

START YOUR JOURNEY

Table of Contents

1. THE JOURNEY BEGINS.....	1
2. SALVATION.....	1
3. THE BIBLE.....	2
4. THE TRINITY	3
5. JESUS	4
6. THE HOLY SPIRIT	4
7. MAN	5
8. DAILY DEVOTIONS	5
9. PRAYER.....	6
10. CHURCH ATTENDANCE	7
11. WATER BAPTISM.....	8
APPENDIX A: THE APOSTLES' CREED.....	10
APPENDIX B: SUMMARY OF OUR BELIEFS.....	11

“Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?” (Matthew 16:24–26)

Followers of Jesus are exhorted to “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3.18). This document is Discipleship Part 1, providing important teaching and instruction for young believer as they begin their exciting walk with God and prepare for water baptism. Part 2 takes us deeper into more teachings to ground us in faith and launch us into ministry, discovering and serving in the areas God has designed for us.

Thanks to Okege Omale for the cover design.

Pastor Mike

1. THE JOURNEY BEGINS



The New Birth

If you have recently turned to Jesus, deciding to serve Him as Lord - congratulations!

This is the most important decision you will ever make in life. It's truly life-altering.

When someone receives Christ as Savior a spiritual birth takes place, aka 'born-again', 'saved'. There is a change of heart. God has removed the heart of stone and given us a heart of flesh.

"Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So, it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."" (John 3:1-8)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

We know we are born-again when we sense a change in our lives, a change in desires, especially a desire to serve God. We also notice conviction when we sin.

Are you born again? (Feel free to discuss with a spiritual partner.)

Assurance

Many new believers doubt they are saved or forgiven. They operate based on '**feelings**' instead of faith. This can bring shame, guilt, and hinder their spiritual growth.

- "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1)
- "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)
- "And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life.**" (1 John 5:11-13)
- "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life." (John 6:47)

Once you believe the gospel, repented of sin, and received Jesus as Lord, you are saved! Do not doubt your salvation but instead put your faith in God and His Word.

2. SALVATION



The story of the Bible is one of redemption, the salvation of man through the atoning sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the gospel in a nutshell: (Note we can use the following to share the gospel with others.)

1. God created the universe.

- a. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)
 - i. Everything was good, perfect.
- b. God created man in His likeness and image. Gen. 1:26-28
 - i. God made man in His likeness and image.
 - ii. God made man to have dominion over the earth.
 - iii. God blessed man.

2. Mankind rebelled against God.

- a. Gen. 3 shows how man disobeyed God and sin entered the world.
- b. We all have inherited a sinful nature. "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—" (Romans 5:12)

c. Man is a sinner - "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," (Romans 3:23)

3. Our sin separates us from God now and for eternity.

- i. "...but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear." (Isaiah 59:2)
- ii. "For the wages of sin is death (eternal separation from God), but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

4. Jesus came to die as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

- a. "... in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself," (2 Corinthians 5:19)
- b. "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- c. We cannot be saved by any other way – religion, our righteousness, good works etc.
 - i. "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Ephesians 2:8–9)
 - ii. "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)
 - iii. "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Ac 4:12)

5. We must believe the gospel message, repent of our sins, and receive Jesus as our Savior.

- a. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)
- b. "But to all who did **receive** him, who **believed** in his name, he gave the right to become children of God," (John 1:12)
- c. Repentance is an inward change of heart resulting in an outward change of behavior.
- d. We exercise faith in Jesus through our confession of sins. "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (Ro 10:9–10)

When someone repents and believes the gospel, the Holy Spirit regenerates the spirit, brings new life to that person. He is "born-again."

3. THE BIBLE.



The Bible is the inspired Word of God. It is a library of 66 books, written over 1500 years by more than 40 different men under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. God's Word brings enlightenment to us. It gives knowledge, revelation, truth, guidance, and wisdom. It gives us strength and shows us how to deal with many problems in life. It is our primary source of counsel.

The Inspiration of the Bible

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Tim. 3:16–17)

"Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:20–21)

We believe that the Bible is the inspired, infallible word of God and has authority over our lives.

- The Bible is the **inspired** Word of God. Inspired means "God-breathed."
- The Bible is the **infallible Word of God**. Infallibility means incapable of error.
- The Bible is **authoritative**. It is our rule and guide for living. It is our only source to learn God's will and way.

