

# BETHESDA

Bring Healing to the Nations



## NEW OVERCOMER'S GUIDE

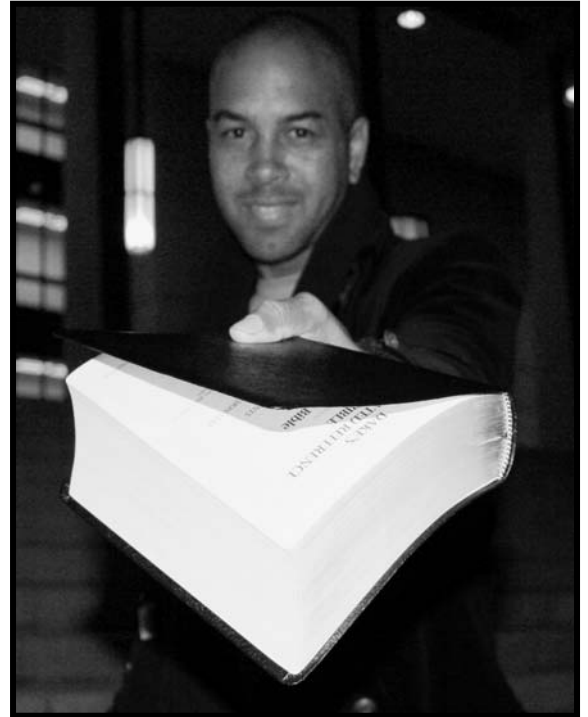
# NEW OVERCOMER'S GUIDE

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                                  |         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| WELCOME                                                                          | PAGE 3  |
| HEALING TO THE NATIONS                                                           | PAGE 3  |
| THE HISTORY OF BETHESDA AND OUR FOUNDER<br>THE HONORABLE BISHOP HENRY L. JOHNSON | PAGE 4  |
| PASTOR TOBAISE BROOKINS                                                          | PAGE 6  |
| BETHESDA CORE EXPRESSIONS                                                        | PAGE 7  |
| BETHESDA CORE VALUES                                                             | PAGE 8  |
| BETHESDA CORE EXPERIENCES                                                        | PAGE 13 |

## New Overcomers' Welcome

The Bethesda Family is excited that you have become a New Overcomer. We are excited that the Lord has led you to this thriving community of believers to work in His vineyard. As a New Overcomer, it is important that you become acquainted with your new church family, leader and Kingdom principles that guide and direct Bethesda. You are vital to the Kingdom and to the community of Bethesda believers. As you learn information about your new family, leader, core expressions, values, and experiences, we pray that God would revolutionize your life and that you would become an effective contributing member of the Bethesda family. The word Bethesda has 8 letters which is symbolic of a new beginning. I believe this is just the beginning of a new life of power, authority, and prosperity for you. Welcome to the Bethesda Experience.



*Tobaise Brookins, Pastor*

## Bringing Healing to the Nations

In the Gospel of John, there is a story of a man who was miraculously healed by Jesus. This man was sitting at a pool called Bethesda, which means *house of mercy*. This pool area had five porches, which is symbolic of *grace*, and had multitudes of people waiting by it for an angel to come stir the waters at a certain season. When the angel would stir the waters, whoever would get in the water first would be healed. When Jesus passed by, he noticed a lame man who had been lame for 38 years. Jesus showed his power as Lord by healing the man without the need for the water to be stirred (John 5: 1-9). Thus, Bethesda is a house of mercy whose waters are stirred continuously, because Jesus is the source and provider of salvation, healing, life, and restoration. At Bethesda, Jesus is the focus of all we do.

We have been commissioned to *Bring Healing to the Nations*. God has blessed us at Bethesda with His presence, and we believe all men and women can be changed through the power of God. Bethesda is also a place for people to continue their journey with Christ. Thus, whether you are a new Christian, or a disciple on your Christ journey, Bethesda is a place for you. Jesus told a woman he met that “whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4: 14). As a member of Bethesda, you have been given a divine appointment to be used to bring healing to a dying world. Every experience you have had, both negative and positive, has prepared you for this time. It is only when you allow God to develop, strengthen and use you that families, communities, and our world can be healed. This is the *Bethesda Experience*.

# THE HISTORY OF BETHESDA

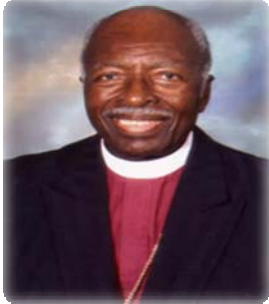
## Bringing Healing To The Nations

The Founder of the Bethesda Apostolic Church:

### THE HONORABLE BISHOP HENRY L. JOHNSON

*Diocesan Bishop of the 16<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District Council, PAW Inc.*

*Founder, President of the Bishop Henry L. Johnson Bible College*



Our Grace, the Honorable Bishop Henry L. Johnson was the Diocesan Bishop of the 16<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World Inc. He oversees over 120 churches in California and has funded, founded and/or been the cause of over 20 churches during his life of leadership. He is a devoted husband and Father, theologian, master teacher, counselor, compassionate under-shepherd, writer, dreamer, visionary, and anointed messenger of God. He has been the Diocesan Bishop of the Pacific Northwest District Council and Eastern Caribbean diocese. He is a leader among leaders and one of the most influential men of our time. On the State level, he has served as Chairman of the Aenon Alumni Association, Assistant Secretary of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District Council, and Chairman of the By-Laws Committee. He served three (3) terms as Assistant Chairman of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District Council and Vice President of Curriculum at Aenon Bible College, West Coast. In Fresno, he is the most emblemized figure among both clergy and secular leaders.

