

## Repentance Unto Life

*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.* (1TII:15) In the beginning, God gave a command to Adam, "Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die"(GEN2:17) Satan's heresy is that "You shall not surely die"(G3:4) The Bible defines disobedience as any choice that is contrary to what God has instructed. The apostle Paul equates faith and obedience, or conversely, unbelief and disobedience are directly linked. Adam's disobedience resulted in mankind being separated from God. Man began to live as he liked, as the result of which he lost God who had been his life. Human race drifted away from God. In Ephesians 2:1: *And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.* The "sons of disobedience" here are unsaved. It is a spirit ruled by Satan who is called the prince of the power of the air. Satan rules the unsaved man by his nature, which is automatically born in man. By our nature we are all children of wrath.(v3) One who is godless is lifeless and one who has God has life. The disobedience of one man (Adam) brought separation from God, but the obedience of one man (Jesus) saved many.(ROM5:19) As a result of our fallen sin nature, we are in need of a savior. The penalty for sin is death (physical death came later as a consequence of their spiritual death) and unless it is paid, that person will suffer eternal separation from God. We cannot pay this on our own through good works. Salvation comes through Jesus and by no other means can a man be saved. God's grace has appeared to all men.(TIT2:11) God's word came to people. John the Baptist came to prepare people to receive Christ. His message was, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near"(MAT3:2) From that time Jesus began to preach, crying out, Repent(change your mind for the better)(MAT4:17) In Luke 18:18-33 read about repentance necessary for entry into eternal life. To get it, we must live a life of repentance. Those who heard the voice of God repented, believed the gospel. Those who had thus obeyed the command were accepted by God. They began to have God and received new life. *He redeems your life from the pit. He satisfies you with good thing*(PSA103:1-5) Pray: Heavenly Father, we come before you. You are our Creator, and we are your creations. We confess that we are blind and want to see you, deaf and want to hear from you. Send the Holy Spirit to convict us of sin, to show us the glory of Christ's death and resurrection, and to change us to be more like him. It's because of Jesus' obedience to you and punishment in our place that we can approach you without fear – Amen

### Nature of Man's Sin

*Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.*(1JO3:4) Man's sin defines as transgression of the law of God; disobedience of the divine command; any violation of God's will, either in purpose or conduct; moral deficiency in the character; iniquity. And to depart voluntarily from the path or violate the divine law by transgression or by the neglect or nonobservance of any known rule of duty prescribed by God to man; often followed by against/rebellion. "The Lord looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one"(PSA14:2-3)The word given for "sin" in Psa.1:4 means looseness (like chaff - worthless, dead, without substance); in Isa. 57:20 like tossing of the sea; in Exo.4:21 as the hardening of Pharaoh's heart; in 1Sam.6:6 hardening of Saul's heart. What was Lot's wife's sin? She did not believe. She died for her lack of faith, which was revealed in her direct rebellion against the messengers of God. She looked back. The root cause of her rebellion, of her worldliness, was her unbelief. Due to her unbelief, she was not prepared to leave Sodom and did not really obey the command to leave. No one is exempt "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"(ROM3:23)"Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin"?(PRO20:9). God said, "you shall not covet"(DEU5:21). Did he really think that he didn't covet? Do we? God said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might"(DEU6:5) and no one does that. No one can love God as God deserves to be loved – with everything that we are, all of our intentions, thoughts, emotions – everything. Man's perversity is due to the sinful nature inherited because of his fall in Adam, resulted sinful work which he does.(GAL 6:7; PRO26:27) The guilt of sin has fallen upon all humanity from Adam until now. Man's eyes are blinded, for him spiritual things are foolishness. The unbeliever cannot understand them. The Spirit of God is needed to understand spiritual things(ROM3:11; 8:7; 3:23) *God...now commands all people everywhere to repent*(ACT 17:30). In Hebrew, word for "repent" is(*nacham*) which means, "to draw breath like a sigh, to grieve over our actions, and to lament." The one who is not willing to obey His counsel is unrepentant. If anyone forsakes the word(command) of God, God will leave him.(1CH28:8) The wages of sin is eternal death to all those who refuse to accept salvation. *Jesus said: unless you repent, you too will all perish.*(LUK 13:3) The Scriptures makes many appeals to people to "turn themselves" to God.(PRO1:23;ISA31:6;EZE14:6;JOE 2:12) May the Lord Jesus Christ grant you repentance and the emission of sins.(ACT5:30-31) May He grant you life.

## **The plan of Salvation**

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God so loved the world, that while we were yet sinners, He sent His dear son to pay the price for our sin on our behalf.(1PE1:20) In the Old Testament, high priest, was permitted access to the Ark of the Covenant and then only once a year during the Day of Atonement and it is clear from Scriptures about the character and nature of God to know His attitude about sin and the requirements to remedy for the separation that sin imposed between the sinner and God. In John 5:39, we read, *"You study the scriptures thoroughly because you think in them you possess eternal life, and it is these same scriptures that testify about me"* The testimony was certainly the coming of the Messiah, it included His sacrificial death, the sacrifice of the Lamb of God.(LUK 24:27) *"He (the Lamb of God, Christ) was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was manifested (revealed) in these last times.*(1CO10:11;18) When considering the plan of salvation, it is the relationship between men and the sovereign God. In Psa 11:7 we read, *"For the Lord(YHWH) is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright shall behold His face."* Who can claim to be "righteous" and "upright?" Consider what the prophet Isaiah, said in chapter 64:6. *"And we are all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteousness (our deeds of rightness and justice) is like filthy rags or a polluted garment; and we all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away."* Take us away from the presence and fellowship of God. How can we be declared righteous in God's sight? We must have a righteousness that God sees as righteous. Two things are required for this righteousness, repentance and faith on our part, and an atonement on God's part. For God's part we will see the Father in loving the world(JOH3:16;ROM5:8;EPH1:4), the Son in giving his life on the cross(JOH1:29;HEB 9:24-28), the Holy Spirit in convicting men of their sin and of their needs.(JOH16:8;3:5)The basic idea of atonement is reconciliation which mean the change of enmity into friendship or the restoration of the relationship between man and God.

