



***Discovering  
Spiritual  
Maturity***

**Growing with our Heads to Be Like Christ**

**Building Lives Class #201**

## **WELCOME TO CLASS 201 DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL MATURITY**

We're glad you signed up! This class is the second of Parkway Church's four basic classes. Since these classes build on each other, you must first attend Discovering Church Membership #101 before taking this class.

### **THE PURPOSE FOR TAKING THIS CLASS**

*"... that you may become mature Christians and may fulfill God's will for you."*  
Colossians 4:12 (PH)

*"We are not meant to remain as children ... but to grow up in every way into Christ ..."* Ephesians 4:14-15 (PH)

### **THE FOCUS OF THIS CLASS**

We will focus on the FOUR BASIC HABITS every Christian needs to develop in order to grow to spiritual maturity.

### **WHAT IS SPIRITUAL MATURITY?**

*"... in the unity of the common faith, and common knowledge of the Son of God, we arrive at real maturity – the measure of development which is meant by "The Fullness of Christ."* Ephesians 4:13 (PH)

SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS \_\_\_\_\_ .

*".... Then we will be mature, just as Christ is, and we will be completely like him."*  
Ephesians 4:13 (CEV)

### **FACTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATURITY**

1. IT'S NOT \_\_\_\_\_ - IT IS A \_\_\_\_\_.

*"You have been Christians a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others, but instead ... you need someone to teach you ... When a person is still living on milk, it shows he isn't very far along in the Christian life ... He's still a baby Christian!"* Hebrews 5:12-13 (LB)

*"Continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ ..."*  
2 Peter 3:18 (GN)

There are no shortcuts!

2. IT TAKES \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Take time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit."* 1 Timothy 4:7b (PH)

*"...discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness."* 1 Timothy 4:7b (NASB)

## UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP

1. Mature believers are called \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. I cannot be a disciple without being \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. The more disciplined I become, \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. The mark of a disciple is \_\_\_\_\_ .

*(Jesus) "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23*

HOW CAN I BECOME A DISCIPLE? Develop \_\_\_\_\_ .

*"... You have put off the old self with its HABITS, and have put on the new self ... which God is continually renewing in his own image, to bring you to a full knowledge of himself."  
Colossians 3:9-10*

## FOUR HABITS OF A DISCIPLE

### 1. TIME WITH GOD'S WORD

*"If you **continue in my Word**, then you are my disciples indeed. And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32*

### 2. PRAYER

*"If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, then you will **ask for anything you wish**, and you shall have it ... in this way you become my disciples." John 15:7-8 (GN)*

### 3. TITHING

*"None of you can be my disciple unless **he gives up all his possessions**." Luke 14:33 (JB)*

*"The purpose of tithing is to teach you **always put God first** in your lives."  
Deuteronomy 14:23 (LB)*

### 4. FELLOWSHIP

*" ... Love each other just as much as I love you. **Your strong love for each other** will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:34-35 (LB)*

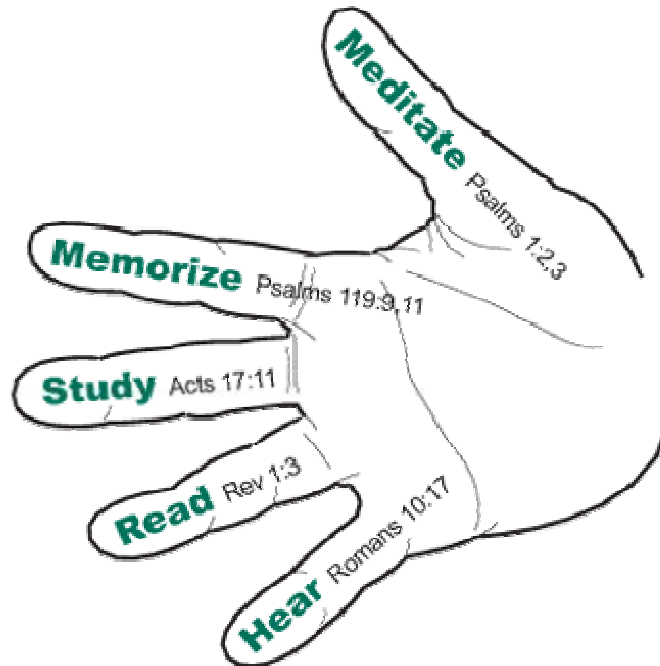
# **THE HABIT OF A DAILY TIME WITH GOD**