On May 7, 1957, Bishop Johnson founded Bethesda Apostolic Church. The first home of the Bethesda Apostolic Church was on Rose St and Grove; known to most as Rose and Grove. The congregation grew swiftly and needed to find another church in by 1962. In 1962 this thriving church moved to Church Street, where God miraculously gave favor. Healing, deliverance and salvation became the reputation of the Bethesda Apostolic Church as people came from near and far to experience the favor God was demonstrating. In just 8 short years, the Bethesda Apostolic Church needed yet another facility that could hold all of the programs, ministries and members. In 1970, Bethesda Apostolic Church moved to Whites Bridge Street. God continued to show favor to this thriving body of believers by giving them the grace to provide vital programs for the community. Many great ministers, preachers, pastors, and missionaries were groomed and nurtured during this era. Bethesda was known for its powerful services and outstanding choir, which included a full band; some called this band an “orchestra” because of all of the instrument players. Bethesda Apostolic Church continues to equip leaders today and revolutionize the lives



of people through the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is estimated that thousands of people have been brought to the Lord under his ministry and many have been trained or influenced by Bishop Johnson to be leaders in Christian ministry.



The Honorable Bishop Henry L. Johnson's years of ministry and leadership has allowed many opportunities for The Bethesda Apostolic Church to service men, women and children in the community; serving meals and providing clothing for those who were hungry and homeless. The Bethesda Church has conducted prison ministry, food distributions, assisting the unemployed to find jobs, participating in programs to provide gifts for children of prisoners at Christmas time and neighborhood prayer walks. The Bethesda Church has initiated housing rehabilitation classes

sponsored by City departments and an alternative school for students not able to function within the regular classroom environment.

Bethesda has been the site of voter information meetings for the community, given visible support at City Council meetings and rallies where issues that would change the face of our community were at risk; through Bible-centered teaching continues to promote Christian values, morals and attitudes that change the thinking and behavior of individuals and cause each to be better citizens. The Honorable Bishop Henry L. Johnson and the Bethesda Apostolic Church have a Legacy of Leadership

The Pastor of the Bethesda Apostolic Church:

## PASTOR TOBAISE BROOKINS

# Empowered to Empower

Tobaise Brookins is an ordained Elder in the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World. He was ordained by the honorable Bishop Henry L. Johnson, diocesan of the 16<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World. He is a preacher, evangelist, teacher, coach, consultant, Christian education specialist and author. Tobaise Brookins was born in Los Angeles County. Tobaise Brookins was an All American high school athlete; receiving a full scholarship to the University of Washington. While playing football at the University of Washington it became clear that God had greater plans than football for him. He used his influence as an athlete to influence many to come to Christ. He began his ministry by founding a soul-saving campus organization called "Word of Truth Ministries" at the University of Washington in 1993. His ministry became the doorway of salvation for many students. After graduating from the University of Washington, Tobaise Brookins moved back to California to become a Special Education Teacher while continuing a powerful evangelistic ministry.



He has a thriving and powerful evangelistic ministry which focuses on church growth, saving of souls, life-coaching and Christian organization consultation. With years of evangelistic experience, he has become an authority on spiritual warfare. As an educator, he holds Two Master's degrees and is currently working on a Phd in Educational Administration and Leadership. He has taught special education students in the Los Angeles Unified School District for 12 years and has also taught in the New York Public School District. He is currently working on his doctorate degree. He has founded two Educational Programs; T.O.Y.S - Tapping Opportunities for Youth to Succeed (Northridge, CA) and B.E.S.T.-Bethesda Educational Services & Training program (Fresno, CA). He has recently founded The Gates Alliance, which is a Christian programming, resources and consulting organization. These programs are only a continuation of his strong record of spearheading powerful church development programs, social programs and Kingdom connections.

Our Warfare: Equipping the Christian Believer for Spiritual Warfare is Tobaise Brookins' first major theological work. Our Warfare is touching the lives of many, as believers everywhere move to engage in spiritual warfare and embrace Kingdom principals. He has written four other Christian booklets: The Holy Spirit, Tools for Spiritual Warfare, The Garden Experience, and a prayer study guide called F.O.R.M. P.O.W.E.R. He plans to continue edifying the Body of Christ through preaching, teaching, Christian literature, programming, & consulting.

Tobaise Brookins has preached at conferences, revivals, retreats and conventions in many states in the continental United States and also Hawaii. Tobaise Brookins has a reputation of integrity and anointing in the power of God. With powerful teaching and life-changing preaching, Tobaise Brookins has become one of the most sought after evangelist of our day. Operating in multiple Christian forums and across denomination lines, Tobaise Brookins has an explosive ministry of deliverance, redemption, and edification for this last hour. Our pastor, Tobaise Brookins is now leading Bethesda to higher heights and deeper depths in God. He is definitely a blessing to the members of Bethesda and the city of Fresno.

# Bethesda Core Expressions

**B. E. T. H. E. S. D. A.**

**B**lessing God through a pure heart and good works  
(Ephesians 2:10)

**E**xalting the Name of Jesus in praise and worship  
(Psalms 34:1-3)

**T**estifying of the goodness of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ  
(Isaiah 63:7)

**H**umbling ourselves to the will of God  
(I Peter 5:6)

**E**mbracing the Word of God  
(Psalms 119:11)

**S**upporting the vision of the church  
(Habakkuk 2:2-3)

**D**eveloping our gifts and talents for the service of God  
(2 Timothy 1:6)

**A**ssembling ourselves for corporate worship and fellowship  
(Hebrews 10:25)

# Bethesda Core Values

## B. E. T. H. E. S. D. A.

### Believers

Bethesda is a community of believers who live by conviction. As a community of believers, we believe that the Bible is the inerrant word of God. We overcome all obstacles, endure through all tribulation, rebound through all set-backs in life because we are believers. Thus, everything we do at Bethesda is founded on the simple yet powerful fact that we believe that through Jesus, we have absolute victory.

#### **1 John 5:4**

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

### Equipped

As members of Bethesda, we are equipped with the spiritual and natural gifts and talents to be effective in Christian living and ministry. Through the power of the Holy Ghost, we have been given everything we need to live victoriously, evangelize the lost, send workers into the evangelism field, and restore those who have fallen away. We are equipped to handle the trials of life and to experience victory in every facet of our lives. We are equipped for victory in family, career, personal development, worship, praise, and ministry.

#### **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (New King James Version)**

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

#### **2 Peter 1:3-4 (New International Version)**

<sup>3</sup>His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.