The Impact of the Bible

God's word is alive and active. It penetrates our hearts.

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

1) The benefits and blessings of God’s Word come to those who **MEDITATE** on it.

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law, he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” (Psalm 1:1–3)

2) God’s Word will keep us from sin.

“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:11)

3) God’s Word gives us direction in life:

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)

Each person must make time for God’s Word. We spend hours on the TV, internet, video games, Netflix etc.

A good approach:

- Get to know God by reading His Word. Dedicate 20-30 minutes daily to it.
- Use a modern translation – ESV, NIV, NKJV
- Start by reading through the New Testament systematically, one book at a time. Do not limit yourself to a chapter/day. Please do not say “I read a Bible verse today.”!
- Ask God - “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.” (Psalm 119:18)
- As you read, ask 3 simple questions:
 - What does the passage say? (main facts)
 - What does it mean?
 - How can I apply this to my life?
- Have a notebook and write what the Holy Spirit is showing you.
- Memorize important verses.

God’s Word is powerful and exciting! We have a treasure trove in the Bible. Start your journey. Dig in! God’s Word will bring you strength, wisdom, and victory.

4. THE TRINITY



We believe in one God. “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.” (Dt 6:4)

The God of the Bible is revealed as a Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

- “and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” (Lk 3:22)
- “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Mt 28:19)
- “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” (2 Co 13:14)

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three distinct personalities but constitute one Godhead. Although, the word ‘Trinity’ itself is not used in the Bible, the concept is clearly presented.

God is eternal and self-existent. He is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. He is holy, righteous, just, loving, good, merciful, gracious, faithful, and kind. He has a holy indignation against sin and wickedness and has set a day to judge the world.



5. JESUS

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (Jn 1:1)

Jesus is the eternal Son of God who physically entered our world two thousand years ago. He was and forever will be, fully God and fully man in one person.

He:

- Pre-existed before He was born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2
- Was born of a virgin.
- Lived a sinless life. (1 Jn 3.5)
- Demonstrated by numerous miracles His power over sickness, nature, demons, and death.
- Repeatedly mentioned that He came to die for our sins.
- Was crucified on Calvary as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world.
- Was resurrected on the third day as He predicted.
- Made many post-resurrection appearances. He “presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs” (Acts 1.3)
- Ascended into heaven. (Acts 1.9)
- Promised that He will return. (Acts 1.11)
- Will judge the world (John 5.22)

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT



The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Trinity.

- He is given equal rank with the Father and Son. [See Trinity.]
- He possesses divine attributes. He is:
 - Eternal (Heb. 9:14)
 - Omnipresent (Ps. 139:7-10)
 - Omniscient (1 Cor. 2:10,11)
 - Omnipotent (Luke 1:35)

He is not “the active force of God” as some claim. Jesus and the New Testament writers refer to the Holy Spirit as a person. They use “HE” and “HIM”, never “IT”. (John 14:15-18, 26; 15: 26). Two exceptions are KJV Rom. 8: 16 and 8: 26 which are errors corrected in other versions. The following show He is a person:

- He has a will. 1 Cor.12: 11 “All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines (will).”
- He possesses knowledge. 1 Cor. 2:11 “For who knows a person’s thoughts except that person’s own spirit within? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”
- He can be grieved. Ep. 4:30 “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”
- He searches the deep things of God. 1 Cor. 2:10 “The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.”
- He speaks. Rev. 2:7 “Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”
- He intercedes. Rom. 8:26 “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.”
- He leads. Rom. 8:14 “For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.”
- He calls men to work. Acts 13:2 “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.”
- He teaches. Jn.14: 26 “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

The Holy Spirit indwells the believer, strengthening, helping, teaching, and guiding us in our walk with God.

7. MAN



The Bible reveals who we are as human beings. Man was created perfect in the likeness and image of God (Gen 1.26-27). He is made up of spirit, soul, and body (1 Thess. 5.23). God created man to obey and worship Him. However, the first man, Adam sinned (Gen 3) and consequently, we have all inherited a nature of sin (Rom 5.12). The Scripture states our position as such: “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (Ro 3:23). Our biggest problem is sin.

