

The Harvest is Plentiful, Workers are Few

In Luke 10:2, "*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.*" Jesus said these words after seeing crowds of people in need of healing and salvation. He encourages disciples to ask Lord of the harvest, to send out workers into his harvest field. Jesus compared evangelism to the natural harvest. If we are to reap the harvest when it is ready, we must go where the harvest is when it is ripe.

The first missionary developed from prayer.(Acts13:3) Evangelism was main activities of early Church. And it was a natural sharing of good news. It was engaged in continuously by all believers. The practice was to go where people were and disciple them. Each believer took the Great Commission as a personal command to evangelize. They did it everywhere, every day and work in order to get the message out.(Acts 5:42) Every church reproduced, every member reproduced, every home was a center of evangelism. If we are to impact the nations with the Gospel, we must return to evangelism as our priority. Commission was given to all followers of Christ and command was to every creature. God's method is for each disciple to bear witness of the Gospel message. To "witness" is to tell what you have seen, heard, or experienced. The Holy Spirit helps you bear witness to the Gospel.(Acts 1:8) The Holy Spirit directs by guidance, calling and enabling workers, and by correcting our plans to bring them into harmony with God's purpose.

When Jesus first began His ministry, He announced a plan that followed throughout His earthly ministry. "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me, to preach the gospel... To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord*"(Luke 4:18-19) Jesus later gave a plan for the extension of the Gospel to the nations of the world.(Acts 1:8) The disciples were to first evangelize Jerusalem, then go on to Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world. You are to start right where you are and continue in ever-expanding circles until you are touching ends of the world. When you are invading Satan's kingdom with the good news of the Gospel, you must expect opposition from the political, economic, and religious worlds. You must also expect internal attacks from within the church and direct attacks from Satan. Always remember that you are engaging in a spiritual battle over the souls of men and women. Do not fight a spiritual battle with carnal weapons of debate and anger. Do not criticize, condemn or argue. Be courteous and tactful. Rely upon the Spirit of God and the Word of God. Keep returning to the main point of mission.

The Gospel must be preached and taught, but it must include demonstration of the Kingdom of God in action. Jesus commanded His disciples, "*As you go. . .heal the sick, cast out demons.*"(Mat.10:7-8) Evangelism is accompanied by the demonstration of God's power- miracles and healing. We must have both a "harvest" and a "soldier" mentality. When we become believers, we enlist in the spiritual army of the Kingdom of God. We are called to endure hardness as a good soldier.(2Ti.2:3) A soldier cannot withdraw or go on leave just because things get tough. The test of a good soldier is his performance on the battle field. Thus, a soldier of Jesus Christ is open to fresh assignments, revelations from the Holy Spirit. The goal of all evangelism is leading men to ask forgiveness of sins(repentance)and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Each person to whom you witness is different. You need to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, as He is the one who draws men to salvation. The born-again experience is conceived and birthed by God.(1John 5:1) Your witness must always be focused on the goal of leading that person to Christ. The basic message of the Gospel is that He died for sin in our place; He rose from the dead; He is the only way to God.(1CO15:1-4)

Almost persuading someone to accept Jesus is not enough to save them from Hell. As you share the Gospel, lead the unsaved person to an agreement. Keeps the person participating in the conversation. Provide a little information, then ask a question that calls for a response. As you conclude your presentation, build upon their own responses to close with a final positive response to the Gospel. We are called to win the soul, not just witness. Closing your presentation of the Gospel is asking, "Do you understand what I have been telling you?" "Would you like to make Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior? Lead the person in a prayer asking forgiveness of sins, confess and accepting Jesus as Savior.

Always remember that in evangelism you are dealing with the eternal destiny of souls. Jesus said to His disciples, "*Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men*"(Mat.4:19), He was giving a natural example of a spiritual truth. No fisherman simply throws in his net. He must also pull it in to make a catch. Jesus entrusted the ordinary people with the responsibility of spreading the Gospel. He took fishermen from their boats and made them into fishers of men. The Church is the agent of the Kingdom of God in the world and is commanded to take the Gospel message to all peoples of the earth. Evangelism requires that every believer is motivated with compassion for a lost and dying world.

In the Great commission,there are two types of teachings.First, sharing of Gospel to lead people to salvation.(MAR16:15) Second, teaching of new converts with discipleship that leads Jesus becoming Lord of a person's life, Perfect in Christ. Follow up include; confessing Christ publicly, baptism in water, baptism in the Holy Spirit, developing a devotional life, becoming part of a local church(fellowship). The process of evangelism is complete when new believers become active in the task of evangelism themselves and begin to reproduce spiritually. Like the servants in Jesus' parable, we are to be about the business of God's kingdom, *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations*.(MAT28:19) We represent Christ's ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us: in that they have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, calling you to imploring men and women everywhere to '*Be reconciled to God*'(2Co.5:20)

God's plan is for each disciple to be a witness of the Gospel. The early Church grew as they followed this plan. Each believer shared the Gospel and reproduced spiritually. As Church grew, God called some people to serve full-time as pastors, evangelists, prophets, teachers, apostles. Over a period of time, believers became part of one of two divisions in the Church. They were either clergy or laity. The word "laity" means "all the people of God". The terms "layman" or laity came to be used for those who were not serving in special full-time functions in the church. The term "clergy" developed to identify professional ministers in the church. Clergy refers to those who consider the ministry their profession or who are employed full-time by the church. Over a period of time in church history, gradual separation developed between clergy and laity. Many laymen stopped reproducing and due to spiritual immaturity become babes in Christ. *Although by this time you ought to be teachers -You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word.* (Hebrews 5:12) Believers have shifted their responsibility to the clergy. Unfortunately this captures the heart of our traditional practice. This is one of the reasons we have not yet reached the world with the Gospel. Nowhere in New Testament is any form of clergy used to designate a separate class of "ordained" leaders. Instead, clergy (Greek:clerou) refers to inheritance laid up for all the saints.(Col.1:12;Acts 26:18) The saints as collective whole are considered of in New Testament as God's inheritance. We should be reminded of the deceitfulness of sin when we realize the unscriptural and damaging concept has taken root in Christianity. The calling of believers is to bear witness of God who has brought them out of spiritual darkness into the light of Jesus Christ.(John 9:5) Believers are told to "*walk worthy of the calling with which you were called*"(Eph. 4:1) Those who grow like Christ will be sure of their calling and election.(2 Peter1:10)

