

College of the Scriptures

Greater Christ Temple
APOSTOLIC CHURCH

2940 S. Anthony Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46806

Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM

“Relationship AND Religion”

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pastor / teacher

GreaterCTC.org



Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
Amen.

- Jesus has commanded us to make **disciples**. A disciple is a pupil, a student, a learner, one who **studies** a discipline.

- A discipline, here, means a branch of knowledge or scholarly study. A disciple is, then, a dedicated follower of a particular teacher or school, who actively seeks to attain and employ the knowledge being made available.
- That being said, the word disciple does not mean “believer”. You can be a believer without ever being a disciple. Many people have become believers in Jesus, but their belief has not caused them to follow Jesus, seek to learn His ways, or obey His commandments. Jesus did not command us to go into all the world and make believers, He said **“go therefore and make disciples!”**

Matthew 11:29

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me...

- Unfortunately the things that make you a disciple are the very things that the devil has tricked us out of doing by saying that these things are “just religion”!
- We’ve been hoodwinked! Bamboozled! Led astray! Run amok!
- Our preachers now religion in negative ways, so that people have begun to say “I’m spiritual but not religious” ...

- This misguided mindset, “I’m spiritual but not religious”, has resulted from people **reinterpreting** religion to mean a list of rules that are enforced by punishment. This is not what God gave to save man.
- Religion can be **rightly** understood as a system of beliefs and practices.
- Some people go to the gym religiously (every day at 5 AM)
 - This form of consistency and repetition is necessary to produce results in any field.

- They say religion cannot save you, and they are right!
Religion cannot get you a relationship with God, but religion can strengthen an existing relationship!
- You cannot be a disciple if you won't **follow** the discipline!
You must take a disciplined approach to setting apart time for God in you daily life!
- The Christian who truly desires to grow in **relationship** with God must take a **religious** attitude about **discipleship**!
- The Christian who truly desires to grow in **relationship** with God must take a **religious** attitude about **studying the word**!

- The Christian who truly desires to grow in **relationship** with God must take a **religious** attitude about **prayer, praise, attending service, and doing the Word!**

Psalm 55:17

17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

- At one point I was fooled by satan into thinking that setting a time to pray, and praying at that same time every day would be of no benefit because that's just religious behavior, but the outcome was an inconsistent prayer life that never increases! If you are ever going to increase your prayer life, you will have

to decide to pray more often and set a time to do so. This is religious, but I now understand that, though religion can't save me, I can't grow unless I add a religious devotion to my relationship with Christ!

Consistency Is Key

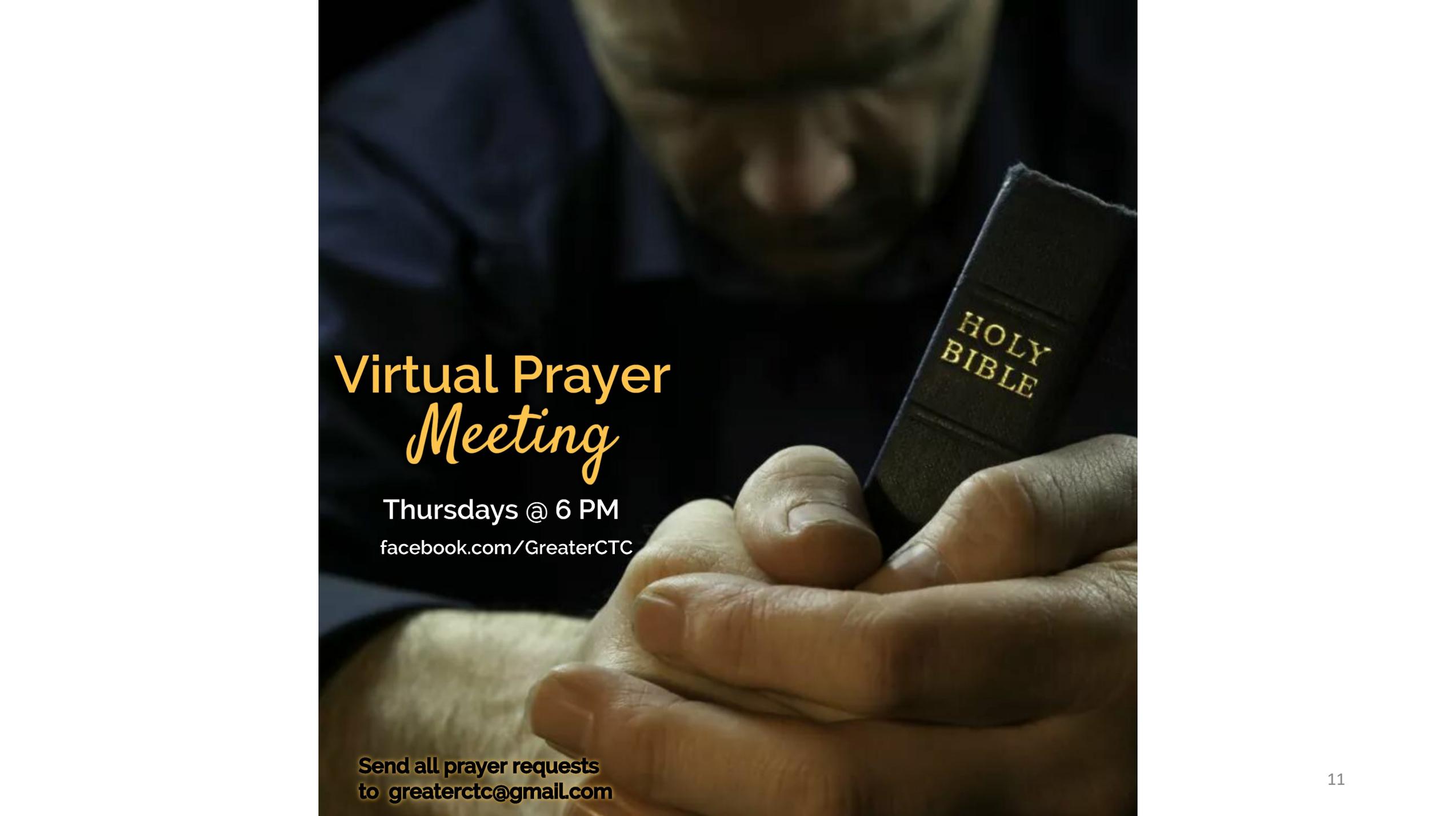
- Consistent repetition drives an idea into the psyche, creating a stronghold, whether that be a positive stronghold or a negative stronghold!...