## **Redemption**

*"But the righteous shall live by his faith."*(HAB2:4b;JAM2:23) "Faith" is in what believe in God who can do, and will do. This is a comprehensive, general standard for all time, applicable even today. Faith is trust, Trust in the actions and desires of the Lord. *"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is stayed on You [who maintain faith; purpose firm] because they trusts in You. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting Rock* (ISA26:3,4) It would appear then that salvation is redemption or atonement. *But God will redeem my soul from the power of death; for He will receive me.*(PSA 49:15) God will make atonement for our sin! The object of our faith is in God and His redemptive plan. The necessity of a sacrifice is seen in the Old Testament. That this plan was seen in the Passover (slain lamb's blood), the Day of Atonement, when the people's sin is confessed over a pure animal and then the animal is slain. God declares in Lev17:11; *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul."* The blood represents the life poured out in death. Since God is unchangeable, His method of redemption never changes. Believers today are redeemed through exactly the same system that was given to Israel in the past, a substitutionary blood sacrifice using the exchanged life principle. In Isaiah 53:4-11. *"Smitten of God, and afflicted."* *"But he was wounded because of our transgressions"* *"All we like sheep did go astray...And the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all"* *"As a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep that before her shearers is dumb; so he did not open his mouth"* *"For he was cut off out of the land of the living, for the transgression of my people he was stricken"*. *"Although he had done no violence, Neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to crush him..."* *"And their iniquities he did bear."* *"Yet he bore the sin of many."* Peter says, the prophet saw clearly "the sufferings of Christ" who exchanged His life for men(1PE1:11) Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb, to die and wash away our sins and shame by the shedding of His own blood at the cross. *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed ..but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*(1PE1:18,19) This was necessary because of God's justice and sense of righteousness. Since the sacrifice had to be without spot or blemish, that is, perfect in regard to God's moral absolutes, only God Himself would suffice. *"God made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we would become the righteousness of God."*(2CO5:21), The Messiah of God, Himself, came to earth to exchange His life for each one of us. Jesus became a man and give his life as a ransom for many. That God should choose to accept a substitution to die in our place. The sacrifice, made on our behalf, should cause us to detest our sin. This attitude is necessary to satisfy God. When Jesus gave his life on the cross, it was final sacrifice for sins forever(HEB 9:24-28;10:10-14) "It is finished" (paid in full). We need only place our faith in Him to secure God's forgiveness for our sin. Today God accepts both Jew, Gentile on the basis of their faith in the death and resurrection of Christ as a substitutionary sacrifice, suitable to completely pay the penalty due us for our sin. The blot of past sins has been wiped away forever and set free who is in bondage, deliver everyone of the fear of death and God's wrath.(HEB2:14-)

### **The Steps of Repentance**

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*For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.* (COL1:13) Salvation (to be saved) means "to be delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of His beloved Son" The domain (Satan's kingdom) of darkness is evil and affects every area of mankind's existence. Man is born with the nature of Satan, and is therefore, born a slave to the Kingdom of darkness because of the sin of Adam. The Bible teaches that for a person to come into a state of salvation, one must: (a) hear the gospel message (ROM10:17) (b) believe it (JOH3:16) (c) repent of ones sins (ACT 17:30) (d) confess the name of Christ (MAT 10:32) and (e) be baptized (MAR16:16;ACT 2:38). Each of these steps involves purity of purpose.(MAT7:24-27) We must hear the gospel with the view that we are going to act upon it i.e., obey it. Romans 10:10 states that with the heart man believes unto righteousness. The heart must be pure in order to believe the gospel. The "Gospel" is the Word of God, the good news of Jesus Christ. It is the power of God for salvation.(ROM1:16) The gospel is the power to deliver you from the kingdom of darkness and transfer you to the kingdom of God's beloved Son! This promise is for everyone who believes (has faith) Your faith in God's Word, therefore, is the power to deliver you from all aspects of the kingdom of darkness. It will deliver you from the nature of spiritual death, sickness, and disease, Tragedy and calamity, poverty, fear, oppression, torment, and guilt. He will do all of this for you if you will believe in Him! When we look at the step of repentance, the Bible is clear that it is more than merely being sorry. "*Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation, and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death*"(2CO7:10) First, a person becomes aware of the sin in his life, his mind is alerted to sin. In the parable of the lost son(LUK15:11-21) repentance was begun when he came to his senses. Secondly, the emotions are aroused."*I am troubled by my sin*"(PSA38:18;51:17) Thirdly, the will acts."*So he got up and went to his father*"(LUK15:20) In repentance, there will be confession of sin to God(PSA32:5;51:1-4) The purpose of repentance is to stop doing the sinful things that one once did and a turning from it to reform the pattern of one's life after righteousness(ACT26:20) *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

