

# FILIATION



## THE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF GOD

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# FILIATION

## THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

There are three important things you should know and do - it is contained in the **Book of Acts**: *"Repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 2:38)

### FIRSTLY: REPENTANCE

1. **Realize that you are a sinner and you cannot save yourself.** Sin has alienated you from God and therefore you need Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23)
2. **God loves man with an everlasting love, but His justice requires that sin be punished.** *"The soul who sins shall die"* (Ezekiel 18:20). *"For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23)
3. **Man's greatest sin is that he does not accept Christ as Saviour Redeemer.** *"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me;"* (John 16:8-9)
4. **Jesus carried our sins in His body and by that He accomplished our reconciliation with the Father.** *"...that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures."* (1 Corinthians 15:3) *"He is the propitiation for our sins and not only for ours but also for the whole world."* (1 John 2:2)
5. **Therefore, you must accept Jesus as your personal Saviour.** *"But all who have accepted Him, to them gave He power to become children of God, to them that believe on His name."* (John 1:12) *"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."* (1 John 5:12)
6. **To accept Jesus means to surrender to Him unconditionally and confess out loud that He is Christ the Lord.** *"If you confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God hath raised from the dead, thou shalt be saved: for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* (Romans 10:9-10)
7. **It is so important that, while you are under conviction, you must accept Jesus as your personal Saviour.** Invite Him into your heart and make Him Lord and King of your life.

### CONFESSION FOLLOWS AFTER REPENTANCE

1. **Tell God that you are sorry for the sins you have done and ask Him to forgive you and to cleanse you by the blood of Christ.** *"And the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 John 1:7, 9)

2. **It is necessary to repent of your sins and to make restitution where necessary.** *"He who covers his sins shall not prosper: but whoever confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy."* (Proverbs 28:13) *"Forgive one another as God in Christ forgave you."* (Ephesians 4:32)
3. **What does God do with your sins when He has forgiven them?** *"As far as the east is separated from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."* (Psalm 103:12) *"For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin will I remember no more."* (Jeremiah 31:34) If God has forgiven your sins, it is important that you forgive yourself.
4. **There is probably no better time than now to confess your sins and turn to God.**
5. **What happens if you sin again? Are you lost? No!** *"My children, I write these things to you, that ye sin not, and if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."* (1 John 2:1) Go to your heavenly Father immediately and confess your sins in the name of Jesus to get forgiveness. (1 John 1:7, 9 and Proverbs 28:13)
6. **Assurance of salvation:** If you understand the above mentioned points and have sincerely done what is required of you, you are a child of God. *"Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."* (John 6:47) *"These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life and believe in the name of the Son of God."* (1 John 5:13)
7. **You can expect oppression, persecution and ridicule, but do not be ashamed to confess Christ.** Tell others about the great deeds God has done for you. *"For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and my words, of him shall the Son of man shall be ashamed when He comes in his glory."* (Luke 9:26) *And all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."* (2 Timothy 3:12)

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A CHRISTIAN

1. Congratulations on the most important decision of your life, and heartily welcome to the family of God.
2. It is important not to rely on your feelings. You are not a child of God because you felt it, but because you believed the Word of God. (John 6:47)
3. You are no longer a slave of sin, but a child of God. When you are tempted, you should resist the temptation. If you sin again, straighten out your life with God. (Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 2:1)
4. Read your Bible every day; by His word God speaks to you. This is food for your daily spiritual growth. (John 6:63)
5. Make prayer a daily requirement. Through prayer you have conversation with God. (John 16:23-24)



## THIRDLY: HOW TO BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Thirdly, it is important to know that after you have been baptized in water, you can also be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

