What significance does a finger have apart from the hand?
- When you are missing, the body suffers loss and is less effective and efficient.

2. *I need _____ to grow spiritually*

Hebrews 10:24 (Phillips)

Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds

ACCESS CLASS: SESSION SIX

THE JOURNEY TO BELONG

Eccles. 4:9-10, 12 (GNB)

Two are better than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him... Two people can resist an attack that would defeat one person alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break.

3. _____ *when we fellowship together*

Mt. 28:20 (NIV)

"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

4. *I need* _____ *to grow spiritually*

Prov 27:17 (JB)

Every day ... keep encouraging one another so that none of you is hardened by the glamour of sin

Prov. 27:17 (GNB)

People learn from each other, just as iron sharpens iron

- a. Sin seems glamorous . . . outwardly it smells good, it tastes good!
- b. It's when sin pulls you down that you begin to realize that it is sweet in your mouth, but bitter in your stomach!
- c. We really need to encourage one another so we don't get trapped by the glamour of sin.

5. *Christian Relationships serve as* _____

Jn 17:21-23 (NIV)

That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Jn 13:35 (TLB)

Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

- The world has heard the promises, they have heard about the power, but they are looking for proof!
- **I am obligated to love every other Christian!**

ACCESS CLASS: SESSION SIX THE JOURNEY TO BELONG

Q: How Do We Make Sure That We Have Strong Relationships at the Church at South Las Vegas?

A: By The Honor One Another System

The "One Anothers" of Godly Fellowship (a partial list)

- _____ one another (Rom 12:10)
Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.
- _____ one another (Rom 13:8)
Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow-man has fulfilled the law.
- _____ one another (Rom 15:7)
Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.
- _____ (have concern) for one another (I Cor 12:25)
so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.
- _____ one another (Gal 5:13)
You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.
- _____ with one another (Eph 4:2)
Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.
- _____ to one another (Eph 4:32)
Be kind and compassionate to one another,
- _____ one another (Eph 4:32)
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
- _____ to one another (Eph 5:21)
Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.
- _____ one another (1 Thess. 5:11)
Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.
- _____ for one another (Jas. 5:16)
Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

ACCESS CLASS: SESSION SIX THE JOURNEY TO BELONG

- The moment you become a Christian, God endows you with spiritual gifts
- A spiritual gift is the special ability given by God to the believer for the purpose of MINISTERING (or serving) others.

I Cor. 12:5, 27 (TLB)

There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving ... all of you together are the one body of Christ, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.

WE NEED EACH OTHER! WE NEED RELATIONSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP AND EACH OTHER'S SPIRITUAL GIFTS

I Pet. 4:10- (TLB)

God has given each of you some special abilities; *be sure to use them to help each other*

ACCESS CLASS: SESSION SIX THE JOURNEY TO BELONG

2

Every believer is covered by the biblical authority of an accountability leadership structure. They are leaders in the community by being under authority themselves.

Accountable	1: subject to giving an account : ANSWERABLE 2: capable of being accounted for : EXPLAINABLE 3. synonym see RESPONSIBLE
Leadership	1: the office or position of a leader 2: capacity to lead 3: the act or an instance of leading

KEY SCRIPTURES

❖ **I Thess. 2:3-4, 12**

For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men **approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God**, who tests our hearts. . . . encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

❖ **James 3:1**

Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.

The Church of South Las Vegas is a congregation under the authority of God and governed by the person of Jesus Christ, Who is the Head of the Church. The Holy Bible provides the principles by which The Church is governed and the Holy Spirit guides, informs and empowers us in every activity, procedure, action and policy.

Organizationally and in regards to accountability, the Church is an elder-driven, staff lead, and congregationally informed church.

