

John 3:3-7

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, 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, "Most assuredly, 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.'

Most people think eternal life in Heaven is impossible, so they believe we only live once. Christians also believe we have one earthly life, but that if we live a righteous life, stop sinning, and obtain salvation, we're rewarded with eternal life in Heaven. People look at the life they've lived and the things they've done and find it easier to avoid facing themselves in a mirror. Many believe they're beyond salvation or undeserving of forgiveness by God because they've committed horrible, heinous, or despicable sins. Even if that were true for the worst sinners among us, God has provided a path to salvation for ALL, no matter what sins they've committed. Every person seeking forgiveness of sins and salvation by the Blood of Jesus desires the Holy Spirit as their seal of eternal life with Christ in the Kingdom of Heaven!

I love talking about Salvation and the Helper from Christ; I'm a teacher by nature. There's so much beautiful scripture about both subjects. If you're a Christian, I'm sure you're already familiar with many of the scriptures I reference. If you're a new believer, I hope these discourses help you understand the Bible, especially the Gospel. It's written in a way for everyone to hear and know the Word of God and isn't meant to be interpreted. These are the scriptures I was guided to use, and I hope to reveal their true meaning to you in a better way. That's my spiritual gift, to simplify things. Now I teach the Word of God. **Christians know salvation is only possible by BELIEF in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and that He willingly sacrificed Himself on the Cross as blood atonement for ALL the sins of the world!**

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

We've been taught that the righteous Christians go to Heaven and the unrepentant sinners go to Hell. This is what I believed for 50 years. I grew up in the Baptist Church but stopped attending after high school. I knew very little about the Bible, just a few scriptures. I never fully understood the truth about salvation; now I know, and I want to teach the true Word of God and the Gospel of Christ to all. Denomination is division, and the Word of God teaches that division is sinful; it's a work of the flesh. The Apostle Paul struggled with such division during his ministry. The Devil's most significant and evil work was to create divisions among the Christian churches and producing many versions of the Bible, which led to disagreements. It's estimated there are thousands of Christian denominations in the world.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

We begin with a belief in God and faith in His Word, as contained within the scriptures, because we cannot see Him. This is how we start to build our faith by learning the Word of God, the basis of Christianity. If you're skeptical, curious, or opposed to everything I write, please read and hear what I have to say first. Compare my words to those of others who teach. If you're a new believer looking to understand our God and His promises, I hope to provide an easier way to grasp what God wants you to see and know. Everything you need for salvation and eternal life is contained within the the Gospel and Bible scripture; it's our guide for living a Christian life.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

God's grace and mercy are a gift that cannot be earned by works or the law.

Where's the best place to learn the Word of God?

In any Bible-based church where the minister is led by the Holy Spirit and teaches from scripture. This church should embody the heart of Jesus, dedicated to serving the body of Christ, serving the poor and caring for all in need.

Thine Universal Church provides new believers with a pattern and a path—my path—to righteousness and salvation. We welcome all people to hear and learn the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which we hope will lead them into a deep and personal relationship with God the Father, helping them to find their personal path to righteousness, salvation, and eternal life with Christ, becoming members of the body and His Holy Church!

I attended a Lutheran middle school and a Catholic high school, where I participated in their religious services and celebrations. I was taught in a Baptist church, learning from the NKJV Bible; I even sang in the choir. I was never baptized as a youth. In hindsight, I'm glad I didn't; I wasn't ready and regret not learning the Word of God. I instead continued in sin until it caught up to me. Although I have always believed in God, I did not fully understand religion or the Bible; however, I knew that I needed saving! I began praying in 2007 and was baptized in 2009. I became a better man and tried to walk a righteous path, but I was still sinning. It took me 15 years to learn that sin and lack of knowledge of His Word keep you from receiving the Holy Spirit. I attended church for a year to receive baptism, but I never returned. In 2024, I committed myself to learning the truth about the Word of God in the Bible; this is when the Helper began guiding me in scripture. Compare my words to other religious teachers and clergy to see if they are righteous and of God. Test the Spirits!