“The wages of sin is death” (Rom 6.23). Death here refers to a separation from God in this life (Is 59.2). Sin brought physical death and eternal separation from God unless we repent.

Man has one life to live and then we face God’s judgement. “... it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment” (Heb 9:27.) There is no second chance nor reincarnation.

After death, we continue to exist in heaven or hell. (Dan 12.2, Mt 25.46) We determine our destiny by our response to the gospel.

8. DAILY DEVOTIONS



After the New Birth, the baby Christian must grow in faith so he can live a victorious Christian life, not one of struggle or failure.

“But **grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:18)

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to **grow up** in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,” (Ephesians 4:15)

(Study Mark 4:13–20)

The most important habit we can develop as disciples of Jesus is to spend time with God every day in prayer and meditation on His Word. It is the most potent means of spiritual growth but sadly, too many Christians do not have a regular devotional/quiet time and they remain stunted in growth, spiritually weak and ineffective in the kingdom. If you practice this, God will change your life!

- “And rising **very early in the morning**, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a **desolate** place, and there he **prayed**.” (Mark 1:35)
- “O LORD, **in the morning** you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.” (Psalm 5:3)
- “But **seek first** the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33)

Many refer to this as “Quiet Time” or “Daily Devotions.” It is simply a time you set aside to spend with God daily. Here is a guide:

1. Start with 15-20 minutes daily and keep doing so until it is a habit.
 - a. It takes up to 30 days for a new habit to develop. You may forget and fall off the wagon but do not beat yourself up. Keep going.
 - b. It is better to do this first in the day.
 - c. Choose a special place.
2. Begin with prayer. Prepare your heart.
3. Read the Scripture slowly; meditate on it. Use the SPACEPETS as a guide to glean truth. IS there a:
 - a. **S**in to avoid?
 - b. **P**romise to claim?
 - c. **A**ttitude to change?
 - d. **C**ommand to obey?
 - e. **E**xample to follow?

- f. **P**rayer to pray?
 - g. **E**rror to avoid?
 - h. **T**ruth to believe?
 - i. **S**omething to thank God for?
4. **M**ake notes when you discover something new, or God speaks to you.
 5. Spend some time in worship and prayer. (See section on prayer.)
 - a. **A**doration – praise, worship, singing.
 - b. **C**onfession – of sins, failures, weaknesses
 - c. **T**hanksgiving – this changes our perspective.
 - d. **S**upplication – make your requests.
 6. Apply what you learnt that day.

This lesson is critical to your spiritual growth. Start immediately. Within a few months, you will see the difference in your spiritual life. Start a daily time with God. Keep doing it. Do not ever stop!

9. PRAYER



Prayer is the mark of a devout follower of Jesus. No Christian can survive and thrive without prayer.

Jesus said: “Men ought always to pray, and not to faint;” (Luke 18:1 KJV) and He set the example for us. “And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.” (Mark 1:35)

The Lord even provided a prayer template: “Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:9–15)

Prayer is communication with God. More precisely, it is communion (spending time) with God, (talking to God and listening.) When you pray, imagine Jesus is right there in front of you, listening to every word and seeing your heart.

We pray directly to God in Jesus’ Name, not to Mary or any of the saints.

The prayer life of Jesus:

- Jesus (and the Psalmist) prayed early in the morning. (Ps. 5: 3)
- Jesus also prayed all night (Luke 6:12)
- Jesus prayed before making important decisions, e.g., choosing the apostles. (Luke 6:13)
- Jesus prayed when facing the most difficult test in His life in the Garden of Gethsemane before the crucifixion. He prayed with such intensity that His sweat was like drops of blood. (Luke 22:44)
- He is still praying for us. (Heb 7:25)

Examples of prayer: Hannah in 1 Sam. 1; The Early Church in Acts 12

What should we pray about? Some examples:

- To overcome temptation (Matt. 6:13)
- Things we desire (Mark 11:24)
- For wisdom, knowledge, and enlightenment; to know God more (Eph. 1.17-18)
- Our anxieties and cares (Phil. 4:6, 1 Peter 5:7)
- For those in authority (1 Tim. 2:1)
- That all men be saved (1 Tim. 2: 4)
- That God would send laborers for the harvest (Matt. 9: 38)
- For the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6)

What are some conditions for prayer?