Understanding that all authority on the earth is delegated authority that originates in God, and that authority creates a covering of accountability, the Church at South Las Vegas is structured as follows:

**ACCESS CLASS: SESSION SIX
THE JOURNEY TO BELONG**

GOD

**FATHER
SON
HOLY SPIRIT**

The Word of God

BOARD OF ELDERS

|
LEAD PASTOR

— **APOLSTOLIC ADVISORY BOARD**

|
PASTORAL TEAM

|
**CONGREGATIONAL
LEADERS**

|
CONGREGATION

The Apostolic Advisory Board

The Apostolic Advisory Board consists of leaders who operate within the five fold ministry offices of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, as defined in **Ephesians 4:11-13**

It was he (speaking of Jesus Christ) who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The Apostolic Advisory Board Consists of:

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Wendell Smith | The City Church, Seattle, WA |
| 2. | Ken Wilde | Capital Christian Center, Boise, ID |
| 3. | Pastor Iann Schonken | Family Fellowship Church, Oceanside, CA |
| 4. | Dr. Samuel Chand | SRC Dream Releasers, Stockbridge, GA |
| 5. | Bishop Eddie Long | New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA |
| 6. | Pastor Frank Damazio | City Bible Church, Portland, OR |
| 7. | John Bevere | Messenger International, Palmer Lake, CO |
| 8. | Dave Roever | Roever & Associates, Fort Worth, TX |

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The Board of Elders Consists of:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1. Benny Perez | The Church of South Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV |
| 2. Jude Fouquier | The City Church, Seattle, WA |
| 3. Mike Robertson | Visalia First Assembly of God, Visalia, CA |

For the list of our present Pastoral Team go to our website at:

www.thechurchlv.com

Every person in leadership and in a position of responsibility has a covering to which they are accountable and answerable!

The Attitude of the Leader Who Exercises True Spiritual Authority

Philippians 2:3

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ***Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:*** Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death--even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed-- not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence-- continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Four Types Of Authority

1. Civic (Political and Governmental)
2. Family (Parental)
3. Church (Spiritual)
4. Social (Teachers, Bosses, Career)

The Purposes of Authority

- They set _____ for our protection.
- They set and inflict _____ for injustices done.
- They arbitrate in the matters of indifference.
- They give _____ when direction is needed.

Church authorities

- They keep watch over our souls.
- They raise us up and train us for _____.
- They release us into _____.
- They love us, encourage us and discipline us.

ACCESS CLASS: SESSION SIX THE JOURNEY TO BELONG

- They guide us.
- They prepare the way for those behind them.

Honoring Authority

Romans 13:1-8

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you. For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow-man has fulfilled the law.

The whole topic of authority can be a very touchy subject due to the misuse of authority by people with wrong motivations. Or, it can be taken as a means to set oneself up on a pedestal. This is about neither. It is about teaching what Godly authority is and how to honor authorities.

Godly authority is about influence and responsibility (read Matthew 10:25-28) and not necessarily about control, as is often wrongly assumed.

Honor:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• to regard or treat with respect,• the value of something precious,• of the honor one has due to their rank or office held
Authority:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• the power of influence and right (privilege);• power of rule or government

- Every person alive is under some type of authority and will be until the day they die.
- Authority is a God-thing, not a man-made thing.
- By honoring authority, we honor _____. By dishonoring authority, we dishonor God.
- Authority is simply about: _____ and responsibility.
- Authority is meant to work to our advantage.
- God uses authority to establish order.
- Authority comes out of God's order, not necessarily rank or seniority.

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Covered By The Authority of God

When we use the phrase “under cover”, what thoughts come into your mind? It could range anywhere from a child being covered with a blanket to police detective work to a spy operating covertly in a foreign land. In every instance that we could think of, the phrase “under cover” always carries with it the thought of Protection and Freedom.

What can this mean to a Christian?

Psalms 91:1-2

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust."

Simply put, it means that the one dwells in the place of safety under the shadow of the cross will place his faith and confidence in Jesus and under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- ❖ Authority is one of those words that strikes fear and dread into the heart of man.
- ❖ No one will rule over me!
- ❖ I have my rights!
- ❖ I make my own decisions.
- ❖ No one likes to be under the authority of another man, but we all must realize that any authority is ordained of God.
- ❖ It is the Father who establishes those who have the rule over us and if we reject that authority then we reject the plan of God for our lives and the protection and benefits that His protection will bring.

Why do men reject authority over them?

What do you think is the root cause of so many of the battles and difficulties that we face in the modern day church?

That root cause is nothing more, and nothing less than _____ against the authority that God has placed over us because we don't like or agree with those in that position of authority.

Many Christians take the attitude that they don't need to be under submission to anyone because they can go straight to God for their leadership and answers.

None of us are above God's laws of authority. God has placed within our lives those who are in authority over us for His purpose. No matter how bad it may seem for the moment, there is no authority unless God has foreordained it.