### **Saved by Grace**

We are saved by faith in Him. "*for by grace you have been saved through faith*"(EPH2:8) Salvation is the gift of God's grace in Jesus Christ. Jesus was God's gift to you as a substitute to die on your behalf.(1CO5:21) *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* On the cross, Jesus became sin and took upon Himself the sin and died. He went to Hades, the place of torment, with our sinfulness. But on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead. When Jesus rose from the dead, He declared the power of spiritual death null and void over anyone who received Him as Lord. Rom10:9-10 says that with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. *If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in Salvation.* One's confession must be pure. "I received Jesus Christ as Lord in my life" These words must come from the heart; they must be meant. When it says "believe God raised Jesus from the dead" to acknowledge that God's power, and that He is Lord over your spiritual death. When you do that, you are saved! In His work of the cross, Jesus defeated the authority of Satan over us. We have His victory, when we put our faith in Him. (1JO5:4) Hence, to be "saved" is to be delivered from Satan's power and authority in every area of your life. Salvation from a physical illness(MAT 9:21; LUK8:36) Salvation from danger(MAT8:25;14:30) Salvation from defilement(ACT 2:40) Salvation from lostness-life & soul (MAT18:11; LUK 19:10) Salvation from sin(MAT1:21) Salvation from wrath (ROM5:9) Salvation from eternal judgment.(ROM 13:11; 1CO 5:5; 2 TI 4:18; HEB 9:28; 1PE 1:5) When you are saved, you are rescued from the power and authority of darkness! You are free from the Satan to hold you in spiritual death(separation from God). You have the right ruling, power over Satan in every area of your life in the name of Jesus! Confess "I am saved by the grace of God! My sins have been forgotten. I am delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God's beloved Son!" Once a person receives Jesus Christ as Lord in his life, *You are Saved! So worship God: for testimony of Jesus.*

### **True Repentance**

*Bring forth fruit that is consistent with repentance*[let your lives prove your change of heart]MAT3:8;EZE33:15 True repentance must produce in us the fruit of restitution - returning money and things and taxes due, that are wrongfully in our possession(that belong to others) and apologising to those we have wronged.(LUK19:8,9) It is a new attitude a change of mind a change of heart that results in one turning from sin to God & ultimately to His ways. When God forgives us, He also requires that we forgive others in the same way. If we fail to do this, neither will your Father forgive you. God looks upon the heart. If there's no repentance in the heart there's no forgiveness from God and no new life in Christ(MAT18:23-) Christians, who return to a life of sin, crucify again for themselves the Son of God(HEB6:4-6) We must be diligent not to fall short of God's grace(HEB12:12-17)

### **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

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Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." (JOH 3:3) Nicodemus came to Jesus that night. In fact as a Pharisee and a member of the ruling council of the Sanhedrin, it was quite a risky step for him. He had come to give Jesus his stamp of approval, if you will. "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with Him," (JOH 3:2). Nicodemus expected Jesus to be impressed with his compliment. Instead, Jesus told Nicodemus that he needed God's approval. And God's approval would come only to those who are "born again". Nicodemus missed the point altogether. Still, he was genuinely searching for the truth and he was convinced Jesus could help him find it. Nicodemus: "How can a man be born when he is old?" Jesus: "Born of water and the Spirit." Nicodemus: "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" Jesus: "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit." Nicodemus: "How can this be?" Jesus: "I tell you the truth" Listen to those words of our Lord Jesus "You must be born again" The term "born again" (Greek, *anōthen*) may also be translated "born from above" indicating the supernatural origin of regeneration. The word "regeneration" means "new birth". It means that a spiritually dead soul is made alive by the Spirit of God. It is a spiritual birth in contrast to a physical birth. In physical birth, the water breaks forth and the baby is born. In spiritual birth, the Spirit breaks forth and a person is spiritually born. Jesus acknowledged the mystery of the New Birth when he described it to Nicodemus: "The wind blows where it will, and you hear its sound, but you cannot tell from where it comes or where it is going. So is every one that is born of the Spirit" (JOH 3:8) Jesus's disciples received this experience on the day of Pentecost as Jesus described to Nicodemus. Keep this word "the wind blows where it will" in mind as you read from Acts 2:1-4: "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing (blowing) mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" This experience which the disciples received fulfills the description of the New Birth which Jesus gave to Nicodemus. When Jesus spoke of the sound of the wind accompanying every new birth experience. Although the wind is invisible, the effects it produces can be seen and heard. Jesus was saying that every one who is born of the Spirit is moved by the Spirit to speak in tongues (the Spirit's testimony) (1JO 5:6b) For one who speaks in an [unknown] tongue speaks not to men but to God, for no one understands his meaning, He utters mysteries [secret truths] with his Spirit. (1CO 14:2) The initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues through the power of the Holy Spirit confirms that a person has been baptized in the Holy Spirit. (ACT 15:7-8) Look at the household of Cornelius. All who heard Peter's message that day received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. "They heard them speak with tongues and magnify God" (ACT 10:46; 19:6) It was prophesied by Joel, In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh. (ACT 2:17) and the prophet Isaiah as the rest and the refreshing (ISA 28:11-12) John the Baptist spoke of "baptizing" in the Spirit. (MAR 1:8) Jesus described it as "power from on high" (LUK 24:49) Luke referred to being "filled" with the Spirit (ACT 2:4) In other passages, people "received" the Spirit, the Spirit was "poured out". The terms are most often stress the purpose, power and activity of the Spirit. All believers are freely and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and Fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. Just before His ascension, Jesus assured His disciples, "For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (ACT 1:5) After Pentecost, Peter encouraged "Repent and be baptized, And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off (ACT 2:38,39) and evidence is power. With it comes the power for life and service, the bestowment of the spiritual gifts, fruit of the Spirit and their uses in the work of the ministry. It is given both for self-edification and for the edification of the church (1CO 14:1-40) Paul said, "Forbid not to speak with tongues" and "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than you all" Fire baptism: Purification of sin as Holy Spirit does his cleansing work in us as part of process of sanctification

