

Facilitators Guide

Preparation for Life Advance

The role of facilitator for Life Advance is a great responsibility and privilege. This handbook was created to help with the process and answer any questions that may arise in preparation, planning and facilitating of the Advance. Please know that this is a guideline of what has been done in the past .We understand that you have great giftings and talents and want you to make this a time where each one participating feels comfortable and pampered, that nothing will hinder them from experiencing a life changing encounter with the Holy Spirit.

The LIFE ADVANCE is a life-changing encounter with the Holy Spirit that will advance your passion for God. The advance will focus on: healing from past hurts, forgiveness, strongholds, curses, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, determining spiritual needs, training on spiritual warfare, and encouraging and instilling each participant with the expectation and zeal to fulfill what God has called us to do.

The Purpose

**To destroy the works of the enemy in the life of each child of God attending the retreat
(I John 3:8)**

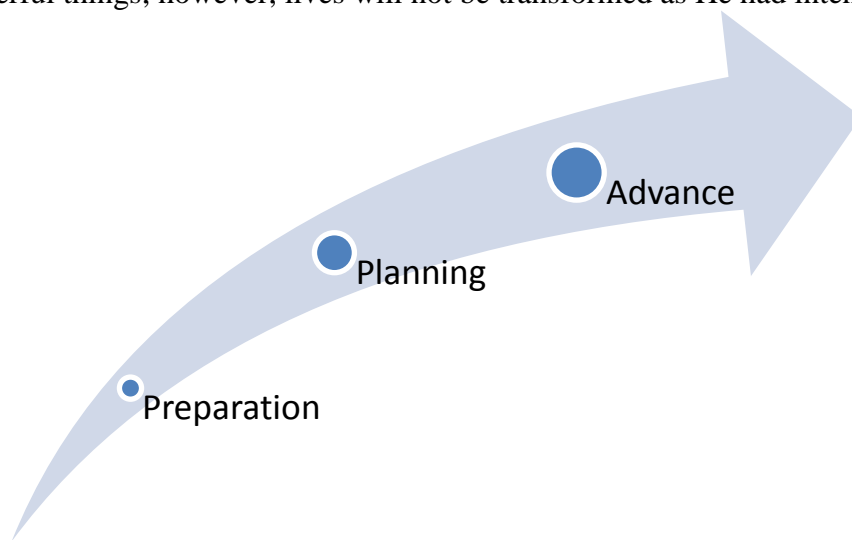
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very first day after the retreat is finished. This deals with the person's commitment to his marriage, family, church and place of employment.

Preparation

The degree of lasting impact that a Life Advance will have upon an individual's life will be greatly influenced by the prayers of those carrying the burden and vision for the retreat. Each Advance must be bathed in prayer; there simply is no substitute for prayer and fasting. Make sure that you have committed time to praying and fasting for God to move and use you to His fullness as a facilitator of the Life Advance. Spend time praying for those who have signed up for the advance for those leading sessions and small group prayer ministers. If possible spend time in prayer with session leaders.

We sincerely believe that each Life Advance needs to experience a spiritual breakthrough before the retreat begins on Friday evening. Without this breakthrough, God may still do many wonderful things; however, lives will not be transformed as He had intended.



Planning

How To Set Up The Life Advance

Be sure to find someone to take care of food preparations, drinks and refreshments . Look for others to take care of setting up and cleaning up afterwards. Delegate someone to be responsible for decorating. Make sure that whoever you pick is gifted in t his area. You will also need someone to be responsible for any supplies you may need to facilitate the Advance. Choose someone to cover power point and sound, as well as worship. We want you to have as little as possible to worry about the day of the Life Advance so choose people wisely. Remember you must delegate. Do not try to do it all yourself.

Some of the main areas of planning are:

Worship, Meals, Decorations and Power Point/Sound.

WORSHIP:

The most important part of preparation to lead worship involves prayer and cultivation of sensitivity to the Holy Spirit. The first priority of the worship leader and the most demanding is spending time in personal prayer, praise and worship.

