

GO DEEPER

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1. TEMPTATION

Every believer faces temptation to sin. We must learn how to deal with this.

Key passage: “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ““Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.””



Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ““He will command his angels concerning you,” and ““On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”” Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Be gone, Satan! For it is written, ““You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.”” (Matthew 4:1–10)

“Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)

Temptation is a suggestion to sin, but sin is yielding to the suggestion. Jesus was tempted yet he did not sin.

What are some common areas of temptation? Lie, cheat, steal, gossip, lust. What else?

Satan will always tempt us in the weak areas of our lives. He does not play fair. It will often bring discouragement.

How did Jesus overcome temptation?

- a. He was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- b. He used the Word of God. “I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:11)
- c. He did not yield.
- d. He resisted. “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)
- e. He rebuked Satan.

God has promised to help us when we are tempted. “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13)

What if we fail? And we may! Do not be discouraged. God loves you still. “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)

We all face temptation as followers of Christ. It is our battle to win. This is how we become OVERCOMERS. Remember the Holy Spirit is with you to help you live in victory.

2. SANCTIFICATION

“But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:15–16)

“Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.” (Heb. 12:14)

Sanctification means to be separated unto God; to be holy. We are separating from sin, the world system and everything that contaminates our purity. God is holy and requires holiness in His people.

The Word of God and the Holy Spirit work in us to purify our lives. (John 17:17, 1 Peter 1:2.)

Sanctification is both instantaneous and progressive (1 Cor. 6:11, Phil. 2:12.)



The whole world lies in deception and wickedness, but God's Word teaches that our lifestyle should reflect godliness. We are to walk in righteousness and holiness. A righteous lifestyle does not save us, but it proves to the world we are saved.

The power of a Christian's witness is in his/her lifestyle. We must present the gospel in our words and lifestyle. The modern church has lost its impact and appears to be hypocritical because of the glaring sins of believers. Yet there are many Christians who live holy lives that please God. Every sin grieves the heart of God, weakens us spiritually and reduces our impact on those around us.

Paul declares in Titus 2:11–12 *"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age."*

As followers of Jesus, we commit to:

- a) Sexual purity: We will not practice adultery, fornication nor homosexuality, or get involved in pornography. (Ephesians 5:3, 1 Timothy 1:10)
- b) Physical purity: Abstaining from alcoholism, smoking, marijuana, and other drug use. (1 Corinthians 6:18)
- c) Clean speech
- d) A self-controlled, disciplined life. (Titus above)
- e) Financial integrity. (Ephesians 4:28; James 5:4)
- f) Walking in love and respect: Practicing patience, love, and forgiveness; refraining from hatred and malice.
- g) Showing respect for authority. (Romans 13:1; 1 Peter 2: 13-17)

We do not wait for someone to correct us when we sin. As we read God's Word, we learn what He desires. The Holy Spirit will convict us of things that do not please God. As He speaks to us, we must repent and obey Him. This is what it means to be led by the Spirit.

3. SPIRITUAL WARFARE

To be a victorious, triumphant Christian we must recognize our struggles and our enemies. We are in a spiritual warfare. You may know of someone who began to walk with Christ but fell away (backslid.) What do you think caused them to fall away? How do you avoid this? (The next few sessions focus on our battles.)



A. SATAN

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places." (Eph 6:12)

Christians are engaged in a spiritual battle. Satan is real! He is the archenemy of God and heads up an evil kingdom, the kingdom of darkness and is the god of this world system. He opposes everything that is of God. He is a liar, murderer (John 8:44), tempter (Matt. 4:3), and deceiver (Rev. 12: 9). He's the enemy of the saint.

- We must be vigilant. *"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."* (1 Peter 5:8)
- We must be aware of his strategies. *"so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs."* (2 Co 2:11)
- We must prepare for the battle. *"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."* (Ephesians 6:11)
- We must *"give no opportunity to the devil"* (Ephesians 4:27). Allow him no scope, no room, no place in our lives.