<sup>4</sup>Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

## Trained

As members of Bethesda, we believe that training is essential to our salvation and development as children of God. We humble ourselves to all levels of Bethesda trainings, seminars, services and Christian development opportunities for our growth and maturity in God. We believe in two types of training. One type is Bethesda directed trainings. This includes bible study, Christian education, protocols, auxiliary meetings, and special seminars. It is in these trainings where members grow and flourish. Sunday morning worship, revivals, and special services are vital in the spiritual empowerment of the Believer, but must be followed up with training sessions. Secondly, we engage in self-trainings. As believers, we must have a hunger and thirst for righteousness and excellence. We seek out the information and resource necessary to be effective in Christian living. Supplemental resources should be used in conjunction with the program and vision at Bethesda.

### **Proverbs 22:6**

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

### **2 Timothy 2:15**

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

## Healed

As members of Bethesda we believe we are healed spiritually, emotionally, and believe in the supernatural physical healing that only God can deliver. We have been healed through the work of the Holy Spirit. We believe that we must realize this healing as we have our minds renewed with the word of God. We participate in effectual fervent prayer, fasting and study of the word of God in order to experience the fullness of God's healing power. We are healed from our past so that we can walk victoriously into our future. Thus, we believe in living a healed life. We have been healed, so that others can be healed.

### **Exodus 15:26**

And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

**Isaiah 53:5**

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are **healed**.

**Matthew 15:30**

And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he **healed** them:

## Empowered

As members of Bethesda, we are empowered to overtake, subdue, and conquer. We are a vibrant, diverse community full of empowered blood washed Believers. Empowerment means that the process of believing, equipping, training, and healing leads to the ability to operate within the framework of the vision of Bethesda to do great works for God. Empowerment means we have been given something special that must be nurtured and used without the need for excessive natural support. Every member of Bethesda is a minister of God, empowered to express fruit of the spirit, operate in spiritual gifts, and lead men and women to Christ within the awesome vision given to us by God through leadership.

**Genesis 1:28**

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

**Matthew 10:1**

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he **gave them power** against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

## Servants

As members of Bethesda, we are servants. We have been called to serve. Every member of Bethesda is a minister. There are no big "I's" and little "U's" at Bethesda. We are all members of the Body of Christ, working to fulfil the will of God. Members of Bethesda look for opportunities to serve their fellow man and in the house of God. We don't wait to be asked to serve at Bethesda. We look for opportunities to give of our time, finance, energies and talents to bless people and the house of God.

**John 13**

<sup>4</sup>He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

<sup>5</sup>After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

<sup>6</sup>Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

<sup>7</sup>Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

<sup>8</sup>Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

<sup>9</sup>Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

<sup>10</sup>Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

<sup>11</sup>For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean.

<sup>12</sup>So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

<sup>13</sup>Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

<sup>14</sup>If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

<sup>15</sup>For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

<sup>16</sup>Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

<sup>17</sup>If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

## Destined

As members of Bethesda, we believe we have destiny. We do not believe that God has made any mistakes in His creation or in the management of His creation. We believe that all people have purpose and destiny and therefore are precious in the sight of God. We have been destined for the times we live in and must seize the moment to do great works for God. God has given our leader a powerful vision, which when we work to fulfil it, we are fulfilling our destinies. Members of Bethesda are destined to reach their destinations. We live a life of excitement and enthusiasm concerning what God is doing in our lives. We are destined for salvation, evangelism and empowerment. We are destined to complete a work for God in this earth beyond imagination. We are destined for Greatness!

**Jeremiah 29:11**

<sup>1</sup>For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

**Ephesians 1:4-6**

<sup>4</sup>According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

<sup>5</sup>Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

<sup>6</sup>To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

## **A**ccountable

As members of Bethesda, we are accountable to our God, our Leader, Family, Church, Self and fellow man. Accountability is of utmost importance in the house of God. Each member must be responsible and accountable for their actions. Others' irresponsibility is no excuse for our irresponsibility. We are accountable to duty and leadership and operate in a spirit of excellence, order, and submission. By being accountable, the power of God is able to reign at Bethesda as we work together to lead men and women to Christ, establish and strengthen effective programs, support the existing programs, and evolve the vision given to us by God through our leader.

**Matthew 12**

<sup>33</sup>Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

<sup>34</sup>O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

<sup>35</sup>A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

<sup>36</sup>But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

# Bethesda Core Experiences

## B. E. T. H. E. S. D. A

### Born Again

Now that you have been born again, or are seeking the new birth experience, it is important to be able to identify the new birth experience in the word of God, receive it and be able to share it with others. When we use the phrase born again in the Church, we are talking about the process established by God to save and regenerate people to live a new life in Him. Because of the sin of the first man Adam, all humanity was condemned to a life without peace with God. To be absent from God is death. This is why we must be born again spiritually, so that we can have peace with God (Romans 5:1) and live the life promised and ordained for us (Genesis 1:28, 12:2-3, Deuteronomy 28:1-14, John 10:10). Take note of the sin and redemption process:

1. Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"
2. Romans 3:24 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"
3. Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"
4. Romans 5:15 "But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many"
5. John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

Therefore, God has sanctioned a process to provide salvation and a process for us to receive the salvation provision. When you have been born again, you have committed your belief in Jesus Christ, have repented of your sins, been baptized in Jesus Name, and been filled with the Holy Spirit. This experience constitutes the New Birth (John 3:5). You are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). Therefore, belief, repentance, baptism, and infilling of the Holy Ghost are extremely important to understand as you begin, experience, and grow from your New Birth. The New Birth experience gives you the power to see spiritually. You are no longer limited to only natural vision. You have the

ability to see in the spiritual realm, which gives you the power to engage in spiritual warfare, make “God” decisions, and have Kingdom principles revealed to you by the power of God.

You also have the ability to live a life of power and influence. You are no longer bound by the chains of this life when you are born again. This does not mean that you will never be tempted or ever fall. It simply means that you now have the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to furnish you with the ability to stand firm in this world (2 Peter 1:3).