I've referenced over 40 scriptures in this discourse and stand on the Word of God!

1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

Acts 20:32

"So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

The Kingdom of God is an inheritance for all the sanctified who've received the gift of the Holy Spirit. **John 3:3 taught us that to enter the Kingdom of God, one must undergo a new birth through baptism and receive the Holy Spirit.**

What is sanctification leading to salvation? Google AI has a good answer: Sanctification refers to the process by which God progressively makes believers holy, separating them from sin and making them more like Christ. It's a lifelong journey of spiritual growth, distinct from justification (being declared righteous) but intimately connected. You continue to learn and grow in the Spirit.

Most Christians agree on the 5 steps that lead to Salvation.

- 1) Hear the Gospel of Christ and the Word of God.
- 2) Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
- 3) Repent and ask for forgiveness for your sins.
- 4) Confess your Faith openly that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior
- 5) Be Baptized by water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I've included another step that was a stumbling block for me

Stop sinning and commit to daily prayer no matter how you feel.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. (Take care of the body God gave you!)

Our body is the temple, and the Spirit needs a Holy Temple! Even if you complete the five steps to salvation, if you continue to sin, your temple isn't ready to accept the Spirit of the Lord. Our sin prevents the Holy Spirit of Christ from joining with our spirits. If you're not ready to stop sinning, you're not ready to receive His gift!

Luke 24:46-47

Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

We come to the Lord for many reasons and at different times in our lives. We begin with a belief in God, no matter how small, and then embark on our journey towards salvation and acceptance by Jesus Christ. Many in the Christian faith believe you're barred from heaven if you don't achieve salvation before death. Only Christians who have the Holy Spirit of Christ, whether in life or in death, live and reign with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom of God on Earth for 1,000 years; this assertion is supported by Scripture. Many people claim to be Christians with the Holy Spirit continue to sin. Christians with the Holy Spirit of Christ do not sin; He dwells within and prevents us from sinning, always providing a path for us to avoid and escape sin!

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Thine Universal Church believes sanctification continues after death for every righteous and unrighteous person who doesn't receive the Holy Spirit in life. We believe that every person born on earth will be sanctified by the blood of Jesus Christ! Many Christians will disagree with this, but I have my way of seeing it.

1. Any punishment leading to execution is cruel, inhumane, and unnecessary.
2. Why do you need to be judged if God knows your sentence is death?
3. If the sentence of death is by fire for all unrepentant sinners, are all sins equal?
4. *If a believer dies while on the way to baptism*, having prepared themselves to join with the Lord after cleansing their temple of sin, would a just God punish them for this? They were minutes away from obtaining their salvation!

The God I serve created justice, equity, and fairness, and I trust that whatever happens after death is not the end for the righteous or the wicked. I want you to know that scripture indicates *God has a plan for all*, even though we don't know everything!

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Every Christian should want to earn the Crown of Life from Christ while living. This is our seal of approval from Christ and His gift of eternal life in His Kingdom. Do you want eternal life in a world without sin, sickness or death? I really do!

1 John 5:14-15

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him

Learning the Word of God is according to His will, which means reading the Bible. The first step to salvation is to hear the Gospel of Christ and learn the Word of God. I recommend all new believers read the Gospel at least three times, but I also want you to pray for help understanding Bible scripture. I also hope that the content on our website helps guide you to the truth. That's why committing to daily prayers and eliminating sin in your life is an equally important beginning step. This was the first thing I did: I dropped to my knees in prayer, asking God to forgive me for my sins and help me out of the pit I dug for myself; the consequences of my sin caught up to me. This moment was a special, personal experience between me and the Lord. I prayed, asking Him to help me stop sinning and I repented every day as more of my past sins came to my mind. Living a life of sin for over 40 years meant I had a lot to forgive!

So how do you begin praying? What should you pray for? Will God hear you? The Bible gives us a basic template for praying using scripture.

Jeremiah 29:12-13

Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

The key to a personal relationship with Christ is the same as when you speak with someone you love and trust: you always speak truthfully from the heart.