The secret is first submission to God and then we can resist the enemy. *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* (James 4:7)

We have power over the devil. “Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.” (Lk 10:19) “And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons.” (Mk 16:17)

B. MY SINFUL NATURE

“For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.” (Ro 7:18)

Every Christian faces an inner battle, a fight between the old sinful nature (the **FLESH**, aka the **OLD MAN**) and the new spiritual nature (the **NEW MAN**). Many blame Satan, family, friends, society and even the church for their failures instead of facing their sin.

A marvelous change occurred in our lives when we were born again. “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)

Yet a conflict remains in our inner being. “For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. So, I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being,” (Romans 7:15–22)

In Galatians 5:17 Paul again writes about the inner struggle. “For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.” (Ga 5:17)

He identifies some manifestations of the old, sinful nature: “Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Gal 5:19-21)

Then he shows us what the new nature is like: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

We are given the secrets to winning the battle:

- Walk in the Spirit. “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” (Ga 5:16)
- Crucify the flesh. “And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.” (Ga 5:24)
- Put off the old nature. “to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” (Ephesians 4:22–24)

We will all face this struggle until we die but it becomes easier as we grow spiritually. The nature we feed the most will win. We strengthen the old nature by:

- Unwholesome movies, some Netflix shows, certain websites.
- Unwholesome speech, music, books
- Pornographic material
- Living closer to the world than God
- Pride – thinking we can manage on our own.

We strengthen the new nature by:

- Daily time with God, prayer, and Word
- Fasting
- Fellowship - Surrounding ourselves with good Christian friends/community.
- Desiring holiness
- Reading good Christian books; listening to podcasts of preaching and teaching.
- Listening to good Christian music, e.g., worship music.

Keep fighting the good fight of faith.

C. THE WORLD SYSTEM

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.” (1 John 2:15–17)

“You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” (James 4:4)

We live in a wicked world. The evil around us is very evident – lies, lust, corruption, injustice, immorality, violence, etc. The god of this evil world system is Satan (2 Co 4.4.) Although we live in the world, we are not of the world. We belong to the kingdom of God, not the kingdom of darkness.

We must not love the world or seek to be friendly with it. “Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing.” (2 Co 6:17)

Worldliness is characterized by the lust of the flesh (“eat, drink and be merry”, lust and sexual immorality), the lust of the eye (greed, covetousness, and materialism) and the pride of life (being proud of what we have and who we are.)

As we draw near to God, we will be less attached to the world system.

D. SELF

“Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny **himself** and take up his cross and follow me.” (Mt 16:24)

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Ga 2:20)

This area of struggle may be the most difficult to recognize. It refers to our ego, our selfishness.

To be full of “self” is evident when we place our thoughts, opinions, desires, and feelings before God and the Scriptures. Instead of Jesus reigning on the throne of my heart, “I” am. What did Paul say about “I”? (Gal. 2.20)

Winning the battle over self will involve nothing else but a total surrender to the Lordship of Jesus and daily yielding to Him.

The line-up of Satan, the world system, the old sinful nature and self may seem formidable but remember whose side we are on. Jesus is the Winner always. We are victorious and triumphant in Him.

- “Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)
- “For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.” (1 John 5:4)
- “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” (Romans 8:37)
- “And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” (Revelation 12:11)

4. TOTAL SURRENDER

“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?” (Matt. 16:24–26)



There is an old song: “I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back.”

To take up our cross as a follower of Christ means we are totally surrendering our lives to Him and walking in obedience to His will, to the point of being willing to lay our lives down for Him. We can only enjoy our Christian life and be victorious if we are surrendered to Him.

So far, we have covered important discipleship lifestyle habits of

- Going to church
- Growing by regular time with God in prayer and the Word
- Going out to share the gospel.
- Giving
- Getting involved

We have seen the pitfalls/struggles we face with sin, Satanic temptation, our sinful nature, the pull of the world and our inner struggles.

