



ALWC Leadership Equipping 2018

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Section 1: About Abundant Life Worship Center

About Abundant Life Worship Center

We are a network of believers in Jesus Christ, committed to fulfilling our God given vision and mission:

Vision

Through the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ, we will positively and eternally impact our homes, church, community, marketplace, and the lives of thousands of people, and we will see the Kingdom of God manifested everywhere we go.

We will to this by:

- The **Motivation of Love**,
- The **Guidance of the Word of God**, and
- By the **Power of the Holy Spirit**

We will see our cities, our county, and the State of California be transformed by the Kingdom of God.

Mission

Walk in Love, Make Disciples, Manifest Abundant Life.

- **Walk in Love** – Experience the Love of God and express it to those who we encounter. The great commandment. **Matthew 22:36-40**
- **Make Disciples** – Maximize our positioning with people by introducing them to the transforming power of the Gospel. The great commission. **Matthew 28:16-20**
- **Manifest Abundant Life** – Be open and allow the power of the Gospel to transform us from where we begin, to God's expected end for us. The purpose of the church. **John 10:10**

Guiding Principles

We are committed to establishing and expanding the Kingdom of God everywhere we go by living out the following guiding principles, which are the cornerstone of our ministry and decision making.

1. The Word of God (Bible) is the final authority. **2 Timothy 3:16.**
2. We teach people to know Jesus and the Word of God for themselves (Jesus and His Word are one). **2 Peter 1:3-4, John 1:1-5.**
3. It was Jesus' purpose to give Abundant Life, which begins at the moment of redemption/salvation (Abundant Life is manifestation of the Kingdom of God). **John 10:10.**

4. Prayer is the highest privilege/weapon in the life of the Believer. **Hebrews 4:16** and **2 Corinthians 10:4-5**.
5. The Love Walk: Loving God as a worshipper and loving people as God loves us. **Matthew 22:37-39** and **John 13:34-35**.
6. The least person in the Body of Christ has been anointed for impact, blessed to be a blessing, and gifted with a purpose (Called to fruitfulness). **Matthew 11:11-12**.
7. Everything we do is worship (unto the Lord), we therefore do everything with excellence. **Colossians 3:17, 23**
8. Evangelism is reaching the lost and guiding them in discipleship and transformation. **Matthew 28:19-20**.
9. The Church is the people, not the building or the programs. **1 Peter 2:5**.
10. Every person in the Body of Christ has a responsibility for Building Relationships: **2 Peter 2:1-2**.
 - Paul Relationships – The Mentor/Teacher
 - Barnabus relationships – The Co-Laborer/Friend
 - Timothy Relationships – The Disciple/Spiritual Son or Daughter

Ministry Strategy (The Jesus Strategy)

Our ministry strategy is to create environments where we can lead every person to the next step with God. We want to move people from unbelief to belief, from belief to worshiper, from worshiper to disciple, from disciple to disciple maker.

- 1) **Pray** – That the Lord of the Harvest send forth “laborers” for His harvest.
(Intercession)
 - a) Praying on one accord – **Acts 1:14, 2:1**
 - b) Praying always with all manner of prayer – **Ephesians 6:19-20**
 - c) For the laborers & the harvest – **Matthew 9:37-38**
- 2) **Engage** – Deliberate Acts of Kindness (love, listen, serve [body, soul, spirit]).
Lead to believing faith (Evangelism) **Luke 10**
 - a) Move in power of the Spirit – **Luke 4:18**
 - b) Bear witness of the things Christ has taught you – **Matthew 28:20**
 - c) Motivated by Love – Choosing them – **John 15:16**
 - d) Meeting them in the Market Place/Community (Business, Government, Education)
 - i) Ministry Outreaches
 - ii) Abundant Life Groups
 - iii) In the course/rhythm of living our normal lives
- 3) **Connect** – Draw the circle of community around those that we have engaged Connect to God in Worship and connect to others in Community and Service (Prophetic and the Pastoral)
 - a) Corporate Worship and House to House Ministry - **Acts 2:42-43** - And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. NKJV
 - i) **The Apostles Doctrines** –The study of the Word of God (Bible) in a disciplined and diligent manner (**2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16**)
 - ii) **Fellowship** – Koinonia – Communication, partnership and participation in the Work of the Ministry, being involved in the work of God (**Ephesians 4:11-12**)
 - iii) **Breaking of Bread** – Being connected to others of the family of God in friendly and caring relationships by sharing, tending to each other’s needs, eating, and celebrating together (**Acts 2:44-47**).



- iv) **Prayers** – Joining together to share the power and privilege of prayer (**Matthew 18:20, Luke 18:1, Ephesians 6:18, James 5:13-15**)
- b) Pursuing love, desiring spiritual gifts (especially prophesying) **1 Corinthians 14:1**
- c) Being knit together through our provision of service (what every joint supplies) – **Ephesians 4:16**
- 4) **Train** – Help people discover their kingdom purpose and empower them to fulfill it. Teach the principles of the Kingdom (Teaching and Discipleship)
 - a) Teach people to know the Word of God, and Jesus for themselves
 - b) Teach what we have been taught – **Matthew 28:20**
 - c) Training for reigning – **Ephesians 4:7-16**
- 5) **Send** – Commission people to step out of comfort and into their kingdom purposes. Help people find their position with the Harvest by Equipping and Empowering (Apostolic Commission)
 - a) Send into the Harvest / Marketplace - **Luke 10**
 - b) Ministry of Reconciliation – **2 Corinthians 5:18-21**
 - c) Planting in New Ground – **Joshua 1**

We begin by impacting individuals, but our aim is to transform neighborhoods, communities, cities, and nations by impacting every aspect of culture with the Gospel. People are transformed by experiencing the gospel through the cycle of Spiritual Growth.

The Cycle of Spiritual Growth and Transformation

That which we refer to as spiritual growth or transformation is actually the manifestation of the wisdom of God in our lives.