The new birth experience must be fortified by prayer, fasting and worship. You must have an active prayer, fasting and worship lifestyle if you want to reap the benefits of entering the Kingdom. The Believer should engage in daily prayer. Find a time in the morning and evening to pray. Prayer is not as difficult as some would think. Prayer is simply expressing your thoughts, concerns, and issues to God. God loves to hear us pray. Please note that He also desires to speak back to us. Thus, prayer is communication with God. When we pray, we repent for the things we have done wrong, express the things we are struggling with, intercede for our family, church, and other people, and express to God our desire to be more like Christ. Prayer should also be done in conjunction with fasting. Fasting is when we sacrifice food and various forms of entertainment/enjoyment for a set amount of time so that we might be able to hear from God and put our flesh under subjection. The reason fasting is so powerful, is because it increases your spiritual senses. You will not be able to have a successful Christian walk without having a keen and sensitive spiritual demeanor. Worship is the act of giving God acknowledgment and accolades for who He is. This also encompasses Praise. The Believer must live a life of worship. Worship is not just something we do during Sunday morning service. It is a lifestyle. This is why as a New Overcomer you are encouraged to surround yourself with worship in a spiritual environment. Gospel music and other spiritual supplements will help you build a life of worship.

There are 8 Tenants that are vital for the New Overcomer to understand regarding the New Birth. The first four are connected to experiencing the New Birth Experience and the other four are vital in securing an overcoming life.

1. Belief/Faith    2. Repentance    3. Baptism in Jesus Name    4. Infilling of the Holy Ghost
5. Prayer    6. Fasting    7. Studying the Word    8. Worship/Praise

## *Belief/Faith*

Belief and faith is the Kingdom’s currency. It is impossible to realize any of the Kingdom’s blessings, promises, and victory without faith. When we receive God’s Word, it creates faith. This faith is what the believer uses to stand on throughout life’s most difficult situation. Belief is also essential in order for the believer to experience a full and prosperous Christian life. When we say we believe God, we are saying we trust Him. It is through faith that we demonstrate our total reliance on God to fulfill His Word in our lives. Concerning salvation, faith is the key ingredient. No one can come to God without faith. No one can receive the Holy Spirit without faith. If someone is baptized without faith, they did nothing more than get wet. Faith is the piston upon which the whole Kingdom revolves.

**Matthew 8:13**

And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast **believed**, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

**Matthew 17:20**

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have **faith** as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

**Matthew 21:21**

Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have **faith**, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.

**Mark 9:23**

Jesus said unto him, If thou canst **believe**, all things are possible to him that **believeth**.

**Mark 16:16**

He that **believeth** and is baptized shall be saved; but he that **believeth** not shall be damned.

**Luke 8:48**

And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy **faith** hath made thee whole; go in peace.

**Romans 3:22**

Even the righteousness of God which is by **faith** of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

**Romans 5**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

<sup>2</sup>By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

**Romans 10:17**

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**2 Corinthians 5:7**

(For we walk by **faith**, not by sight:)

**Hebrews 11:1**

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen

**Hebrews 11:6**

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

**James 2:17-20**

<sup>17</sup>Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

<sup>18</sup>Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

<sup>19</sup>Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

<sup>20</sup>But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

## *Repentance*

Repentance is the act of turning away from sin to the truth and holiness of God. There are two types of repentance. There is the repentance and godly sorrow shown to God when one is coming out of the world, into the body of Christ. Then there is the daily repentance we present to God for the forgiveness of sin after they have been remitted through the new birth experience. The following scriptures demonstrate both of these types of repentance and should be used to encourage the believer to live a life of repentance.

**2 Chronicles 7:14**

<sup>14</sup>If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

**Psalms 51:7-17**

<sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup>Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

<sup>9</sup>Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

<sup>12</sup>Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

<sup>13</sup>Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.



<sup>14</sup>Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

<sup>16</sup>For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

### **Matthew 3:1-2**

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

### **Matthew 4:17**

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

### **Luke 24:47**

And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

### **Acts 2:38**

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

### **Acts 3:19**

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

### **2 Corinthians 7:10**

For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

## ***Baptism and Infilling of the Holy Spirit***

Baptism means to be immersed in water. Baptism one of God's powerful symbols and sanctioned acts demonstrating the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the answer of a good conscious towards God, which makes it the most powerful act in the New Testament. It is a part of the new birth experience, the public confession of faith and a part of the fulfilling of righteous. It is important that baptism be performed in the name of Jesus, because Jesus is the saving name of God. The other

dimension of the new birth experience is infilling of the Holy Spirit. God desires to live on the inside of us. Thus, when one has committed their belief towards God and repented of their sins, they can ask God to come dwell on the inside of them, and He will. To verify that the infilling has taken place, God will speak through the believer in a spiritual language. In the bible, this language is called tongues. Speaking in tongues is the initial sign that one has been filled, but a holy life and conscious towards God is the evidence that this process has taken place. What a wonderful God we have! He is gracious enough to come and dwell on the inside of us. The following scriptures provide support to the power of baptism and infilling of the Holy Spirit.

**Joel 2:28**

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

**Matthew 3:11**

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance. but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and **with fire**:

**Matthew 3:16-17**

<sup>15</sup>And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

<sup>16</sup>And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

<sup>17</sup>And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

**Matthew 28:19**

**Go ye therefore**, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

**Mark 16:16-18**

<sup>16</sup>He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

<sup>17</sup>And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

<sup>18</sup>They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

**John 14:16-19**

<sup>16</sup>And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

<sup>17</sup>Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

<sup>18</sup>I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

<sup>19</sup>Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

**Acts 2:38**

<sup>38</sup>Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

<sup>39</sup>For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.