Matthew 6:6-7

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

When you pray, do it alone in a private and quiet place. You should pray at least once a day; I recommend twice a day, in the morning when you wake and before bedtime. There isn't any requirement for how many times you pray each day. Your prayers should be personal and special for you, but ask yourself...

Are you just repeating words or do you really believe the words you repeat?

The secret place in Matthew 6 is your heart. When you pray, **please pray from your heart; anything less offends God!** Nothing is hidden from Him; He knows your every thought and deed from the day you were born. You can't fool the Lord! Vain and selfish prayers expecting 'things' from God are ignored! Pray for forgiveness, guidance, strength, courage, and wisdom; pray for others and those you love! Talk to God honestly as if He's your psychiatrist and bound to secrecy by the law.

Philippians 4:6

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

Be thankful in all things and for everything good in your life! When you're at your lowest, pray to God for guidance, wisdom, and strength. If you ask for anything according to His will, God will hear you! Pray twice a day and throughout the day as needed. I begin my prayers the same way: **'Father God, King of the Universe, My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, thank you for hearing my prayer.'** My morning prayer is always one of thanksgiving. I'm always on my knees, thankful for God's protection while I slept and grateful for blessing me with another day. I ask God to help those I know or love with their trials and tribulations. This hour is also when I make my petitions to God, whatever they may be. I include the Prayer of Jabez every day with my morning prayers. This small but powerful prayer helps to remind you to stop sinning each day and asks God to be with you in everything you do and say. We should never cause pain or harm to anyone! Recite this daily from your heart.

1 Chronicles 4:10

"Oh, that You would 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!

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Commit to daily prayer; never stop, no matter your circumstances.

Throughout my day, I'm constantly speaking to God as if He's my closest and most trusted friend. I always address Him as Father God, because that's what He is to me—a Father, my Creator, and my God—but that's my personal preference. When I began praying, my evening prayers were often the longest and most personal; I always said the Lord's Prayer at night to cover any sins I forgot from the day, and it brought me comfort. It seemed like I was repenting every night for some sin I had committed that day. I fell back into sin many times in the years after my baptism. The guilt and shame of the major sins I'd repented for were still weighing me down. I wasn't going to church or reading the Bible during this time. I was where many believers end up: paused and not doing anything related to Christ other than praying. My lack of biblical knowledge and understanding about God, Jesus, and salvation led me astray.

This is why hearing the Gospel of Christ and learning the Word of God are so important! If I knew then what I know now, I'm 150% sure my path to salvation wouldn't have taken so long. I want every soul on Earth to seek God, hear the Gospel of Christ, and obtain salvation and eternal life in the Kingdom with Father God, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and all the saints and elders in a much shorter time.

I'm not telling you how to pray, but how I pray. I've never prayed for wealth or riches or expected anything from God; I felt undeserving of His Grace and Mercy. I wanted His forgiveness for my sins more than anything. I was always careful to pray for others and guidance and direction for myself. When God does answer your prayer, I'm 99% sure it won't be the way or time you expect it; that's how He works. He knows what you need before you ask. Then, as I began to remember the sins I had forgotten from the past, I realized that I needed to repent for them too. Slowly and over time, I began to sin less and less each day, and my evening prayers became shorter.

John 16:23

“And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

Whatever you ask of God, ensure your petition comes from the heart, where He is! You pray to Father God in the name of the Son, Jesus Christ.

John 16:26-28

In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you; for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.”

Prayer is our direct connection to God, Creator of the Universe, and our Father.

You'll never forget the first time you realize He heard you and answers your prayer!

Matthew 18:3

and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

My confident faith began when God heard me and answered me that first time! You need the faith of a child, knowing God is real, He hears you, and He will help you!

Some religions believe in the God of Abraham but not that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. After you hear the Gospel of Christ and the Word of God, you have to make a choice, a leap of faith, even if it begins the size of a mustard seed! You grow your faith by trusting in the Word of God. Either you trust and believe with faith that the Bible IS the inspired Word of God, or you don't. I don't need to debate scripture or prove to anyone that God is real and His words are true. I want everyone to have the truth of the Gospel before they decide whom they follow. Eventually, Faith won't be required to believe in God when He reveals Himself and cleans up Satan's mess. It's simple to believe in a God you can see with your eyes and what He can do, right?