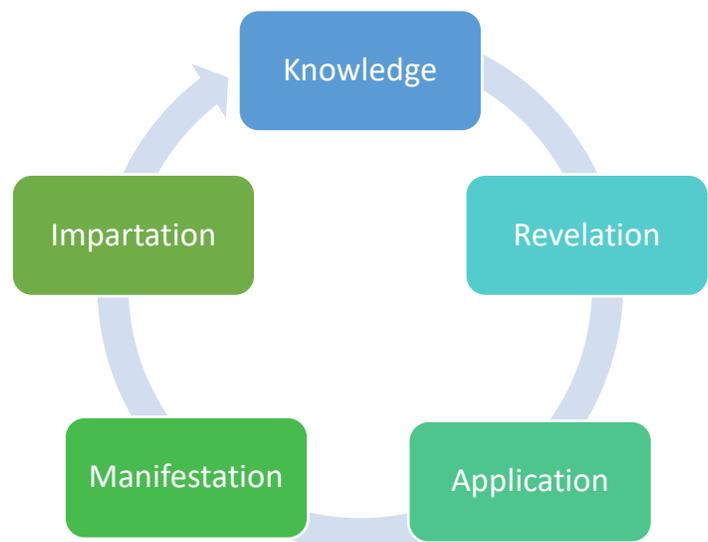
“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...”
– **Romans 12:2**

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” – **Proverbs 1:7**

But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption – **1 Corinthians 1:30**

Kingdom transformation and spiritual growth occurs through a repeating cycle of stages as observed throughout the Bible. The cycle begins with challenging of our human knowledge (world system) with the knowledge of God, and concludes with impartation of our experiences with God to others.

- **Knowledge** – Sense based knowledge or mental assent/agreement with information. **1 Corinthians 2:14** (the carnal mind cannot receive the things of the spirit)
- **Revelation** – Spiritual revelation of scripture or scriptural principles (Rhema word) personal in nature. **John 6:63** (The words[rhema] that I speak are spirit and life)
- **Application** – Applying the wisdom of scripture or scriptural revelation to one’s personal life or ministry. **James 1:22** (be doers of the Word)
- **Manifestation** – The fulfillment of scriptural promises, miracles, answers to prayer, or the manifestation of the presence or will of God. **1 John 5:14** (God will answer)
- **Impartation** – Teaching or communicating truth concerning the outcomes of God’s manifestation to those that have not yet experienced God in that way. **Matthew 28:20** (teach them what I taught you).



When we begin to impart to others, it opens the door for God to reveal new things to us and take us from faith to faith.

Five Areas of Spiritual Maturity and Transformation

The cycle of spiritual growth and transformation occurs in five distinct areas of the Christian life which represent spiritual maturity and the manifestation of Godly wisdom in our lives. Our goal should be to grow in Christ in a balanced way, avoiding neglect of any area.

- Relationship with God – Attention to knowing Christ and His Word - **Matthew 22:37**
- Relationships with People – Attention to the Kingdom relationships around us and our expressions of Godly love - **Matthew 22:37-39**
- Exercising Gifts and Talents – Focus on worshipping God through the giving back our natural and spiritual gifts and talents - **Colossians 3:17, 23**
- Healing and Wellness – Maintaining the spirit, soul, and body in order to fulfill our God given mission - **1 Peter 2:24**
- Management of Resources – Exercising stewardship of all resources entrusted to us by God. Possessions, money, time, name/reputation - **Matthew 25:14-30**



The goal of every believer should be to grow to a level of maturity in every area of their lives, recognizing that the ultimate maturity is to be fully in Christ. The outcome of all spiritual growth and maturity should be the ability to impart that which has been received from God to others.

The **Mature/Balanced Christian Life** allows our spiritual maturity in Christ to be manifested for others to experience our witness. They experience Christ in us the hope of glory – **Colossians 1:27**

The **Immature/Out of Balance Christian Life**, has an emphasis on the development of one or two areas of spiritual growth and neglects growing to maturity in any of the other areas.



Area 1: - Relationship with God

The first area of transformation in the life of the believer is relationship with God.

- Knowing God – His person, His Names, His Character, and His ways.
- Abiding in Christ – He is the vine, we are the branches, we bear fruit from Him. **John 15**
- Fellowship with the Holy Spirit – Our comforter, our guide, our source of power. **John 16**

Area 2: - Relationships with People

The second area of transformation is walking the love walk with people in kingdom relationship with us.

- The Love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. **Romans 5:5**
- Love is the character and nature of God, and therefore as we are transformed it becomes our character as well. **1 John 4:8**
- Walking in forgiveness. As you have been forgiven, you must also forgive. The source of forgiveness is faith and love. **Matthew 6:14-15**
- Walking in unity. As a member of the body of Christ, our aim is to walk in unity with the rest of the body. Avoiding strife at all costs. **Psalm 133:1, Ephesians 4:3, 13**
- Being a servant. Love requires service. Jesus came to serve us, and we have been created for good works. **Matthew 20:28, Ephesians 2:10**
- Three types of kingdom relationships:
 - Paul relationships – The spiritual father/ teacher
 - Barnabus relationships – The friend/co-laborer/partner in ministry
 - Timothy relationships – The son/daughter/disciple/ learner

Area 3: - Exercising our Gifts and Talents.

The third area of transformation is identifying and exercising our God given Gifts and Talents.

- Three types of Gifts
 - Natural Gifts – Genetic in nature. All people possess a wide range of natural gifts.
 - Spiritual Gifts – Given as the Spirit wills. All believers are endowed with the Holy Spirit, and if yielded to the Spirit, the believer can be used as an instrument by God to fulfill God's purposes and plans.
 - Ministry Gifts – The specific “office” that a believer is called to that blends the operation of natural and spiritual gifts. All believers have an office, but believers should allow the office to be revealed by operating by faith and love.
- All members of the Body of Christ have all three types of Gifts.
- Everyone should use their Gifts in proportion to their Faith. **Romans 12:6**
- Exercising of Gifts leads to fulfillment of purpose.
- Exercising of Gifts is for the profit of the whole Body of Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:7-14**

Area 4: - Health and Wellness

- The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. **1 Corinthians 6:19**
- Health and Wellness of the physical body, insure the ability to fulfill purpose.
- Jesus, “Wilt thou be made whole?” **John 5:2-9**
- Divine healing is part of the New Covenant. **1 Peter 2:24**
- Divine health is a birth right of the New Birth.
- If you are healed, do what well people do. Divine healing is maintained through the cultivation of wise health habits. "Rise, take up your bed and walk". **John 5:8**