Selected songs for the group should be prayed through, be led by the Spirit, and have a focus that is in harmony with the purpose of Life Advance. It is recommended to have 4-5 songs prepared to lead during each worship session. Try to keep the songs in the same key so transition will be more fluid and easier to keep the flow of worship intact. Focus on praise and worship songs that will engage the group and translate well in an acoustic or piano-only setting. The individual leading should be a capable worship leader in order to correctly foster an atmosphere for the group to fully enter into worship and not merely someone to “sing songs.”

Schedule a capable sound tech and individual that is familiar with power point to run the lyrics on the computer.

MEALS:

1. Dinner: Prepare a box dinner for the night event. Any fast food restaurant provided box meals. Chick-Fil-A, etc... Something inexpensive and somewhat healthy. Deserts or small snacks should also be provided at this time.
2. Breakfast: Muffins/Danishes, Kolaches, Granola bars and lots of fruits should be provided. Coffee, Milk, and Orange Juice.
3. Breaks: At breaks, provide snacks, fruits and vegetables. Provide water, juices, and soft drinks.

We would prefer that snacks not be taken during the small group times. People tend to use the snacks as a way of coping and distracting them from allowing the Holy Spirit to really minister to their lives.

4. Lunch: Lunch on Saturday could be another boxed meal. You might also choose to have little nicer meal provided. Also consider a meal that will not make the group sleep for the sessions following the lunch.
5. It would be good to have several people serve in the kitchen. Be sure they are their early enough to set up and perhaps get some of the group to stay after to clean up.

DECORATIONS:

Decorations are important in creating an atmosphere where those attending will feel welcome and comfortable. Set up tables with tablecloths, fresh flowers use the small and large vases, small scripture cards or other decorations and scatter candy on the tables.

POWER POINT/SOUND:

Choose someone who is gifted in this area of ministry. They will be needed for the entire 1 ½ day session. They will be need time to get into the Sound booth before the advance to ensure that all sessions power points are updated and ready. The day of the advance they should arrive an 1 to 2 hours before advance starts.

Advance

At this stage you will be days away from the advance. Make sure that you are setting yourself apart for the ministry that God wants to this weekend. Enlist those closest to you to pray for you. Have them pray protection, discernment, wisdom and peace over you. Fasting is so important at this time.

Shopping will need to be done, make sure you have designated someone to pick up dinner order for Friday evening, kolaches for the morning session and lunch for afternoon session. Have someone call and confirm the dinner, breakfast and lunch orders.

It is best to have the set up taken care of the day before the advance. Go over any last details at this time. All prayer rooms should be numbered and ready for a powerful time of ministry, pray for all those who involved in the advance. God is going to do amazing things!

Additional Information

There are a few additional options about where to host the Advance.

1. At a conference center – this allows a more quiet environment.
(The cost will include, food, room, and manual.)
2. At a hotel – this is not as quiet of an environment, but can keep the cost lower. Attempt to find a hotel that has a conference room and allows food to be brought in.
3. At a home – This would obviously be for a very small group and it would only have one or two facilitators for the workshops. This may be an option if one or two *LifeCells* wanted to do the Life Advance on their own. This one has pros and cons. Less diversity in speakers, but more intimate.

Determine what you will serve for dinner the night of the Advance. We want each person to walk away knowing that our desire was to bless them in every way possible. Once you have determined what the meal will consist of then determine what the combined price for the meal and the manual will be. Our purpose is not to make a profit but to present a life changing encounter with the Holy Spirit in an environment that allows those participating feel comfortable and pampered.

These next decisions must be determined at least one week prior to signup for the Live Advance.

If you are going to use a restaurant make sure that you lock in pricing, quantities and exact times for pick up or delivery at least one week prior to the date of the Advance. Follow up on and confirm all details with restaurant the night before the Life Advance.

Make sure that the person responsible for this has a copy of our tax exemption sheet. This is available at the church offices and will be required by the restaurant.