**“But the man who looks into the perfect mirror of God's law, the law of liberty (or freedom), and makes a habit of so doing, is not the man who sees and forgets. He puts that law into practice and he wins true happiness.”**

**James 1:25 (Ph)**

## TIME WITH GOD'S WORD

### How to Get a "GRASP" on the Bible



### HEARING GOD'S WORD

"So faith comes by **hearing**, and **hearing** by the word of God." Romans 10:17 (WEV)

**At church**

**At home**

**Anywhere**

### READING GOD'S WORD

"Happy is the one who **reads** this book ... and obeys what is written in it!" Revelation 1:3 (GN)

How often should I read God's Word? \_\_\_\_\_.

(The Scriptures) "He should keep it with him all the time and **read from it every day of his life**. Then he will learn to respect the LORD his God, and he will obey all the teachings and commands." Deuteronomy 17:19 (LB)

### SUGGESTIONS

Read it systematically.

Bible without notes.

Read it in different translations. (For reading: New Living Bible & Good News)

Read it aloud quietly to yourself.  
Underline or color code key verses.  
Choose a reading plan and stick with it.

If I read approximately \_\_\_\_\_ minutes a day, I can read through the Bible once a year.

**A BIBLE READING PLAN  
THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 30 DAYS**

1. Matthew 1-9	16. Acts 15-21
2. Matthew 10-15	17. Acts 22-28
3. Matthew 16-22	18. Romans 1-8
4. Matthew 23-28	19. Romans 9-16
5. Mark 1-8	20. 1 Corinthians 1-9
6. Mark 9-16	21. 1 Corinthians 10-16
7. Luke 1-6	22. 2 Corinthians 1-13
8. Luke 7-11	23. Galatians - Ephesians
9. Luke 12-18	24. Philippians - 2 Thessalonians
10. Luke 19-24	25. 1 Timothy - Philemon
11. John 1-7	26. Hebrews
12. John 8-13	27. James - 2 Peter
13. John 14-22	28. 1 John - Jude
14. Acts 1-7	29. Revelation 1-11
15. Acts 8-14	30. Revelation 12-22

**STUDYING GOD'S WORD**

"... they accepted the message most eagerly and studied the Scriptures every day ..."  
Acts 17:11 (Ph)

*"Be a good workman ... Know what His Word says and means."* 2 Timothy 2:15

The difference between reading and studying the Bible is that you \_\_\_\_\_  
when you study.

The secret of effective Bible study is knowing how to \_\_\_\_\_ .

**SIX BASIC QUESTIONS:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ ?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ ?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ ?
4. \_\_\_\_\_ ?

5. \_\_\_\_\_ ?

6. \_\_\_\_\_ ?

### SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR BIBLE STUDY

#### **“Dynamic Bible Study Methods” by Rick Warren (Victor Books)**

12 different methods are explained in simple step-by-step instructions  
(Tapes are also available)

#### **“The New Joy of Discovery in Bible Study” by Oletta Wald (Augsburg Press)**

Presents simple and practical steps for Bible Study

#### **Study Bibles:**

- The Best Personal Study Bible: “The Life Application Bible: (Tyndale)
- The Best Topical Study Guide: “Thompson Chain Reference Bible-NIV (Kirkbride)
- The Best Background Study Bible: “The NIV Study Bible” (Zondervan)
- The Best Doctrine Study Bible: “Ryrie Study Bible” (Moody)

#### **Bible Handbooks:**

- “Richard’s Complete Handbook” (Word)
- “Halley’s Bible Handbook” (Zondervan)
- “Eerdman’s Bible Handbook” (Eerdmans)

#### **Other Important Study Tools:**

- As many different translations as you can afford (These can be purchased in parallel editions)
- A complete concordance to match your translation like **Strong’s or Young’s**
- **“The New Bible Dictionary” (Eerdmans) or**
- **“The Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible” (Baker)**
- **“The New Bible Commentary” (Eerdmans)**
- **“The Moody Atlas of the Bible Lands” (Moody)**

There are a number of computer programs that have a variety of Bible translations as well as books and study tools that may be purchased separately. The programs range in price from \$50.00 for the basic version to advanced versions for \$600.00. These include:

“LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE”

“WORDsearch”

“QUICKVERSE”

“PC STUDY BIBLE”

**Pastor Kim has used Logos and WORDsearch. His favorite is Logos Bible Study Library. We have a version of Logos Bible Software by Thomas Nelson Publishers (Deluxe Bible Reference) for \$24.97.**

## APPLYING GOD'S WORD

*"Do not fool yourselves by just listening to the Word. Instead, put it into practice."*  
James 1:22

*"... Whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called in the kingdom of heaven."* Matthew 5:19

1<sup>st</sup> ask: What did it mean to the original hearers?