1 John 5:3-5

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

The belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who sacrificed Himself on the cross to save us from death, providing us a path to salvation and eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven, is the foundation of the Christian Faith. The grace and mercy of God are everlasting, and He will forgive the sins of everyone who calls on Him!

The Gospel is a great place to begin reading the Bible. The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell the same story about Jesus from four different perspectives. I always recommend the New King James Version as the one I was inspired to use. There are so many visual parables about morality and Christian behavior in the words of Christ. Every time I read scripture, I learn something new and different.

The Bible is the only religious book containing fulfilled prophecy; there are over 300 fulfilled prophecies about Jesus Christ. Experts estimate 2,000 out of 2,500 biblical prophecies have been fulfilled, so that should help give you some confidence in the Bible. The Bible's purpose is to help us all comprehend the teachings of Christ.

I didn't learn the Word of God in a church, but I did need a church to be baptized. 90% of everything I learned about God was from reading the Bible online. There are many online sources available to help you research scripture with a few keystrokes. I trust that the resources at Thine Universal Church will assist you in initiating your study and igniting your interest in our Creator. If you don't understand something you read, that's OK. Always take your questions to someone who knows the Word of God, like a minister, priest, pastor, or elder. Bible study groups are also a wonderful place to start. Someone you know and trust, who knows the Lord, can be a helpful mentor and guide. You should want to ask questions and get answers from the Bible.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.

We've covered the first two steps to salvation: hear the gospel and believe in Jesus Christ. I added another requirement to stop sinning and commit to daily prayer. I talked a lot about praying because that's the only real connection to God and the only way to develop a personal relationship with Him. This approach worked for me, so it should work for anyone seeking salvation. Like Paul, I was a 'chief sinner' before my conversion, and I want you to look at me in that way, as someone who sinned more than you and did much worse to hurt and harm others. I've broken almost every commandment and lived a sinful life for over 40 years, and Jesus still saved me!

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

I must be honest and admit that I fled to Christ out of fear, not from the pain of loss or love; I had fallen into the depths of hell. My sins had caught up to me, and I was facing judgment by man. I felt scared and terrified for myself, and I also felt ashamed, embarrassed, and humiliated for dishonoring God and my family. My first prayer of repentance probably lasted an hour. 2 Corinthians 7 contains a key requirement for salvation: God ALWAYS hears repentance from the heart when you feel sorrow, shame, and guilt for your sin, 100% guaranteed! When you decide to call on the Lord and repent, it MUST come from your heart. If you can't feel the guilt, shame, or godly sorrow in your heart when you repent, God won't hear you. I cried and cried because I felt that my life was over unless God saved me; if He did, I vowed to stop sinning, never break His commandments, and committed to daily prayers.

2 Chronicles 7:14

if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

IF you stop sinning, God WILL forgive you, but you have to stop sinning to be saved! I say the Prayer of Jabez every morning to remind me daily. In 5,000+ days on my path to salvation, I probably repented 4,000 times until I was ready to stop sinning. I was following the Commandments but NOT the Golden Rule. I didn't take the Lord's name in vain, but I didn't stop swearing until 2024 when I learned the truth. Once I began to understand the Word, sins I'd forgotten would come to mind daily. God wants us to remember and understand EVERY sin we're repenting for; blanket pardons don't work as well. It's not easy for most people to look honestly at themselves and their sins, especially when you're repenting to an invisible God!

Acts 3:19

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

Mark 16:15-16

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

The Google AI definition of baptism aligns with mine. It signifies a public commitment to Jesus Christ and symbolizes a spiritual rebirth and cleansing. It involves immersion in water, representing identification with Christ's death and resurrection, and the public declaration of faith. After baptism, individuals may receive the Holy Spirit, receive a remission of sins, and become members of the church.