Psalm 18:10

10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower...

- His name becomes a strong tower, a stronghold, a strong fortress in your life, a safe place, a place of protection, for the righteous because His name is driven into our spirit by consistent pursuit of His name, His presence, His word, and His ways!
- I'm saved by Relationship, but I'm developed by discipleship! My growth in God requires both Relationship AND Religion!
- I can be set free from every bondage by the blood of Jesus, but if I am to stay free it will require both Relationship AND Religion!

- In order to make it to heaven I must know Jesus in the pardon of my sins, but I also must endure to the end, and that will require both Relationship AND Religion!

A close-up photograph of a person in a dark blue suit, looking down with their hands clasped in prayer. They are holding a dark blue Bible with the words "HOLY BIBLE" embossed on the cover. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the hands and the cover of the Bible.

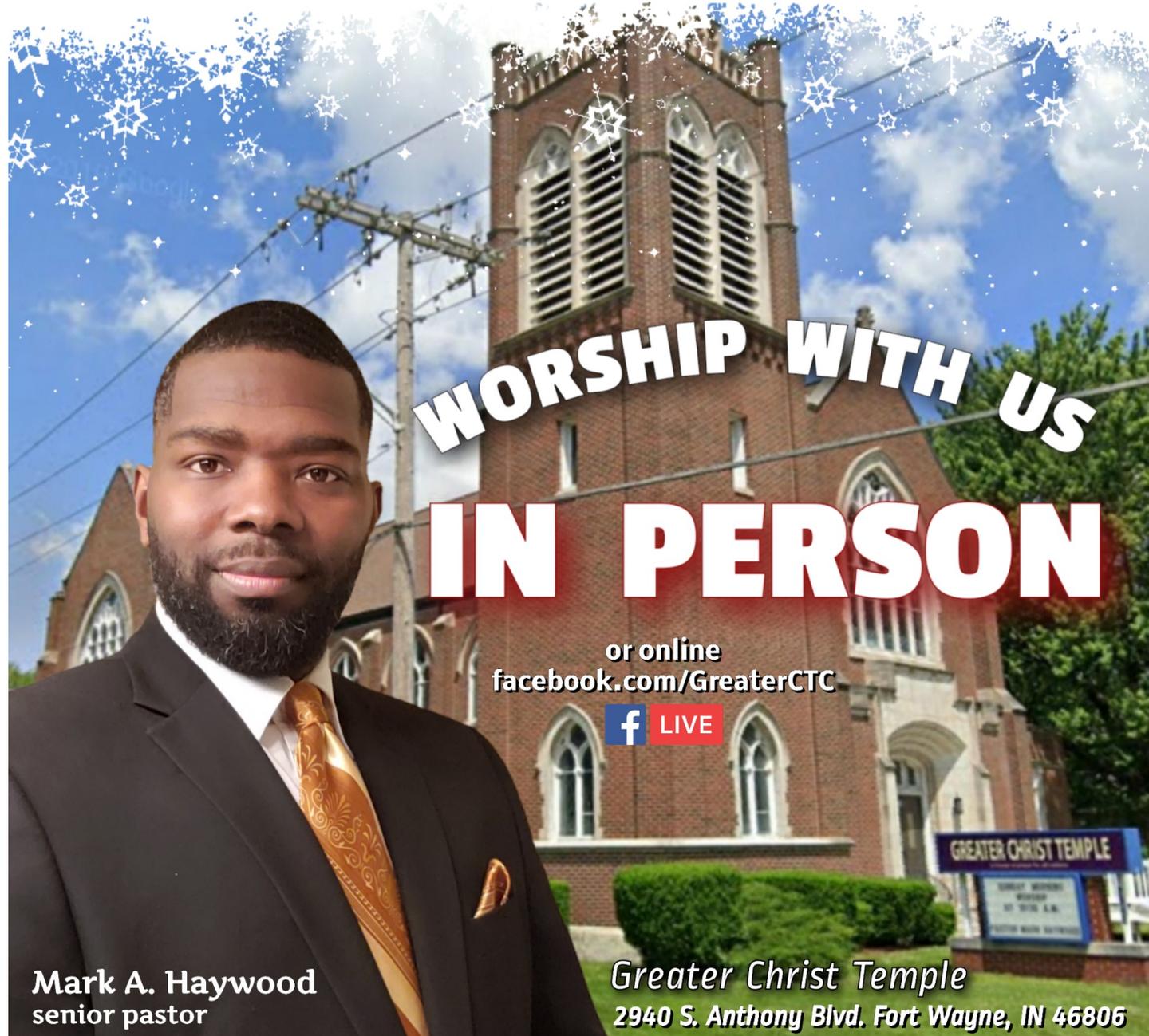
Virtual Prayer *Meeting*

Thursdays @ 6 PM

[facebook.com/GreaterCTC](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterCTC)

Send all prayer requests
to greaterctc@gmail.com

Sunday School - 9:00 AM | Morning Worship - 10:30 AM



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