<sup>40</sup>And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

<sup>41</sup>Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

<sup>42</sup>And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

**Acts 8:12-24, 35-39**

<sup>12</sup>But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

<sup>13</sup>Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

<sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

<sup>15</sup>Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

<sup>16</sup>(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

<sup>17</sup>Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

<sup>18</sup>And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

<sup>19</sup>Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

<sup>20</sup>But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

<sup>21</sup>Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

<sup>22</sup>Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

<sup>23</sup>For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

<sup>24</sup>Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the LORD for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

**(continued)**

<sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

<sup>36</sup>And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

<sup>37</sup>And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

<sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

<sup>39</sup>And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

**Acts 9:17-18**

<sup>17</sup>And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

<sup>18</sup>And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

**Acts 10:44-48**

<sup>44</sup>While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

<sup>45</sup>And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

<sup>46</sup>For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

<sup>47</sup>Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

<sup>48</sup>And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

**Acts 16:14-15, 30-33**

<sup>14</sup>And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

<sup>15</sup>And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

**(continued)**

<sup>30</sup>And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

<sup>31</sup>And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

<sup>32</sup>And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

<sup>33</sup>And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

**Acts 18:8**

And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.

**Acts 19:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

<sup>2</sup>He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

<sup>3</sup>And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

<sup>4</sup>Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

<sup>5</sup>When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

<sup>6</sup>And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

<sup>7</sup>And all the men were about twelve.

**Romans 6:3**

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

**Romans 8:9-11**

<sup>9</sup>But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

<sup>10</sup>And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

<sup>11</sup>But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

**1 Corinthians 1:13**

Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

**1 Corinthians 12:13**

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

**Galatians 3:27**

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

**Ephesians 1:13-14**

<sup>13</sup>In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

<sup>14</sup>Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

**Ephesians 4:5**

One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

### Colossians 2:12

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

### 1 Peter 3:20-22

<sup>20</sup>Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

<sup>21</sup>The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

<sup>22</sup>Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

## *Prayer/Fasting*

God loves us so much that he wants to communicate with us consistently. This communication is called prayer. Prayer is a conversation between you and God. It is a time in which we speak to God and he speaks to us in our spirits. Prayer is one of the central roles of the Church and must be a major tenant in the life of the believer. It is the act of petitioning or making a request. Without prayer, we cannot have true fellowship with God. Prayer is personal and corporate. You should set aside private time to pray to God. This time should be personal and consistent. Personal prayer does not always have to be in private. You can pray within your spirit throughout the day concerning issues that are on your heart or situations that arise throughout the day. Corporate prayer is another way we commune with God. We gather as a Church to pray to God about our world, nation, state, city, church, and families. During corporate prayer, we bring all of our issues to God; believing that He will answer and provide all that we need. Prayer is the key to every believer's success in Christianity and must be the focal point of our lives. There is an old saying that states, "Much prayer...much power. Some prayer...some power. No Prayer...NO POWER!" We must be a people of prayer because the Lord states, "My house shall be called the **house of prayer...**"(Matthew 12:13).

Fasting is the companion of prayer. Concerning demonic forces, Jesus states that they can only be broken by fasting and prayer (Mark 9:29). This emphasizes the power and importance of combining fasting with prayer. Fasting means to go without. Fasting removes the most basic need of human existence, which causes an increased reliance on God to provide and sustain. We fast for a spiritual purpose. Going without food without a spiritual purpose is simply dieting. When we fast, we maintain a spiritual mind-set and focus on the spiritual maturity and blessings we desire God to provide for us. Fasting gives the believer victory over the world. Fasting can also be conducted personally and corporately. As an Overcomer, you must take the initiative to set fast times for yourself. You, your family, and friends should make it a priority to take special times to fast for spiritual growth and maturity. There will be times when the spiritual leader of our church will call everyone to fast for a specific time. It is vital that you discipline yourself and fast for the duration of

the time set. When God's people fast and pray together, supernatural miracles and blessings will be released by God.

## 2 Chronicles 7

<sup>1</sup>Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house.

<sup>2</sup>And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house.

<sup>3</sup>And when all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD upon the house, they bowed themselves with their faces to the ground upon the pavement, and worshipped, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

<sup>4</sup>Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD.

<sup>5</sup>And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep: so the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.

<sup>6</sup>And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of musick of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood.

<sup>7</sup>Moreover Solomon hallowed the middle of the court that was before the house of the LORD: for there he offered burnt offerings, and the fat of the peace offerings, because the brasen altar which Solomon had made was not able to receive the burnt offerings, and the meat offerings, and the fat.

<sup>8</sup>Also at the same time Solomon kept the feast seven days, and all Israel with him, a very great congregation, from the entering in of Hamath unto the river of Egypt.

<sup>9</sup>And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.

<sup>10</sup>And on the three and twentieth day of the seventh month he sent the people away into their tents, glad and merry in heart for the goodness that the LORD had shewed unto David, and to Solomon, and to Israel his people.

<sup>11</sup>Thus Solomon finished the house of the LORD, and the king's house: and all that came into Solomon's heart to make in the house of the LORD, and in his own house, he prosperously effected.

<sup>12</sup>And the LORD appeared to Solomon by night, and said unto him, I have heard thy prayer, and have chosen this place to myself for an house of sacrifice.

<sup>13</sup>If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people;



<sup>14</sup>If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

<sup>15</sup>Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

**Ezekiel 22:30**

<sup>30</sup>And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

**Matthew 6:5-13**

<sup>5</sup>And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

<sup>6</sup>But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

<sup>7</sup>But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

<sup>8</sup>Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

<sup>9</sup>After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

<sup>10</sup>Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup>Give us this day our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup>And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

<sup>13</sup>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**I Thessalonians 5:17**

Pray without ceasing

**James 5:14-16**

<sup>14</sup>Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

<sup>15</sup>And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

<sup>16</sup>Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

**I Peter 5:6-7**

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

<sup>7</sup>Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

**Romans 8:26-27**

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

<sup>27</sup>And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

## *Studying the Word*

The Word of God is the greatest resource in the Kingdom. It is literally the will, motive, and mind of God. The vast majority of your Christian walk will be consumed with God speaking to you through His word. The bible is the infallible word of God. It is God's design for your life. In the Word of God is all of His promises, covenants, and commandments, which provide us with the power to have a good life and eternal salvation. All of your questions about life can be answered in the Word of God. This is why it is so important that you dedicate yourself to reading the Word of God. Study time must be your most valued asset. Set a regular time that you can study every day. Don't allow other things to interfere with your Bible study time. Mornings are best, even though you may have to get up earlier, because your mind is basically as uncluttered as it is going to be. As the day progresses we have more and more on our minds to think about.