If you want your life to count for Christ, let us look at what Jesus said:

- **Deny self:** “I” no longer call the shots in my life. Jesus does. I deny “SELF” and I place Him on the throne. My desires, dreams, wants, wishes are now subject to Him. However, do not make rash, foolish decisions. Get godly counsel. Keep whatever is good and glorifying God in your life but deny yourself of the wrong things.
- **Take up his cross:** The cross was an instrument of death. It symbolizes death to my old life. To take up your cross means we are willing to die for Him. We are now committed to Him.
- **“Follow me”:** I follow Jesus now, not the world. As we read the Scriptures daily, He tells us what we should do. We obey the Word. He also speaks to us in God’s house as the Word is being declared. In addition, the Holy Spirit speaks to us, and we should follow His promptings, His guidance to us. There is that “inner voice” speaking. Listen. Obey.
- *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* (Galatians 2:20)
- To be a disciple involves complete surrender to the Lord, not only today but throughout our lives. It is the way to inner peace, overflowing love, reassuring hope, and tremendous joy. In the surrendered life, we find meaning and eternal purpose. Live for Jesus. This is all that matters.

Prayer: “Heavenly Father, I thank you for forgiving me of my sins and giving me eternal life. I am undeserving of your mercy and grace. I now surrender my life to you and ask you to purify my heart, cleansing me of all impurities. Strengthen me, O Lord, so I can live for you daily. Fill me with the Holy Spirit. Help me to pray, meditate on your Word and spend time with you every day. Lead me in your paths. Help me to know, listen and obey your voice, Lord Jesus. Dear God, I ask you now to use me. Show me what I can do to bring others to you and glorify Your name. May my life be pleasing to you. It is all I can do to show you how much I love you and am thankful for your salvation. I ask these things in Jesus Name. Amen.”

5. STEWARDSHIP

A steward is one entrusted with the responsibility of managing resources and /or property provided by another. We are all stewards, entrusted with time, talents/gifts/abilities, and treasure (riches, finances) to manage for the kingdom of God.

Scripture: ““For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents (*one talent =about 20 years wages*), to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no



seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So, take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" (Matthew 25:14–30)

The servant with five talents went to work, used the finances given to him, what he had and showed profit. He was faithful and fruitful. Likewise, God expects us to be good stewards of what God gave us – time, talent, and treasure.

Time

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil." (Ephesians 5:15–16)

Disciples must use their time effectively for the Kingdom of God. Do not waste time. Life is short and there is much to be done for Jesus.

Talent

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:" (1 Peter 4:10) (See also: Romans 12: 6-8; 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11; Ephesians 4: 11-13; 1 Peter 4: 9-11)

We all have been given gifts, talents, abilities, skills that we can use for the Kingdom of God.

As we surrender to the Lord, the Holy Spirit will reveal the gifts He has given us and the area of ministry He'll have us serve in.

The **SHAPE** test can also be helpful (<https://www.freeshapetest.com/>)

- **S**piritual gifts – teaching, intercession, evangelism, encouragement, giving.
- **H**ear – what does your heart beat for? Your passion? Homelessness, the poor, children, marriage and family, homeless, financial stewardship?
- **A**bilities – skills, talents
- **P**ersonality – introvert, extrovert, detailed, motivator
- **E**xperiences – positive and negative experiences

One way that ensures your growth and excitement in faith is to get involved in the Kingdom. Do whatever you can. Find something to do:

- Share the gospel with others you know.
- Invite others to church, online services.
- Join a small group.
- Get involved in greeting, ushering, Children's church, youth ministry, music.
- Share on Social Media.
- Ask: What skills/gifts/abilities do I have? How can I use it for the Kingdom of God?

Treasure

"Will man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How have we robbed you?' In your tithes and contributions. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the whole nation of you. Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." (Malachi 3:8–10)

"Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure, you use it will be measured back to you.'" (Luke 6:38)

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:35)

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:6–7)

This can be a difficult area for many as the thinking of the world and our personal greed surfaces. Believers who have obeyed God and been good stewards of his provision can testify that we cannot outgive God. At PWC, we practice giving to God 10% of our income as a reflection of our faith and commitment to Him. Please note that this church does not subscribe to the Prosperity Gospel, but we do believe in the blessing of God.

Application: When we ask Jesus to be our Lord, we are asking Him to assume full control over our lives. We obey and serve Him in every area of our lives.