1. John says in Matthew 3:11, *"I baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."* Jesus is the baptizer with the Holy Spirit.
2. Jesus said in Acts 1:8 *"But ye shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses unto Me..."* In Acts 2:4 we see the fulfillment: *"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."* They spoke in new tongues.
3. *"For the one speaking in a tongue does not speak to people but to God, for no one understands; he is speaking mysteries."* (1 Corinthians 14:2) Verse 14: *"If I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unproductive."* Thus we see that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is not an intellectual matter, but a divine matter that works through the spirit of human beings.
4. In a few case studies we can clearly see what happens when people are baptized with the Holy Spirit. *"The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were greatly astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God."* (Acts 10:45, 46) *"and when Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began to speak in tongues and to prophesy."* (Acts 19:6)
5. The promise of the Holy Spirit is for those who believed and were baptized. *"Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 2:38). "These signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages."* (Mark 16:17) *"If you then, although you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"* (Luke 11:13)
6. The main requirement for you to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, is that you should have a desire / thirst. *"On the last day of the feast, the greatest day, Jesus stood up and shouted out, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. Just as the scripture says, 'From within him will flow rivers of living water.' Now he said this about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were going to receive, for the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."* (John 7:37-39)
7. Give yourself to God unreservedly. Honour and glorify Him in your spirit. You will experience the power of the Holy Spirit that will come over you. As the Holy Spirit gives you a word or a language in your spirit, declare it in faith and allow streams of living water to flow through you.

## AS CHILD OF GOD, SPEND YOUR TIME WITH THE BIBLE

The Bible is also called the Word of God, for what God is saying to us, is stipulated in the Bible. Through the Bible God speaks to us. A person's spiritual life and growth depends on how the Word of God is read and studied. It is important to spend time with the Word on a daily basis. *"Every scripture is inspired by God and useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the person dedicated to God may be capable and equipped for every good work."* (2 Timothy 3:16-17) *"for no prophecy was ever born of human impulse; rather, men carried along by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2 Peter 1:21) "My child, pay attention to my words; listen attentively to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight, guard them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and healing to one's entire body."* (Proverbs 4:20-22)

The importance of the Word in a person's spiritual life cannot be overemphasized. Jesus said, *"The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life."* (John 6:63) *"And yearn like newborn infants for pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up to salvation, (1 Peter 2:2-3) "You have been born anew, not from perishable but from imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God."* (1 Peter 1:23) The Word of God tells man who he really is, where he came from, where he is going, how he can be saved and how to live a holy life. *"In my heart I store up your words, so I might not sin against you."* (Psalm 119:11) *"I tell you the solemn truth, the one who hears my message and believes the one who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned, but has crossed over from death to life."* (John 5:24) *"The one who believes in the Son has eternal life. The one who rejects the Son will not see life, but God's wrath remains on him."* (John 3:36)

After Jesus fasted for forty days, He was tempted by the devil. The way Jesus resisted and conquered the tempter, was to use the Word. In Matthew 4:1-11 we read that he said, *"It is written ..."*, and by using the Word, Jesus overcame the devil. *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."* (Hosea 4:6) The reason why some believers are weak spiritually is because their lives are not built on the Word of God. And as a man needs to eat healthy food three times a day to build a healthy body, he needs the Word of God frequently to nourish his spiritual life.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE BIBLE**

**We grow spiritually through the Word of God.**  
(1 Peter 2:2-3, 1 Peter 1:23)

**We are cleansed by the Word of God.**  
(John 15:3, Psalm 119:9)

**Our thoughts are judged by the Word of God.**  
(Hebrews 4:12)

**Sin is being driven out through the Word of God.**  
(Psalm 119:11)

**We partake in God's life by the Word of God.**  
(John 6:63)

**We overcome Satan by the Word of God.**  
(Matthews 4:1-11)

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**The Word of God that carries us is eternal.**  
(1 Peter 1:25)

**The Word of God is the Armour of God.**  
(Ephesians 6:17)

**The Word of God is our anchor in life.**  
(Psalm 119:89, Matthew 24:35)

We can continue to show the importance and place of God's Word in a person's life, leading to spiritual stability and growth in general. *"But become doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man studying his natural face in a mirror. For he studied himself and went his way, and immediately he forgot what he was like. But whoever looks into the perfect Law of liberty and continues in it, he is not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work. This one shall be blessed in his doing."* (James 1:22 - 25)

We recommend that you continuously study and live the Word. Do what the Word tells you to do. Allow the Word to become alive inside you. The book of John is an appropriate book to read when starting the foundation of your spiritual life.