2<sup>nd</sup> ask: What is the underlying timeless principle?

3<sup>rd</sup> ask: Where or how could I practice that principle?

Most applications will focus on one of 3 \_\_\_\_\_ .

With God ..... Within Myself ..... With Other People

*"You know these things – now do them! That is the path of blessing."* John 13:17 (LB)

## MEMORIZING GOD'S WORD

*"... guard my words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart."* Proverbs 7:2-3 (LB)

We remember what is \_\_\_\_\_ .

*"The law you gave means more to me than all the money in the world."*  
Psalms 119:72 (GN)

## HOW TO MEMORIZE A VERSE

1. Pick a verse that speaks to you.
2. Say the reference before and after the verse.
3. Read the verse aloud many times.
4. Write out the verse on a flash card.
5. Display your verses in prominent places.
6. Always memorize the verse word-perfect.
7. Have a partner so you can check and encourage each other

## BENEFITS OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

1. It helps me \_\_\_\_\_ temptation.

*"I have hidden your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you."* Psalms 119:11

2. It helps me make \_\_\_\_\_ decisions.

*"Your Word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path."* Psalms 119:105

3. It strengthens me when I'm under \_\_\_\_\_ .

*"Never forget Your promises to me Your servant for they are my only hope. They give me strength in all my troubles; how they refresh and revive me." Psalms 119:49-50 (LB)*

4. It \_\_\_\_\_ me when I'm sad.

*"Your words are what sustain me ... They bring joy to my sorrowing heart and delight me."*  
Jeremiah 15:16 (LB)

5. It helps me \_\_\_\_\_ to unbelievers.

*"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."* 1 Peter 3:15

Suggested beginning memorization rate: 1 new verse a week.

THREE KEYS TO MEMORIZING: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY COURSE

The following verses suggest a "balance" in Scripture Memory. The verses selected are key verses in understanding the foundations of the Christian Life and Christian Growth. Do not feel tied-down to this suggested list. This is only a tool to lead you in an understanding of the importance of memorizing "key" verses.

#### **Live The New Life:**

Christ the Center	2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20
Obedience to Christ	Romans 12:1; John 14:21
The Word	2 Timothy 3:16; Joshua 1:8
Prayer	John 15:7; Philippians 4:6-7
Fellowship	Matthew 18:20; Hebrews 10:24
Witnessing	Matthew 4:19; Romans 1:16

#### **Proclaim Christ:**

All have Sinned	Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6
Sin's Penalty	Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27
Christ Paid The Penalty	Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 3:18
Salvation Not By Works	Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5
Must Receive Christ	John 1:12; Revelation 3:20
Assurance of Salvation	1 John 5:13; John 5:24

#### **Rely on God's Resources:**

His Spirit	1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:12
His Strength	Isaiah 41:10; Philippians 4:13
His Faithfulness	Lamentations 3:22; Numbers 23:19
His Peace	Isaiah 26:3; 1 Peter 5:7
His Provision	Romans 8:32; Philippians 4:19
His Help in Temptation	Hebrews 2:18; Psalms 119:9, 11

#### **Be Christ's Disciple:**

Put Christ First	Matthew 6:33; Luke 9:23
Separate From the World	1 John 2:15-16; Romans 12:2
Be Steadfast	1 Corinthians 15:58; Hebrews 12:3

Serve Others  
Give Generously  
Develop World Vision

Mark 10:45; 2 Corinthians 4:5  
Proverbs 3:9-10; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7  
Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19-30

**Grow In Christlikeness:**

Love  
Humility  
Purity  
Honesty  
Faith  
Good Works

John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:18  
Philippians 2:3-4; 1 Peter 5:5-6  
Ephesians 5:3; 1 Peter 2:11  
Leviticus 19:11; Acts 24:16  
Hebrews 11:6; Romans 4:20-21  
Galatians 6:9-10; Matthew 5:16

## MEDITATING ON GOD'S WORD

*"But they delight in the law of the LORD, **meditating on it day and night**. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do."* Psalms 1:2-3 (NLT)

Meditation is \_\_\_\_\_ about a Bible verse in order to discover how I can apply its truth to my own life.