- **Faith.** “Therefore, I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.” (Mark 11:24 KJV)
- **Forgiveness** of others (Lord’s Prayer above)
- **Righteousness.** “If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear me:” (Psalm 66:18)
- **Persistence.** “And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?” (Luke 18:7)
- **Abiding** in Christ. “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:7)

We are to “Pray without ceasing.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Do not be afraid to ask God. “You do not have, because you do not ask.” (James 4:2)

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” (Matt 7:7)

We learn to pray by praying. Desire to become a person of prayer, living a life of devoted prayer to God. Take time throughout the day to talk to God and acknowledge him.

A great resource is “The Power of Prayer” by R. A. Torrey

10. CHURCH ATTENDANCE



“...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:25)

Many have said, "I don't have to go to church to be a Christian". It may be true that going to church does not make you a Christian, but every true disciple will be part of a Bible-believing church. It's not optional.

God created the church, the body of Christ, as His family. We become part of it, and this is crucial to our growth in grace and knowledge. It is a source of inspiration and encouragement. Other believers serve as a model of the Christian life. For the new believer, regular church fellowship puts your spiritual growth on steroids!

What is the church? Church comes a Greek word “*ekklesia*” which means “called-out ones.” It refers to the **gathering or assembly** of a group of believers called out of the world system to serve Jesus Christ. We are saints of God, forgiven of our sins, united by His Spirit in one purpose and bound for glory! “*Ekklesia*’ refers to the gathering, not the individuals.

The church is not a building. Church refers to two things in the New Testament. There is the universal, invisible, mystical church and there are local churches (fellowships) like PWC.

Jesus said: “And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18)

Symbols used to describe the church:

- The body of Christ. “And he is the head of the body, the church.” (Colossians 1:18)
 - It shows Christ is the head.
 - We are all united into one body.
- The bride of Christ. “For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.” (Ephesians 5:23)
 - This reveals the love relationship between Jesus and the church.
 - We are His.
- The branches of Christ. “I am the vine; you are the branches.” (John 15:5)
 - This reflects the intimate connectivity between believers and Jesus.
 - We depend upon Him. We must ABIDE in Him.
- The building of Christ. “... built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:19–22)
 - This teaches that we are the dwelling-place of God’s Presence.
 - When we assemble, the Holy Spirit is there in a powerful way.

Purpose of the church:

- **Worship** – a major reason to gather. We worship the Creator and Savior.
- **Instruction** – receive teaching from the Scriptures.
- **Fellowship** – frequent gathering with other Christians.
- **Evangelism** – bringing men and women to Jesus.

How can I identify a good (authentic) church? A checklist:

- Is worship a key element of the gathering? Is Jesus being glorified?
- Is the Word of God being proclaimed? Are the Scriptures central to the message?
- Is the born-again experience emphasized?
- Is there evidence of love? Is it expressed?
 - Or do you feel judged? Feel like an outsider?
- Can you sense the Presence of God there?

Understand that there is no perfect church. The church is made up of imperfect human beings.

Warning: You will be hurt and disappointed in any church because there are some false saints, immature saints, carnal saints, and regular saints who stumble. The hurts do us a favor by providing opportunities to forgive as Jesus did, helping us to grow and mature.

What about church membership?

- It shows you are committed to Christ.
- It enables you fulfil God's purpose in the world.
- It combats the culture of selfishness and pride of independence.
- It shows who are on the team (workers prepared for service to God)
- It ensures growth through transparency and accountability.

The church will be maligned by Satan, the world, and media. Remember she is the body of Christ and that He is returning for His Bride, a glorious church without spot or wrinkle.

Make a commitment today to regularly attend a local church. Be baptized and become an active member. Don't sit on the sidelines and be a passive observer.

Jesus is waiting for you to connect with His Bride.

11. WATER BAPTISM

After coming to know Jesus, then next step is water baptism. This is a public declaration of a decision to follow Jesus by immersion in water.



Scripture:

- “And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:15–16)
- “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” (Matthew 28:19)
- Matt. 3: 1-17

What is water baptism?

Baptism as an ordinance (observance) or divine instruction to be administered by His church as an outward, visible sign (testimony) of a believer's inner experience of God's saving grace.