6. THE LORD'S SUPPER

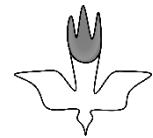


The Lord's Supper/Holy Communion. *"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'"* (1 Co 11:23–25) The Lord's Supper allows to reflect on the past (Jesus's sacrificial death), the present (our relationship with Him), and the future (His return).

We prepare for this sacred moment by:

- Self-examination (v.27)
- Recommitment (Romans 12:1)
- Confession of sin (1 John 1:9)
- Restoring relationships (Matt. 5:23-24)

7. THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT



Believers are empowered to live for God, pray and share the gospel when they are filled with Holy Spirit. Pentecostals are distinguished from other evangelical Christians by our belief and emphasis in the power, presence, and manifestation of the Holy Spirit in the church today. We believe "It's not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit, says the Lord." (Zech. 4: 6)

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Acts 2:4.) The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience after salvation that is available to every child of God. Jesus promised the baptism in the Holy Spirit. "On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 1:4, 5.

God fulfilled this promise on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). God came to dwell in them through His Holy Spirit.

There are five examples of Spirit Baptism in the book of Acts. Note that they all spoke in tongues.

- Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).
- Samaritans (Acts 8:5, 12, 14-17).
- Saul's conversion (Acts 9:17, 18; 1Cor.14:18).
- Cornelius' household (Acts 10:44-46).
- Disciples at Ephesus (Acts 19:1-6).

Tongues are the physical evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Why speak in tongues?

- I am speaking to God. (1 Cor.14: 12).
- I am building up myself with power (1Cor. 14:4)
- I open the door for the gifts of the Spirit.

Other results of being Spirit-filled:

- We are empowered to be effective witnesses (Acts 1: 8).
- We receive boldness (Acts 4:8-13; 19:21).

- We sing and give thanks to God (Eph.5.18, 19).

Every believer has the privilege of speaking in tongues. “Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy.” 1 Corinthians 14:5.

Praying in tongues is akin to praying in the Spirit.

- “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. 15 What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.” 1 Corinthians 14:14–15.
- “But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.” Jude 20
- “Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.” Ephesians 6:18

God gives His Spirit to believers for divine, supernatural power.

- God communicates to humans by His Spirit to our Spirit. Those who pray in the Spirit become sensitive to God’s voice.
- The Holy Spirit helps us pray for things that we do not understand or have trouble praying about (Romans 8:26).
- The Holy Spirit gives us power for signs and miracles.

People receive the Holy Spirit by asking and by the laying on of hands.

We must continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18; 1Cor. 14:14, 15). We can and should pray in the Spirit daily.

8. EVANGELISM

“And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”” (Matthew 4:19)

“And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” (Mark 16:15)

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”” (Matthew 28:18–20)

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”” (Acts 1:8)

“The Lord is ... not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

Jesus commands us to proclaim the gospel wherever we go so it is the responsibility of every Christian to do evangelism. Evangelism means sharing gospel the with others. It is not a suggestion but a command. Every person, including our family and friends, who does not know Jesus is headed for eternal punishment in hell. This should not sit well with us. We must win the lost at any cost.

Sharing the gospel helps us to grow in our faith and brings us tremendous joy. The Holy Spirit is rejoicing in us when we talk about the Savior.

Do not follow the example of many who have no burden (godly concern) for the lost or are ashamed of Jesus. God holds us all accountable. “For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of Man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.” (Luke 9:26) If you struggle with this, ask the Holy Spirit for boldness and to lead you in sharing Christ.

How do I begin?

- Write out your testimony.
 - What were you like before you knew Jesus?
 - How did you come to receive Jesus?
 - What happened after you received Jesus? What changes were there?



- You should be able to relate this in about 2-3 minutes to someone.
- Let your godly life be an example. “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)
- Have a list of people to pray for – family, friends, workmates etc.
- Start with one person.
 - Love them. Be kind and gentle.
 - Build a relationship with them. As you spend time with them and get to know them, opportunities will arise where you share your faith.
 - Pray that God provide “divine opportunities”.
 - Listen to their questions and objections and prepare a response. “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” (1 Peter 3:15)
- Take the prep course on Evangelism.