Bible does teach division of labor in the Church; for leaders gave themselves devoted to study of the Word and prayer. But every person is to be involved in the spread of the Gospel.(Act6:1-6) While believers have different callings and gifts (Rom.12:6), they are all servants of the Lord.(Rom.14:4) Paul considered himself a "brother and fellow servant" with Tychicus.(Col.4:7) Epaphroditus was Paul's "brother, co-worker and fellow soldier"(Phi.2:25) Apostles never talked in terms of "us" and "them" in context of serving Christ. They considered themselves to be fellow laborers with all believers in the church. Gradually, things changed, full-time ministers began to be identified as representing the Church, while the laymen were seen as believers or attendees instead of as fellow servants of Jesus Christ. Out of this mindset grew hierarchical system in which the distance between clergy and laity increased. In church, there is no division between sacred (holy) and secular because Jesus is Lord of all.(1 Pet.2:9) Every immersed believer has been baptized by one Spirit into the one body of Christ. And the racial, social, gender differences that divide society do not exist within the body of Christ: *You are all sons of God by faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*(Gal.3:26) All in the body of Christ, whether saints, bishops, deacons are the people of God who believe in the Lord Jesus.(Phi. 1:1;2Cor.6:16;1Pet.2:9-10)The clergy practice is a heresy that must be renounced. Since it is a tradition of men,(myth) it nullifies the Word of God.(Mar7:13) It strikes at the heart of priesthood of all believers that Jesus purchased on the cross. It contradicts as Jesus said, "You are all brethren"(Matthew 23:8)

There are a number of denominations that require specific training and certifications to become a pastor. Becoming a biblical pastor or minister requires daily reliance upon the Lord and pouring one's life into others. It is true that there has been an emphasis on "calling," meaning that a person must have a special call from God to be a pastor. But a person wants to be a minister, he should pursue it: "*This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of an overseer desires a good work*"(1Tim.3:1) The one desiring to be a pastor has the encouragement that pastoring is a noble task, and he will have the support of those to whom he is currently ministering. If God is in it, God will open more doors for ministry. However, one's motivation for pursuing the ministry should always be God's glory and good of others. A person who enters the ministry for money, power, influence, prestige or fame is seeking wrong motive.

In Eph. 4:11-12, when a man fills the office of evangelist, pastor, teacher, his calling is actually a gift from God for the work of the church. The purpose of the spiritual gifts is to equip the members of the church for a life of service to God. The purpose of seminary training is to prepare for service those who desire to the office of leadership in the work of the Lord. "*And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others.*"(2Tim.2:2) Formal Bible training helps ensure that ministry of the Word of God is maintained and flourishes in the church. When someone is persuaded that he is being called to the ministry, he should seek to explore his gifts, prepare himself to the response that call. This is one of reasons seminaries exist and seeking formal education may be consistent with a person's call. Bible has an intense study of systematic theology of biblical studies. But we should not puff up with knowledge. At the same time, while formal Bible education is important and valuable, God can enable a man with no formal bible education to be an excellent pastor or elder. Place of study is not as important as the Teacher—the Holy Spirit who infuses the student with knowledge, power, wisdom. Study carefully: *Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house*"(Pro.24:27)

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and ordained you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain. (John 15:16) Ordination, in Christian churches, a rite for the dedication, commissioning or appointing of ministers. The ceremony consists of the laying of hands of the ordaining minister upon the head of consecrated person, with prayer for the gifts of Holy Spirit and of grace (anointing) required for carrying out of the ministry.

The word ordain in the Bible refers to a setting in place or designation; for example, deacons were ordained to serve the Jerusalem church (Acts 6:1-6); and pastors were ordained in each city in Crete. (Tit 1:5) In Acts 13:2-4, an example of a ministerial ordination: *"While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' Then they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."* It is God Himself who calls men to the ministry and qualifies them with gifts. The members of the church recognize God's clear leading. With prayer and fasting, church lays hands to demonstrate their commissioning. God works through the church, as both church and Spirit are said to "send" the missionaries.

Evangelism without establishing local churches is like bringing children and not claiming responsibility for their subsequent care. A person considered evangelized when they become a functioning part of a church fellowship. The mission of the church is to fulfill God's purpose, plans. As believers matured, local leaders were raised up by God. God sets leaders with special gifts in the Church. (Eph. 4:11-16) Their purpose is to equip believers for the work of the ministry. They do this by use their spiritual gifts. Elders and deacons also serve the church in areas of ministry. Apostle Paul ordained pastors for the churches he planted. He and Barnabas directed the appointment or ordination of elders "in each church" in Galatia. (Acts 14:23) He instructed Titus to "appoint elders in every town" on Crete.

When God calls and qualifies a man for the ministry, it will be apparent both to that man and to the rest of the church. It is the duty of the church elders, together with the congregation, to recognize and accept the calling. After that, an ordination service is appropriate. Timothy was set apart as a leader and was to continue living out his calling in the church. *Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.* (2TIM 1:6)

The qualifications of the elder/deacons are found in 1 Tim. 3:1-7; 8-13. the responsibility is to preach, teach, exhort. He must not be a recent convert, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same judgment as devil. *In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. A deacon must be faithful to his wife (if married, 1Co. 7:1,7; Mat. 19:12) and must manage his children and his household well. And obtain great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. Women in ministry: I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon (servant) of the church.* (v. 11; Rom 16:1; 1Co. 7:34)

The qualities to be an effective minister: Your lifestyle should not contradict your testimony. Be filled with the Holy Spirit. Have a working knowledge of God's Word. Be a person of prayer. Have a concern for the lost. Saint Stephen, one of the first seven deacons in the Church. (Acts 6:5) A man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, preached Christ fearlessly. Proclaimed Christ boldly to the leaders of the Jews. (Acts 7:59-8:1) Deacon is a ministry in Churches that is related to serve. The word "deacon" (diákonos) means servant or minister. The word Shepherd is translated "pastor" Pastor is someone who tends flocks because pastors should guide the flock of God and feed them the Word of God.