Jesus commanded that anyone who decides to follow Him be baptized in water. Mark 16: 15-16

Jesus modeled water baptism for us. Matthew 3

Who can be baptized?

Water baptism is for those who:

- **Believed the gospel:** “And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”” (Acts 16:31)
- **Confessed their sin.** (Matt. 3:6)
- **Received Jesus as Lord and Savior.** “But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12)
- **Repented of their sin:** To repent means more than being sorry. It is a change of heart, a change of mind, a change of direction in life. Now you are ready to follow and obey the Lord Jesus Christ. “And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you 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)
- **Have been born-again.** “Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born-again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”” (John 3:3)
- **Have decided to continue living for God.** They will be fruitful (Matt. 3:8,10)
- It is the final act of the "**repentance- believe- baptism**" response to the Gospel.

What does water baptism represent?

- It signifies our identification with Christ in His saving act, i.e., death and resurrection unto new life. Romans 6:3,4 “Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”
- It symbolizes our identification with the Church. 1 Corinthians 12:12,13 “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So, it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body- -whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”

How is baptism administered?

- The Greek word for baptism used in the New Testament is "baptizo" meaning to dip or immerse.

What is the procedure for being baptized?

- Inform Pastor Mike or board member directly, text, email, etc.
- He will meet with you for a brief interview and to give instructions.
- You are encouraged to invite your friends and relatives to attend the service to witness your baptism.
- Have you followed the Lord in Baptism? If not:
 - What steps might God have you take this week to further determine if He would have you take this public profession?
 - What answers do you need; questions you have?

The Baptismal Event

- A day, time and venue will be announced.
- You must bring a complete change of clothing and a towel.

- Change into modest and appropriate clothing for baptism.
- We begin with prayer and songs of worship.
- This is followed by a brief exhortation from Scripture.
- New believers are called one by one, prayed for, and then immersed in water.
- You are welcome to share a brief testimony of how Jesus changed your life. It will be a blessing to others.

APPENDIX A: THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,
 the Father Almighty,
 Creator of heaven and earth,
 and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried;
 He descended into hell;
 on the third day He rose again from the dead;
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
 from there He will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Holy Catholic Church,
 the communion of Saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and life everlasting.



APPENDIX B: SUMMARY OF OUR BELIEFS

We believe that:

- 1) The Bible is the inspired Word of God. It is without error and bears authority over our lives. It is the full revelation of God's redemption plan for mankind. [2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; Psalm 119:105; 12:6; Proverbs 30:5]
- 2) There is one true God who is eternal, of infinite power, wisdom and goodness, the Creator and Preserver of all things. The God of the Bible exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and each person is fully God and there is one God. [Genesis 1:1,26,27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14]
- 3) The Lord Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man. He was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life. He suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried to reconcile us to the Father. By his death, He paid the full price for all our sins. [Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13]
- 4) Christ rose from the dead and ascended into heaven and there sits until He shall return to judge all men at the last day.
- 5) The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily. [2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18]
- 6) Man was created in the likeness and image of God, but sin has separated him from a good, loving God. [Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2]
- 7) Salvation from sin is provided freely for all mankind by the death of Jesus. Those who are saved from sin will inherit eternal life.
 - a. The evidence of salvation is the born-again experience.
 - b. Salvation is by faith alone, not by good works.
 - c. [Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5;]
- 8) There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life will be consigned to the everlasting punishment in the lake of fire. [John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Cor. 2:7-9]
- 9) Sanctification is the process by which the believer is delivered from the power of sin and made holy before God. It is both instantaneous and progressive. It is pursued by the life-long growth in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. [(2 Corinthians 4:16; 2 Peter 3:18]
- 10) The Pentecostal baptism of the Holy Spirit is available to every believer and that the initial evidence of this experience is speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. [Acts 1:5; 2:14, 8-17; 10:44-46; 19:6]
- 11) Divine healing is included in the atonement of Christ. [Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:14-18; James 5:14-16; Exodus 15:26]
- 12) The Lord Jesus Christ will soon return for His church and judge the world. He will usher us into a new heaven and new earth. [1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 3:1-4]
- 13) It is the responsibility of every believer to dedicate his life to carrying out the work of the Great Commission. [Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20; Acts 1:8]