Have a Reference Bible at hand and, if possible, invest in a Bible Concordance to study the Bible. We can say as Jesus said in John 16:12: *"There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now."* We will share some important gems from the Word with you which will help you to grow spiritually and to be steadfast.

**WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH US ABOUT PRAYER?**

**A. Pray in the Name of Jesus:**

Prayer is talking to God. It is to share your troubles, triumphs and your life with Him; giving Him thanks, praise and worship. Note this very important aspect of prayer: *"At that time you won't need to ask me for anything. I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name. You haven't done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy."* (John 16:23-24) Jesus teaches us not to pray to Him or to ask Him anything. He teaches us: *"Whatever you shall ask the Father in My name, He will give you."* It is clear that we pray to God our Father, in the Name of Jesus, *"that your joy may be complete"*. The more a person prays to the Father, the greater his joy will be. A lack of joy is a sign of prayerlessness.

**B. A few Scriptures about prayer:**

- A person should always pray and not be discouraged. (Luke 18:1)
- Continue in prayer. (Colossians 4:2)
- Serve God with fasting and prayer. (Luke 2:37)
- This kind does not go out but by prayer and fasting. (Matthew 17:21)
- The prayer of the righteous man avails much. (James 5:16)
- Let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)
- He prayed three times a day. (Daniel 6:14)
- Prayer is a wonderful experience in the life of a child of God, especially when he learns to talk to God constantly. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

## THERE ARE DIFFERENT WAYS OF PRAYER

### A. **Requests:**

In this prayer God is asked to meet certain needs. The child of God has confidence to go to the Father and to ask Him to meet specific needs. You can ask Him to undertake and provide for you in every aspect of your life and then trust Him for it. *"Therefore I say unto you, What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."* (Mark 11:24)

### B. **Thanksgiving:**

It is very important that you always thank God for the requests He has answered. *"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."* (Philippians 4:6) *"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."* (1 Thessalonians 5:18) When someone approaches God in prayer, he must do it with thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is the foundation of a life of prayer and worship.

### C. **Praise:**

This is the most neglected prayer in the lives of many of God's children. While Thanksgiving is about what God did, praise is about whom He is and what He means to you. *"You are my God and I will praise thee."* (Psalm 118:28) *"I praise You seven times a day."* (Psalm 119:164) *"And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people."* (Romans 15:11) *"But You are holy, o You who are seated among the praises of Israel."* (Psalm 22:4) *"a call to praise"* (Psalm 100) *"Lift your hands toward the sanctuary, and praise the Lord."* (Psalm 134:2) More time should be spent in thanksgiving and praise than in supplication and requests.

### D. **Worship:**

Worship is closely related to praise and usually follows praise. This happens when the highest honour is given to God. By worshipping, God is exalted and we come into His immediate presence. *"God is Spirit and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth."* (John 4:24) A person comes to worship when the Holy Spirit touches his spirit and he then, through the Holy Spirit, proclaims God's greatness by bringing Him honour. This is a deeper experience than praise. *"Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."* (Psalm 96:9) *"The Lord your God you must worship and serve Him only."* (Matthew 4:10) It is necessary to worship God in the inner room; with the family at the family altar at home and with the members of faith during meetings. One of the main reasons why God saved mankind is to worship Him. *"But the time is coming, and is even now here, when the true worshippers will give worship to the Father in the true way of the spirit, for these are the worshippers desired by the Father."* (John 4:23)

### E. **Intercession:**

Intercession is when someone intervenes, not for himself but for the sake of others at the throne of God. *"At first I exhort therefore, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all men."* (1 Timothy 2:1) Make a prayer book and write the names and needs of family, friends, acquaintances, fellow believers and others in it, and constantly intercede for them at the throne of God. When you hear about people who are unsaved, who have problems or are ill, you can pray for them until assurance is obtained that the prayers are answered. In every church there is a prayer group you can join. It is an experience to see how God answers prayers.