God is inextricably tied to His word. Therefore, all of your success as a believer is connected to your ability to understand, accept, and obey God's word. God is not obligated to bless anything outside of His will. It is only when we walk in His will that the covenant blessings promised to us are manifested. Some people like to read the Psalms and Proverbs, other like to read the Gospels. Your spiritual teachers will guide you through the process of accessing the Word of God. It is also a great idea to get a version that you can understand. You may also want to read the bible from beginning to end, which will provide a solid foundation of understanding, wisdom and guidance for the rest of your life. If you commit yourself to studying the word of God, there will be nothing outside of your spiritual reach.

**Psalm 1:1-3**

<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

<sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

<sup>3</sup>And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

**Psalm 119:11**

<sup>11</sup>Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

**Psalm 119:105**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

**Joshua 1: 6-7**

<sup>7</sup>Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest.

<sup>8</sup>This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

**Isaiah 55:11**

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not **return unto me** void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

**Matthew 7:24-27**

<sup>24</sup>Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

<sup>25</sup>And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

<sup>26</sup>And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

<sup>27</sup>And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

**Matthew 24:35**

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

**Romans 12:2**

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**Hebrews 4:12**

<sup>12</sup>For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

## *Worship*

Worship is vital to living a life of victory. We are created to worship God. Everything about God's creation is set with the premise that worship will be given to the Almighty. The difference between man and the rest of God's creation is that man has a choice to worship God. Worship means to exalt, speak highly of, and express one's worthiness. As Overcomers, we must live lives of personal and public holiness. Personal worship is how we worship God with our words, acts and deeds. We worship God when we speak highly of Him; exalting Him for His mighty acts. We worship God when we behave in a manner becoming of holiness; continuing to purify our hearts with good thoughts and His word. We also worship God with how we treat and interact with people. Worship is a life-style, not a 30-minute event during Sunday services. As you allow your life to be molded into one of true worship, God will open up doors for you to be blessed and prosperous.

**Nehemiah 9:6**

Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

**John 4:22-24**

<sup>23</sup>But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

<sup>24</sup>God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

**1 Chronicles 16:29**

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

**I Peter 2:9**

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

**Revelation 4:10 (New International Version)**

<sup>10</sup>the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

**STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. Describe what being saved means to you.
2. Why is repentance, baptism, and infilling of the Holy Spirit so important?
3. What can you do to make time in your daily routine for prayer and Bible studying?
4. What experiences led you to give your life to the Lord? Share with a partner or small group.
5. Make a prayer list of 5-7 things you want and need the Lord to do for you in the next three months. (Use this list to guide your prayers).

# Evangelism

One of the most important duties our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ directed us to do is be a witness for Him. All believers must share their faith with others. Evangelism simply means sharing the “good news”. What is the good news? The good news is the wonderful plan that God established to provide salvation for the whole human race. We witness through word and deed. We invite people to fellowship at our church, because we know that God always meets us during our service times. We also encourage others to come to Christ by sharing the wonderful things that He has done for us specifically and for all people through His death, burial, and resurrection. We also evangelize by our life styles and good deeds. Living a life that is peaceable with all men, showing kindness, and exhibiting the character of Christ also lead men and women to want to know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. At Bethesda, evangelism is intertwined into every auxiliary and every program. Evangelism is the backbone to the whole church vision and purpose. We can not bring healing to the nations if we do not evangelize.

## Deuteronomy 32:1-5

<sup>1</sup>Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

<sup>2</sup>My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

<sup>3</sup>Because **I will publish** the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

<sup>4</sup>He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

<sup>5</sup>They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children: they are a perverse and crooked generation.

## 1 Chronicles 16:23 (Message)

Sing to God, everyone and everything! Get out his salvation news every day! **Publish** his glory among the godless nations, his wonders to all races and religions. And why? Because God is great—well worth praising! No god or goddess comes close in honor. All the popular gods are stuff and nonsense, but God made the cosmos! Splendor and majesty flow out of him, strength and joy fill his place.

## Matthew 5:12-18

<sup>12</sup>Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

<sup>13</sup>Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

<sup>14</sup>Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

<sup>15</sup>Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

<sup>16</sup>Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

<sup>17</sup>Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

<sup>18</sup>For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

**Mark 1: 40-45**

<sup>40</sup>And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

<sup>41</sup>And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

<sup>42</sup>And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.

<sup>43</sup>And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away;

<sup>44</sup>And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

<sup>45</sup>But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter.

**John 4: 40-45**

<sup>28</sup>The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

<sup>29</sup>Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

<sup>30</sup>Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

**Matthew 28:18-20**

<sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

<sup>19</sup>Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:





# Tithes and Offering

The Kingdom economy is supported, sustained and propelled by tithes and offerings. The principle of tithing is well documented throughout scripture. It is the practice of giving 10% of our income. Our tithe belongs to God. He requires it and blesses us when we submit to this act of obedience. Our offering is a free-will offering. We give our offering out of the cheerfulness and desire of our heart. Your tithe is your obligation to God. Your offering is your seed. We give as God has blessed us; knowing that our offering is a seed that will bring forth fruit. Remember, a seed is always smaller than the fruit it bears. Therefore, we know that God honors our giving. It is also important to note that our church operates through the freewill tithes and offerings that members and non-members give. We give to Bethesda to free our leader and ministerial staff up to be able to handle the business necessary for the church to run effectively and efficiently. It takes the contributions of every member to ensure that our church continues to be a leader in providing the wide range of services that people need. The ability of Bethesda to continue to lead men and women to come to Christ, develop in Him, and have various other spiritual, emotional and social needs met, requires that we give liberally and freely, because it is the will of God.

## Genesis 14:18-20

<sup>18</sup>And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

<sup>19</sup>And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

<sup>20</sup>And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

## Leviticus 27:30

And all the **tithe** of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's: it is holy unto the LORD.