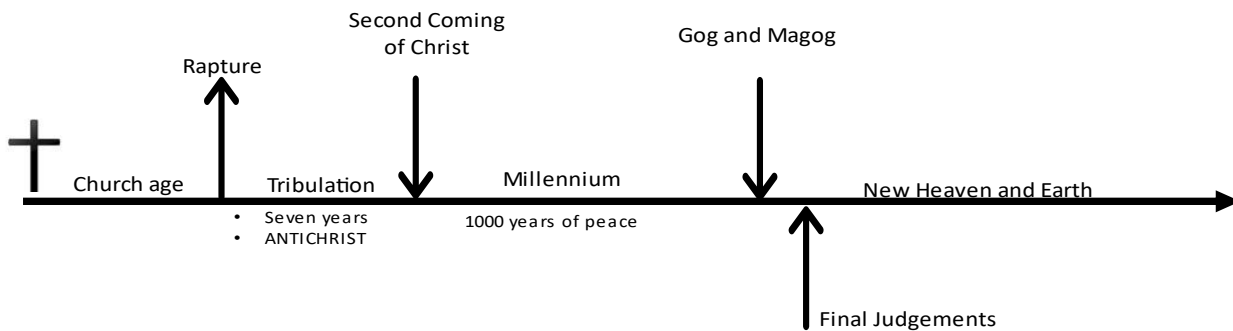
Develop a lifestyle of witnessing and discover one of the greatest joys in the Christian life.

9. END-TIME EVENTS

The Bible clearly teaches that this present world system will come to an end. The sequence of events is as follows:



- a) The Rapture
- b) The Tribulation
- c) Second Coming of Christ
- d) The Millennium
- e) Battle of Gog and Magog
- f) The Great White Throne Judgement
- g) New Heaven and New Earth



a) The Return of Christ.

Jesus promised that He will return. “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also” (John 14:3.) Yet “no one knows” (Mark 12:32) the exact time. We are to always be ready, “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Matthew 24:44) He said His return is near ““Surely I am coming soon.” (Revelation 22:20)

Although we do not know the day or hour, Jesus mentioned some signs that will precede His coming to indicate its imminence.

- “And you will hear of **wars and rumors of wars**. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be **famines** and **earthquakes** in various places.” (Matthew 24:6–7)
- “There will be great **earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences**. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven.” (Luke 21:11)
- “But understand this, that in the last days there will come **times of difficulty**.” (2 Timothy 3:1)
- “And this **gospel** of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.” (Matthew 24:14)
- “For in those days there will be such **tribulation** as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be.” (Mark 13:19)
- “For **false Christs and false prophets** will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.” (Mark 13:22) The end-time will be marked by deception.

b) The Rapture.

According to 1 Thess. 4:16-18; 1Cor.15: 51-53:

- The Lord Himself will come from heaven.
- The dead in Christ will rise first.
- Then the saints who are alive will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.
- We will be with Christ forever!

c) The Tribulation.

This refers to a seven-year period of sorrow and tribulation that the world has never seen before as recorded in Rev. 6-18. Here we read about the seven seals, trumpets, bowls, and thunder judgements. Yet people do not repent. The Antichrist and False Prophet are revealed along with their persecution of the saints as they seek to establish a one world political, economic, and religious order. The Antichrist will enter a seven-year peace treaty with Israel (Dan. 9.27) but after 3.5 years will break that covenant. He will desecrate the temple sacrifice, also known as ‘The Abomination of Desolation’ (Dan 12:11, Matt. 24:15) but will be defeated by Christ at His Second Coming.

d) The Second Coming of Christ.

This refers to the physical, visible return of Christ to end the Tribulation (Rev. 19:11-21).

The world rulers will gather their armies at Armageddon to fight Him. (Rev 16:16) but they will be defeated. The Antichrist and False Prophet will be thrown into the lake of fire. (Rev. 19:20) and Satan will be bound for 1000 years. (Rev. 20:1-2)

e) The Millennium.

This refers to a thousand-year period of peace and prosperity on earth (Rev. 20:1-6). Satan is bound in the bottomless pit and Christ will reign out of Jerusalem.

f) Battle of Gog and Magog.