Area 5: - Management of Resources

- Every believer is a manager/steward of the things God entrusts us with (in the home, in the community, and in the marketplace). **1 Corinthians 4:1-2, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes**
 - Family/Household/Business
 - Influence/Power/Authority
 - Name/Reputation
 - Talents (Work, Ministry, and Recreation)
 - Time
 - Treasure/Finances
- Godly Management/Stewardship requires:
 - Leadership of the Holy Spirit (self-control is a fruit of the Spirit)
 - Divine Wisdom and planning based on guidance from the Holy Spirit
 - Counting the costs
 - Consistency & Diligence

The Example of Jesus (Manifesting the Wisdom of God)

In the life of Jesus we see the pattern of the five areas manifesting:

1. **Relationship with God** – At the baptism of Jesus, the Holy Spirit descends on Him and the Father speaks, “this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”. As Jesus fulfills all righteous through the obedience of baptism, the Father manifests to the crowd His relationship with Jesus. **Matthew 3:15-17**
2. **Relationships with People** – Jesus initiates kingdom relationships with Peter and Andrew, reaching out to them and offering to teach/disciple them. “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men”. **Matthew 4:18-20**
3. **Exercising Gifts and Talents** – Jesus begins exercising the God given talents by teaching, preaching, and healing the sick. Throughout Jesus’ ministry He manifested a variety of gifts to meet the needs of people as he was lead with compassion. **Matthew 4:23, Matthew 5:1, Matthew 14:14**
4. **Health and Wellness** – During Jesus’ earthly ministry, he manifested healing for those in need that came to Him in faith. The ultimate healing of Jesus, was His resurrection from the dead. **Matthew 4:24**

5. **Management of Resources (Responsibility)** – When the multitudes gathered because of the gifts of the operation of the gifts and healings, the disciples wanted Jesus to send the people away, but Jesus responded with charging them with the responsibility of stewardship. “They do not need to go away, you feed them”. Jesus would not allow the crowds to be sent away until after their needs were met. **Matthew 14:15-22.**

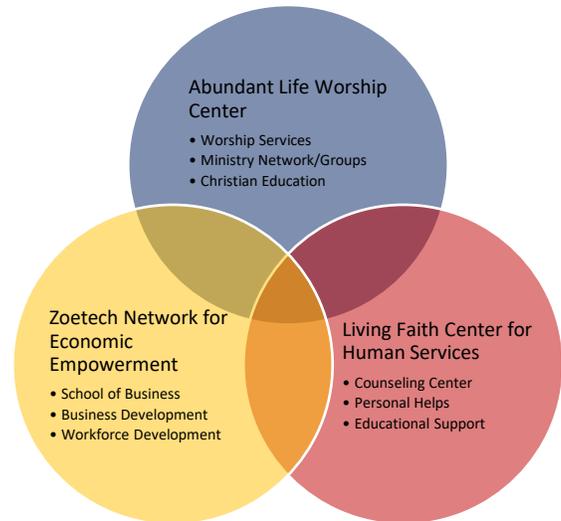
We will manifest the wisdom of God to our generations through the model of ministry that we have been given by God. Through the manifestation of our model of ministry, we will never have to send anyone away to have their needs met. We will feed them!

Model of Ministry

Ecclesiastes 4:12- *Three-Fold Cord - Ministry to and for the Whole Person*

The three-fold cord of ministry represents the full Ekklesia – The Church that Jesus said that He would build. The Gospel is to be taken to all the world (nations, neighborhoods/homes, businesses, governments, and schools). We do this through the impartation of our faith, spiritual maturity, and transformation.

- **Church - Abundant Life Worship Center** - The Worship Center is the congregation's central location for group worship, prayer, and discipleship. By faith we minister and bring healing to the spiritual condition of humanity and building a Kingdom community. **Matthew 28:19**
- **Community – Living Faith (Center for Human Services)** - Using biblical based models, The Center for Human Services, meets the physical and emotional needs of the church and community leading to personal victory in life. **Proverbs 11:14, 24:6**
- **Market Place - Zoetech Network (Network for Economic Empowerment)** - The Network for Economic Empowerment will equip entrepreneurs and business leaders with biblical principles and models of management, leadership, business development, and professional development, with an emphasis on Glorifying God in and through the Market Place. **Isaiah 48:17**



I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. John 10:10

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Ministry of Reconciliation

The three-fold cord gives us the platform to reclaim that which has already been redeemed by Christ through the Gospel. Every believer is a new creation in Christ and as such has been given the ministry of reconciliation and power to fulfill that ministry. **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

Our spiritual growth and maturity will empower us to impart the Gospel in all areas as we are revealed in Him. The world is awaiting the manifestation of the sons of God. **Romans 8:19-20**

Section 2: Implementing the Strategy

Implementing the Ministry Strategy (The Jesus Model Church)

We will fulfill our vision and mission using our ministry strategy:

Strategy through our Ministry Model

We manifest the ministry of reconciliation by leading every person we encounter to the next step with God. Move people from unbelief to belief, from belief to worshiper, from worshiper to disciple, from disciple to disciple maker. Taking the ministry of reconciliation to the church, community, and marketplace (our model of ministry, with a focus on making disciples).

- **Pray** – Make a list of people to be in intercession for and begin praying.
 - Corporate Intercession
 - Individual Prayer
 - Prayer Partners
 - Community Prayer Walks
 - Abundant Life Groups
- **Engage /Win** – Engage people with your testimony and the Gospel.
 - Family Ministry (begin at home)
 - Marketplace Ministry (where we work, shop, play)
 - Community Outreach (Schools, neighborhoods, etc.)
 - Personal Outreach (Our personal networks)
 - Abundant Life Groups
- **Connect** – Seek ways to connect people to ALWC or another body of believers.
 - Sunday Worship Services
 - Life of Faith Bible Study
 - Abundant Life Groups (Church based), DNA Groups (Marketplace based)
 - Ministry Networks
- **Train** – Personally disciple people through leading a small group.
 - Welcome to the Family
 - Cultivate Class
 - School of Leaders/Leadership Equipping
 - Witnessing Institute
- **Send** – Empower others to enter the harvest and make disciples.

Praying for the Lost

Intercession is a cornerstone of the Christian life.