You could choose to prepare the meal yourselves. If so, we recommend you do something light and easy such as subs or pasta. Keep in mind the people who will be attending and have some options for them to choose from. Remember we want them to walk away feeling very blessed.

Be sure to find someone to take care of food preparations such as drinks, refreshments, napkins, plates and silverware. Look for others to take care of setting up and cleaning up afterwards. Delegate someone to be responsible for decorating. Make sure that whoever you pick is gifted in this area. You will also need someone to be responsible for any supplies you may need to facilitate the Advance. Items such as pens, pencils and nametags are some of the things that someone needs to be responsible to get and bring that night. Someone will need to bring the lap top computer and video projector as well as the CD player and the worship CD's. We want you to have as little as possible to worry about the day of the Life Advance so choose people wisely. Remember you must delegate. Do not try to do it all yourself.

Life Advance Checklist

Dates: _____

<u>Initial Estimate</u>	<u>Final Count</u>	<u>Description</u>
_____	_____	# Participants
_____	_____	# Facilitators, Leaders and Prayer Ministers (includes song leaders)
_____	_____	# Others – Pastor, Kitchen, Soundbooth
_____	_____	Totals

Initial Estimate is used for planning purposes.
 Final Count is used for estimating cost per person.

<u>Kitchen Help</u>	<u>Soundbooth Help</u>
Lead*: _____	Sound*: _____
Coffee*: _____	Computer*: _____
Fri PM - pickup: _____	_____
Fri PM - help: _____	Song Leaders*: _____
Sat AM: _____	_____
Sat Lunch - pickup: _____	_____
Sat Lunch - help: _____	Room Setup: Date _____ Time _____
Sat Lunch - help: _____	_____
_____	_____
Lead Cleanup: _____ (all participants will help cleanup)	* Needed for entire 1 ½ day session.

NOTE: All information provided in this document is only a guide to what has been done in the past...feel free to change/evolve it as needed.

Computer Setup:

Prior to 'Day of'

- Review list of Powerpoint presentations on the ZoeKids/Youth computer...
C:\My Documents\Life Advance\
- Get list of Session Leaders from Facilitators...anything new, special requests, etc.
- Send Leaders copies of existing Powerpoint presentations for review/change
- Update presentations as needed
NOTE: Would eventually like to have all sessions with PowerPoint slides
- Ask the Leader of 'Session 2: The Cross' if plans to use the Passion DVD clip and if so, confirm which scenes to use
- in past, have used scene/time from 1:30 – 1:43 and possibly skip to 1:50-
- Have instrumental worship music/CD available in soundbooth for prayer times
(check for music in Windows Media Player)
- Bring memory stick in case need to transfer files between computers

Day of Life Advance –

- Get list of songs/words from Song Leader
- Create song schedule on Main Computer, including backgrounds, and copy to ZoeKids/Youth computer
- Add to schedule any other Powerpoint files needed (title slides, church slides, session slides, etc.)
- Queue Passion DVD, if being used
- Get copy of Leaders Life Advance binder so can follow along with presenters (note that not all of them follow the binder), an extra copy of the agenda to markup, as needed, and a pen
- Keep in touch with Song Leaders as session progresses as the songs usually change

Room/Decorations Setup:

Session Room Setup –

- Table/chair arrangement (see diagram...to be developed)
 - Can seat ___ at tables and ___ in chairs/couch

Make sure that all participants are able to sit at tables; facilitators and prayer ministers can fill in where room allows but otherwise can sit in side and back chairs
- On Tables
 - Tablecloths (roll)
 - Centerpieces/small vases with flowers
 - Bowls of hard candy
 - Pens (for all participants)
- Around Room
 - Kleenexes around room and at front
 - Pads of paper in side and back chairs, with pens
- On Nursery Bar (outside of session room)
 - Coffee and supplies
 - Bottles of water (extra case behind counter)
 - On Saturday before end of Session 5, have communion setup on table by Nursery Bar (tablecloth and a vase of flowers from overflow room)

Overflow Room Setup –

- Setup ___ round tables with ___ chairs each
 - Can seat ___ at tables; more can sit at café tables in foyer if needed
 - If larger than ___ people, may need to set up more round tables in foyer
- On tables
 - Tablecloths (plastic, round)
 - Centerpieces/vases with flowers
 - Small scripture cards or other decorations
 - Candy scattered on tables
- Small rectangular tables

Prayer Rooms –

- Make sure that overflow room is not listed as prayer room
- Prayer Facilitator should have signs to number the prayer rooms, help put up if needed
- Put 3-4 chairs in each nursery room used

Day Before Life Advance...