## Numbers 18:11-14, 20-21

<sup>11</sup>And this is thine; the heave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings of the children of Israel: I have given them unto thee, and to thy sons and to thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: every one that is clean in thy house shall eat of it.

<sup>12</sup>All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the firstfruits of them which they shall offer unto the LORD, them have I given thee.

<sup>13</sup>And whatsoever is first ripe in the land, which they shall bring unto the LORD, shall be thine; every one that is clean in thine house shall eat of it.

<sup>14</sup>Every thing devoted in Israel shall be thine.

**(continued)**

<sup>20</sup>And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel.

<sup>21</sup>And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

**Exodus 36:3-7**

<sup>3</sup>And they received of Moses all the offering, which the children of Israel had brought for the work of the service of the sanctuary, to make it withal. And they brought yet unto him free offerings every morning.

<sup>4</sup>And all the wise men, that wrought all the work of the sanctuary, came every man from his work which they made;

<sup>5</sup>And they spake unto Moses, saying, The people bring much more than enough for the service of the work, which the LORD commanded to make.

<sup>6</sup>And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary. So the people were restrained from bringing.

<sup>7</sup>For the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much.

**Exodus 36:3-7 (The Message)**

<sup>2-3</sup> Moses summoned Bezalel and Oholiab along with all whom GOD had gifted with the ability to work skillfully with their hands. The men were eager to get started and engage in the work. They took from Moses all the offerings that the Israelites had brought for the work of constructing the Sanctuary. The people kept on bringing in their freewill offerings, morning after morning.

<sup>4-5</sup> All the artisans who were at work making everything involved in constructing the Sanctuary came, one after another, to Moses, saying, "The people are bringing more than enough for doing this work that GOD has commanded us to do!"

<sup>6-7</sup> So Moses sent out orders through the camp: "Men! Women! No more offerings for the building of the Sanctuary!"

The people were ordered to stop bringing offerings! There was plenty of material for all the work to be done. Enough and more than enough.

**Malachi 3:8-12**

<sup>8</sup>Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

<sup>9</sup>Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

<sup>10</sup>Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

<sup>11</sup>And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

<sup>12</sup>And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

**Acts 20:35**

I have shewed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

<sup>6</sup>But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

<sup>7</sup>Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

<sup>8</sup>And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

**STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. What are the blessings of giving tithes and offerings?
  
2. Why do we give tithes and offerings?
  
3. What changes can you make in your spending habits that would allow for you to be more a blessing to the house of God?

# Holiness

As Overcomers, we strive to live a holy and sanctified life. To be sanctified, means to be set apart for God's purpose. Through the prayer, fasting, studying to word, and worship, we develop a relationship with God that gives us the power to live a life that is pleasing to Him. Overcomers work daily to purify their hearts, thoughts, and deeds. The Overcomer expresses personal holiness and public holiness. Personal holiness focuses on keeping the laws of God and living a life pure in spirit and deed. Public holiness is how we carry ourselves in public. The music we listen to, the way we speak, and activity involvement should all give glory to God. We depend on God's word to show us what is right and wrong, and work through the Holy Spirit to obey His word.

## Isaiah 1:16-17

<sup>16</sup>Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

<sup>17</sup>Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

## Romans 6:15

What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? **God forbid.**

## Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

## I Peter 1:13-16

<sup>13</sup>Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

<sup>14</sup>As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

<sup>15</sup>But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

<sup>16</sup>Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

## Hebrews 12:14

Follow peace with all men, and **holiness, without** which no man shall see the Lord:

## Psalm 29:2

Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of **holiness.**

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

<sup>9</sup>Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

<sup>10</sup>Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>11</sup>And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

**1 John 3:3**

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

**Revelation 21:7-8 (New International Version)**

<sup>7</sup>He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

<sup>8</sup>But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.

**STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. Think about areas of holiness you currently struggle with. What steps can you take gain the victory over those areas?
2. Describe how your ideas of holiness have changed based on this study?
3. Which scripture had the biggest impact on you and why?

# Empathy and Love

Love is the most powerful expression of God. There is no other expression that signifies God's motive and will for all of His creation more than love. God is love (1 John 4:8) and moves throughout the universe based on that nature. God requires us to show people the same love that he has shown us. We have experienced the love of God through our priceless salvation. What a wonderful God who would bring us out of darkness into this marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). Love is the foundation of Christianity. There is no Christianity without love. Anyone declaring them self to be a child of God, yet has no love, they are sadly mistaken about their position with God. We must love people despite of their position in life. Love is also the key marker by which other people will know that we are Christians (John 13:34-35). When we love people, they will want to know our God. For many believers, they find it hard to love in a manner that God requires, because of their experiences in life. Our actions, motives, and words should be motivated by love. Love should also be a central focus of our prayer life. We should continually ask God to help us love beyond our experiences, biases, and prejudices.

## **1 John 4:16**

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. **God is love**; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

## **Mark 12:33**

And to **love** him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to **love** his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

## **1 Peter 3:8**

<sup>8</sup>Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

## **John 3: 16-17**

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

<sup>17</sup>For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

## **Proverbs 10:12**

Hatred stirreth up strifes: but **love** covereth all sins.

## **Luke 6:27-38**

<sup>27</sup>But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

<sup>28</sup>Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.

<sup>29</sup>And unto him that smiteth thee on the one cheek offer also the other; and him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also.

<sup>30</sup>Give to every man that asketh of thee; and of him that taketh away thy goods ask them not again.

<sup>31</sup>And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

<sup>32</sup>For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.

<sup>33</sup>And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.

<sup>34</sup>And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

<sup>35</sup>But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.

<sup>36</sup>Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

<sup>38</sup>Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Discuss how your ideas of the power of love have been changed or been strengthened by this study.
2. What can you do to demonstrate the love of Christ to people?
3. Make a list of acts of love and share them with a partner.