Engaging with our Testimony

A 30 second testimony is a brief introduction to your personal testimony. You will develop a basic testimony using the questions below and addressing any of the five areas of spiritual maturity. In our case we are not memorizing a 30 second speech, but we are meditating on what God has already done in our lives and preparing to impart that truth to others.

After we know and are prepared with the testimony, we will allow the Holy Spirit to bring things to our remembrance when we have a divine appointment with people.

Begin your preparation by answering the following questions for one of the areas of spiritual maturity that you are at the point of impartation. Take your notes on a separate page.

1. **Knowledge** - What was the condition, situation, or concern that you were dealing with at the beginning?
2. **Revelation** - What did God reveal to you about Himself, His character, power, ability, desire, or will, that became real to you?
3. **Application** - What did that revelation show you that you needed to do, say, or become?
4. **Manifestation** - How did God manifest an answer, change, blessing, or healing for you?
5. **Impartation** - I am telling you this because.....

Connecting through the Model Church

As we engage people with our testimony and the Word of God, we need to connect them to the Body of Christ. The early church established a pattern for the focus and emphasis of day to day life in the church through their connections. If the New Testament church chooses to do these things well, we will grow and God will add to the church daily those that are being saved.

Acts 2:42

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the ***apostles' doctrine*** and ***fellowship***, in ***the breaking of bread***, and in ***prayers***. NKJV

- ***The Apostles' Doctrine*** – didache - The teachings of the ambassadors of the gospel (messengers or sent ones). See ALWC doctrinal statement.
- ***Fellowship*** – koinonia – partnership, participation, communion, communication, social intercourse. Partnership of the body of Christ.
- ***Breaking of Bread*** – sharing of meals and time. Sharing all things in common. Building loving relationships with those around you.
- ***Prayers*** – proseuche – worship, supplication, praying to God. Communion with God.

Section 3: Doctrine and Character

Importance of Doctrine and Character

Biology is the study of living things, Ecology is the study of the environment, and Psychology is the study of the mind. Theology is the study of God. True theology should be based on our hunger to know God face to face. With that in mind we will approach doctrine from that level. To know Jesus and the Godhead for ourselves so that as the elect of God we know His voice and the voice of another we will not follow.

What you believe is at the core of how you relate to Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Father. If your doctrine is off you will many times be cheated out of the abundance that God has for us in Christ.

Your doctrine will also affect your character towards God and the ministry. The key to the vision of Acts 2:42 is to create an environment where Godly character reigns and people come to experience the love of God in ways they can only imagine. Without Godly character as the foundation, the same environment can quickly descend from being a loving fellowship of believers to a place where distrust and fear of manipulation reign.

Character

Two Types of Ministry

Success in ministry is established through focus given to both private and public ministry, and the backbone of both is character. The cycle of spiritual growth and transformation builds public ministry through private ministry.

- **Private Ministry** - The ministry between the believer and God. **John 15:1**. The process in which we advance through the cycles of spiritual growth.
 - Our worship
 - Our prayer life
 - Our personal study of the Word
 - Our commitment to applying the Wisdom of the Word in our lives
 - Our commitment to standing on the Word in faith

- **Public Ministry** - The ministry of the believer to the world. **Matthew 28:16**
 - Public Ministry should always be the overflow of Private Ministry. **Acts 2**
 - Public Ministry that is not founded on private ministry is destined to fail or be destroyed by the adversary.
 - Public Ministry should be focused on impartation through love.

Building Private Ministry

1. Ministry to God – Fellowship with the Holy Spirit.
2. Developing quiet time. **Psalm 5:3**
3. The Starting point: Prayer for Guidance.
4. Reading the Word. **Psalm 119:18, 105.**
5. Four types of prayer:
 - a. Adoration/Praise - **Ps 8:1-9**
 - b. Confession & Declaration – **1 John 1:9, Romans 10:9, Hebrews 4:14**
 - c. Thanksgiving – **Ephesians 5:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:18**
 - d. Supplication – **1 John 5:14**
6. Jesus Model Prayer – **Matthew 6:5-15**
7. Beware of poisons that can paralyze and eventually destroy Christian Leadership/Leadership:
 - a. Unbelief
 - b. Discouragement

- c. Apathy
 - d. Taking offense
 - e. Developing resentment.
 - f. Strife/Division
8. Abide in Christ – **John 15: 1-8.**

Understanding Leadership

A leader is an individual that takes responsibility for influencing something. Leadership is the process of an individual being inspired to take the responsibility of maturing to become a leader. A person's leadership will be limited according to their willingness to overcome their personal roadblocks. A roadblock becomes a lid on the top of our leadership that can derail our efforts to lead. A couple of points to understand.

- Every person can choose to become a leader
- Every leader will face roadblocks (lids)
- Sometimes others will have to point out our lids
- A leader will take responsibility for lifting their own lids
- We can overcome a lid by submitting ourselves to spiritual growth

A person's maturity/influence is cultivated through the cycle of spiritual growth for the birthing of public ministry.

- Leadership is influence – it is not power or position.
- Leaders do not possess influence in every area – We can only bring influence in areas where we have been seen as overcomers or have credibility in the eyes of those we influence
- Our influence is either positive or negative – The choice is ours
- Faithful leaders use their influence to add value – Are you adding value to others or are you diminishing others?
- With influence comes responsibility – Are you prepared to take responsibility?

All public ministry is based on influence and as a result is a form of leadership. Every Christian should acknowledge that they as a believer/new creation in Christ the have been given the ministry of reconciliation (the power to influence people to be reconciled to God). This ministry becomes the first area of our leadership. Because of this ministry, we are leaders in the Body of Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:18-21**). To embrace this first area of leadership will clarify all other areas of leadership in our lives.

7 Factors of Leadership

Understanding that leadership is based on influence, there are seven factors that increase our influence and insure that we influence for kingdom purposes.

- 1) **Character** – People can sense Truth, Integrity
- 2) **Relationships** – Surround yourself with the right people
- 3) **Knowledge** – Study, learn. Know the facts. Do your homework!
- 4) **Intuition** – Energy, morale, timing, momentum. What do you feel?
- 5) **Experience** – What challenges have you had in the past?
- 6) **Past Success** – What is your track record? Have you extended yourself, taken a risk and succeeded?
- 7) **Ability** – What are you capable of? Can you be a good coach?

