## 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."

I love talking about Salvation and the Holy Spirit of Christ! 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. The Bible was written for ALL people to understand. I don't try to interpret scripture and simply read the plain text. These are the scriptures I was guided to use. I hope to reveal what they say to me in a simple way. I know my grammar and composition are flawed and I apologize. I did poorly in High School English and regret not having the gift of speech and words. I used to write Electronic Technical Manuals for operating different types of test platforms. First, I had to learn and master complicated and complex test procedures. Then I simplified them for other technicians. I'm a teacher by nature, 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.

Christians are willing to sacrifice the things that offend God and follow His laws and Commandments for everlasting life with Christ in the Kingdom of God, the Millennial Kingdom, Heaven on Earth. I've no idea what Satan could possibly offer or give anyone better than the promises of God. He's the King of Lies! Why would anyone believe or follow the wicked one? I want Eternal Life.

We've been taught that the Righteous Christians go to Heaven and Unrepentant Sinners go to Hell. This is what I believed for 50 years. I grew up in the Baptist Church but stopped attending when I was 17. I really knew nothing about the Bible, just a few scriptures. I never fully understood the truth about Salvation, now I know. I want to teach the true Word of God and the Gospel of Christ. 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 this during his ministry. The BEST work of the Devil was dividing the Bible and Church into many versions within different denominations, disagreeing. There's One Word from One God!

### Hebrews 11:1

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

We begin with Belief in God and His Word as contained within the scriptures. This is the foundation of our Faith and how we begin to build our faith by learning the Word of God. If you're skeptical, curious, or opposed to everything thing I write and believe, please read and hear what I have to say first. If you're new believer and you want to know and learn about our God and His promises, I hope to give you an easier way to see and understand what God wants you to see and know. Everything you need for salvation and eternal life is contained within Bible scripture, it's our guide for living a Christian life.

# Ephesians 2:8-10

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 endure forever!

How do you grow your Faith?

By prayer, trusting in God's Word and Promises contained within the Bible.

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

In ANY Bible based Church where the Minister of the Church is led by the Holy Spirit, teaching from scripture. A Church with a Heart of Jesus, serving others.

However, this isn't the path I took. I was blessed to have time to study the Word of God with the Helper guiding me in scripture every day for 15 months. Thine Universal Church of Christ is a Church of the Holy Spirit. Membership is determined by Christ's approval alone, not me. You don't have to believe or trust anything I write. NKJV Bible Scripture tells us exactly what to do.

# 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.

I ask you to test my message and compare it to what other Churches teach about God, Jesus, Sin, Salvation, The Kingdom and Eternal Life with Christ Trust your heart.

BibleTalk.tv say test the accuracy of the message!

"Many messengers claim to be from God: superior intelligence, visions, secret knowledge, etc., but the true test of credibility is the accuracy of the message. Reputation, education or speaking style do not make up for a false message. Beware of the majority of messengers' traps. The gospel is written so all can understand.

It will be true even if the whole world falls into error.

Stick with the message, no matter what."

### 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 the sanctified who've received the gift of the Holy Spirit. You learned this from **John 3:3**, you must born again of water (Baptized) and (receive the Holy) Spirit to enter the Kingdom (of God).

So 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 leading to Salvation.

- 1) Hear the Gospels of Christ and the Apostles
- 2) Believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died for our sins
- 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! Commit to clean your Temple(you) of all sin.

### 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. Our body is the Temple and the Spirit needs a Holy Temple! Even if you complete the 5 steps to Salvation, if you continue to sin, your Temple isn't ready to accept the Lord and join with Him. Our sin prevents the Holy Spirit of Christ from joining with our spirit.