Acts 22:16

And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Baptism would be the natural 4th step for new believers. Many people like me were baptized as children and have no memory of it. Parents do this for many reasons, but the Bible has no examples of child baptism. Be careful with false doctrine about the 'age of accountability'; it doesn't exist in scripture. Some churches impose age limits on baptism. I have a different way to look at it. When anyone, regardless of age, believes in God and Jesus, understands the Word of God and the path to salvation and eternal life, they're old enough. If they know what sin is and how to pray and repent, they're ready. You can't push or force anyone into a personal relationship with God; it won't work. They also need to know the true Word of God and His promises! Some children know God from the womb as His first fruits and special servants.

I was baptized at Macedonia Baptist Church in Temple, Texas, as a public declaration of my faith and commitment to serving God. I didn't receive the Holy Spirit like Christ, but something within me changed and I became more aware of sin by the conviction of my conscience. I view this experience as having the Holy Spirit around me, guiding and directing me to act righteously. This isn't the same as having the Holy Spirit within you and is more like having a stronger conscience guiding you away from sin. When I didn't listen, I usually made the wrong choice or decision, so I began trusting my conscience more and more. It feels like a parent watching over you.

Acts 8:36-38

Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

The Bible doesn't say you have to be baptized in a church or have any witnesses. The person performing the baptism must have the Holy Spirit of Christ as their authority and baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by immersion in water. *The most important requirement is that you believe in your heart!*

1 Corinthians 12:13-14

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

I want every new believer to find a good Bible-based church that teaches from scripture, one where you feel welcome and comfortable. Baptism usually includes membership in the same church, and many offer different types of spiritual training outside of Sunday services. When you're ready to commit your life to following and serving Christ, step forward and ask the minister to baptize you. Find a church that serves the community, helping the poor and needy. Everyone has a unique spiritual gift to serve the Body of Christ! If you pray and ask God to help reveal it to you, this righteous request aligns with His will, and He'll answer you in His time. When He does, He'll speak to you through His Holy Spirit and not in the way you expect, but you'll know it's Him. You can serve the body of Christ without being in a church, but you should fellowship with other Christians and participate in the Lord's Supper.

Bible study is important and necessary for every Christian seeking salvation. My lack of knowledge about the true Word of God led to self-righteous behavior and ignorant, incorrect statements about the Word of God; this was my major error. I even claimed to my wife in 2023 that the Bible was written by man and contained mistakes and errors. I was reading everything about religion but the Bible. Then the Spirit corrected me, and I began to read the Bible. My prayer of repentance was intense; I felt foolish and ashamed before God, and I begged for forgiveness. But I also asked Him to guide and direct me in scripture to learn His truth; this is what I prayed for.

John 5:24

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

The five steps to salvation do not have to happen in order. I was baptized before I began confessing publicly about my faith in Jesus Christ. Public confession is just as important as never being ashamed or embarrassed to speak about your faith. You never force your faith or views upon others; however, you should always speak proudly when you're asked about it or involved in discussions. Sometimes we hide our faith when we're around unbelievers and critics. This is why studying scripture and knowing the Word of God helps you—you're NOT using your words, but His! We use the Word of God in scripture as our shield and sword! Baptism is also a confession of your faith, but it's before those who believe. God wants us to witness before the unbeliever and confess our faith that Jesus Christ IS the Son of God and that He died for all of our sins. Thine Universal Church wants every sinner to seek God, no matter what you've done. No one is beyond the saving grace and mercy of God, no one!

James 5:20

let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

Luke 22:17-20

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying,

"This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying,

"This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you."

I've talked about the steps to salvation and provided some personal testimony in the hope your path will be much shorter than mine and filled with fewer stumbling blocks and obstacles. I can't emphasize how important daily prayer and learning the Word of God are for receiving the gift. Baptism is a vital step for any believer and brings you into the New Covenant of Christ. Another gift and blessing for the baptized is participation in the Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion with other Christians.

John 6:53-54

Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

Baptism and Communion are the only two required sacraments under this covenant. We participate in the Lord's Supper to remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. The old practices, ceremonies, and festivals are no longer required; we are free to worship God any way we want as long as it comes from the heart. The Bible doesn't mandate how often you should take communion, but when you do, focus your heart and thoughts solely on Jesus and His sacrifice and suffering for us and nothing else.