The ordaining includes the following characteristics: This one set apart is an experienced and tested believer who is walking with God, spiritually qualified, called and is then placed into specific ministries or tasks. This Minister is connected to the work of the church. He desires to build the church and God's kingdom and understands that the object of this appointment into ministry is the spreading of the gospel. The Holy Spirit equips them so that through their leadership believers may grow their faith, lead their families, serve others in love, share the gospel. (Acts 20:32)

Your ordination challenges you to be: A person of peace. A person who holds no bitter roots; you will not take offense easily. A person who is humble/teachable; does not show favoritism, prejudice behind; remain accountable to believers.

To express your acceptance, you are asked these questions. Do you believe in the call of this ministry God himself is calling you to serve as a Minister? Do you believe that the bible, the only infallible rule of faith and life? Do you promise to the doctrinal standards practiced? Do you promise to do the work faithfully, and in submission to the authorities God has placed in your life? What is your answer? Answer [by the candidate]: I do, God helping me.

The officiating minister shall then say, with the laying on of hands at this point. May God, our Heavenly Father, who has called you, guide you by his Word, equip you with his Holy Spirit, and so prosper your grace ministry ordination so that the church may increase greatly and His name will be praised and glorified. In Jesus name. Amen.

Final charge to the newly ordained Minister! I charge you, to guard yourself and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you a leader. Be a shepherd of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)

A disciple is one who: Forsakes all, Denies self, Take up your cross-absolute surrender, Follows Jesus, Is a servant, Is obedient, Abides in the word, Demonstrates God's love, God's Kingdom his priority, Glorifies God thru fruitfulness.

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.(Acts 2:38) The word baptism comes from the Greek word 'baptizo' which means to immerse or dip. The Bible mentions four different baptisms. These are: The baptism of John.(Luk1:76-77), Christ's baptism of suffering (Luk12:50), Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Mat3:11) Christian baptism. Christian baptism is to refer to water baptism of a person who has confessed faith in Jesus Christ. In a biblical sense, to baptize a person in water means to put that person completely under the water, then immediately raise him or her up again. Water baptism is a symbolic act whereby a new believer identifies with Christ's death, burial, resurrection.

The biblical pattern for this baptism is immersion in water. Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water.(Mat.3:13-17) Jesus was baptized to "fulfill all righteousness", setting a righteous example of behavior which He wanted all believers to follow. As a first step of obedience in walking out one's faith, all believers should be baptized. Baptism is a command and ordinance of the Lord Jesus to be performed in making disciples and be baptized, until His returns.(Mat28:19-20) Water baptism helps believers understand spiritual truth that their old man is dead in Christ and their new man is alive in Christ. "*knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*(Rom.6:6) When you're baptized, you are immersed down into death, and you are raised up to life.

Requirements for Christian baptism in water are: First, Repentance: Repenting from your sin —Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized. The people who heard Peter were pierced in their hearts. "What shall we do?" Peter told them they needed to repent of their sins. Repentance comes from a heart that is crushed by a guilty conscience over sin. If there is real confession, their sins are forgiven. A man or woman cannot come to Jesus unless he/she changes their heart attitude toward Him. Second, Believing: Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ with all of their heart and confessing Him as Savior. *He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*(Mark16:16) Water baptism is for those who believe that Jesus was their Messiah. This requirement of believing is illustrated by the story of Philip and eunuch who he met on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza.(Act8:36-38) *And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. "So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.* Person desires baptism first must confess to faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. True faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross for our sins is sufficient for salvation. Christ has already done everything made available by His grace.(Eph.2:8-9)

Third, Instruction: New believers should be taught meaning of baptism before they are baptized. They should receive enough teaching, knowledge the basic facts of the Gospel centering on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. After baptism they should continue to receive instruction in order to become mature Christians.(Act2:41) There is no scriptural basis for infant baptism. Baptism is an act of faith by one who chooses to identify his life with Christ, and a baby is not yet able to make such a choice, Babies can be presented to the Lord for dedication and blessing by the laying on of hands.(Mat.19:13) but a person should not be baptized until they understand meaning of the act and have met the Biblical requirements. There is no set age at which this understanding comes. It depends on the mental, spiritual development of each individual. However, some people may have been baptized earlier in their life without understanding significance of baptism, or did not truly repent and receive Jesus as their Savior should be re-baptized.

Fourth condition for Christian baptism as the inner relationship of the believers' heart towards God or having good conscience toward God. *baptism not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*(1Pe3:21) Once verified understanding, repentance and confession of faith in the new believer, then baptism in water should be followed immediately. Peter compares Christian baptism in water to the experience of Noah and his family who were saved through water from judgment as they entered into the ark.(1Pe3:20-22) Baptism is the initial and immediate step of obedience by one who has declared his faith to others and proclaim that he is a follower of Christ. Disciples of Jesus were baptized and submitted total commitment to Jesus. On the day of Pentecost, 3,000 new believers were baptized and added to the church.(Acts2:41) Samaritans that believed were baptized.(ACT8:12) Apostle Paul was baptized three days after he met Jesus on the road to Damascus.(Acts 9:18)

In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh.(Col 2:11–12) Circumcision has meaning not as a physical act but as a spiritual act in which cuts away the old sinful heart, and makes us new by the Spirit. Repentance/saved refers to having a pure heart, separated unto God. (Rom.2:29) New born experience is required to be a member of God's family. Then, baptism has replaced circumcision as mark of being of God's people. They are spiritually circumcised and are identified with God. The member of church is an expression of being baptized and belong to new-covenant people of God. *having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.* Baptism is a public confession that you have been saved, you are dead to the old life, and risen to new life in Christ.