If you're not ready to stop sinning, you're not ready for His gift! James 1:12

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

We come to the Lord for many reasons and a different times in our lives. We start with a Belief in God, even if it's the size of a mustard seed, then we step forward and begin our personal walk leading to salvation and approval by Jesus Christ. Many in the Christian faith believe you're barred from heaven if you don't achieve salvation before death. My beliefs are supported by learning from scripture. Only Christians with The Holy Spirit of Christ in life or death, live and reign with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom of God on Earth for 1,000 years. Many people who claim to be Christians with the Holy Spirit continue to sin. I know they're wrong according to scripture. Christians with the Holy Spirit of Christ do not sin, He dwells within.

## **Revelation 20:6**

Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Thine Universal Church of Christ believes sanctification continues after death for every righteous and unrighteous person that don't receive the Holy Spirit in life. I believe ALL will be saved by the blood of Jesus Christ! He willingly sacrificed Himself on the Cross as atonement for ALL the sins of the world! Salvation is only possible by His Everlasting Grace and Mercy. Jesus Christ died for the sins of mankind to redeem us from death, this is the foundation of our Christian Faith.

### 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.

Every Christian should want to earn the Crown of Life from Christ while living. This is our golden ticket into the Millennial Kingdom on earth with Christ. Do you want eternal life with Christ in a world without sin, sickness or death? I do!

The first step to salvation is Hear the Gospel of Christ and learn the Word of God. However, you also want to stop sinning, right? That's why I'm adding Commit to Daily Prayers and Eliminating Sin in your life as 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 helping me out of the pit I dug for myself, the consequences of my sin caught up to me. This was a special, personal experience between me and the Lord. I prayed asking Him to help me to stop sinning, repenting everyday as more of my past sins came to my mind. I had a lot to be forgiven for, living a life of sin over 40 years! 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

New believers need to hear the good news about Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for humanity's sins. This is why studying the Word of God and The Gospel of Christ is so important. The Bible is our guide for living a Christian life in a World of sin and finding salvation from death and eternal life with Christ! The trials and tribulations of life are difficult without God to lean on! The Bible was meant to be read by anyone seeking salvation, especially the Gospel of Christ. The words, scriptures and verses are meant to be read and understood as written, without interpretation in this age and time by ALL people that want eternal life with Christ. I'll come back to this beginning step, but I want to talk about prayer and praying from my own experience.

Prayers of Repentance were the most important first step I took seeking forgiveness! 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 believing 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 personal Psychiatrist bound by the law of man. 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, for everything good in your life! Pray to God for guidance, wisdom and strength when you're at your lowest and most difficult times in your life. If you ask for anything in accordance with His will, God will hear you!

I 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 as I slept and gratitude for blessing me with another day. I ask God to help those I know or love with their trials and tribulations. This is also when I make my petitions to God whatever they may be. I include the Prayer of Jabez everyday 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 anyone! 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!

Throughout my day I'm constantly speaking to God as if He's my closet 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, I truly have a friend in Jesus!

# 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 prayers, never stop, no matter your circumstances.

When I began praying, my evening prayers were often the longest and most personal. It seemed like I was repenting everyday for something I did that day. I can't tell you how many times I 'fell' during the 15 years after my baptism. The guilt and shame of the major sins I'd repented for was still weighing me down. I wasn't going to Church or reading the Bible during this time. I was where many believers end up, in a paused status, not really 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 of taken 15 years. 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 REALLY need, before you ask. Then I began to remember sins I had forgotten daily, I had to repent every time this happened. Slowly and over time, I began to sin less and less each year 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."

<u>Prayer is our direct connection to God</u>, Creator of the Universe, and our Father! You'll never forget the first time you realize He heard you and answers your prayer. This is where my <u>confident faith</u> began, when He answered me that first time! You need the faith of a child knowing God is real, He hears you and will help you! **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.

# **Salvation and the Holy Spirit of Christ**

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.

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 choice and not waver, there really isn't a middle ground for faith. Be Hot or Cold and never Lukewarm. 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. Eventually Faith won't be required to believe in God when He reveals Himself and begins to clean up the mess Satan created. It's easy to believe in a God you can see with your eyes and what He can do, right?

Belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who sacrificed Himself on the cross to save us from death with a path to salvation, the gift of His Holy Spirit and eternal life in the Kingdom with God is the foundation of the Christian Faith. This is only possible by the Everlasting Grace and Mercy of Father God to save EVERY sinner who calls on Him! 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 Gospel is a great place to begin reading the Bible. The books Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell the same story about Christ from 4 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 His words I learn something new and different.

The Bible is the only religious book containing fulfilled prophecy, they're over 300 fulfilled prophesies about Jesus Christ. Experts estimate 2,000 out of 2,500 biblical prophesies have been fulfilled, so that should help give you some confidence in the Bible. It was written for all of us to understand the teachings of Christ.

There are many online sources available to help you research scripture with a few keystrokes. If you don't understand something you read that's OK. Always take your questions to someone that knows the Word of God like a Minister, Priest, Pastor or Elder. You need to be careful with online sources because you'll find 10 interpretations for the same scripture. Bible study groups are also a great place to start. Someone you know and trust that knows the Lord can be a helpful mentor and guide. Whatever sources you use to learn about God all I ask of you is to read what I've written and compare notes. You should want to ask questions and have them answered. I'm confident the answer to ANY question is contained within scripture!

## 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

I've covered the first 2 Steps to Salvation, Hear the Gospel and Belief in Jesus Christ. I also added Commit to Daily Prayer and eliminating sin in your life as an additional beginning step. I expanded on prayer because that's your ONLY link to God and the way you develop a personal relationship with Him, this is what worked for me so it should also work for anyone. 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! He can save you too!

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 have to be honest and tell you that I ran to Christ in fear, not pain of loss or love, I'd fallen into the pit of hell. My sins had caught up to me and I was facing judgment by man. I was scared and terrified for myself and ashamed, embarrassed and humiliated for dishonoring God and my family. My first prayer of Repentance probably lasted an hour. I used 2 Corinthians 7 as my 1<sup>st</sup> scripture of subject is because it holds a KEY to salvation. Repentance from the heart is ALWAYS heard by God, 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 knew my life was over unless God saved me. I vowed to never break His Commandments and committed to daily prayers.

I also committed to eliminating sin in my life, another important Key to Salvation.

### 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 5,000 times until I was ready to stop sinning. I was following the Commandments but NOT the Golden Rule. I didn't take the Lords name in vain but I didn't stop swearing until 2024 when I learned the truth. Once I began to really understand the Word, sins I'd forgotten would come to mind daily. God wants us to remember and understand the 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, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

# Salvation and the Holy Spirit of Christ

#### 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 4<sup>th</sup> step for new believers. Many people like me were baptized as a child and have no memory of it. Parents often do this to cover the sins of their child before they can learn about God. 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 and understand the path salvation and eternal life, they're old enough. If they know what sin is, 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. I'll support anyone wanting baptism as long as the desire comes from their heart! Some children know God from the womb as His first fruits and special servants.

My first prayers of repentance were in 2007, but I didn't start attending Church again until I met my wife in 2008. She's a member of Macedonia Baptist Church in Temple, Texas. I would drive about a hour each Sunday to attend service with her. I was baptized in 2009 knowing I needed to make a public declaration of my faith and commitment to serving God. I didn't receive the Holy Spirit like Christ, but someone within me changed and I became more aware of sin by conviction of my conscience. I view this as having the Holy Spirit AROUND me, guiding and directing me to act right. This isn't the same as having the Holy Spirit within you and 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. 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 the 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 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 poor and volunteer a few hours a week to help anyway you can using the spiritual gift you were gifted from God. Everyone has a unique 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.