At the end of the Millennium, Satan is released and back to his old tricks. Unfathomably many join with him to rebel against Christ but they are completely destroyed by fire from heaven. The devil is thrown into the lake of fire where the Antichrist and False Prophet are. (Rev 20:7–10)

g) The Final Judgement

God will judge the world through Jesus Christ. This is called the Great White Throne Judgement. “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.” (Rev 20:11)

- God warns throughout Scripture that He will judge mankind. “For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:14)

- Jesus is the one appointed to be judge. “I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:” (2 Timothy 4:1). See also John 5:27, Acts 10:42
- Those who rejected Christ as Savior will be judged.
 - They will face eternal torment in hell. “*And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*” (Revelation 20:15)
 - They will be judged according to their works. “*And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.*” (Revelation 20:12).
 - We can trust God to be just in His judgement.
- Believers will stand Before the judgment seat of God to give an account of themselves to God. “So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.” (Romans 14:12)
 - This is not a judgement for punishment but reward. “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment but has passed from death to life.” (John 5:24)
 - “If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. (1 Cor. 3. 14-15)
- Angels will also be judged (Jude 6, 2 Peter 2.4)
- The Final Judgement is not for God to determine our heart’s condition but to reveal to all His justice, grace, and mercy.
- The Final Judgement:
 - Enables us to entrust all evil done in this world and to us personally into the hand of God. Our response to the offender is to forgive as Jesus has freely forgiven us but we are reminded that He will repay. “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”” (Romans 12:19)
 - Encourage us to “lay up ... treasures in heaven” (Matt. 6.20) knowing we will be rewarded for our righteous works.
 - Stir us to evangelism knowing that “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

h) The New Heaven and Earth.

In the end God will create a new heaven and a new earth as He promised. Christians will live forever with God in this new world. (Rev. 21:1, 10, 11; 21:21-27; and 22:1-7). This is Paradise restored for the children of God to live in eternal fellowship with their loving Father.

10. HELL

References: Matt. 13: 42, 50; 25: 41, 46; Mk. 9: 42-49; Luke 16: 19-31; Rev. 20: 15; 21: 8

Many are offended by this doctrine but although it is highly uncomfortable, we cannot remain true to Scripture without accepting it. The Bible teaches a literal hell and there are 162 NT references to it. Those who reject Jesus Christ, and His free gift of salvation will go there. Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels, not for people.

Hell is a place of:

- Fire. “and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Matthew 13:42, 50) “*And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*” (Revelation 20:15)
- Torment and punishment. “... in Hades, being in torment, ... for I am in anguish in this flame.” (Luke 16: 22-24)
- Consciousness. Luke 16.23



- Eternal suffering (not annihilation as some teach.) “And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” (Matthew 25:46)

No one escapes hell once he arrives there. There is no change of mind after death!

Some ask: “How can a God of love punish people in hell?” The Bible tells of God’s love, goodness, and mercy but also His holiness and justice. We also know there is great evil in the world, and this calls forth the just wrath of a holy God. Evil cannot go unpunished. God will judge all the evil and wickedness perpetrated by ungodly men on the earth. Finally, justice will be done.

People choose hell by rejecting God’s offer of salvation.

11. HEAVEN



“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.” (Isaiah 65:17)

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”” (Revelation 21:1–5)

“They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.” (Revelation 22:4–5)

Read Rev. 21.1-22.5.