### **Born again in the Spirit**

At the last supper, Jesus described his disciples' spiritual condition that night with a woman agonizing with the pangs of childbirth, Jesus was saying that the time for their New Spiritual Birth was near. (JOH 16:21-22) The disciples had been conceived by the Word of God which Jesus had sown into their hearts, "the seed is the Word of God" (LUK 8:11) One must receive this Seed in order for the process of New Birth to begin. Nature teaches us that relatively few of the seeds sown will produce life, and that even fewer will mature and bear fruit. According to Jesus, only a small portion of the seeds of the kingdom of God which are sown into human hearts actually sprout, produce righteousness in the life. (MAT 13:19) During Jesus' earthly ministry, only about 120 followers continued in his Word and were born again in the Spirit at the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (ACT 5:32; 13:52) And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit

## **Water Baptism**

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*"Repent you, and be baptized every one of you ...; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"*(ACT 2:38) Baptism is a one-time ordinance that transforms the believer into a new creature-*born again of the water.* (JOH3:4) Baptism by water is an outward testimony of the inward repentance of the heart. It demonstrates your new relationship and identification with the Lord Jesus Christ that you are a follower/disciple of Jesus Christ. It is a public confession of your faith and commitment to Jesus, whom you have accepted as your personal savior and Lord. It is a sign of salvation already received. It is to do with the cleansing of the conscience toward God. *This is a symbol of baptism, ...but the response of a good conscience toward God* (1PE 3:20-21)

In the OT, model of the tabernacle provides us with each step that God requires His people to take, so water baptism is a symbol of the true baptism of God.(HEB 9:23-24 God commanded that a basin called a "laver" be placed outside the door to the Tabernacle. Water baptism is the laver of repentance. Jesus, has already become our sacrifice so our first step is to approach the laver which reflects our sin and in it put off the unclean life which has covered us with its stain. We must be immersed in the waters of repentance(baptized) before we can enter into fellowship with God. Baptism reflects the laver cleansing, though not of the flesh as in the wilderness, but of the heart. It is the circumcision of the heart, a spiritual, not a physical, thing.(ROM 2:28-29) The Bible tells us that water baptism is not the Old Testament kind of circumcision, i.e. done by the hands of men, but a circumcision done by triune God.(COL2:1,12;DEU30:6;ROM2:29) *putting off the sinful nature* (i.e.flesh) When we accept Jesus and commit our lives to him, we are symbolically crucified with him and our old selves was nailed to the cross, the sinful men - died with him "*united in Him like this in His death*"(ROM 6:4,5) In Baptism Our whole body being immersed in water is really a burial, is symbolic of dying to the world. Our faith in Jesus means that our new selves come out of the grave with Him. Coming up(raised) from the water, with His resurrection our new life in Christ. So the water baptism process represents our death, burial & resurrection. "*having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead*"(COL2:12) Peter makes a comparison with Noah and his family going through the Water of Flood in the ark. The Bible describes it as an act of salvation - a "baptism" in which "eight souls were saved by water" from the Judgment. In 1Cor 10:2 we read that the children of Israel were "baptized into Moses... in the sea." The parting of the Red Sea and the destruction of Pharaoh's army is also described as an act of salvation, a "baptism" to liberate people from their life of bondage. Today, Christians are baptized in water into the freedom of grace; through the spirit of God and into the single, spiritual body of Christ. Abraham was declared righteous by faith. But afterwards received the sign of circumcision: (ROM4:11) So water baptism a sign of the righteousness that we already have by faith before we are baptized. The one requirement for baptism is belief in Christ. Baptism follows belief. That's why its call "believer's baptism" The individual who seeks baptism needs repentance, cleansing from sin, death to their old nature and newness of life. Water baptism is the sign language of our desire for forgiveness and willingness to walk in the light of God.(1JO1:7;GAL3:27) The true disciple of Jesus Christ experiences baptism in new spiritual life. In baptism we turn unto God's way, obeying the gospel. In baptism we rise with Him to live in the power of a new and resurrected life. And now you "*have put on Christ*"(GAL3:27;EXO29:4-9) And the change which takes place at baptism: *But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ ... Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God*(EPH2:12-13,19) The true pattern of Christian baptism is the baptism which John the Baptist gave to Jesus Christ. *Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him.* (MAT3:13-16;ACT8:38) John immersed Jesus in the waters of the river Jordan for baptism. He humbled himself and took the water baptism to fulfill all righteousness and give us an example to follow and so should we obey. *So then, my beloved, .. work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.*(PHI2:12) As Noah was saved by entering the ark, we must enter Christ through baptism in order to be saved from the coming judgments(HEB11:7) Remember, faith comes before baptism, because the person being baptized can make the choice about his faith and commitment. In Mark 16:16, "*Those who believe and be baptized shall be saved*" Baptism is referred to as in water.(ACT10:47-48) Therefore by definition Greek word "baptizo" which is "to dip", "immerse": baptism can only be immersion and that in water. Jesus gave the Commission, "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*"(MAT28:19)Water Baptism is a command for all new converts/every believer in obedience to Christ

### **The Counsel of God**

We have the example of Cornelius, who was a 'good' man by any standard(ACT10:2) yet God told him to send for Peter, '*he shall tell you what you ought to do*' (ACT10:6) Peter came, and taught Cornelius about Jesus: *that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name* One thing still was necessary *So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of the Lord*'(v42-48)But Pharisees/lawyers rejected it(LUK7:29,30)