How to Perform a Baptism

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Baptism in water is a picture of dying, and rising with Christ, to those who belong to him by faith, having been buried with Him, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. It is a picture of baptism of passing through the waters of judgment. It is a picture of our death to sin, just as Jesus died for our sins, a burial of our old way of life, just as Jesus was buried, a rebirth to a new life in Christ, just as Jesus was resurrected and lives today. Baptism has meaning only because the death and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism is a picture of our new life, in the image of Jesus, transformed in obedience to God. It is a sign and seal of belonging to the new covenant people of God, the spiritual Israel, an emblem of burial and cleansing, and purification from sin.

The following scripture reveals spiritual significance of Christian baptism: *Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Likewise you also, count yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Rom6:3-4,11) Christian baptism in water is a symbol of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Going under the water was a burial of your old life, it symbolizes death to sin as you are immersed in that grave of water and as you coming up out of it was a resurrection into a new life lived for God in righteousness. So we're one with Christ, we die and rise with him, were cleansed and clothed in his righteousness, and we become God's children and his heirs. Being submerged in the water represents death to sin, and emerging from the water represents the cleansed, holy life. They have been raised from their spiritual death, and now are able to live by the life-giving Spirit of Jesus. *"In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. We are baptized into Jesus Himself, For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.* (Gal.3:26-27) If anyone is in Christ, he's the new creation, the old is gone, the new has come. Once you are baptized, you can come to the Lord's table, to participate the bread and the wine continually.

What if a person is not baptized? Can he be saved? 1) "I never understood baptism." Perhaps you were never instructed to be baptized. If this is the case, we urge you to give thought to what God says about baptism. Part of spiritual maturity is an openness to understand new areas of the Christian walk. 2) "I don't want to." Let's analyze this response for a moment. God humbles himself by leaving heaven and dies a sinner's death on earth. He is beaten and nailed to a cross. He takes our eternal condemnation on himself in our place. He then offers salvation as a free gift and asks that we say yes to him in baptism. The highest motive for doing is because God asks you to do it, to be baptized for the first time.

John the Baptist's message prepared the hearts of the people of Israel for the revelation of their Messiah, Jesus Christ. By baptism by him in the Jordan river, they outwardly confessed repentance of their sins and their belief in the coming Messiah. *"And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him"* (LUK7:29-30)

What should I do to prepare for the Baptism Service? Prepare yourself spiritually by prayer, meditating on the word pertaining to Water Baptism and through confession all sin to God. Invite family and friends to witness your baptism. Prepare a brief testimony about how you came to Christ or of you intention to live for Christ if you give an opportunity to share this before you are baptized. What should I bring to the Baptism Service? If wearing a bathing suit please wear very modest. You can also wear casual clothes. Bring a towel to dry off. Bring a dry change of clothes.

How will I be Water Baptized? There is no need get nervous about the process of Water Baptism, if you understand that the process is quite simple. And do not divert from the blessing of this beautiful spiritual step in your life and in the community of faith. The person baptizing you will then ask you to hold your nose with one hand and your elbow with your other hand. When you are tipped backward, please bend your knees, this helps the person doing the baptizing. You will be submerged just enough to cover your face and then brought back up immediately.

Water baptism is usually done by an ordained minister or pastor. How to Baptize Someone. Here are some simple steps: Find some standing water, deep enough to allow the new disciple to be submerged. This can be a pond, river, lake or ocean. It could be a bathtub or another way to gather water. The participant is welcomed. Members of the community of faith will often surround and offer support to the person being baptized. Say a prayer The prayers that are typically said during the ceremony are meant to cleanse any sins they have committed up to that point. Let the disciple hold one of your hands with theirs and support their back with the other. Ask two questions like these to make sure they understand their decision. "Have you received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?" "Will you obey and serve Him as your Lord for the rest of your life?" If they answer "Yes," to both, then ordained minister say: "Because you've professed your faith in the Lord Jesus, I now baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Help them lower into the water, submerge completely and raise them back up. God bless you! *Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.* (Rev2:10) You've baptized as a new follower of Jesus - a new citizen of heaven-a new child of the Living God. Celebrate with hymn. Everyone involved rejoices in the baptism of the participant.

Every Christian is immersed in, filled up with God's Spirit—same Spirit for all believers—church to become one body. *For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body-and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.* (1CO12:13)

'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. Joel's prophecy that Peter quotes in Acts 2:17–21, makes clear that the last days will be mixed days—days of powerful witness and days of terrible calamity. Joel says that one feature of the last days will be the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on people of every kind. God's people will receive power; they will be clothed with powerful witness. The church will be awakened and revived and sent with passion and zeal and prophetic power—right in the midst of war, persecution and natural disasters—the flaming end-time will finish the Great Commission, and welcome the King.

And terrible calamity show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth beneath, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; and the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and manifest day. That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved." In all scriptures the "last days" or the end times or end of the ages when Jesus came. The coming of the Messiah was the beginning of the end—the beginning of the "last days." There will be natural catastrophes; there will be war and bloodshed; there will be blaze and devastation. We are living in the last days, because the last days began with the first coming of Jesus, and will reach their climax at the second coming of Jesus. The "mystery of the kingdom" (Mark 4:11) is that the end of this age came and the kingdom of God arrived. 2 Timothy 3:3 says, "Understand this, that in the last days there will come times of stress. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, inhuman," etc. 2 Peter 3:3 says, "Scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own passions and saying, 'Where is the promise of his coming?'" Bible teaches that as the end of the last days draws near, spiritual conditions of many will get worse, will be miserable in many ways—morally, socially.