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Sin is the #1 obstacle for a Christian to receive the Holy Spirit of Christ, even after you've completed the five steps. However, it's not the only obstacle that prevents you from receiving the Helper. In all that you do to serve God and follow His laws, if it's not done out of real love and with a joyful heart, it profits you nothing with God. Christians must love each other, as Jesus commanded, because we see the spirit in the tent. Most importantly, you should love God from your heart; He knows if you really love Him or if you're just speaking with your lips and not from your spirit. Everything we do in the name of Jesus is done out of love for one another and God! Spiritual love enables you to see beyond a person's outward appearance and perceive them as a fellow human being, our brother and sister, and fellow brethren of Christ.

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

John 14:22-23

Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

This verse is one of the most powerful and personal scriptures in the Bible. Jesus speaks clearly without any hidden meaning. If you love the Father and the Son, and keep His Word, they will make their home within you by joining with the Holy Spirit!

This scripture supports this belief too, your spirit joins with the Holy Spirit!

1 Corinthians 6:17, But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

I've discussed the path I took to discover God and experience the gift of the Holy Spirit. It was a long and rocky one because I didn't know the true Word of God and continued to fall into sin, but I didn't think I was a serious sinner; that's arrogance! I changed my life after baptism and became a better man, but that's not good enough for God. Every Christian wants to receive their gift when Jesus Christ approves them after being baptized, but many, like me, continue to sin. It took me 15 years before I received the Holy Spirit because of my sin and hubris. I want the Lord to become your closest friend and confidant, guiding you into a personal and loving relationship with Him. Forming this relationship with God is your priority, and you can only do this through prayer. Prayer is your direct link to speaking with God and a key to your salvation! You can ask God for anything, but always ask with a righteous heart.

John 15:7

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

This doesn't mean God will give you everything you ask for; it means that when He dwells within you, whatever you ask will be in line with His will and can be done for you. If you ask God to guide and direct your path according to scripture, He will likely grant that request. Little by little, daily prayer will help you become closer to God. I know the Prayer of Jabez, 1 Chronicles 4:10, if spoken daily, will help you eliminate sin in your life. Speak to God as if He's sitting in front of you; there's a time for silent prayer, but when you're alone, talk to Him as a friend and confidant. Every believer should memorize the Lord's Prayer; I pray it every night before bed. I also have two other favorite prayers, Psalm 23 and Proverbs 3:5-10. Scriptures like these speak to my heart and resonate with my soul. Recite prayers that speak to your heart. I also pray throughout the day, thanking God for the little things He does for me in all areas of my life. I'd be lost without the Holy Spirit, my Helper and friend in all things!

There are two types of Christians: those who are on the path to salvation but haven't received the Holy Spirit, and those who have received the gift and are saved. Many Christians believe that people automatically receive the Holy Spirit at baptism as Christ did; I disagree. The truth is, some people have prepared their temple and cleaned themselves of sin. These individuals may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit when they're baptized. It's not for me to know; Jesus approves each believer. Most people still have some dirt in their temples and aren't quite ready to give up worldly pleasures for the promises of an invisible God! This is who I was for many years.

Hebrews 6:4-6

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

This scripture removed an obstacle that kept me outside the church and away from religion. I didn't understand how to explain the racism, corruption, and sin within Christianity. How do you know who's a sheep and who's a wolf leading a church? How does a church of God allow wolves to teach from the pulpit? The word 'impossible' in Hebrews 6 means that once you have the Holy Spirit but commit sin, you lose the forgiveness and grace of God, committing an unforgivable sin! This is one example of 'blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.' I've written about this in another discourse.