F. **Pray without ceasing:**

Note what the Bible teaches about obstacles in answer to prayers and eliminate it. *"And whatever we ask we receive of Him because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him."* (1 John 3:22) An easy way to build your prayer life, is to pray the Word of God. When reading the Word of God, God speaks to you. Talk to God about what you read. Start with Psalm 1 and pray through the entire book of Psalms. Pray aloud to obtain more boldness in prayer. You will be rewarded with wonderful times of fellowship with God in prayer.

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**WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES US ABOUT WITNESSING**

As Christ is worthy to be our Saviour, He is also worthy to be confessed. Start by daily confessing Him before family, friends and others. Some people may not understand this and may even laugh and scoff, but remember victory lies in witnessing. *"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony."* (Revelation 12:11)

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Witnessing is a first-hand testimony about salvation and it is your version of what happened to you. People can try to reason away the gospel, but no one can change the experience and transformation that has taken place in your life. New converts are sometimes afraid to testify and it is mostly because they do not know how to testify. A testimony is not a theological exposition of Scripture or a doctrinal statement; it is simply a version of what happened to you. Here are some guidelines that can help to testify effectively:

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**A. Write down the testimony. Do it in prayer by asking wisdom from God**

When the testimony is written down, errors can be corrected and the testimony expanded and streamlined. The well-prepared testimony creates confidence to the speaker and will help him to testify with ease.

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**B. Use a three-point plan to develop the testimony:**

- i. Before I received the gift of eternal life;
- ii. Then I received the gift of eternal life;
- iii. After I received the gift of eternal life.

At point i. you can tell how your life was before salvation; e.g. uncertainty about life after death, fear, worry, jealousy, sin, carelessness, or whatever is applicable.

At point ii. you can testify about how you repented and came to salvation.

At point iii. you can tell about the change that occurred in your life after receiving the gift of eternal life; e.g. certainty about where you will spend eternal life, stability, victory and so forth. Be specific in your testimony. Avoid trick questions and doctrinal statements. Do not criticize churches and people. Remember your testimony should be constructive. Witness to God and not the devil. If necessary, write down the testimony over and over, until it is perfect and if you have any doubt, contact the pastor. He will help with a finishing touch any time. Memorize the main points so that it can be effectively transferred. Even long after your testimony is shared with others, the Holy Spirit still speaks through it.

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**C. Lead others to Christ:**

While there is great satisfaction in sharing your personal testimony with others about what Christ has done for you, do not neglect those who are unsaved, but lead them to God. There is no greater joy than to win someone for Christ. Be a soul winner inside your family, your circle of friends, your neighbourhood and wherever people may cross your path.

**HERE ARE A FEW SCRIPTURES THAT CAN BE USED FRUITFULLY:**

- i. Romans 3:23 points out that all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 6:23, Ezekiel 18:20 point out that sin robs us of eternal life. Ephesians 2:8-10 teaches that man cannot save himself, only God can.
- ii. Romans 5:8-10, 1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21 point out that Jesus bore man's punishment on the cross, and so paid the price of sin. In 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 we are taught that man must realize and accept this reconciliation.
- iii. In Romans 10:8-10, John 1:12, 1 John 5:11-12 we learn that man becomes a child of God through confessing Jesus and receiving Him as Redeemer and Saviour and to believe in His name.
- iv. 1 John 1:9 points out that God forgives sins if they are confessed and God is asked for forgiveness.
- v. 2 Peter 3:9, Revelation 3:20 show us that Christ is eager to enter hearts and lives. When someone invites Him into his heart, he receives the gift of eternal life.
- vi. John 5:24, 6:47, 1 John 5:13 teach that one can have assurance about salvation.
- vii. You can also make use of Chapter 1. *"Three things you should know."*

**D. More resources:**

- i. Invite family, friends and others to attend church. It can be personal, by telephone, sms and even by a letter or invitation card.
- ii. Get involved in the spreading of tracts, Christian literature or CD's and DVD's with sermons on. Given or sent to someone makes it powerful.
- iii. Get involved by establishing a warm, friendly atmosphere at church services and other church activities. Make an effort to chat with visitors, invite them for a cup of tea and share your personal testimony with them.