### **Meditating upon God's Word**

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*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*(PSA1) Meditation means the act of focusing one's thoughts: think on, ponders and studies. It is important to meditate on God's word, to really let it sink in our hearts "watering" it every day like the farmers water their seeds and wait for the plant to grow. The Bible says that God's word is alive and will not return without fruit! However the "soils" of the hearts can differ. God says that Satan will always try to steal the seed of the Word of God from your heart whenever he has the chance to.(MAT13:18-23) Believing the word of God is a powerful weapon, it is the sword of the Spirit.(EPH6:17) So as to understand God's plan in your life.(JER29:11) Pray: *Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Your Law.*(PSA119:18) Jesus promised: *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you shall ask whatever you will and it shall be done unto you*(JOH15:7)

#### **The truth of God's Word**

The Word is God's chosen tool to facilitate change in His children. God's will is revealed in God's Word. God equips believers for every good work through His Word. *Sanctify them by the Truth; Your Word is Truth.* (JOH17:17) Therefore we should use the Bible as our source of truth, learn to receive God's word trustfully, continue to meditate upon it and study as long as you live. You can read a great deal about God's plans, desires and His will in the Holy Bible. And they work their way into your spirit, where they give life and hope and where they build faith and obedience. It has a living power in it; it will glorify itself. It will bring joy in your heart, light to your eyes and physical health too. Take it, and hold it fast; it will accomplish its work with divine power. The key to a successful life is discovered as we meditate the scripture and do according to all that is written. *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.*(JOS1:8) Reading the Bible is like eating spiritual food, heavenly manna, just as we receive our daily food. It is like honey, like bread, like milk, like meat. Take time to read a verse or passage and you think about what you're read, you chew over it. Just like a cow eats grass and chews it, we are to meditate on the Word of God. And you receive it or swallow it. Then as time passes by, later on you remember what you read; you bring it up again, think about it again and chew on it again. That is meditating. Begin to memorize/understand all of it. And it will bring fruit. Listen; quiet your heart to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through His Word. Move from meditation to application-connect your thoughts into action. Consider how the truth and power of the Word of God should affect your faith life. *May my meditation be pleasing to him, as I rejoice in the Lord.* Rom 10:17 says that "*Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God*". God is command us to teach ourselves and our children His Word, and write them upon the doorposts of house and on gates.(DEU6:6-9) As you read the Bible you may want to ask yourself these questions. Is there any Sin to (confess)? Promise to (believe)? Attitude to (change)? Command to (obey)? Example to (follow)? Prayer to (pray)? Error to (avoid)? Truth to (receive)? Something to (thank God for)? Anything apply to (my life today)? When we submit ourselves to prayer and studying God's Word, the Holy Spirit will teach us many things as we walk in Christ. Ask that the Holy Spirit would reveal more of what is yours 'in Christ' and dwell on these things. (1CO2:12) "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable...That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*"(2TI3:16-17;MAT4:4) Teaching involves instruction, showing us truth, always points in the right direction.(DEU28:13) Reproof is showing us the sin in our lives, where we are wrong. When we look into the mirror of God's Word, we see ourselves more clearly.(JAM1:23-25) Correction shows us how to get right, the righteousness with which we replace the sin.(EPH4:22-24) Training in righteousness develops discipline to live right. "*for the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword*"(HEB4:12) Application takes place as you are confronted with the truth and you respond to that truth in obedience (in faith). Accurate interpretation and correct application rest on the accuracy of your observations. Scripture declares of God's thoughts,(ISA55:8-9) We must develop and maintain the mind of Christ or God's thoughts. This is the first step in the process of training ourselves to think correctly. God wants to occupy our mind with His Word when we open ourselves up to prayer, study, and meditation. Then God's Word becomes delightful and we want to learn more about God and His grace, so we can begin to experience God's ways. It is our growth and God's work in us for His glory. We are to study the Scripture for He has given us His inspired, inerrant and authoritative Word. For that we need to develop the art of biblical meditation. *Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth*(2TI2:15) To the extent that we neglect reading through the *Bible* we become powerless against satanic deceptions and errors. God gives the reason for Israel's defeat by the Assyrians in Hosea 4:6. Be a doer of the word not just a Hearer.(JAM1:22-25) Rev 1:3 says there is blessing for those who read God's word and who keep themselves.(PSA104:34;119:15,23,27,48,78,97,148)