1 John 5:18

We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

Like many others, I've witnessed great men and women of faith self-destruct from behind the pulpit when their hidden sins become known. Some examples include the pedophilia scandals within the Catholic Church and the actions of televangelists Jim and Tammy Faye Baker. I'm not attempting to disparage all religious leaders, only those who are deceptive wolves. Satan can mock and attack God from behind the pulpit using deceptive and racist doctrines! Before their downfalls, their congregations believed they had the Holy Spirit within them. Most people think that God anoints and chooses those who preach from a pulpit. This assumption is true for some, but not all shepherds of Christ. Hebrews 6 affirms the possibility of a fall from grace, yet repentance cannot bring these individuals back to forgiveness. When a church restores a minister to the pulpit after sinning, it destroys the faith, repels people from the church, and allows God to be mocked! They should be shepherds of Christ, walking in the light so that their entire flock can see them!

You can't receive the Holy Spirit, lose it, and get it back; it's impossible based on scripture. Only those ministers who have the Holy Spirit should teach or preach the Word of God from a pulpit in a church. If someone who claims to have the Holy Spirit sins, you might gently remind them that scripture suggests this is not possible.

1 John 3:9

Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

If they claim that they have merely fallen from grace and can easily repent again, inform them that this is also impossible according to biblical scripture. The Holy Spirit cannot co-exist with sin. **The Holy Spirit is absent from anyone who sins, especially religious leaders.** These shepherds have committed an unforgivable sin in God's eyes if the Holy Spirit has abandoned them. More than likely, they never had it to begin with! Once you have the Holy Spirit, it will never leave you and prevent you from sin. It will help guide you in scripture and open your mind to understanding!

Romans 8:9-10

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

You've learned that there are two types of Christians: believers who are on the righteous path to salvation and believers who have been approved by Christ and received the Holy Spirit. Additionally, be aware of these other types of individuals who may appear to be believers but do not genuinely follow the faith or love God.

1. False shepherds of Christ and teachers masquerade as workers of light, profiting their own from the church, and feeding themselves before their flock has fed.
2. Satan's followers concealed within the church, guiding individuals away from God by gossip, contentions, rumors and lies.
3. Misguided believers who are led away from the true Word by false teachers and their doctrines. They believe what they've been taught with hardened hearts.

Be selective about who teaches you and where you learn, whether you study the Word online or at church. I've read the Bible more than any other religious book or writing, but I read everything I could when I first began. There's so much religious material available to read; Gnosticism was consuming me, and I was led astray from the Word of God. The Book of Enoch is an example of something I enjoyed reading, but it's not accepted as the inspired Word of God. Then I stumbled across a website called Bible Gateway; it's a free site to read any version of the Bible, becoming my best tool.

I was immediately able to see how words changed meaning depending on the Bible version, which is confusing and frustrating. I chose the NKJV, my childhood bible, as the only one to use. I figured God knew I was reading it in 2024 and that the words contained within it were meant to be read and understood as written. I signed up for daily scriptures and decided to begin reading the Bible. When I seek to understand the definition of a word, I utilize Google and focus on its contemporary meaning rather than its original significance in Greek or Hebrew. This tip helped me learn that the Gospel contained everything I needed for my salvation! If you pray for guidance, direction, and understanding, God will open your mind to its true meaning, I promise!

Luke 24:45, And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

The Bible was created to be understood by everyone, especially the Gospel, where Jesus uses parables and visual metaphors to reach every person. If you can love, the words and teachings of Jesus Christ are easy to understand. I imagine that those with a wicked nature may consider the Word of God incomprehensible. You can trust the words of Thine Universal Church, but I ask that you test and compare them against other Christian doctrines. I use scripture without interpretation or deceptive meaning in every discourse, reading the text as you would. I firmly stand on the Word of God! All of my needs are taken care of by the Lord; I require nothing other than your ear. I do not seek fame, fortune, or followers; I love God and serve my Lord and Savior.

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

I want you to find a church home where you feel welcomed and loved. You'll need to be baptized at some point, and it's beneficial to experience fellowship with other believers, take communion, and serve the church. I want you to share in the gift of the Holy Spirit by developing a special and personal relationship with God, joining the body of Christ as an elect member, and sealing your salvation and eternal life in the Kingdom. This is my gift and passion, and how I serve the body and Christ my Lord!