Much can be said about witnessing and these are only a few guidelines. Remember that between 70-90% of people are saved because of personal contact. Through personal contact with people, sharing the gospel of Christ, one can contribute to the expansion of God's Kingdom. This commandment of God to His children is found in Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-20, Acts 8:4-8 and John 20:21. *"As the Father has sent me so send I you."* Because this task of the Lord is so important, there is a soul-winning team in the local church where training is offered. Join the team and find out what personal evangelism is all about and how to do it effectively.

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## WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT VISITING THE CHURCH

The Word teaches us in Hebrews 10:25, *"And let us not forsake the assembling as the manner of some, but exhorting one another: and so much the more as ye see the day approaching."* It is unfortunate that many believers neglect the mutual events. Everyone could have good excuses ranging from: children must go to bed early for school; I was tired; I have to get up very early in the morning; I had visitors; it was the only time I could visit someone; the weather was bad; I had to do a job for someone and countless other excuses. Whether their excuses will weigh up to the blessings they have lost in disobedience to the Word of God, will be a shocking and sobering discovery for many in the afterlife.

The mutual gathering is like a puzzle. The one church sermon complements the other. Every particle of the puzzle is needed to make a perfect picture. Each service is required to build faith and to stimulate your spiritual life. *"My people are destroyed by lack of knowledge"* (Hosea 4:6); ignorance is no excuse to God. It will be of no use telling the Lord one day, *"But Lord, I did not know."* It is therefore important to attend all the Sunday morning worship services; during this service God usually speaks to His children. It is also important that all the children of God attend Sunday evening services. Although these services are mostly evangelistic in nature, it strongly reprimands the child of God to pursue sanctification. Each midweek prayer session is a necessity - for those who ask, receive; *"The family that prays together, stays together."* Each Bible study, prayer or special services must be a challenge.

Read Romans 10:13-17 with emphasis on verse 17: *"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God."* Verse 13-15 *"For whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things!"* God's servant prepares the message he received from the Lord - sometimes hours and even days prior to the sermon he delivers to the church. A message could perhaps have no immediate impact, but several weeks later, in other circumstances, the same message could have a huge impact. Faith comes by listening to the word of God! *"And without faith it is not possible to be well-pleasing to him, for it is necessary for anyone who comes to God to have the belief that God is, and that he is a rewarder of all those who make a serious search for him."* (Hebrews 11:6).

Faith is built by regularly attending services and it is what the child of God needs to live in victory and joy. During each service everyone has the privilege to join the household of faith by singing together, praising, worshiping and glorifying God. This is also an opportunity to join together in united prayer and pouring out your heart before God. (Matthew 18:19) Opportunities often arise for personal testimonies; to share the goodness and greatness of God and also to share your joy for what God has done and means to you. In the living ministry of the Word, there is opportunity for you to spontaneously come alive in the preaching. There is also an opportunity to administer the Word into your life.

The table of the Lord is served; see the significance of communion in the light of John 6:53-57. The sacrament of baptism is served to those who accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour; see Acts 2:38-39. Children are dedicated to the Lord (Mark 10:13-16) Opportunities arise for using your talents to glorify God by music, singing solo or in a choir. Man finds himself in the company of God where the gifts and the fruit of the Holy Spirit are revealed and exposed to everyone. (Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

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1 Corinthians 14:26 teaches us to come to the house of the Lord prepared; isolate yourself in prayer to give the Holy Spirit an opportunity to meet with you and to work through you. *"Consider your feet when you go to the house of God."* (Ecclesiastes 5:1) *"But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."* (Joshua 24:15) *"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'" (Psalm 122:1) Develop a special love for the church and attend the services faithfully and regularly - not because of compulsion or obligation, but out of love for God and with great expectations – and you will grow in spirit.*

## **WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES US ABOUT TITHING**

Nobody needs to live in spiritual poverty, for Christ has paid the perfect price for deliverance and redemption. It is not necessary to live in financial poverty, because Christ was the perfect sacrifice. Jesus redeemed mankind from the curse of poverty. *"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."* (Galatians 3:13-14)

The blessing of Abraham includes spiritual and financial prosperity. *"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that He, though He was rich, for your sakes became poor, that ye through His poverty might become rich."* (2 Corinthians 8:9) *"And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests but the Son of man hath not where he may lay his head."* (Matthew 8:20) In all ways Jesus is a substitute for everyone. One of the names of God is El Shaddai, which means: The Lord thy Providence, the All-sufficient One. *"And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:19) *"Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that ye receive and ye shall have them."* (Mark 11:24) Jesus became poor so that man might be rich. He is your source of provision.