## **Prayer and Fasting**

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*And it came to pass in those days that He went up into a mountain to pray, and spent the night praying to God* (LUK6:12) Prayer is converse and fellowship with God, in which God has opportunity to work in us. Prayer is spiritual incense. Let it rise before the throne of God each day. Prayer is a privilege God graciously grants to His children, enabling us to express our submission to His will for our lives. As a child of God you are invited to come boldly before His throne. *"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us"*(1JO5:14) Prayer brings the power of God to bear on the situations, that we are concerned about, that God is able to work in our lives and in the lives of others and it opens new possibilities. So we can freely bring all of our concerns, thoughts and desires, our hurts and our needs to Him, knowing that He is our loving Father wants hear from us. The closer we come to God the more we see our need and the more we desire to be conformed to the image of Christ. Without prayer one will be powerless. May God give us the prayer life. *But when you pray, enter into your inner chamber and having shut the door, pray to your Father. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*(MAT6:6) Be alone with God in the chamber, believe in His tender fatherly love and out of this faith prayer will be born. Pray, review the promises. It is this secret converse with God, He sees in secret. Every day in prayer ask from above & by faith receive what you need for that day. Prayer is not just talking to God but it involves listening also. He will give answers to your questions, guidance for the day ahead, and help you order your priorities. Most often He will do this through His written Word or by a "still small voice" that seems to "speak" to your heart. Sometimes He will give you a vision or interpret back to your spirit. Sometimes your prayer will result in God calling you to action instead of more prayer. *Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months"* (JAM5:17) God has given each and every one of us the opportunity to address him "Abba Father" that we come into prayer with reverence, focusing on who God is and will often start with praise and thanksgiving. In prayer the principal thing is faith. To arrive at this faith we must take time in prayer: time to set ourselves silently/trustfully before God and to become awake to His presence: time to have our soul sanctified in fellowship with God: time for the Holy Spirit to teach us to hold fast and use trustfully the word of promise. *"With God nothing is impossible"*. Situations which appear absolutely insoluble to us are no problem to the Almighty God of Israel. *"the prayer of a righteous man is powerful"*(JAS5:16) Live a righteous life. Seek to understand God's will/purpose. Ask with the right motives. Pray with a vow.(ECL5:4,5) Ask in Jesus's Name! To pray is to change. God uses prayer to transform us. Our ultimate prayer always-for God to be glorified in us. We need to ask the Lord Jesus like the disciples, "Lord, teach us to pray" Jesus set the example, taught his disciples, commanded us to persevere and pray without ceasing. "After this manner, therefore pray"(MAT6:9-13) Prayer is described as: Calling upon the name of the Lord: Crying unto God: Drawing near to God: looking up: Lifting up the soul: Pouring out the heart: Seeking the face of the Lord: Making supplication. When you pray, you may pray while: Standing: Bowing down: Kneeling: Lifting up the hands. There are three levels of intensity in prayer: Asking, seeking and knocking.(MAT7:7,8) In order to receive, the condition is to ask: *...you have not, because you ask not.*(JAM4:2) Seeking is "continued" in prayer.(ACT1-2) Knocking is like the woman who keeps knocking at the door until the judge comes out and addresses her concern.(LUK11:5-10) Apostle Paul calls for believers to pray in the Spirit with "praying with every kind of prayer"(EPH6:18).  
1. Worship and Praise: Worship is the giving of honor and devotion. Praise is thanksgiving and an expression of gratitude not only for what God has done but for who He is. You are to worship God in spirit and in truth.  
2. Commitment: This is prayer committing your life and will to God. It includes prayers of consecration and dedication to God, His work, and His purposes.  
3. Supplication: Prayers of petition are requests. Requests must be made according to the will of God as revealed in His written Word.  
4. Confession and Repentance: A prayer of confession is repenting and asking forgiveness for sin.(1JO1:9)  
5. Intercession: Intercession is prayer for others. An intercessor is one who takes the place of another or pleads another's case.(PSA35:4,4)

## **Fasting**

Fasting is so effective that one can be filled with God's awesome power.(MAR9:29) Fast, meaning to abstain from food and drink for a period of time as God leads, also warns us against testing the Lord.(MAT4:7)Fasting equate with afflicting the soul or with denying oneself(LEV16:29,31)In Psa35:13 fasting with 'humbling oneself' It is one of the ways that God ordained for turning to Him with all of your heart(NEH1:4;9:1-3;DAN9:3,20;JOE2:12) Personal fasting should be done in secret and not boasted about.(MAT6:16-18) Leaders may call a public fast & request the whole church fellowship to fast: *Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly.* Isaiah 58 describes God's divinely approved fast. In this self-denial, we surrender to Jesus more deeply so He can work His will in us more completely. It is a powerful tool of repentance. To break the yokes of bondage and to loosen the chains of injustice, produces change, brings us to the final glorious result, freedom in Jesus!

## **Tithes and Offerings**

- 8 -

*"Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed me. "But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' "In tithes and offerings.* (MAL3:8) The tithe is the tenth of one's income, which the righteous have always devoted to the Lord. The tithe principle is this; He gives unto us, we give back to Him one-tenth of all that He has blessed us with.(PSA24:1-2) *"so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands(DEU14:29;8:18)* Some think that tithing belonged only to the time of the Law of Moses, therefore does not apply to the church. Yet, long before the time of Moses the Law was given, we read that Abraham, the type of believer, paid tithes to Melchizedek, the type of Christ(GEN14:17-20)Being a righteous man, his conscience told him to do so. Jacob promised God, *"and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth"* Jacob was, at that time, without home or income and friendless in a strange land, on a perilous journey; nevertheless, this vow and his faithfulness to it resulted in his return to his father's house in peace and plenty.(GEN28:22)God's will concerning tithes & offerings has never changed. Abraham's blessing through tithing is ours, being a part of his blessing of justification by faith. Those who refuse to bring tithes and an offering to the Lord's anointed ministers is sin. Often it is the sin of covetousness prevents one from rendering his tithes and gifts to the Lord. The love of money hinders many from being able to express gratitude to God for all His benefits. How much are the blessings of God worth? How much is your eyesight worth? your hearing? your limbs? and what of your home, your clothes and food? You see how riches can be a stumbling block?(MAT19:20-22) Judas is not the only one who has traded his eternal heritage for a few pieces of silver. In Pv 21:26 *He covets greedily all the day long, but the righteous gives and does not withhold.* When one brings his tithes, he is confessing his submission to the authority which Christ has established in his church, in the person of the man who receives the tithes, he places himself in a position to be blessed by God.(NUM18:21;1CO9:13-14) *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.(LEV27:30)* In other words, your tithe is a holy thing unto God. If you receive something, you tithe or give the best. Jesus did teach "tithing" in Mat 23:23. *For you give a tenth (that's tithe)—of your mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected important matters of the Law-- justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.* One cannot neglect either and be a faithful follower of Christ, for Jesus said, *"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's"*(LUK20:25) Taxes are the amount we render to Caesar, or the government. And we give our tithe to the Lord. *Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your income(PRO3:9)* We are to prepare our tithes quickly, not slowly. Let us put into practice. *Bring all the tithes(the whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it.(MAL3:10;IICH31:10-12)* Jesus is the Lord of the tithe.(HEB7)