## Spiritual Fruit and Gifting

As a New Overcomer, the Lord desires you to move into the spiritual depth and width of those provisions given to all believers. Spirituality is the key to living a life of overcoming. You must have your mind renewed so that the “new man” can operate victoriously in this life. The Fruit of the Spirit and Spiritual Gifts go hand and hand. The Fruit of the Spirit focus on the character and maturity of the believer and the Gifts of the Spirit focus on the power and tools of the believer. There has been much misinformation in the Body of Christ concerning the purpose and use of Spiritual Gifts. This misinformation has placed an inappropriate focus on gifts while neglecting the relevance and importance of Spiritual Fruit. Jesus states, “Ye shall know them by their fruit.” The Fruit of the Spirit displays an intimate relationship with Christ. If a Believer never displays the Fruit of the Spirit, their “Spiritual Gifting” is in vain or is NOT of God. At Bethesda, we don’t subscribe to the idea that a Believer can live their whole saved life as a “Carnal Christian”. Although we understand what some may mean by this idea, we believe that a true Believer will demonstrate the Fruit of the Spirit. When someone claiming to be a Christian is only able to demonstrate carnality, they are more than likely not a Christian. Therefore, the Overcomer should seek the Lord to ensure that their Spiritual Gifting is undergirded by the Fruit of the Spirit.

### Galatians 5:14-26

<sup>14</sup>For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

<sup>15</sup>But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

<sup>16</sup>This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

<sup>17</sup>For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

<sup>18</sup>But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

<sup>19</sup>Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

<sup>20</sup>Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

<sup>21</sup>Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

<sup>23</sup>Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.



<sup>24</sup>And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

<sup>25</sup>If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

<sup>26</sup>Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

**Matthew 7:16-23**

<sup>16</sup>Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

<sup>17</sup>Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

<sup>18</sup>A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

<sup>19</sup>Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

<sup>20</sup>Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

<sup>21</sup>Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

<sup>22</sup>Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

<sup>23</sup>And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

**Romans 12:4-8**

<sup>4</sup>For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

<sup>5</sup>So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

<sup>6</sup>Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

<sup>7</sup>Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

<sup>8</sup>Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

**1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

<sup>2</sup>Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.



# Determination

At Bethesda, we believe that determination is vital in order to live a powerful life in Christ. We use the term determination as the by-product of healthy faith. When a believer has a strong constitution of word-based faith, they will live be determined to fulfill the convictions of that faith. The Overcomer is able to defeat all personal, social, spiritual and emotional conflict through their determined disposition. Often times, Believers get discouraged in the faith because of social relationships and circumstances that they may face. However, if the Overcomer has a strong disposition of determination, they will be able to trust in the word of God and stand firm in trying times. Determination should not be discounted as insignificant. None of the other 6 previous tenants will mean anything if the Overcomer gives up before they experience the wonderful life God has planned for them. Many people begin strong, but when hard situations arise, they give up. As an Overcomer, you must be willing endure hardship and actively participate in your salvation experience.

## Hebrews 12:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

<sup>2</sup>Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup>For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

<sup>4</sup>Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

<sup>5</sup>And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

<sup>6</sup>For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

<sup>7</sup>If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

<sup>8</sup>But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

<sup>9</sup>Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

<sup>10</sup>For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

<sup>11</sup>Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

<sup>12</sup>Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

<sup>13</sup>And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

**Phillipians 1:6**

<sup>6</sup>Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

**Psalms 27:13-14**

<sup>13</sup>I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup>Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

**STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. Discuss a time when you gave up on someone or something. What led to you giving up? What may tempt you to give up on God? The church? Yourself?
  
2. List three things you are determined to do for God in the next three months. What needs to happen in order for you to accomplish these goals?
  
3. Discuss a historical figure or someone you personally know who inspires you because of their determination. What are their three most powerful characteristics?

# Attitude

Every New Overcomer's Core Experiences must be solidified with a great positive attitude towards God, leadership, self, family, other believers and community. Please note that these six entities (God, leadership, self, family, other believers and community) are representative of the number of man. In order to become a complete man or woman in God, you must develop the right attitude towards these entities. When you were in the world, you may have acquired some attitudes that are against the very nature of God. These attitudes include, insecurity, pessimism, suspicions, gossip, seductions, mean spiritedness, vindications, revenge, stubbornness, combativeness, rivalries, unruliness, outspokenness, bitterness, and many other attitude driven vices that block the power of God in both one's vertical and horizontal relationships. Attitude is an area of great difficulty for some, but it must be mastered in order to truly walk with God. Attitude is an area that all Overcomers must constantly assess and improve.

There are eight attitudes that all Overcomers should have. The 8 attitudes all Overcomes should develop, maintain, and perfect are: *Humility, Pliability, Compassion, Submission, Negotiable, Proactive, Empathy, and Optimism.* These 8 attitudes will ensure that Bethesda remains a place of safety and healing to the nations. It will also ensure that all social interaction between believers have governing agents that enhance fellowship. At Bethesda, we want the world to see the love of Christ in us and through us. In order for this to happen, we must have a positive, pliable, and appropriate attitude.

## Proverbs 6:16-19

<sup>16</sup>These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

<sup>17</sup>A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

<sup>18</sup>An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

<sup>19</sup>A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

## Matthew 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup>And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:

<sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,

<sup>3</sup>Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

<sup>7</sup>Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

<sup>8</sup>Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup>Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

<sup>10</sup>Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

**Romans 12:1-3, 9-21**

<sup>1</sup>I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

<sup>2</sup>And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

<sup>3</sup>For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

<sup>9</sup>Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

<sup>10</sup>Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

<sup>11</sup>Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

<sup>12</sup>Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

<sup>13</sup>Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

<sup>14</sup>Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

<sup>15</sup>Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

<sup>16</sup>Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

<sup>17</sup>Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

<sup>18</sup>If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

<sup>19</sup>Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

<sup>21</sup>Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

**1 Peter 5:5-6**

<sup>5</sup>Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

<sup>6</sup>Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

**John 13:35**

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

**STUDY QUESTIONS**

1. What attitudes do you possess that may keep you from relating in a positive manner with other children of God?
  
2. What attitudes do you want the Lord to purify you from so that you can be effective for Him?
  
3. List three attitudes or character traits the Lord hates. Explain why.
  
4. List three attitudes or character traits the Lord admonishes us to possess.