Jesus gave important instructions to His disciples, after the resurrection and prior to His return to Heaven." *Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.*(Luke 24:49) The promise to which Jesus referred was the Holy Spirit. *And I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever;*(John 14:16-18) One of the purposes of the Holy Spirit is given is to comfort believers. But the Bible gives many other purposes. The Holy Spirit is to: Fill and baptize him: Acts 2:4. Dwell in him, unite him in one spirit with God and other believers, Pray for him, Conform him to the image of Christ, Reveal Biblical truth to him. Teach him, Guide him, Inspire him to true worship, Strengthen him, Quicken him, Sanctify him, Change him, Convict him when he does wrong, Give assurance of salvation, Give him liberty, Speak through him, Demonstrate God's power. Give him power to witness, to represent Jesus.

The main purpose and true evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit is to make the Christian a powerful witness for the Gospel: *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me ..., and to the end of the earth.*(Acts 1:8) The evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was present immediately in the life of the Apostle Peter. Before the Day of Pentecost he had fearfully denied that he knew Jesus. After his baptism in the Holy Spirit, Peter stood and gave a powerful witness to the Gospel that resulted in the salvation of 3,000 people. It was the power of the Holy Spirit in the early church that resulted in the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. The book of Acts is a record of this powerful witness which was evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Use of the phrase "to baptize into" the Holy Spirit is the same as when it is used to describe Christian baptism in water. In both cases baptism is an outward confirmation of an inward spiritual condition. The Holy Spirit came down from Heaven on the disciples on the day of Pentecost and completely immersed [or baptized] them in the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist baptized unto the forgiveness of sins, but also proclaimed that Jesus would come with a baptism "*He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*"(Mat.3:11) Jesus said in Acts 1:4, "Wait for the promise of the Father," He meant was, "Wait till the promise of Joel 2:28 is fulfilled." Acts 1:5, "You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Then, in 1:8, he defines the aim of that baptism : "You will receive power." that helps you be effective on your mission.

The work of the Holy Spirit is compared to the wind. Jesus Himself made this comparison when He was speaking to the religious leader Nicodemus. The Holy Spirit is invisible to natural eye. Jesus was compared to the wind: *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.*(John 3:8) Although the wind is invisible, the effects which it produces can be seen and heard. When the wind blows the dust rises from the ground, the trees all bend in one direction, leaves rustle, the waves of the sea roar. These are all physical signs of the wind. So it is with the Holy Spirit. Even though He is invisible, the effects which the Holy Spirit produces can be seen and heard. There are three places in the New Testament where record what happened when people were baptized in the Holy Spirit: Acts 2:2-4 is the record of what happened on day of Pentecost: *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one 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.*

How to Receive The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

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Acts 10:44-46 records what happened when Peter preached the Gospel to a man named Cornelius and his family: Acts 19:6 describes what happened to the converts at Ephesus: As we compare these passages there is one physical sign which is common to all three: Those who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit spoke with other tongues. On the day of Pentecost there was the sound of a rushing wind and visible tongues of fire were seen. The one outward sign which the apostles observed in the experience of Cornelius and his household was that they spoke with tongues. This physical sign was proof to the disciples that they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit. Tongues can also be a language not known to man. This is called an unknown tongue, a heavenly language. *For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*(I Corinthians 14:2)

The purposes for manifestation of "other tongues" received through baptism in the Holy Spirit identifies in ICo.14. Prayer to God, Self-edification: Edification means to build or promote spiritual growth, When interpreted they edify the church, Intercession, Sign to unbelievers, Praise. Jesus left His followers with a responsibility to extend Gospel message to the ends of the earth. The power of the Holy Spirit would help them fulfill this task. Part of this "power" of the Holy Spirit was special gifts which the Holy Spirit gives believers to equip them to minister effectively. In Ephesians 4:12-15, their purpose is revealed spiritual gifts are for Perfecting of the saints, Promoting the work of the ministry, Edifying Christ and the church. The end objectives of these gifts are that we will: Be united in the faith. Develop our knowledge of Christ. Develop in perfection, with Christ as our model. Become stable, not deceived by false doctrines. Mature spiritually in Christ. All the gifts which God gave to accomplish objectives are still operative today. Spiritual gifts come from the Holy Spirit. It is important for us to discover and use our spirituals gift in church. The Holy Spirit develops in life of the believer qualities which the Bible calls "spiritual fruit." The fruit refers to the nature of the Holy Spirit being evident in the life of a believer. God desires that all the fruit be evident in the life of Christian.(GAL5:22) *But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. Meekness, temperance;* The development of these qualities are important function of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

We received a measure of the Holy Spirit upon our lives when we were born again. And when Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples, saying —Receive the Holy Spirit, He was saying, in effect, that He was God who first breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life and now He was imparting to them spiritual life again, creating them a new. (JOH20:22); When we were baptized in the Holy Spirit, subsequently we received the baptismal' measure of the Holy Spirit. The Bible speaks of measures of the Spirit. God told Moses that He would take the Spirit that was upon him and put the same anointing upon the seventy elders. Here is an example of a man having a great anointing of the Holy Spirit and a part of the power being taken from him by the Lord, to be divided, used to anoint seventy others.

The following are Biblical guidelines for receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Repent and be baptized: This will put you in a position of spiritual interest: *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 Spirit.*(Acts 2:38)The first thing you must have before asking God for this gift is the right motive.

Believe it is for you: 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.(Acts2:39) Believer shall receive the promise of the Holy Spirit in the way of repentance.

Desire it: *If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."* *But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*(John 7:37-39) There must be a hungering and thirsting after God.(Matthew 5:6) We will be filled in direct proportion to our thirst for Him.

Realize it is a gift: The Holy Spirit has already been given. It was given to the Church on the Day of Pentecost. Because it is a gift, you can do nothing to earn it: ...the gift of the Holy Spirit.(Acts 2:38) that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.(Gal. 3:2,5,14) Begin to praise and thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit. You will have to be willing to fully surrender to whatever God's perfect plan and destiny is going to be for your life.