## WHY MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE?

1. It is the key to becoming like \_\_\_\_\_ .

*"... your life is shaped by your thoughts."* Proverbs 4:23 (GN)

*"Be transformed by the renewing of your mind."* Romans 12:2

*"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His image..."* 1 Corinthians 3:18

2. It is the key to \_\_\_\_\_ prayer.

*"If you live your life in Me, and my words live in your hearts, you can ask for whatever you like and it will come true for you."* John 15:7 (PH)

3. It is the key to \_\_\_\_\_ living.

*"... Meditate on (the word) day and night, so you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."* Joshua 1:8

## FIVE WAYS TO MEDITATE ON A VERSE

1. **Picture it!** Visualize the scene in your mind.
2. **Pronounce it!** Say the verse aloud, each time emphasizing a different word.
3. **Paraphrase it!** Rewrite the verse in your own words.
4. **Personalize it!** Replace the pronouns or people in the verse with your own name.
5. **Pray it!** Turn the verse into a prayer and say it back to God.

## HOW TO HAVE A QUIET TIME

**DEFINITION:** "A Quiet Time is a daily time I set aside to be alone with God to get to know Him through the Bible and prayer."

### 1. THE IMPORTANCE OF A DAILY QUIET TIME

Your time alone with God should be the top priority in your schedule for five reasons:

1. We were \_\_\_\_\_ to have fellowship with God.

*"So God created man in His own image ..."* Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:7, 3:8

*"Look! I've been standing at the door and constantly knocking. If anyone ... opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me."* Revelation 3:20 (LB)

2. It makes us like \_\_\_\_\_ .

*"Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."* Luke 5:16 (Mark 1:35, Luke 22:39)

3. It makes us \_\_\_\_\_ as Christians.

Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Paul, etc.

4. You cannot be a \_\_\_\_\_ Christian without it!

*"Man cannot live on bread alone, but on every word that God speaks."* Matthew 4:4 (GN)

*"... I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food."* Job 23:12 (NASB)

*"How can a young man cleanse his way? By keeping to your Word."* Psalms 119:9 (Moffat)

### 2. THE PURPOSE OF A DAILY QUIET TIME

1. TO GIVE \_\_\_\_\_ TO GOD.

*"Give to the Lord the Glory due to His name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness."* Ps. 29:2

*"(Hezekiah) was successful, because everything he did ... he did in a spirit of complete devotion to his God."* 2 Ch. 31:21 (GN)

- God deserves our devotion! (Rev. 4:11)
- God desires our devotion! (John 4:23)

2. TO GET \_\_\_\_\_ FROM GOD.

*"Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk. Lead me ..."* Ps. 25:4 (LB)

3. TO GAIN \_\_\_\_\_ IN GOD.

*"Delight yourself in the Lord; and he will give you the desires of your heart."* Psalms 37:4 (KVJ)

*"... (God's) presence fills me with joy and brings me pleasure."* Psalms 16:11 (GN)

**FACT: The better I get to know Christ, the more \_\_\_\_\_ .**

The objective of your Quiet Time is not to study about Christ, but to actually spend time with Him!

## HOW TO BEGIN A DAILY QUIET TIME

### 1. SELECT A SPECIFIC TIME.

The best time to have a quiet time is when I am \_\_\_\_\_ .

#### Reasons for considering an early morning quiet time:

- The example of Bible Characters  
(Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Hannah, Job, Hezekiah, David, Daniel, Jesus, etc.)
- It seems logical to begin the day with it.  
*"The best time to tune your instruments is before you play the concert, not after!"*
- It demonstrates that meeting with God is your first priority. You give Him the first part of your day.
- You are likely to be more rested, your mind is less cluttered, and it's often the quietest time!

Whatever time you set, \_\_\_\_\_ .