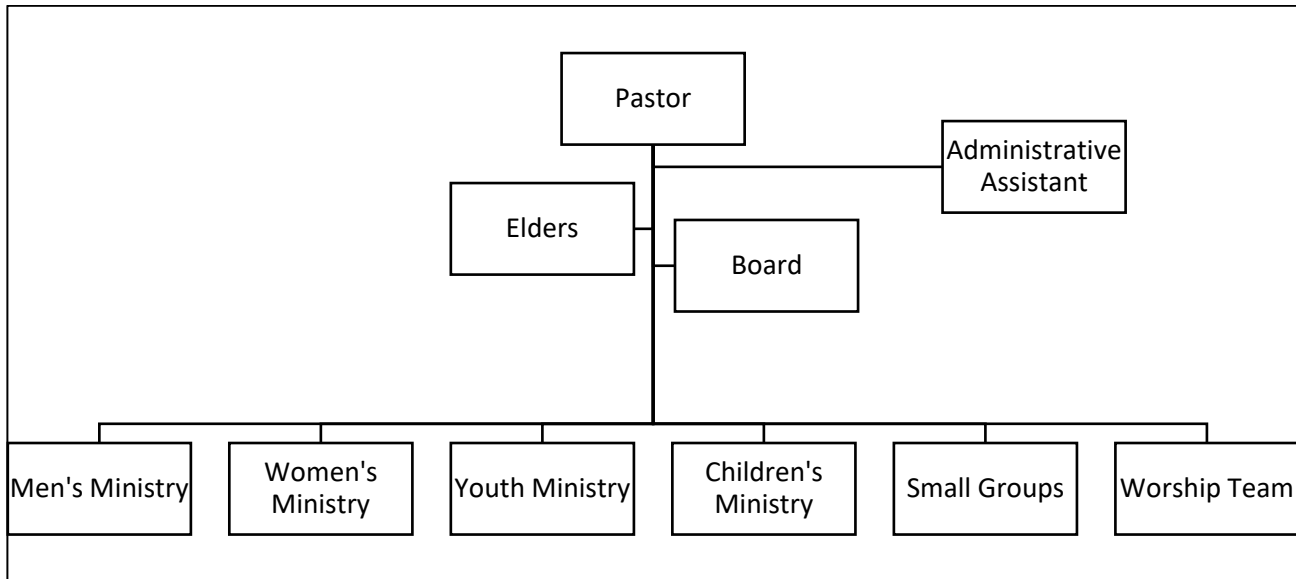
- Heaven is the dwelling place of God. Jesus said, “Our Father in heaven.”
- It is a place of beauty, splendor, majesty, and glory. The cherubim, seraphim and angelic are all there worshipping God. (See Isaiah 6.)
- Heaven is the eternal home of those who have submitted their lives to the Lordship of Christ.
- The heavens and earth as we know it will be recreated. Paradise will be restored.
- Satan will be forever removed.
- The New Jerusalem will be the capital city of the new earth.
- There will be no more sin, pain, evil, sorrow, sickness, or death there. There is an end to life’s sorrows, struggles, sicknesses, needs etc.
- There will be no more natural disasters of earthquakes, hurricanes, floods etc.
- There will no more night.
- There will be no need for the light of the sun for the Lamb will be its light.

Believers will:

- Inhabit a glorified, spiritual body that can be recognized by others.
- Eat and drink as did on earth.
- Exercise dominion over the earth. We will rule and reign with Christ.
- Continue to grow in knowledge.
- Enjoy the treasures we have laid up as we labored for Christ on earth.

Our minds cannot conceive the joys, glory, and beauty of heaven. It will exceed our highest expectations. What a great hope to have! I can anticipate a joyful, peaceful, and glorious future for all eternity.

APPENDIX: PREPARATION FOR PWC MEMBERSHIP



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Now that you are aware of main beliefs, practices, and expectations of the church, I invite you to take the bold step to be a part of us, discover your calling in life and be a part of what God is doing.

Why be a member of a local church?

- 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.

History: PWC began in 1988 by Reverend Haitram and Sister Shirley Samaroo. It is a part of the Pentecostal Holiness Church of Canada. Belonging to a larger denomination allows for oversight and accountability.

Mission: "Worship God, Win the Lost, and Nourish the Found."

It is based on The Great Commission - "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, **teaching** them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:19-20)

Vision: Our vision is to create a community of faithful disciples of Jesus and reach our neighborhood and the world at large with the gospel.

Values:

- The authentic worship of God
- The authority of Scripture
- Bringing men and women to Christ
- Love and respect for everyone
- A lifestyle of righteousness
- The rich fellowship of believers
- Unity in the body of Christ
- The spiritual growth of believers

Strategy: Our plan is that through personal evangelism and invitation, relatives and friends will join us for a great worship experience on Sundays. Their lives will be so impacted by the power of God that they decide to

make Jesus Lord of their lives and follow Him. They will be disciplined in the faith and connect with other believers in small groups. The final step is being involved in ministry, serving in some capacity in the local church.