### **Every blessing comes with a condition**

If someone needs forgiveness, he must confess his sins. (1 John 1:9) If someone needs healing, he must forgive. (Mark 11:22-26) If someone wants to be financially blessed, he must give. *"Give, and you will be given to you..... For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."* (Luke 6:38) *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his justice before, and all these things shall be added unto you."* (Matthews 6:33) All this includes what we eat and wear and need, in other words, our daily provisions.

*"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."* (Malachi 3:10)

What is a tithe? The Lord said to bring the whole tithe into the storehouse. It is a tenth of the first fruits of your income. If your income is R100; your tithe is R10. If your income is R1 500.00; your tithe is R150, 00. Do not deduct the rent or house payment from the income before you calculate the tithe. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse so that there is food in my home, says the Lord. Food for whom? So that God can open the windows of heaven to pour a blessing on you; this is food for you and your family.

### **People have so many excuses**

Some people claim that giving tithe is under the Law. Abraham tithed about 500 years and Jacob 250 years before the law was instated. Malachi gave this instruction at the end of the Old Testament dispensation. To whom? To everyone - New Testament believers included.

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Tithing was the way God financed his works in the Old Testament and it is the way God does it in the New Testament. *"Here men that die receive tithes,"* (Hebrews 7:8) *"For ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."* (Luke 11:42)

There are people who say they rather give their tithes to struggling churches, missionaries, other organizations and family and friends who suffer, etc. The Bible says: *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse."* ***"When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled;"*** (Deuteronomy 26:12). Where a person receives spiritual care is where he should bring his tithe faithfully. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 carefully. It proves that it is not the nine-tenths that are left that God multiplies, but the tenth he sows. Verse 6: *"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will reap also bountifully."* Verse 11: *"So in everything you might be rich."*

Nobody can afford not to give his tithe. By giving it creates an opportunity for God to shower blessings upon him. *"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine."* (Proverbs 3:9-10) In addition to the financial prosperity that tithing holds, there is great spiritual blessing and growth involved. In Malachi 3:18 the Lord speaks of those who fear Him by giving tithe. *"Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who serve Him not."*

What becomes of your tithe? A portion of your tithe goes to the church's administrative office which is subdivided in administration, evangelism, missions, Bible schools, welfare work, etc. The other nine-tenths is used in the local church for administration and expanding God's kingdom; no wonder the Bible says in 2 Corinthians 9:7: *"God loves a cheerful giver."*

## **WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES US ABOUT SERVITUDE**

It is important that every believer should know that he / she is not only saved to go to heaven, but to be like a soldier of the cross and an ambassador for the Kingdom of God. Jesus said in John 20:21, *"As the Father has sent me so send I you."* *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the world's rulers, of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* (Ephesians 6:12) God's children are involved in an on-going struggle against the forces of darkness. Therefore it is important that we have continuous growth in our spiritual life so that we are more than conquerors in all things through Him who loved us so much that He gave Himself to us.

Servitude is a major contributing factor to spiritual growth. Without servitude, no one can grow spiritually. *"Do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but yield yourselves to God, as one alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."* (Romans 6: 13)

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:27-28: *"And you are the body of Christ, and members in part. And God set some in the church, firstly, apostles; secondly, prophets; thirdly, teachers, then works of power, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, kinds of languages";* this correlates with Romans 12:4-8, Ephesians 4:11-16 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. The church is the body of Christ and is a living organism with Christ as the head and every member functioning with a spiritual ministry. Spiritual ministries are

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special traits or abilities given by the Holy Spirit to each member of the body by the grace of God to be used within the context of the church.