### 2. CHOOSE A SPECIAL PLACE

*"Jesus left the city and went, as He usually did, to the Mount of Olives ... to pray."*  
Luke 22:39 (GN)

### 3. BEGIN WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

- \_\_\_\_\_

*"Be still, and know that I am God."* Psalms 46:10

- \_\_\_\_\_

*"Open my eyes to see wonderful things in your Word."* Psalms 119:18 (LB)

- \_\_\_\_\_

*"Whoever is willing to do what God wants will know ..."* John 7:17 (GN)

### 4. FOLLOW A SIMPLE PLAN

## ONE SIMPLE PLAN

1. Slow down and be still! Take time to prepare your heart.
2. Begin reading where you left off the day before. Read until you feel God has told you something. Then stop and think about it.
3. Write out a personal application method that is practical and possible.
4. Conclude by talking to God about what He has shown you and going over your prayer list.

## **HOW TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS WITH YOUR QUIET TIME**

1. THE PROBLEM OF \_\_\_\_\_  
Your first problem in establishing a quiet time will face you the moment you wake up each morning: Am I going to get out of bed?  
*SUGGESTIONS:*

2. THE PROBLEM OF \_\_\_\_\_  
Satan will try to use anything to get your mind to wander during a quiet time.  
*SUGGESTIONS:*

3. THE PROBLEM OF \_\_\_\_\_  
Sometimes you will feel like you're not getting anything out of your quiet time.

**Never judge your quiet time by your \_\_\_\_\_ .**

Possible Causes of Spiritual Dryness:

1. Your physical condition
2. Disobedience to God
3. Rushing your quiet time
4. Getting in a rut
5. Not sharing insights with others

4. THE PROBLEM OF \_\_\_\_\_  
Your greatest challenge will be the struggle to stay consistent. I find Satan fights nothing harder than my quiet time.  
*SUGGESTIONS: What if I miss a day?*

Don't \_\_\_\_\_ GUILT TRIP \_\_\_\_\_ .

Don't \_\_\_\_\_ .

Don't \_\_\_\_\_ GIVE UP \_\_\_\_\_ .

**It takes \_\_\_\_\_ weeks for you to become familiar with a new task. Then it takes another \_\_\_\_\_ weeks before it becomes a comfortable habit.**

*"Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't get discouraged and give up." Galatians 6:9 (LB)*

# **THE HABIT OF PRAYER**

**"Base your happiness on your hope in Christ. When trials come endure them patiently, steadfastly maintain THE HABIT OF PRAYER."**

**Romans 12:12 (Ph)**

**Rejoice always; pray without ceasing;  
in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NASB)**

WHAT IS PRAYER? \_\_\_\_\_

## ASPECTS OF PRAYER

### I. APPROACH PRAYER WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE. Matthew 6:5-8

\*\*BE \_\_\_\_\_

*"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men." Matthew 6:5 (NIV)*

\*\*Don't try to impress \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ .

\*\* BE \_\_\_\_\_ .

*"Don't recite the same prayer over and over as the heathen do, who think prayers are answered only by repeating them again and again. Remember, your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask Him!" Matthew 6: 7-8 (LB)*

### II. USE THE MODEL JESUS GAVE US (ACTS)

1. **Adoration: Praise** God for **who He is** and for **what He has done**
2. **Confess** your sin openly to God
3. Give **Thanks**
4. **Supplication: Pray** for others

\*\* One thing that MAY help you stay on task and consistent in your prayer life is  
a \_\_\_\_\_ .

## A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

"Father, I realize that I was created to have fellowship with You. Thank You for making this privilege possible through Jesus' death. I know that daily fellowship with You is to be the most important thing in my life. I now want to commit myself to spending some time each day with You in a quiet time of Bible reading and prayer. I'm trusting in Your strength to help me be consistent. In Jesus' name, Amen."

# **THE HABIT OF GIVING**

## ***Honoring God With My Giving***

**“On every Lord’s day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for this offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn.”**

**1 Corinthians 16:2 (LB)**

## HOW MY GIVING REVEALS MY SPIRITUAL MATURITY

*"Just as you excel in everything else ... in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness ... see that you also excel in the grace of giving." 2 Corinthians 8:7*

### Key Bible Words

**I Believe:**

**I Love:**

**I Pray:**

**I Give:**

### WHY GOD WANTS ME TO GIVE Seven Benefits to My Life

1. GIVING MAKES ME \_\_\_\_\_.  
*"God so loved the world that He gave his only Son ..."* John 3:16
2. GIVING DRAWS ME \_\_\_\_\_.  
*"Where your treasure is, there your heart is also."* Matthew 6:21
3. GIVING IS THE ANTIDOTE TO \_\_\_\_\_.  
*"Command those who are rich in the present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to be generous and willing to share. In this way ... they may take hold of the life that is truly life!"* 1 Timothy 6:17-19
4. GIVING STRENGTHENS \_\_\_\_\_.  
*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of your income, and he will fill your barns to overflowing."* Proverbs 3:5-9  
  