Ask and seek: Persistently seek until you receive: For everyone who asks receives,(Luke 11:9-10) Pursue with confidence in the Father's goodness, care and protection. *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him"*(Luke 11:11-13)

Yield to God: Do not be afraid to speak the language of the Spirit as you are praising and worshiping God. As you praise Him audibly you will first experience stammering lips. Yield your tongue to the Holy Spirit and He will speak through you words foreign to your understanding. This is sign of Holy Spirit baptism. *For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.*(Isa.28:11) they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. We need to be continuously filled with the Spirit.(Eph.5:18)

Tarry meeting: Waiting with expectation. The Holy Spirit can be received through laying on of hands (Acts 8,9,19) or without laying on of hands. God's power often passes through your body like a powerful current and fills you with a joy and happiness. The disciples were so filled with joy that the people thought they were drunk with new wine.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' doctrine, and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and in prayers. (Acts 2:42) Believers in Jesus Christ are to participate in the Lord's Supper by which God's salvation to be secured.

What is the Lord's Supper? In the old testament God gave Israel the first feast of the year was called the Passover. God's people celebrated the Passover, a ceremony. The feast of Passover reminded Israel of their exodus from Egypt and their freedom from slavery to the Egyptians. And remind them, God would one day send a Savior, Redeemer. It remembered the final plague in all the land of Egypt when the firstborn of the Egyptians died and the Israelites were spared from the death angel, those who obeyed God by sprinkled blood of the lamb on the doorposts of their homes. God promised, when I see the blood, I will pass over that home and not permit the destroyer. They escaped death and slavery through the intervention of God, they were freed to serve, worship the Lord. God instructed every household of the Israelite people to select a young male lamb without defect or blemish. The head of the household was to slain it in the evening, and apply some of its blood to the tops and sides of doorframe of their house. The lamb was then roasted and eaten with unleavened bread in haste. God also instructed as to how the Israelites were to eat the lamb, with loins girded, shoes on their feet, and staff in hand, ready to move out quickly. *Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month, each man is to take a lamb for his family your lamb is to be without blemish. You must watch over it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then...slaughter it at twilight.*(Exo.12) It is a yearly observance. *Let the children of Israel keep the Passover at its appointed time.*(Num.9:2) The Passover was most sacred feast. God's command was all come together to the feast. This lamb and meal of unleavened bread became abiding symbol of Israel's deliverance from bondage. There was always to be a perfect lamb sacrifice at the Passover.

At the Last Supper, on the night before Jesus suffered on the cross, Lord Jesus gathered in upper room on mount Zion, shared a meal with His disciples, and then led them in the observance of Feast of Passover. During Passover cup, Jesus instituted sacrament of His Body and Blood, a new covenant using bread and wine. As Jesus raised the bread and the cup in thanksgiving, He added new significance, told His disciples to observe the Passover "in remembrance of me" Jesus took an old symbol and filled it with new meaning. He did this to remember sacrifice of the Cross throughout ages a memorial of his death and resurrection. It is a significant of new fellowship meal that we observe to this day. We call it the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion or Eucharist, also known as the Lord's Table.

Jesus, the Son of God, became fulfillment of a Redeemer.(Isa.53) *For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed for us.*(1Cor 5:7) *a Lamb without spot.*(1Pet.1:19) Jesus, our final and perfect atonement lived a sinless life. Christ is *the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*(Joh.1:29) This lamb represents perfect sacrifice that Jesus makes for us on the cross. It was to be slain and roasted with fire, even unto death. For only shed blood of Jesus can cleanse and make atonement for all sin. Jesus came to earth to sacrifice His life to save mankind. *Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover Lamb had to be sacrificed...When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer" After taking the cup, he gave thanks and said, Take this and divide it among you. And he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.*(Luk22:1-20) The New Testament establishes this perfect Passover lamb. Jesus was crucified during the time that the Passover was observed.(Mark 14:12) Bible says believers have symbolically applied the sacrificial blood of Christ to their hearts, thus have escaped eternal death.(Heb 9:12,14) Christ's applied blood causes God's judgment to pass over and gives life to believers.(Rom.6:23) And the death of Christ marks our release from the slavery of sin.

Under the Old Covenant, God accepted the sacrifices of animals. But these were just a foreshadowing of the better and final sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. Because of His ultimate, once-for-all-time sacrifice on the cross, Jesus became One capable of giving people a way to escape death and a sure hope of eternal life.(1Pet.1:20-21) And in the blood of Christ that saves from all sin.(Heb.9:22) This is the center of Passover and the Good News—in the Gospel.

The consecrated bread and wine are to symbolize His body and blood and proceeded by prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for the elements.(Gen.14:18) The bread reminds us Christ's body. The bread is broken represent the Lord's body that was broken for us on the cross. The wine reminds us of the blood of Passover Lamb that was poured out for our sins. The bread was for the saving of their life and healing of the body and the blood was for forgiveness of their sins and iniquities. Jesus was willing to drink cup of salvation, He experienced God's wrath and separation that we might be free and forgiven. Lord's Supper is a memorial feast. For this reason elements are placed on a table. The memorial of Christ refers to his entire life and ministry, his death, resurrection, ascension, and return. In partaking Lord' supper, each person is expressing personally placed his faith in Christ as his Savior. God's redeemed people enjoy communion with the Father in glorifying His Son. The Lord's Supper as a sacrament was commanded and thus instituted by Christ himself. Let us come together to observe Lord's Supper as per principles/patterns found in N.T. *And they overcame (victory over) him (satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.*(Rev.12:11)

The Lord's Supper looks back to the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. It shows how much God loves us—so much that he sent his Son to die for us, so that our sins would be forgiven and we may live forever with him. Without the shedding of the blood of Jesus and His substitutionary death, we would have no hope of salvation. We redeemed looks back to the cross and resurrection of Jesus through the Lord's Supper. The death of Jesus is a great gift to us. We should receive it with gratitude, as an expression of great love. So the Lord's Supper, a memorial of a death, we observe this by knowing that death held Jesus only three days—that death will not hold us either. We rejoice that Jesus has conquered death, and has set free who were enslaved by a fear of death. We can remember Jesus' death has triumphed over Satan, sin and death!(Col.2:14-15) The crucifixion of Jesus has a continuing significance to all who have taken up a cross to follow him. The realization of the cross brings power, love, victory. Glory in the cross will become our strength. You become a church member, taking part in the Lord' Supper, is spirited in your Christian life. This makes this a blessed, event. We celebrate feast of our redemption in remembrance of Him, for Jesus is alive!