Hebrews 13:17

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

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1 Peter 2:13-16

"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God."

1 Peter 5:5-7

"Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

Rebellion is:

- The reason why _____ --rebellion against the power and authority of Almighty God brought about by self-pride and jealousy;
- The reason why _____ --rebellion against the controlling and restricting Word of God that was meant to protect him, because Adam, like Lucifer, wanted man to be his own god and equal with God.
- The reason why many people still lose out with God--because they refuse to allow the authority of God to control their lives and retain their right to do as they please.

Sometimes that rebellion is not easy to recognize because Satan is such a great deceiver that we don't realize that we have disobeyed God until much time has past and we are trapped in our sinful condition.

At The Church of South Las Vegas, every leader and every believer must guard against the sneaky nature of rebellion by being in complete submission to the authoritative principles of God's Word, which is a revelation of His divine will and pleasure, unless we become like King Saul, in the Old Testament, who was trapped by his desire to please people more than God.

1 Samuel 15:16-23

But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and arrogance like the evil of idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has rejected you as king." Then Saul said to Samuel, "I have sinned. I violated the LORD's command and your instructions. ***I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them.***

- To obey is better than _____ (religious acts)
- To obey is better than _____ (the best you can give)
- Rebellion is like _____ (which was a death sentence)
- Arrogance (pride) is like _____ (worshipping another god, namely self)

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God's ways are good for us. Place your faith in God for He is an all-knowing and all-wise Protector of His people. His Word is sharper than a two-edged sword and He is loving and kind in His methods. God is always moving on our behalf to bring us into a place of greater joy and blessings in Him.

- God's authority brings us into _____.
- His authority is based upon _____.
- His authority is designed to prepare us to receive our great eternal reward.
- God's authority is also designed to give us the best in this life!

That's why we must be willing and ready to submit to His great authority in our lives!

Practical Ways to Honor Authority

Honoring authority is to respect and value those in authority over you because of the influence and responsibility they carry for your life.

1. Love them _____ (1 Peter 4:8).
2. Submit to them _____ (Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-17).
Submit: a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility & carrying a burden
3. Protect their _____ (1 Timothy 2:19).
4. Serve them gladly (Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 6:5-8; 1 Peter 4:10). Serve them the way that you have been gifted to serve.
5. Challenge them righteously (Matthew 18:15).
 - Pray over the alleged offense and get God's perspective.
 - Go to them within three days privately, without speaking to anyone else first.
 - Appeal to them as a father (this will ensure the proper respect).
 - Listen to their counsel, if any, and then pray about it if needed.
 - Be sure to stay away from personal opinions and stick to scripture.
 - Give them double honor (1 Timothy 5:17-18).
6. Honor their personal time (Mark 6:30-31).
7. _____ for them _____ (1 Timothy 2:1).
8. Make their vision your vision (2 Timothy 2:1-3)

ACCESS CLASS: SESSION SIX THE JOURNEY TO BELONG

Honoring Pastors

The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. **(1 Timothy 5:17)**

Remember, to the degree that we are in submission to the authorities over us, people in our care will be in submission to our authority. The same holds true for our families. Don't expect your children to submit to your authority, if you are in rebellion against those in authority over you.

Finally, what do we do when those in authority over us require of us to do what contradicts the Word of God?

We must have a _____ and _____ attitude, like Daniel and the three Hebrew sons, when asked to worship a false god. They appealed to the higher authority of God, whilst acknowledging the authority of the unrighteous ruler. They knew that God could change their situation!

The same principle is evidenced with Peter and John, who acknowledged their rulers, the Sanhedrin, but humbly stated that they have to obey God regardless.

Proverbs 21:1

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.

Therefore,

- We _____ the king (representing governmental authorities) and
- _____ our taxes (give Caesar his due) and
- _____ in the process of determining policies and who goes into office.
- We also talk to the Ultimate Authority (_____), appealing to the Lord to give our authorities (civic, parental, church, and social) wisdom and to turn their hearts to what is right and godly.

A church whose people are accountable and submitted to authority, can exercise their divinely ordained authority and leadership in a city to great effect. They can expect signs and wonders and a great harvest of souls as they challenge spiritual wickedness in high places, because they are fully submitted to God, representing God in the earth.