Christians today have the same Holy Spirit that Jesus sent and descended upon the apostles. The Holy Spirit speaks with one voice, the Word of God, to every approved member, uniting the body of Christ with Jesus as the Head of His Church. Reading the Bible can be difficult without a guide or teacher. My previous attempts to read it always ended the same; I was confused, became bored, and stopped reading. This time, I prayed for the truth of His Word, asking Him questions, and began receiving my answers in scripture by His Spirit. The words in the Bible became simple to read and familiar to me. Prayer is the key that unlocked His knowledge, wisdom, and truth.

Romans 1:11-12

For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established — That is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

Your spiritual gift is revealed when you receive the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul could impart the Holy Spirit to believers because he was anointed by Christ and possessed special powers. I don't believe anyone has that same ability today! I was shown a path to righteousness and committed myself to a life without sin and service to God. Thine Universal Church is a church of the Holy Spirit and the body of Christ. I'm not a prophet or messenger of God; I haven't had dreams, visions, or visitations, I don't hear voices in my head. I do not possess any special abilities; in fact, I have significant limitations in my writing skills and must rely on tools to correct my poor grammar. I become nervous and anxious speaking in front of people, and I experience extreme social anxiety because of my condition. Additionally, I struggle with various personal flaws and afflictions. I'm a sinner who repented to God and found new life!

I don't want it to take many years for other believers to receive the gift like it did for me. I truly believe that if you pray daily, repent for your sins, read and learn the Gospel of Christ, and seek God from within your heart, you'll have your seal of salvation much sooner. Please use my discourses to help guide you to the knowledge contained in scripture. The information is for everyone seeking salvation and eternal life with God. Your path to salvation will be unique and personal. My path is just one example that other believers can follow. God will forgive you no matter what you've done, but you must choose a path. The true knowledge of the Word of God will lead you there, no matter where you hear the Gospel. Thine Universal Church wants you to choose the righteous path to eternal life with Christ in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Salvation and the Holy Spirit of Christ

Scripture and Prayer List

16

<i>1 Chronicles 4:10</i>	<i>John 6:53-54</i>	<i>Philippians 4:6</i>
<i>2 Chronicles 7:14</i>	<i>John 16:26-28</i>	<i>1 Thessalonians 5:16-18</i>
<i>Jeremiah 29:12-13</i>	<i>Acts 2:38</i>	<i>Hebrews 6:4-6</i>
<i>Matthew 6:6-7</i>	<i>Acts 3:19</i>	<i>Hebrews 11:1</i>
<i>Matthew 18:3</i>	<i>Acts 8:36-38</i>	<i>James 1:12</i>
<i>Matthew 22:37-40</i>	<i>Acts 20:32</i>	<i>James 5:20</i>
<i>Mark 16:15-16</i>	<i>Acts 22:16</i>	<i>2 Peter 3:9</i>
<i>Luke 22:17-20</i>	<i>Romans 8:9-10</i>	<i>1 John 3:9</i>
<i>Luke 24:45</i>	<i>Romans 1:11-12</i>	<i>1 John 4:1</i>
<i>John 3:3-7</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 3:16-17</i>	<i>1 John 4:7-8</i>
<i>John 3:16</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 6:9-11</i>	<i>1 John 5:3-5</i>
<i>John 14:22-23</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 6:17</i>	<i>1 John 5:14-15</i>
<i>John 16:23</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 12:13-14</i>	<i>1 John 5:18</i>
<i>John 15:7</i>	<i>2 Corinthians 7:9-10</i>	
<i>John 5:24</i>	<i>Ephesians 2:8-10</i>	

1 Chronicles 4:10 (*The Prayer of Jabez*)

"Oh, that You would 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!

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.

Proverbs 3:5-10

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones. Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase; So your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

The Lord's Prayer (*This is my version of the prayer*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give me this day my daily bread. And forgive me my trespasses, as I forgive those who trespass against me. And keep me away from temptation, and deliver me from the evil one. For Thine is the Kingdom, the Glory and the power, forever and ever.

Amen Amen Amen

Written by a servant of the Lord of Thine Universal Church, July 18, 2025