Three Domains of Leadership

There is no leadership without purpose, and purpose is revealed in vision. Every vision has both lifespan and seasons; and requires a specific type of leader to move a vision forward. The three seasons are:

- Vision
- Implementation
- Maintenance

A purpose is always attached to a vision and not a vision to a purpose. A leader without purpose has become a figurehead and can have no Kingdom influence. Purpose is separate and distinct from ones role in the vision. The three domains of leadership are related to the three seasons of a vision.

	Vision Casters	Implementers	Maintainers
The Exodus	Moses	Joshua	Judges
Israel	David	Solomon	Split Kingdom
New Testament Church	Paul	Timothy	Church Elders

- **Vision Casters** – Receive vision or direction from God and lead people, movements, or organizations (Kingdoms). Responsible for writing the vision and making it plain and reinforcing it through faith. (Habakkuk 2:2-4)
 - **Moses** – In the deliverance of Jews from Egypt, Moses was a vision caster. He heard from God and made God’s voice clear to the children of Israel.
 - **David** – His passion for God allowed him to lead the people of Israel in a new direction from Saul’s leadership.
 - **Paul** – Became an Apostle to the Gentiles with a new vision from God.
- **Implementers** – Partner with a vision caster to bring to life the vision and break new ground to establish the foundations and maturity of the vision.
 - **Joshua** – Under Moses, Joshua was a commander of the armies under Moses’ leadership. His responsibility was to lead the people in the vision God received from Moses. Most notable is the stand of faith by he and Caleb on entering the promised land despite the challenges that awaited them. (Later Joshua would become a visionary leader after Moses’ death)
 - **Solomon** – Solomon was hand selected by his father David who gave him God’s vision for the kingdom, which Solomon immediately began implementing.

Solomon's challenges with character ultimately blocked him from identifying a strong maintainer and after he left, the kingdom split.

- **Timothy** – Paul laid hands on this young man, and Timothy began living out his discipleship to the point of taking responsibility for leadership in the churches established by Paul.
- **Maintainers** – Partner with implementers to preserve that which has been created and guide it to the point of innovation. At the point of innovation, they must partner with or become a visionary
 - **Judges** – The book of Judges reveals a group of individuals that are called to maintain the kingdom of Israel. After Moses, and Joshua bring deliverance and set up the kingdom, the Judges maintain the order of kingdom and insure its deliverance when they get into hard places.
 - **The Split of Israel** – Because of Solomon's challenges, the kingdom split after his death. Two separate leaders divided the kingdom because there was no successor selected to maintain all of the gains through Solomon's implementation of David's plan.
 - **The church elders** – As Paul was fulfilling his apostolic ministry, he assigned leaders like Timothy to establish the church. Timothy would then turn the church over to local elders to maintain the church and to find new areas of vision to advance the church.

Section 4: What we Believe

Essential Doctrines

The Three Purposes of the Church.

The Great Commandment

Walk in Love – To God first, then towards people

1. Love God & Love People. **Matthew 22:37– 39, Mark 12:30 – 31, Luke 10:27**
2. Love identifies us as followers of Christ. **John 13:35**
3. The highest call, love. **1 Peter 4:8**
4. God is love, and we are His representatives. **1 John 4:8-16**

The Great Commission

Receive the Holy Spirit, Preach the Gospel (Good News), and Make Disciples:

1. Go into all the world and make disciples, teach them. **Matthew 28:16-20**
2. Preach the Gospel to every creature, signs will follow. **Mark 16:14-18**
3. You shall receive power when the Holy Ghost has come upon you. **Acts 1:6-8**

The Great Manifestation

Examples of God's Manifold Wisdom/Total Prosperity

1. The Church is an example to the darkness. **Ephesians 3:8-11**
2. Creation is awaiting the manifestation of the Sons of God. **Romans 8:19**
3. We are living epistles. **2 Corinthians 3:2-3**
4. Manifestations
 - a. Salvation – All that comes with it.
 - b. Authority - Over darkness, demons, and spiritual hosts.
 - c. Fruit of the Spirit – **Gal 5:22**
 - d. Gifts of the Spirit – **1 Corinthians 12**
 - e. Spiritual Gifts – **Romans 12**.
 - f. Supernatural Wisdom in the Marketplace – The Joseph Anointing
 - g. 5 Areas of Spiritual Maturity

ALWC Doctrinal Statement.

Abundant Life Worship Center accepts the Holy Scriptures (Holy Bible) as the revealed will of God, the all-sufficient rule for faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity, adopts the following statement of fundamental truths:

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is one God; eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in the blessed hope of His personal, visible, future return to this earth to receive to Himself His blood-bought church that it may be with Him forever.
4. We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ.
5. We believe that regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation.
6. We believe in the redemptive work of Christ on the cross and that it provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer.
7. We believe that, according to [Acts 2:4](#), the baptism with the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, is given to Believers who ask for it.
8. We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian enables them to live a holy life.
9. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.
10. We believe in water baptism by immersion and observance of the Lord's Supper.

(For the expanded version of the ALWC Doctrinal Statement, see Appendix A)

Fundamental Principles of Christ (Hebrews 5:12-14, 6:1-3)

1. Repentance from Dead Works
2. Faith Towards God
3. Doctrine of Baptisms
4. Laying on of Hands
5. Resurrection of the Dead
6. Eternal Judgment

Foundational Principles of Christ

Foundational Principles of Christ

The Hebrew Church was a group of individuals that had formerly been Jews but were converted to become Christians. With this background, some of them were very religious and had begun confusing Judaism and its foundations with the simple foundations of the Christian faith.

The Foundational Principles of Christ are based on the book of Hebrews chapters 5 and 6. In those passages, the writer of the book of Hebrews makes it clear that all believers should be on a path of spiritual growth, but many had regressed because that had not put the things that they had been taught about Christ into operation in their lives. As a result they needed someone to come in and start from the beginning with them. The writer in chapter 6 begin laying out the foundation.