When Jesus said we must "*eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood*"(John 6:53), we must receive Him by faith.(Joh.1:12) Believing this is how we "eat" Jesus's flesh and "drink" his blood. For Jesus, eating and drinking is believing. He promises eternal life to those who believe in him. Believe that his death — the breaking of his body and spilling of his blood — pays in full the penalty for our sin, and that his perfect righteousness is freely given to us. His flesh and blood hold that the bread and wine are symbolic of the spiritual bond created with Christ through faith. We know that we need physical food and drink; Jesus wants us to understand that we also need spiritual food and drink—and that is what His sacrifice provides. *Food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you* (v.27) At this point, Jesus explains that it is not physical bread that truly needs, but spiritual bread.(John 6:35,48,51)

Jesus then compares and contrasts Himself to the manna that Israel had eaten in the time of Moses: "*Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die*"(John 6:49-50) Like manna, Jesus came down from heaven; and like manna, Jesus gives eternal life.(v.58) *The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life.*(John 6:63) Those who misunderstood Jesus and were offended by His talk about eating His flesh and drinking His blood were stuck in a physical mindset, ignoring the things of the Spirit. The act of eating and drinking was to be a symbol of their faith in Christ. Just as physical food gives earthly life, Christ's sacrifice on the cross gives heavenly life. The physical bread the actual presence of God has become the spiritual bread that abides continually with us today through the Holy Spirit.(Heb8:5)

At Jesus' last meal with his disciples, Jesus pictured the life of kingdom by washing the feet of his disciples (John 13:1-15) For Jesus, it was the display of His humility and His servanthood and love on the cross. For the disciples, the washing of their feet was in direct contrast to their heart attitudes. For us, washing feet is symbolic of our role in the body of Christ. When Jesus rose from the table and began to wash feet of the disciples, He was doing the work of the lowliest of servants. The disciples must have been surprised at this act of humility, that Christ, their Lord and Master. When Peter protested, Jesus said it was necessary that he wash his feet. Then Jesus said: "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me", prompting Peter, whose love for the Savior, request a complete washing. Then Jesus explained true meaning of being washed by Him. Salvation is a one-time act of justification by faith, but the lifelong process of sanctification is one of washing from stain of sin we experience through the world. We do need continual cleansing from effects of living in the flesh in a sin-cursed world. The continual washing of sanctification is done by the power of the Holy Spirit, who lives within us, through the "washing of water by the Word".(Eph.5:26) Further, when Jesus washed the disciples' feet, He told them, I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. As His followers, we are to imitate Him, serving one another in lowliness of heart and mind, seeking to build one another up in humility and love. the Lord who promised that true greatness in His kingdom is attained by those with a servant's heart and we will be greatly blessed. The Christian life involves both serving and being served.

The Lord's Supper is a symbol of our present relationship with Him, and a promise of what He will do in the future. The act of taking communion is of worship and remembrance of what Christ did for us and a celebration of what we receive as a result of His sacrifice. It causes us to remember and to look hope for His glorious return soon. Jesus said *he would not drink the fruit of the vine again until he came in the fullness of the kingdom.*(Mat.26:29) It is a time of anticipation of the Kingdom. There will be a great messianic "wedding supper" of royal, joyful feast.(Rev.19:19) We come to the Lord's table and we remember, we're going to do it with Him in His Kingdom. So this is symbol of our hope of final salvation, the redemption of the body at the time of the resurrection-rapture of overcomers.(Rom8:22-25)

Lord' table is an act of obedience: Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Wine. Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of me" Covenant: "this cup is the new covenant in My blood", Participation: "Communion with the crucified and risen Jesus, Thanksgiving: "He had given thanks He broke bread", Symbol: "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", Sharing: "Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation" among God's people. Proclamation: as oft as you eat-you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Who is invited to participate?

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The Lord instituted two ordinances, baptism at the time of salvation which is a one-time event and the Lord's Table continuously until He comes to symbolize the believer's union with Christ. The Lord's Supper is to be the primary meeting of the church. It is an integral part of worship. The Bible instructs us that the meetings of the church are to be done properly and in an orderly manner. (1Cor.14:40) Scriptures teach that our prayer and worship should be led by the Holy Spirit. The apostles speak of breaking of bread as a daily act. *So continuing daily with one accord.* (Acts 2:46) A weekly celebration on the first day of the week. *Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread.* (Act.20:7) Also in a timeless way. *as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,* (1Co.11)

Who is invited to participate? It is for all believers in Jesus Christ. Every Christian is a member of a holy priesthood (1Pet.2:5) A priesthood is established between the worshippers and their God and that is by a sacrificial offering. We consecrate and offer ourselves to God as a living sacrifice. We are to offer up a sacrifice of praise to God. All who know the Lord Jesus and are walking in fellowship with Him are to join in worshipping and partaking of the bread and wine. However, someone has doubts about relationship with the Lord, then refrains from participation. (Mat.5:23-24)

When we come to the Lord's table, we focus on fact that our worship is worthy. You cannot come to the table of the Lord and then turn around and go to a pagan feast. *you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons You cannot worship at the table of the Lord and the table of demons.* (1Cor.10:20) You have to separate yourself, not be conformed to this world as lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and pride of life. By being transformed by renewing of our minds to please Him and do His perfect will. So, remember His work on the cross for our salvation. It is personal responsibility for us to participate with reverence, humility, sincerity, accepting, proclaiming God's great act of love.