## **Offerings**

Not only did God say that he had been robbed in tithes, but also in offerings. In addition to tithes, as the Lord provides, a person should give an offering and also give to the poor.(GAL2:10) In OT an offering to be a cultural gift/worship for God in which an animal or grain is burnt up on an altar as to God.(LEV1to7)Burnt offerings symbolized the total dedication of the offering unto God(completely consumed by fire) and the ascending (the rising smoke) of the offering to God in heaven. Christ had offered once for all time a sacrifice on our behalf.(HEB10:7-10)Christ was manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself(HEB9:26) Christ Himself is our peace.(EPH2:14) Christians offer themselves as living sacrifices, that is, by obeying God in our daily lives. A life well-pleasing to God, then make your offerings sweet and acceptable in His sight(EPH5:10;MAL1:6- Offerings were given based on vows, commitments, freewill and sacrifices. *Make an offering of praise to God: fulfill your vows to the Most High,(PSA50:14;HEB13:15)* For Spiritual Sacrifices/Worship.(1PE2:5;ROM12:1) A consecration and dedication to ministry/God. *But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith,(PHI4:17)* God is pleased with giving. *"Both men and women came, all who were willing-hearted. They brought their gold as a wave offering to the Lord.(EXO35:22)* In Luk6:38 is the manner of giving in which God has taught us to give unto men: Good measure, pressed down and shaken together and running over. *"Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver"*(2CO9:7,12,13) We are to give an offering willingly, with generous heart.(EXO25:2;PHI4:17-19) However, do not offer it, until you get any unsettled matters straightened out with your brother. This could be considered a condition on offering.(MAT5:23,24) Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them, it should be done secretly and humbly. Is a robber going to enter heaven? No. unless he repents! The poor widow in Luk 21:1-3 put in all that she had to live on. Do we have this kind of attitude? All belongs to God, therefore God is our inheritance, not money or property, we can expect to pay our tithes, Christian giving and offerings in a spirit of stewardship.(LUK12:48;HEB11:4) God is the ultimate example of giving.(JOH3:16) *"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,"(MAT6:20,21)*



*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*(ACT1:8;ISA43:10-12) A witness is someone who sees and hears God, who can confirm a truth because he has direct knowledge of it. Jesus Said, "*Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men*" He instructed followers to go into nations and make disciples of them, preach them the Gospel. The disciples, Peter, John, Paul and others were witnesses, has encountered the risen Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. They openly and publicly testified about what they had learned and seen while with Jesus. We have been called to be witness till Jesus Christ returns. As you wait for Christ's return, is witnessing a priority in your life? Witnessing makes the wait worthwhile "*occupy till I come*"(L19:13) by being God's instrument to lead one person out of the kingdom of Satan into the glorious life of heaven. God has made his people his witnesses(be a sample) of Jesus Christ, vessels of the message of his love, lights on a hill, salt in society, ambassadors of his kingdom, so that others can also know the true living God. Now that's a witness a) by living an authentic Christian life. b) by telling others how Jesus paid for their sins with His blood and arose from the dead so they can be saved. Both ways of witnessing for Jesus are necessary.

#### **A Simple, Effective Approach That Works**

Many of us fear witnessing because we don't feel ready to share our faith. We ought to know basic principles of witnessing and the wisdom/grace to know what to say. *Be Enthusiastic* about your faith in Jesus Christ. A zealous Christian is doing something that's got them excited something that gets them out in the morning. *Be Authentic*. People don't only read the Christian literature we give them; they read our lives also. If you talk to others about Jesus but your life contradicts your words, people won't believe your testimony. What I am saying and doing is a reflection of Jesus; be good examples. And being a witness involves your whole life. Others will see Jesus in us! Your good deeds can cause others to "praise your Father in heaven" *Be Looking for Opportunities*. We should be grateful and take advantage of them. Christians have the right and the duty to speak the Word of God and proclaim the Gospel unashamedly to everyone who will listen, not only in the church, but also house to house! Witnessing presents a real challenge if we are always around believers? God wants everyone to go as the Holy Spirit leads while avoiding the errors of unionism(JAM1:23)*Be Prepared* yourself for evangelism by praying and studying the Bible. Spend time in prayer, asking God for those characteristics to be developed in your life and witness. This can be relatively easy when the Holy Spirit is your guide and when you have a few Scriptures ready to share. God's Word is like a seed which, when planted in the human heart, can bear fruit for eternal life.(JOH4:36) *Be Christ-Centered*. Acts 8:5 tells us that Philip the evangelist went down to Samaria and preached Christ, the Gospel message. We must be committed to preaching Christ's death and resurrection. *Be ready with a Tract*. That is something that we can all do, find yourself a Good Clear Gospel tract and give them away! Peter says, "*Always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, in meekness and in fear*"(IPE3:15) Because the hope that is in us is the only hope of salvation, the only hope of everlasting life. Peter says that there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.(ACT4:12;JOH14:6;1TI2:5) According to the Bible, it is the pastor/elder's job to equip the people of God so they can do the work of evangelism. We have been on this earth to lead others to Christ. By your Church, people learn of what church you go to, they ought to say that's the right church; you want to be as different from this world as possible! It is important to support missionaries. How does the world hear about God's salvation? By hearing the testimony of God's people. Much of the testimony of God's people comes to us from the written pages of scripture. It is the way in which written words are confirmed over and over again in the lives of God's people. Begin on your knees by asking God to touch your unsaved friends, neighbors, loved ones to come to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Begin to claim them for God as you pray. Follow the example of our Lord, "*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message*" (JOH17:20) Just as Jesus prayed that the Holy Spirit would work in the lives of His disciples, so we can pray that the Holy Spirit will convict non-believers and give them a strong desire to know God, so they can make a choice to receive Christ as Savior. Before you can introduce others to Christ, you must: be prepared to tell others about Jesus and how they can be saved. Carry your Holy Bible with you and bring Christian Tracts along with you wherever you go. Briefly share three things, testimony of your personal experience with Christ What your life was like before your decision, why and how you received Christ, how Christ has changed your life. List benefits of knowing Christ. Learn how to present the essence of the gospel so simply, clearly, and convincingly that the one with whom you are sharing will be able to make decision for Christ as Savior and Lord. Most importantly, follow Jesus' example how to witness in the most effective manner as He talked to the woman of Samaria. Study John 4 carefully to discover new approaches and techniques of witnessing. In John 4:35b "*...I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for the harvest*"