*"Give and it will be given to you ... For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you."* Luke 6:38
5. GIVING IS AN INVESTMENT \_\_\_\_\_.  
*"... Giving happily to those in need, always be ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this, they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven – it is the only safe investment for eternity."* 1 Timothy 6:18-19 (LB)
6. GIVING BLESSES ME \_\_\_\_\_.  
*"A generous man himself will be blessed."* Proverbs 22:9  
  
*"A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."* Proverbs. 11:25  
  
*"Good will come to him who is generous ..."* Psalms 112:5
7. GIVING \_\_\_\_\_.  
*(Jesus) "There is more happiness in giving than receiving."* Acts 20:35  
  
*"The people rejoiced ... for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord."* Proverbs 11:25

## WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT TITHING

WHAT IS TITHING?

"Tithe" means "a \_\_\_\_\_ part."

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A "TITHE" AND AN "OFFERING"?

- A "tithe" is giving \_\_\_\_\_ of my income.
- An "offering" is anything I give \_\_\_\_\_ my tithe.

### WHY SHOULD I GIVE? 8 REASONS FROM GOD'S WORD

1. Because God \_\_\_\_\_ .  
*"A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy." Leviticus 27:10*
2. Because Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ .  
*"Yes, you should tithe, and you shouldn't leave the more important things undone either." Matthew 23:23*
3. Giving demonstrates that God has \_\_\_\_\_ .  
*"... the purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your life."  
Deuteronomy 14:23 (LB)*
4. Giving reminds me that \_\_\_\_\_ was given to me by God!  
*"Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth." Deuteronomy 8:18*
5. Giving expresses my \_\_\_\_\_ .  
*"How can I repay the Lord for all his goodness to me?" Psalms 116:12  
"Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you." Deuteronomy 16:17*
6. God says that refusing to give is \_\_\_\_\_ from Him!  
*"God says, 'Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!' But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' God says, 'In tithes and offerings... Bring your whole tithe to My house.'" Malachi 3:8-10*
7. Giving gives God a chance to prove \_\_\_\_\_ and wants to bless you!  
*"Bring your whole tithe in my storehouse. Test me in this "says the Lord," and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you won't have room enough for it! I will prevent pests from devouring your crops and the vines in your fields will be protected from plagues." Malachi 3:10*
8. Giving proves that I \_\_\_\_\_ .  
*(Jesus) "If you really love me do what I command." John 14:15*  
  
*"... I want you to be leaders also in the spirit of cheerful giving ... this is one way to prove that your love is real, that it goes beyond mere words." 2 Corinthians 8:7b-8 (LB)*

## WHAT SHOULD I GIVE?

The \_\_\_\_\_ part of what I earn, not the \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income ..."* Proverbs 3:9-10

## WHERE SHOULD I GIVE?

Where I \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Bring your whole tithe to My storehouse (Temple) ..."* Malachi 3:10

## WHEN SHOULD I GIVE?

You should tithe \_\_\_\_\_.

*"On the first day of the week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you to earn."*

1 Corinthians 16:2 (LB)

## HOW TO REMEMBER

- Keep a ledger Book – Account #1: My Gifts to God
- Use weekly envelopes
- Teach your children to give

## GIVING WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDES

◆ Give \_\_\_\_\_.

*"For if the willingness is there, your gift is acceptable according to what you have, not according to what you don't have."* 2 Corinthians 9:12

*"Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under pressure ..."* 1 Corinthians 9:7a

◆ Give \_\_\_\_\_.

*"They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service..."*

2 Corinthians 8:3-4

◆ Give \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows generously will reap generously."* 2 Corinthians 9:6

## **THE KEY TO GIVING**

**“... THEY FIRST GAVE THEMSELVES TO THE LORD ...”  
2 CORINTHIANS. 8:5**

### **A COMMITMENT PRAYER**

“Father, I know You love me and want what’s best for me. I recognize that all I have, or will ever have, comes from You. I am more interested in pleasing You than in having more possessions. I want You to have first place in my life and I am willing to begin tithing as You have commanded. Out of gratitude for all You’ve done for me, and in expectations that You will continue to provide for me, I commit myself to returning first of all I have back to You. I want to begin investing for eternity. Help me remain faithful to this commitment.  
In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

# **THE HABIT OF FELLOWSHIP**

*Participating in God's Family*

**“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing.  
Instead let us encourage one another ...”  
Hebrews 10:25 (GN)**

## WHY IS FELLOWSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ IN GOD'S FAMILY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.