Bible study is important and necessary for every Christian seeking salvation. My lack of knowledge about the Word of God was pure ignorance, this was my great error! I was making the claim in 2023 the Bible was written by man and contained mistakes and errors. I was reading everything but the Bible. That's when the Spirit corrected me and I began to study the truth. That first prayer of repentance was intense, I felt foolish and ashamed before God, I begged for forgiveness. But I also asked Him to guide and direct me in scripture to learn His truth. This is what I began praying for. Romans 10:9

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

The 5 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, but 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 own words, but His! We always stand on scripture as our shield and sword! Baptism is also a confession of your faith, but it's before those that 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. 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.

This is main mission of Thine Universal Church of Christ, to turn every sinner from wickedness and the 2<sup>nd</sup> death. To show them a better way and the ONLY path to salvation, entry into the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life with Christ on Earth.

### Luke 22:17-19

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 in order to receive the gift. Sin is the #1 obstacle for a Christian to receive the Holy Spirit of Christ even after you've completed the 5 steps.

If you continue in sin, you delay true salvation, your Temple is not clean and therefor the Lord cannot join with you in Spirit. Seek Him with your heart and He will find you!

1 Corinthians 6:17

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Baptism is a really important step for any believer and brings you into the New Covenant of Christ. Another gift and blessing for the baptized is participation in the Eucharist, or Holy Communion. Baptism and Communion are the only two required sacraments under this covenant. The old practices, ceremonies and festivals are no longer required, but people are free to worship God any way they want as long as it comes from the Heart. We do this to REMEBER the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. The Bible doesn't mandate how often you should take communion. I think every other Sabbath works, 26 times a year, but that's me. When you do take communion, ensure your thoughts and heart are ONLY focused on Jesus, His sacrifice and nothing else.

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.

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 and use it often if not daily, I pray it every night before bed. I also have two other favorite prayers, Psalm 23 and Proverbs 3:5-10, these speak to my heart and resonate with my soul, recite prayers that speak your heart. You want a unique, personal relationship with God when you're seeking salvation by His Grace and Mercy. We all should want the Crown of Life, His Holy Spirit, and eternal life in the Kingdom.

If there's nothing after death and only darkness, what's the purpose of life? I like the Christian way where <u>evil people don't escape the judgment of God</u>. This age is coming to a close and time is short based on the signs. Every Christian wants the Holy Spirit of God guiding, protecting and watching over them to face any trial or tribulation to come! This is the ultimate gift from Christ and your acceptance and approval by God Himself. The Body of Christ, His Church will be protected and cared for during the coming storm! Seek Christ and strive be one with His Spirit.

His Spirit is the greatest witness of our faith, devotion and love of God. **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.

Common sense should make it clear that if you have the Holy Spirit of Christ within you, how can you sin? Wouldn't God be sinning with you like a co-conspirator? People that claim to have the Holy Spirit, but continue to sin are the enemy within, destroying the Church. I have more to say about the Holy Spirit in another discourse, just know this, Christians with the Holy Spirit of Christ within them DO NOT sin! Any Christian believer can fall back into sin 1,000 times, repent again and begin anew on the path to salvation, just like I did over 15 years. Our flesh is weak WITHOUT His Holy Spirit. However, once you have His gift you NEVER let go of it and stop sinning!

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.

This is how you know who really has been Born of God and saved! Do they still sin? Every Shepherd of Christ teaching the Word of God MUST have the Holy Spirit of God within them and guiding them in scripture. If they are caught in sin, they were lying to the flock and never had the Holy Spirit, they were wolves in sheep's clothing! I CANNOT look at someone and tell if they have the Holy Spirit, but I know that whoever sins does not have the Spirit of Christ and they're lying if they claim too. No priest, pastor, preacher or clergy should ever be restored to their position if they're caught in sin. You can't be restored if you fall from God's Grace after Knowing Him! 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.

I hope I've given you valuable and helpful information to help you in your quest for salvation. Compare what I've written to the teachings of your Church. I want you to use logic, reasoning and your heart to understand the Words of a Loving God. Father God wants ALL of His children to join Him, wicked souls will just take longer to enter the Kingdom after their punishment. That's what I believe in my heart.