## Holy Communion

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When you become church member, taking part in the Holy Communion is vital in your Christian life(1CO10:16) Unlike Baptism, which is a one time event, Communion is a practice that is meant to be observed over and over throughout the life of a Christian. Communion is also known as The Lord's table(1CO10:21), The Lord's supper(1CO11:20), The Eucharist, means thanks giving(LUK22:17-19). Lord's supper involves partaking of two elements bread and wine or grape juice(GEN14:18-19) and is preceded by a blessing or prayer of thanksgiving. In the old testament God gave Israel a series of seven Feasts. The first feast of the year was called The Passover (EXO12:11) and served as a yearly observance that it was through the blood and the body of lamb that Israel was delivered from Egyptian bondage. They were told to take a young lamb without spot or blemish. They were to slain it in the evening, as soon as it was killed, the blood was to be sprinkled over the door posts of their houses. The lamb was to be roasted and eaten in haste - with loins girded, shoes on their feet, and staff in hand, ready to move out quickly. At midnight that night angel passed through the land, striking dead the firstborn of each family in all the land of Egypt. But those under the blood of the lamb were saved from death. There was always to be a perfect lamb sacrifice at the Passover. This lamb represents the perfect sacrifice that Jesus makes for us on the cross. And Christ is the lamb of God.(JOH1:29) a Lamb without spot.(1PET1:19) It was to be slain and roasted with fire, denoting the extreme sufferings of the Lord Jesus, even unto death. For only the shed blood of Jesus can cleanse and make permanent atonement for all sin. Wine is to represent the blood of Jesus. Also part of the feast of Passover was the eating of unleavened bread. This bread represent the body of Jesus. The bread was for the saving of their life and the healing of their body, and the blood was for the forgiveness of their sins and iniquities. We have to continue to keep these Feast with the spirit of true Christianity in remembering Christ's death for our sins and putting away sin(leaven is a type) from our lives. *"Purge(clean out) the old leaven that you may be new lump, as you really are. For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened[bread] of purity, sincerity and truth.*(1CO5:7,8) It was during supper, His last Passover meal with His disciples before His betrayal and crucifixion, He introduced this ordinance of the New Testament.(MAT26:26;LUK22:14,19-20) He transformed the Passover of the Old covenant into the Holy Communion of the New covenant-making His own Body and Blood the fulfillment of the Passover Lamb *And when the hour was come, He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. And He took bread, and gave thanks & broke it and gave unto them, saying: This is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you.*

### Spiritual union

The word "Communion" means to be in union with. When we take communion, we are being in union with Jesus, because it was Jesus' death and resurrection that made it possible for us to go directly in to the presence/family of God.(HEB10:19-23) The loaf of bread is an emblem of the crucified Saviour and it is our participation in Him that makes us one. Each person receives a fragment from the same loaf because each is a member of the same Body of Christ. *We who are many are one body: for we all partake of the one bread.*(1CO10:16,17) *"A new commandment I give unto you that ye love one another; even as I have loved you that ye also love one another* We gather together as brothers and sisters around the table of the Lord. We are demonstrating our common faith, commitment, concerns, love, devotion to Christ and the ministry and life to which He has called us. So we may partake of the elements as one to express our unity in Christ. It signifies a fellowship with Christ, experience his life(power), death(suffering) and resurrection(victory). In the Cup *"The cup of blessing"* we see Christ as the Lamb of God who came as the God-man to die for our sins. Jesus said *"I am the bread of life. This is the bread which came down from heaven, that a man can eat of and not die*(JOH6:48-51

**Personal preparation:** To take the Lord's Table in a worthy manner, is to make sure that you have forgiven all others their sins against you, released them from your judgment and are the praying blessing of God upon them.(COL1:9-11) Make sure you are right with God before you take Communion and having good conscience/peace with God and all men. Meditate crucified Christ on mount Calvary, His suffering in the garden and endured on the cross for our sins.(MAT26:26-30) With faith the Blood has been applied to your life.(EXO12:3-14) We are commanded to put on the whole armor of God.(EPH6:10-17) If a person would take part unworthily two things result: he is guilty of the body and blood of the Lord, he eateth and drinketh damnation to himself.

**Biblical understanding:** An act of obedience: "Do this in remembrance of Me", Covenant: "this cup is the new covenant in My blood", Participation: "communion in the blood and body of Jesus", Thanksgiving: " He had given thanks He broke bread", Representation: "this is My body... this is My blood", Examination: "Let a man examine himself...and so let him eat", Identification: "eat the Lord's Supper", Proclamation:"as oft as you eat-you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes" Read-1CO11:23-32. The Lord's Supper is a feast of thanksgiving and blessed hope of His coming. *When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*