

BRIGHT SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

New Members Class #3

Growing in the Likeness of Christ & Your Assurance of Immortality

Scriptures

Proverbs 4:18

Prayer

Matthew 6:5-13

James 5:13-16

The Word

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Hebrews 4:12

2 Timothy 2:15

Psalms 119:11

Romans 15:4

Worship

John 4:23-24

John 9:31

Ephesians 5:19-21

Matthew 18:19-20

Communion Table

1Corinthians 11:23-26

Matthew 26:23-26



Things To Think About

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.

The one who kneels to the Lord can stand up to anything.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control... (Galatians 5:22-23a)

“GROWING IN THE LIKENESS OF CHRIST”

Prov. 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

4 INSTRUMENTS USED FOR OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1. PRAYER

***Matthew 6:5-13** ⁵And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ⁶But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. ⁷But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. ⁸Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. ⁹After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

***James 5:13-16** “Any Sick Among You?”

2. THE WORD

***2 Timothy 3:16-17** ¹⁶All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

***Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

***2 Timothy 2:15** Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

***Psalms 119:11** Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

***Romans 15:4** For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

3. WORSHIP

***John 4:23-24** ²³But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

***John 9:31** Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

***Ephesians 5:19-21** ¹⁹Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; ²⁰Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

***Hebrew 10:21-25**

4. COMMUNION TABLE

***1 Corinthians 11:23-26** ²³For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: ²⁴And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁵After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. ²⁶For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

***Matthew 26:23-26 “The Betrayal”**



PRAISING GOD



Why begin with Praising God?

1. It sets the tone for our time with God.
Beginning by praising God acknowledges whose attention we've gained and reminds us who we are addressing.
2. Praising God for who He is, reminds us of God's identity and reinforces our understanding of who He is. As we praise Him we become more aware of His power in the world and His presence on our lives.
3. Beginning by praising God follows the examples found in the Bible.
4. Perhaps most importantly God is worthy of our praise.

I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. (2Samuel 22:4 NIV)

For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. (1 Chronicles 16:25 NIV)

Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. (Psalm 48:1 NIV)

For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. (Psalm 96:4 NIV)

Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. (Psalm 145:3 NIV)

In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Revelation 5:12 NIV)

As our praise focuses on God's works and character, we see ourselves in stark contrast, filled with human failures. Praise and confession become intertwined. The more we praise God for how great He is and see our own sin, we are led into confession of our sins, which in turn leads us back to praising and thanking God for His mercy and grace and forgiveness.

TALKING WITH GOD

Why should we bother to pray? Because....

Prayer gives us personal access to God Himself!

In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with and confidence. Ephesians 3: 12 (NIV)

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has done through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God. Let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16 (NIV)

GOD WANTS US TO PRAY!

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12 (NIV)

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

Pray without ceasing. 1Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV)

GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS!

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their cry. Psalm 34:15 (NIV)

Call to Me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know. Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

GOD ANSWERS OUR PRAYERS!

Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Aske and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. John 16:24 (NIV)

This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 1 John 5:14

...prayer is the heart-throb of the life of a saved person.

One of the most important things that Jesus modeled for His disciples was getting away to spend time in prayer with God.

Have you chosen a time and a place to spend time with God? If not, we encourage you to do so.

BAPTISM:

Submerging the body momentarily, such that it is completely covered by water, after one confesses belief in Jesus Christ.

Baptism is:

- biblical – Jesus was baptized (Matt 3:16-17)
- an act of obedience (Matt 28:19-20)
- symbolic of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Rom 6:4)
- done by immersion: being submerged, covered completely by water

Baptism does not save you. There is no saving power in the water. You are baptized because you *are* saved, not to be saved. (Mark 16:16) Once you truly believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died on the cross for your sins, that He rose from the grave, and you confess your belief, you should be baptized. (Acts 8:36, 39)



COMMUNION:



Partaking of the cup (juice or wine) and the bread

1Cor 11: 23-30

The Lord's Supper was instituted by Jesus at His last meal with the disciples, before He was betrayed and then crucified.

Communion is a symbolic commemoration or memorial:

- the cup represents the blood He shed for us for the remission of sins
- the broken bread represents His bruised body
- communion is meant to proclaim the Lord's death until He returns

We are commanded to offer and participate in communion, as often as we will (no specific frequency is given) in remembrance of Him. It is for baptized believers and is to be preceded by careful and solemn self-examination, asking for forgiveness of sins as we remember what Jesus did for us on the cross.

THE JABEZ PRAYER

And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying,

“Oh that you bless me indeed,

and enlarge my territory,

that Your hand would be with me,

and that You would keep me from evil,

that I may not cause pain!”