*"Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."*  
Galatians 6:10

*"You are a member of God's very own family ... and you belong in god's household with every other Christian."* Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

*"So in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others!"* Romans 12:5

2. I NEED \_\_\_\_\_ TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

*"Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and do good deeds."* Hebrews 10:24 (Ph)

*"Two are better off than one ... 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 men can resist an attack that would defeat one man alone. A rope made of three cords is hard to break."* Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12 (GN)

*"People learn from one another just as iron sharpens iron."* Proverbs 27:17 (GN)

3. CHRIST IS \_\_\_\_\_ WHEN WE FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER.

*"For whenever two or three people have come together in my name, I am there, right among them!"* Matthew 18:20 (Ph)

4. FELLOWSHIP IS A \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE WORLD.

*(Jesus) "My prayer for all of them is that they will be of one heart and mind ... so the world will believe you sent me."* John 17:21 (LB)

*"Your strong love for each other will prove to the world that you are my disciples."*  
John 13:35 (LB)

5. THERE IS \_\_\_\_\_ WHEN PEOPLE PRAY TOGETHER.

*"Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven."* Matthew 18:19 (GN)

## HOW CAN A LARGE CHURCH MAINTAIN CLOSE FRIENDSHIPS?

EVERY MEMBER NEEDS TO BE A PART OF A \_\_\_\_\_ .

*(They met) "day after day, in the Temple courts and from house to house."* Acts 5:42

2 Types of Church Meetings

• Large Group: \_\_\_\_\_

• Small Group: \_\_\_\_\_

"Greet the church that meets in their home." Romans 16:5  
Also: Acts 2:26, 8:3, 16:40, 20:20, 1 Corinthians 16:19, Colossians 4:15

At Parkway, we believe our church must grow \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ at the same time.

## **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR SMALL GROUPS?** **Acts 2:42-47**

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."*  
Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
"They DEVOTED THEMSELVES to the apostle's teaching..."
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
"...and to the fellowship..."
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
"...and to the breaking of bread..."
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
"...and to prayer..."
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
"...they gave to anyone as he had a need..."  
  
"...you shared with me the fellowship of giving and receiving." Phil. 4:15 (Ph)
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
"...they are together with glad and sincere hearts..."
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
"praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people..."
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
"And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

## HOW TO START AND MAINTAIN THESE FOUR HABITS

STEP ONE: \_\_\_\_\_

You must start with a strong desire. You must be internally motivated. External motivations don't last. If you start only half-heartedly, you will never make it to the success point.

STEP TWO: \_\_\_\_\_

Begin right now! Don't wait. Don't procrastinate. If you always wait until tomorrow, it will never happen.

STEP THREE: \_\_\_\_\_

Announce your intentions publicly. The power of a vow is awesome. It is particularly powerful if you put your commitment in writing and tell others about it.

*"Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them..." Psalms 76:11*

STEP FOUR: \_\_\_\_\_

Don't allow an exception until the new habit is securely rooted in your life. Continuity at the start is essential of a habit. Don't allow yourself the opportunity to make an excuse.

STEP FIVE: \_\_\_\_\_

Whenever you feel the slightest urge or prompting to practice this new habit, DO IT!! Don't wait. Seize every opportunity to reinforce your habit.

STEP SIX: \_\_\_\_\_

Get a partner who will support you and encourage you. Find someone who is willing to hold you accountable and check up on you especially in the early days before the habit is firmly rooted in your life.

*"Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively. If one of them falls down, the other can help him up." Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 (GN)*

STEP SEVEN: \_\_\_\_\_

Rely on God's power to help you establish the habit. Satan is going to try everything he can to keep you from developing that habit. With God's strength, your job becomes easier.

*"For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead, His Spirit fills us with power, love, and **self-control**." 2 Timothy 1:7 (GN)*

*"For it is God who is at work within you, giving you **the will and the power to achieve His purpose**." Philippians 2:13 (Ph)*