Heb 5:12-14

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

¹³ For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. NKJV

Heb 6:1-3

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do if God permits. NKJV

The key to Hebrews 5 and 6 are that these are Elementary/Foundational Principles of Christ. Paul told the Corinthian Church that he was concerned that someone would come and corrupt them from the simplicity that is in Christ. The topics are not to be taught in and of themselves, but as they apply to Christ and in the light of the New Testament Revelation of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 11:2-4 (New King James Version)

² For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. ³ But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the

As you study, remember, that our first ministry value is ***"The Word is the Final Authority on all Affairs of Life"***. With the 6 Fundamentals of the faith, you must be willing to sort out in your mind how much of what you currently believe is based on the Word, and how much is based on tradition, assumption, or incorrect teaching.

simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴ For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

As you study, remember, that our first ministry value is "The Word is the Final Authority on all Affairs of Life". With the 6 Fundamentals of the faith, you must be willing to sort out in your mind how much of what you currently believe is based on the Word, and how much is based on tradition, assumption, or incorrect teaching.

6 Fundamentals of Christ

7. Repentance from Dead Works
8. Faith Towards God
9. Doctrine of Baptisms
10. Laying on of Hands
11. Resurrection of the Dead
12. Eternal Judgment

Foundational Principles of Christ- New Creation/New Life

The new creation life begins with repentance from dead works and extends towards the cultivation of faith towards God for our salvation.

Repentance from Dead Works

Repentance from **Dead Works** is: Having a change of heart regarding all fleshly attempts to be justified with God, besides faith in Jesus.

Ephesians 2:1-10

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been **saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ **not of works**, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. NKJV

All human or fleshly works or attempts to gain a position of justification or righteousness from God are dead works. Salvation can only come through faith in Jesus Christ.

Faith Towards God:

Faith is a generic word and can be applied in many different ways. Faith towards God is specific to Faith in Jesus Christ for the Remission of our Sins and salvation before God.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been **saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ **not of works**, lest anyone should boast

Hebrews 11: 5-6

By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, *“and was not found, because God had taken him”*; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. ⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Romans 10:8-11

⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: ⁹That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is

Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth
that you confess and are saved. ¹¹As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will
never be put to shame."

Foundational Principles of Christ- Baptisms

The Doctrine of Baptisms

In our foundational passage, the word **baptisms** is plural, but the word **doctrine** is singular. In the book of Ephesians chapter 4 you will also note that the passage makes reference to their being only **one baptism**. As we study scripture you will discover that there are references to more than one type of baptism. So the passage in Hebrews suggests that although there are several types of baptism, there is a singular doctrine attached to all baptism. The word baptism means to be dipped, immersed, plunged, or submerged. The example of how the original word **baptizo** was used in Greek culture was "the dying of a garment". This study will look at the different baptisms mentioned in scripture and what they mean to us as believers, based on the simplicity that is in Christ.

The Greek word for baptism, **baptizo** means to be immersed and an example of how the original Greek word for baptism was used in Greek culture was "the dying of a garment".

Baptism 1 - Pre-Resurrection/Old Covenant

John the Baptist - Baptism of Repentance for the Remission of Sins.

- The people of Jerusalem.
- Jewish people from all over Israel.
- Some of the Pharisees and Sadducees.
- Jesus

John the Baptist came preaching a **baptism of repentance for the remission of sins**.

Luke 3:2-3

² while Annas and Caiaphas were high priests, the word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins,

Matthew 3:11

¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

John 1:26-29

²⁶ John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. ²⁷ It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose."

²⁸ These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

John the Baptist was baptizing for the remission of sins, but declared that Jesus was the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. So by this confession John was declaring that his baptism was not one that brought salvation, but was a preparation of their hearts to receive Jesus.

The disciples of Jesus began baptizing people who were responding to the messages of Jesus, but Jesus himself baptized did not participate in this baptism before the cross and resurrection. In this case they were still participating in the baptism of John for the remission of sins.

John 4:1-2

¹ Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John ² (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples),

What the Baptism from John the Baptist means for us:

The baptism of John the Baptist was intended to prepare the hearts of the people for Jesus. It is not applicable to the New Testament believer.

Discussion Questions regarding Baptism

Question 1

Was John the Baptist a New Covenant Prophet?

Question 2

Can salvation come from John's baptism?

Question 3

How many types of baptism are represented in Matthew 3:11?

Question 4

What baptism was Jesus referring to for Himself in Luke 12?

Question 5

Did Jesus baptize anyone in His earthly ministry?

The Baptisms of Jesus

One of the individuals baptized by John the Baptist was Jesus.

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ And John *tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"*

¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit *it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.*" Then he allowed Him.

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Luke 3:21-22

²¹ When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

In Luke 12, Jesus refers to another baptism that He must experience.

Luke 12:49-50

⁴⁹ "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!

This second baptism is Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, which referenced in Romans 6:3 which accomplished salvation for all who would believe.

Romans 6:3-4

³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Jesus' second baptism created the image/picture of our salvation. When we are baptized in water, we are identifying with the second baptism of Jesus. Our faith in His second baptism (death, burial, and resurrection) is what brings us salvation.

Romans 10:8-11

⁸ But what does it say? "*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is

made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, *“Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”*

What the Baptisms of Jesus mean to us.

Jesus' first baptism was from John in order to fulfill all righteous of the Old Covenant. The second baptism of Jesus is the one in which He is immersed in death, descends into hell and the grave, and resurrects from the dead taking the power of death and the keys to hell away from the enemy. Through this baptism, Jesus has accomplished the purpose of the Father, the creation of a new and living way for all to receive the Zoe life that God has in mind for His children. Jesus' second baptism is the foundation for New Covenant Baptism.

Post-Resurrection/New Covenant Baptism

- Baptism into the Body of Christ.
- Baptism in the Name of Jesus (Water Baptism)
- The Baptism with the Holy Ghost
- Baptism of Fire

Baptism into the Body of Christ

Whenever a person repents from dead works and makes a faith decision to receive Jesus as savior, they are immediately baptized (by the Holy Spirit) into the body of Christ. The event of salvation is performed by the Holy Spirit, in which the sacrifice of Jesus is applied to the new believers life and they are recreated in their spirit and are joined to the church (Christ's Body). The work of this baptism is invisible because it occurs in the hearts of people. The acknowledgement of Jesus as Lord, and receiving Him as Savior.

1 Corinthians 12:1-14

¹² For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also *is* Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. ¹⁴ For in fact the body is not one member but many.

Romans 6:3-4

³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Once a person is baptized into the Body of Christ, they are an immediate candidate for the next two types of baptism; Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Baptism in name of Jesus.