Membership: To become a member, one must:

- Be born-again.
- Be water baptized.
- Agree with the doctrine (teachings) and practice of the church.
- Abide by the commitments stated below.

1. I will follow Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life.

2. I will grow in grace (by being Spirit-filled) and knowledge (by having a quiet time.)

3. I will live a godly life. God's Word teaches that our lifestyle should reflect godliness. We are to walk in righteousness and holiness. We commit to:

- Sexual purity: We will not practice adultery, fornication nor homosexuality, or get involved in pornography. (Ephesians 5:3, 1 Timothy 1:10)
- Physical purity: Abstaining from alcoholism, smoking, marijuana, and other drug use. (1 Corinthians 6.18)
- A self-controlled, disciplined life. (Titus above)
- Financial integrity. (Ephesians 4:28; James 5:4)
- Walking in love and respect: Practicing patience, love, and forgiveness; refraining from hatred and malice.
- Showing respect for authority. (Romans 13.1; 1 Peter 2: 13-17)

4. I will develop my gifts and serve alongside a team.

When you decided to follow Jesus, you were given spiritual gifts to use to serve others within the body of Christ. Your heart is passionate about certain things. You have some natural abilities – areas you're just good at. You have a unique personality that was given to you by God. And you've been through a unique set of experiences. God wants to use a mix of all these characteristics to help you know how and where to serve him within the body.

5. I will be part of a small group.

6. I will practice generosity and give regularly.

The Bible says in **Matthew 6:24** that the top competitor for our commitment to Jesus is money. Giving allows us to demonstrate that He is more important to us than material things. There is no organization with more potential to change the world than the local church!

GENEROSITY changes lives – ours and the people to whom we give.

The Bible teaches us about a baseline standard for giving: the tithe (a word that literally means a "tenth"). When we give the first 10% of our income through the local church, we put God first in our lives. Tithing is an act of worship that expresses our gratitude, faith, and love for others.

God also encourages us to give offerings beyond our tithe to specific projects at our local church and to other organizations and causes that we personally believe in.

What happens with your gift?

We honor your gifts with faithful stewardship, ethical business practices, and full accountability so that the financial integrity of the church remains beyond reproach.

7. I will own the mission, living out the great commission and great commandment.

Every one of us can be part of the mission by following these four principles:

- a. Accept personal responsibility.
- b. Build personal relationships.
- c. Share your personal story.
- d. Give a personal invitation.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- a. Pray. (Matthew 9:37-38)

- b. Go. (Isaiah 6:8-9)
- c. Give. (Matthew 6:19-21)

Start by writing out your story and emailing it to us at admin@peoplesworshipcentre.com

Share your story with others and invite people to join you on Sunday.

8. I will sign the membership covenant and commit to the vision, values, and beliefs of PWC.

THE MEMBERSHIP COVENANT.

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and been baptized, and being in agreement with PWC's statements, strategy and structure, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the PWC church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I will protect the unity of my church by acting in love toward other members, refusing to gossip, and following those who lead me. **(Romans 15:5, 19; 1 Peter 1:22, Hebrews 13:17)**
2. I will share the responsibility of my church by praying for its growth, inviting the unchurched to attend, and warmly welcoming those who visit. **(1 Thessalonians 1:2, Luke 14:23, Romans 15:7)**
3. I will serve the ministry of my church by discovering my gifts and talents and developing a servant's heart. **(1 Peter 4:10, Ephesians 4:11-12, Philippians 2:3-4, 7)**

I will support the testimony of my church by attending faithfully, living according to the teachings of my church, and giving regularly. **(Hebrews 10:25, Philippians 1:27, 1 Corinthians 16:2)**

Final words: It is the individual believer's responsibility to grow and mature in Christ and fulfil God's plan for his life.

"But he who endures to the end shall be saved."

Matthew 24:13