Bible addresses a theme in the celebration of the Lord's Supper in 1 Cor.11:23-32. Conduct at the Lord's Supper: Communion is a way to celebrate our intimate and ongoing relationship with Jesus. We have to continue to keep this Feast with the spirit of sincerity and truth in remembering Christ's death for our sins and putting away sin (leaven) from our lives. *"Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.* (1Cor.5:7,8) A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of cup. For anyone without discerning the body of the Lord eats, drinks judgment on himself. What is the body of the Lord? It is the church –gathering of called-out believers united in Christ. To take the Lord's Table in a worthy manner, mean you have forgiven all others their sins/offence against you, released them from your judgment and are the praying blessing of God upon them. (Mat.5:23) And you are right with God before you take Communion and having good conscience/peace with God and all men. Or it may allow ceremony to become a dead, formal ritual. If a person would take part the Lord's table unworthily without an honest evaluation of your own spiritual condition, without the kind of self-examination, two things result *"he is guilty of the body and blood of the Lord, he eats and drinks judgment to himself For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.*

We should examine ourselves, spend time in quiet meditation, silently considering, confessing your sins. Ask the Lord to show you all in your life that might be displeasing to Him or done evil in God's sight. Ask to point out attitudes that are wrong and acts for which you have not yet made a prayer of confession. Ask yourself: Do you have any sin to confess? [Relational, Sexual, Financial, Pride, Integrity, Submission to Authority, etc.] Have you been exposed to sexually alluring material or allowed your mind to entertain inappropriate sexual thoughts? Have you hurt someone's reputation or feelings by your words? Have you given in to an addictive [lazy or undisciplined] behavior? Have you coveted anything? What temptations in thought, word, action have you faced and how did you respond? Have you failed to forgive someone? What anxieties are you facing? Have you complained/grumbled? How is your prayer life? Do you see anything hindering walk with Christ? Have you maintained a thankful heart? Now humble/confess/repent to the Lord so that you might be cleansed. Accept and believe in God's promises of forgiveness. Thank God for making atonement for our sins. Pray that we will become like Jesus and live up to God's standard of meekness and humility.

"Communion" means to be in union with. The one loaf reminds us that we are one body in Christ for we all partake. *"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"* (1Cor.10:16) 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. It signifies fellowship with Christ, experience his life (power), death (suffering) and resurrection (victory) So we may partake of the elements as one to express our unity in Christ. In the cup of the Lord, known as the cup of blessing, in which Christ purchased for us in His death, burial and resurrection. God promised a new covenant of grace and salvation. Passover we remember: *It is the Passover sacrifice of the Lord, who passed over the houses of the people of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians but delivered our houses.* (Exo. 12:25) Lord's Supper was instituted for same reason. Through the Lamb of God—Jesus' death—God delivered us from the death, captivity, slavery to the world, Satan, sin. Praise the Lord for the plagues He used to bring us out of Egypt.

If you are with an ordained minister, pastor or elder (or online through the audio conference) those who connected to you (family, small group, house church, neighbors or friends) and that leader begin leading this segment of the service, in order to actively lead them into the presence of God through the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Make sure that you examine yourself and ask God to purify your heart so you don't partake in an unworthy manner and bring down chastening of God rather than His blessing. We are commanded to put on the whole armor of God.

Welcome to the feast of the Lord. All who are baptized and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to join in this meal. Praise: Start your prayer by praising the Lord. Praise Him for things He has done in your life. Praise Him for His goodness to your family and the church. Waiting on the Lord: Be silent at the presence of the Lord for some time. Sermon message: an introduction to the Lord's Supper. If the message was on faith, connect the theme of faith to Lord's Supper. Explain how partaking of the bread and wine gives us, of what Jesus did for us on the cross.

Jesus said to them, "*Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.*" (Joh 6:53) Jesus said "*I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world*" (Joh 6:51) Meditate crucified Christ, His suffering in the garden and endured on the cross for our sins. (Matthew 26:26-30) We can remember Jesus' death has triumphed over sin and death! With faith blood has been applied to your life. (Exo 12:3-14)

Prepare the bread and drink ready for those who will participate. You will need the elements of bread (loaf of bread) and wine (grape juice) ready before service begins. For the bread: You can use an uncut loaf of bread that is passed around to each participant. Each participant would then break a piece off of the loaf for themselves. Or you can cut up the bread into pieces and pass those out during the celebration. As you prepare the bread, pray that God would bless it and help participants see Jesus in it. For the Wine: Our wine today has alcohol content so many churches use grape juice. If using wine, you can use one cup shared by all participants to dip bread. If using grape juice individual cups are appropriate. As you prepare the wine, pray that God would bless it and help participants see Jesus through it.

When you are ready, someone read. (1Co. 11:23-29) *For I received from the Lord that which I also passed on to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.*

Form for the Lord's Supper

Say: For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread (take hold of the bread in your hand), and when he had given thanks, he broke it (break the bread as you say these words) and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

Do: Pass the bread to all the participants.

Say: Take, eat, remember and believe the body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the forgiveness of all our sins.

Do: Eat the bread.

Say: In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Do: Pass the cup (wine or juice) to all the participants.

Say: "Take, drink, remember and believe the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the forgiveness of our sins."

Do: Share the juice or wine you have set aside, and drink the cup.

Say: A prayer summarizing the theme of the service as it relates to the Lord's Supper.

Then Celebrate in prayer or singing hymn. *And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.* (Mat. 26:29-30) You have shared in The Lord's Supper. You are His, and He is yours! Christ fulfills his promise to be with us always, until the end of the age, and assures of a meeting again drinking the new wine of the joys, which saints shall partake with the Lord Jesus in the Father's kingdom. We anticipate the promise of Jesus' return in glory.

Benediction: *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.* (2Cor. 13:14) We have had a wonderful time. Praise the Lord! The Lord bless you and keep you from all evil; he will keep your life, bring joy, peace, comfort, divine protection to those who place their trust in God.