Baptism in the Name of Jesus (Water Baptism)

Acts 2:38 introduces baptism in the name of Jesus Christ. As the people in Jerusalem were touched by the preaching of Peter and believed and asked what must they do to be saved they were told to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus.

Acts 2:38

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Because a person is saved by belief and confession of Jesus Christ, the water baptism that follows is an outward symbol of the inward work of Christ.

Romans 6

³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

After Jesus had been resurrected from the dead, the New Covenant begins. Jesus' first mention of baptism at that point is found in Acts 1:4-5.

Acts 1:4-5

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Acts 1:8

⁸ But **you shall receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

The disciples followed the directions of Jesus and tarried in Jerusalem. To tarry does not mean that they sat at an altar and prayed for the next 40 days. It means that they waited in anticipation for the ***Promise of the Father***.

Acts 1:13-15

¹³When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. ¹⁵ And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty),...

At this time there were over 120 disciples of Jesus there in Jerusalem waiting for the ***Promise of the Father***.

Acts 2:1-4

¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they **were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began **to speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:38-39

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For **the promise** is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

Other situations that people received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and spoke with tongues.

Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴ Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, ¹⁵ who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:44-48

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ⁴⁷ "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we *have*?" ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Acts 19:1-5

¹ And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples ² he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

³ And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." ⁴ Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." ⁵ When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Based on scripture the following things are true about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

1. **It is a Promise and Gift** from the Father to all believers - Acts 2:38-39 " ³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."
2. It can come by any of the following:
 - a. While they were praying - Acts 2
 - b. While the Word was being preached - Acts 10
 - c. When hands were being laid - Acts 8 and Acts 19.
3. The **utterance** (speech) of tongues comes **from the Holy Spirit**. Acts 2, Romans 8:26 ²⁶ 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 which cannot be uttered.

4. **Tongues brings edification** to those that operate the gift - 1 Corinthians 14:4 & 18. ⁴ He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself.....¹⁸ I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all;
5. **Rivers of living waters** - John 7:38-39 ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
6. Helps the Believer with **Personal Prayer and Intercession** - Romans 8:26-27 ²⁶ 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 which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

Baptism of Fire

John prophesied that Jesus would baptize his disciples (believers) with the Holy Spirit and with Fire. In Acts 1, Jesus references the first of those two baptisms, the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. The second baptism from Jesus is the baptism of Fire which is the baptism of Judgment.

Luke 3:15-16

¹⁵ Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their hearts about John, whether he was the Christ *or not*, ¹⁶ John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Luke 12:49-50

⁴⁹ “I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. ¹⁵If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

Jesus will be the final judge of the works of all people. This is the baptism of fire, the Judgment Seat of Christ. We will cover this in more detail, in our section of Eternal Judgment. It is important to understand at this point that judgment is not just for penalty but also for reward.

Foundational Principles of Christ- Laying on of Hands

The Laying on of Hands is a foundational principle of Christ as listed in Hebrews 6:1-3.

Hebrews 6: 1-3

¹ Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, ² of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ³ And this we will do if God permits.

To understand the laying on of hands, we build on the foundation of the three previous principles. The principles that we have covered so far are:

1. **Repentance from Dead Works** is: Having a change of heart regarding all fleshly attempts to be justified with God, besides faith in Jesus.
2. Faith is a generic word and can be applied in many different ways. **Faith towards God** is specific to Faith in Jesus Christ for the Remission of our Sins and salvation before God.
3. Whenever a person repents from dead works and makes a faith decision to receive Jesus as savior, they are immediately **baptized (by the Holy Spirit) into the body of Christ**. The event of salvation is performed by the Holy Spirit, in which the sacrifice of Jesus is applied to the new believers life and they are recreated in their spirit and are joined to the church (Christ's Body). After this event of salvation, the believer can in no particular order;
 - a. be **baptized in water** (identification with Christ)
 - b. receive the **baptism of the Holy Spirit** (endowment with Power).

Water baptism is an outward symbol of the inward transformation which occurs when we become a believer. We **identify** with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. We have been baptized into the body of Christ and we are now "in Him". The baptism in the Holy Spirit, has endowed us with the **power** of the Holy Spirit to be witnesses (Acts 1:8), and accomplish God's will and purposes in Earth. With this power we are **commissioned** to "go into all the world, and preach the gospel".

In scripture the significance of the laying on of hands represents three distinct things. In each case the believer is a vessel of the Holy Spirit to accomplish something specific.

Impartation

Through the laying on of hands, the believer is used by the Holy Spirit to impart or transfer something to someone else. In this case the laying on of hands represents the power of the Holy Spirit working through the life of the believer.

Impartation of Healing/Signs and Wonders

Jesus in His earthly ministry provided the example of using the laying on of hands in healing.

Luke 4:40

⁴⁰ When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.

After His resurrection, Jesus prophesies to the disciples that the power that He had would be imparted to all that believe.

Mark 16:17-18

¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

The apostles worked signs and wonders through the laying on of hands.

Acts 5:12

¹² The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade.

Acts 3:1-7

¹ One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong.

Paul used the laying on of hands to impart healing.

Acts 28:8

⁸ And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him.

Impartation of The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

The disciple Ananias was directed by the Holy Spirit to go to Saul (Paul) and lay hands on him for his healing and filling with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 9:17

¹⁷ And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, ^[a] who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 8:14-17

¹⁴ Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, ¹⁵ who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:6

⁶ And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Impartation of Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual Gifts can be imparted through the laying on of hands. **NOTE:** The impartation of spiritual gifts cannot be accomplished by human will, spiritual gifts operate as the Spiritual wills and thus can only be imparted as the Spirit wills. In other words a prophet cannot at their own discretion select someone else to impart the gift of prophesy or the word of knowledge to another person.

Paul and the elders imparted spiritual gifts to Timothy.

1 Timothy 4:14

¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

2 Timothy 1:6

⁶ Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

Identification and Commissioning

Through the laying on of hands church leadership identifies with someone or something and creates a relationship or association between the two. The laying on of hands is also used in commissioning people to ministry or to a specific mission. In the In some cases it is used for identification and commissioning.

Galatians 2:9

⁹ and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we *should go* to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

It was used by leadership for commissioning to a specific ministry or outreach.

Acts 13:2-3

² As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.