It was never God's intention that man should be saved only to sit in a pew in church. You are saved to serve; therefore we encourage everyone to immediately engage in service. If you have not discovered your ministry and do not know where God wants to use you, contact the pastor and he will assist you. The more a person engages in service, the more he will grow spiritually and the happier he will be. The devil will try to discourage, dismantle and disable you in various ways; *"And all that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."* (2 Timothy 3:12) *"Resist the devil and he will flee from you."* (James 4:7) *"But in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."* (Romans 8:37)

In the church members are offered the opportunity to live out their ministries on a wide front; as elders, deacons, Sunday School teachers, as part of the Sisters' Union, in youth action, teenage ministry, ministry for the aged, evangelism, pastoral care, sick care, social services, musical, vocal, choral and other areas. It is, however, important to immediately start preparing yourself for service. Sunday school teachers can be qualified by attending courses. Each ministry has its training and integration. A well-equipped Christian can work more effectively for the Lord and Master. If anyone experiences any problems in this regard, please contact the pastor or the church office, *"For we are labourers together with God."*

(1 Corinthians 3:9) *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive the things done through the body, according to that which he has done, whether good or bad."* (2 Corinthians 5:10) *"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to each according as his work is."* (Revelation 22:12)

Being serviceable to God and to give your best for Him is mandatory. Hereby you not only invest in your spiritual growth on earth, but also gain a treasure in heaven. (1 Peter 5:4) teaches that those who are willing to bear responsibility will receive the unfading crown of glory.

The church is ready to enrol you for the service of the Lord.

### **IN SUMMARY**

The purpose of this book is to help you to accomplish a personal relationship with God. (Galatians 2:20, Philipians 1:21, 1 Corinthians 1:9) Through the fall of man, this fellowship was broken. (Genesis 2:17, Romans 3:23) By His atoning death, Christ again restored this fellowship with God. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19) By identifying with the death and resurrection of Christ, your spirit becomes alive once again (Ephesians 2:1) and you can walk in a new relationship with God. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Being a Christian does not mean to resist sin by only doing certain things. It means walking in a relationship with Christ (1 Corinthians 6:17); Bible reading, prayer, witnessing, going to church and servitude to God is then a natural response.

In (Luke 10:41-42) Jesus makes an important statement: *"Only one thing is needed. . . ."*: fellowship with Him. Mary has discovered this secret - she continually sat at Jesus' feet. We pray that you will discover this secret of communion with God. Let the outflow of your devotion to God result in a personal relationship with Christ. (John 5:39, John 14:6)

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## QUESTIONNAIRE TO BAPTISM CANDIDATES

- This questionnaire must be completed by ALL persons to be baptized.
- Please complete all questions in full.
- Complete the form in block letters.

|  |                    |                   |                |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. Surname   | Maiden name        |                   |                |
| 2. Full names  |                    |                   |                |
| 3. Home address  |                    |                   |                |
|  |                    |                   | Contact number |
| 4. Date of birth   | Place of birth     |                   |                |
| 5. Identity number   |                    |                   |                |
| 6. Date of conversion  |                    |                   |                |
| 7. Place of conversion   |                    |                   |                |
| 8. Are you baptized by the Holy Spirit?  | When?              | Where?            |                |
| 9. Previous denomination   | Which congregation |                   |                |
| 10. Date to be baptized  |                    |                   |                |
| <p>11. DECLARATION: "I, the undersigned, hereby accept membership of the church and promise to submit myself to the teaching and discipline thereof according to the Word of God".</p> |                    |                   |                |
| <p>12. Signature of candidate ..... Date.....</p>  |                    |                   |                |
| <p>13. WITNESS 1. ....</p>   |                    |                   |                |
| <p>2. ....</p>   |                    |                   |                |
| <b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>   |                    |                   |                |
| 1. Certificate issued by   |                    | Date              |                |
| 2. Membership registration form issued on  |                    | Membership number |                |
| 3. Church records  | Register           | Census            | Address list   |