Galatians 2:9

⁹ and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we *should go* to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

When the apostles began to be burdened by the administration of programs (feeding the widows), they commissioned the deacons as an extension of their ministry.

Acts 6:2-6

² Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.³ Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;⁴ but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

⁵ And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,⁶ whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

Conditions

As the laying on of hands is shown in the New Testament, it is used by all that believe for the impartation of healing (Mark 16), but in all other cases by church leadership.

In the case of commissioning and identification, leaders should always use wisdom and observation in selecting whom they should lay hands on to commission for ministry. The apostles required that the deacons be of good reputation, and full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom in order to wait on tables in their place. Only the seven that met these conditions would be commissioned for the job. The deacons represented the apostles in this matter and were being commissioned to do it as the apostle’s identification/representatives.

Timothy was warned by Paul to be cautious about whom he was laying hand upon.

2 Timothy 5:22

²² Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure.

The relationship that is created by the laying on of hands creates a bond that could potentially cause both parties to be impacted by the actions of the other.

Foundational Principles of Christ: The Resurrection of the Dead

Repentance from Dead Works and Faith Towards God produces salvation. Baptism helps us identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and allows us to form a new identity in Him as the Holy Spirit baptizes us into the body of Christ, and endows us with power to become His witnesses. The Resurrection of the Dead gives the believer an understanding of the life that God has ordained for us apart from the sin nature.

Romans 6:4-11

⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness* of His resurrection, ⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. ⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, ⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For *the death* that He died, He died to sin once for all; but *the life* that He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Bible teaches clearly and in many places the truth of the resurrection of the dead. Specifically the bible teaches about the bodily resurrection of all people. The definition of the word "resurrection" is to stand up again, and refers to life being restored after something has been brought to the point of death. To have a resurrection there has to be at work a power that is stronger than death. The power that leads us to salvation in Christ is that power.

Philippians 3:10-11

⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, ¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. NKJV

This passage tells us that there is a power of His(Jesus!) resurrection and a fellowship (partnership) of the sufferings that he endured for us, that allow us to be conformed or relate to His death. Being conformed to His death, gives the power to me and I attain the resurrection of the dead, because He did it for me. The excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus that we experience with Repentance from Dead Works and Faith Towards God, brings a new relationship and identity to the life of the believer and guarantees that we will also have a

resurrection experience that glorifies our physical bodies and gives us life eternal in the presence of the Father.

The bodily resurrection of all people fall into two categories; the resurrection of life, or the first resurrection, and the resurrection of condemnation or the second resurrection. The distinguishing feature between this two is not time, but the eternal condition of the individual (eternal life or eternal separation from God).

John 5:29

²⁹ and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Acts 25:15

¹⁵ I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.

The Resurrection of Christ

This subject is a foundational principle of Christ because Jesus is the first example of new testament resurrection. Although others had been raised from the dead before Christ, He was the first to be risen with a body that would no longer be subject to death. Romans 6:9, Revelation 1:18.

Romans 6:9

⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

Death no longer has dominion over Jesus. His resurrection gave Him an eternal body.

Revelation 1:18

¹⁸ *I am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Jesus is alive forever. Because He lives we are alive in Him. Because He is the first to rise, He is the Firstborn from the dead.

Colossians 1:18

¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Because Jesus was the first to be risen, He has been given preeminence (superiority), and is the head of the body of Christ, the church. His resurrection was the first of many to come. In 1 Corinthians 15, Jesus is referred to as Christ the first fruits.

1 Corinthians 15:23

²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the first fruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming.

The Resurrection Body

The Greeks believed that there was a resurrection of the soul only. Jesus was resurrected with a flesh and bone body. We also will be resurrected with a physical body and not only a soul or spirit. This is important to understand because many people have adopted the doctrine of reincarnation. This is a resurrection of the spirit, that is then deposited into a new body. This is not consistent with Jesus' example of being resurrected in the same body that was His from the beginning.

Luke 24:39

³⁹ Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” ⁴⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. ⁴¹ But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” ⁴² So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. ⁴³ And He took *it* and ate in their presence.

If showing the disciples His hands and feet was not enough, Jesus asked for food and ate in their presence. In the gospel of John, Thomas was doubting the resurrection so Jesus hear his doubts and showed up, inviting Thomas to touch Him and to even place his finger in the piercing in His side caused by the Centurions spear.

John 20:24-28

²⁴ Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.”

So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

The bible teaches with not doubt, that Jesus the firstfruit was resurrected with a Glorified physical body.

The Resurrection of Those Who Are Christ's at His Coming

Jesus' resurrection is the model because He is the first fruit. Next comes the resurrection of those who are Christ's at His coming. This resurrection will include several groups of people:

1. The dead saints of this Church Age (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

2. The dead saints of the Old Testament times (Daniel 12:2)
3. The martyrs of the Tribulation period (Revelation 20:4)

1 Thessalonians 4:16

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Daniel 12:2

² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,
Some to everlasting life,
Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

Revelation 20:4

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

These resurrections of the saints of all ages are all a part of the first resurrection, the resurrection of life or the resurrection of the righteous in Christ.

Revelation 20:6.

⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

John 5:29

²⁹ and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Luke 14:14

¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

Resurrection of the Unsaved Dead at the End

The last group to be resurrected will include the unredeemed dead of all time. They will be raised at the end of all things to stand before the Great White Throne in a judgment that will sentence all of them to their eternal judgment (see chapter on Eternal Judgment).

Revelation 20:11-14

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead,

small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. NKJV

This judgment of each person's works is unfruitful because we know that all works to justify ones' self apart from Jesus are dead works. Because of the sinful nature of man, these works do not have the power to save man and result in eternal punishment via eternal separation from God in a resurrected state.

What do these things mean for us?

The first thing is that as people that believe in the resurrection, we know that we will die only once and when we do we will be resurrected as the righteous in Christ. Because of this we know that we have escaped eternal judgment of condemnation and as new creations in Christ, we can live a resurrected life of power now in this life.

Secondly, as new creations in Christ Jesus, we have been given a resurrection life. We are alive in Christ and have been given the ministry (service) of reconciliation. We that have experienced Christ and His resurrection power, can now go to those who have not seen or heard the good news and let them know that God has made a way to reconcile them to Himself. We can plead with them as though God was pleading with them through us to be reconciled. We have been made ambassadors of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. KNJV