- Clean out refrigerator
- Put can drinks in refrigerator

Day of Life Advance...

- Setup rooms if not done already, best if done the evening before
- Arrange kitchen and supplies based on order of weekend
- Post copy of session agenda in kitchen – markup as times change
- Cut and put flowers in vases
- Take out cheese cakes and brownies if needed to thaw
- Prepare and set out coffee supplies and bottled water
- Prepare for Friday dinner to be delivered and served

Food Planning: Menu/Schedule

Friday _____PM – Dinner

- Main meal catered – Chick-Fil-A ...Church Staff to provide list of names and their orders
- Chips – 3 bags assorted
- Veggie tray
- Dessert – cheese cakes (with toppings) and brownie pies
...make sure thawed enough to eat

NOTE: After each serving time, put away all food (specifically if needs to be refrigerated), clean up any trash, wipe down the tables and replenish the candy on the tables.

Friday _____PM – Snack, after Small Group Time

- Leftover chips, veggie tray, cheese cake, brownie pie
- Trailmix
- Peanut M&Ms
- Popcorn (filler if needed)

Friday – End of Evening

- Make list of what might be needed for tomorrow (drinks, ice, etc.)
- Put juices and more can drinks in frig and/or ice chest with ice from freezer
- Make list of any supplies needed and go by Wal-mart on way home

Saturday – On way to Church Building

- Pick up kolaches from donut store

Saturday _____AM – Breakfast

- Muffins/danishes ...cut muffins in half and place on trays
- Fruit (bananas, melons, strawberries) ...cut up fruit as needed
- Kolaches ...wash strawberries (need time to dry)
- Granola bars, assorted

Saturday _____AM – Snack

When have time...

- Leftover breakfast items and items from ...chocolate dip the strawberries
Friday (trail mix, M&Ms, chips, etc.) ...assemble the brownies

Saturday _____PM – Lunch

... _____
... _____

- Main meal catered – Cazadores fajitas
- Dessert – cookies

Saturday _____PM – Communion

- Have prepared and on table outside of Session room

Saturday _____PM – Final Snack

- Brownies (kisses and powdered sugar)
- Chocolate covered strawberries
- Veggie tray
- Anything else left over from weekend

NOTE: Start final kitchen cleanup process after final snack...should be able to finish before final session is completed.

Church Staff Checklist

Catering Details:

- Friday dinner: Chick-Fil-A ...Church Staff to add details
- Saturday breakfast: Daylight Donuts ...call ahead on kolaches order
 - 2 dz sausage, cheese, jalapeno
 - 2 dz saugage, cheese
- Saturday lunch: Cazadores – fajitas

Church Supplies:

Check on current supplies of...if not enough, add to shopping lists...

- Coffee supplies
- Communion supplies (all-in-one, portable version if plan to take to small group time)
- Plates, bowls, napkins, plastic-ware, cups
- Tablecloths (rolls and round)
- Plastic gloves
- Microwave popcorn
- Ice chest (to hold extra ice and/or to keep additional drinks cold)
- Small vases (need ___ based on Session Room setup diagram)
- Large vases (need ___ based on Overflow Room setup diagram)
- Kleenexes, at least ___ boxes
- Pens, enough for all participants and facilitators
- Pads of paper (mainly for facilitators and prayer ministers)
- Nametags

Wal-mart List

- _2_ 24 packs of DP
 - _2_ 24 packs of Coke
 - _2_ 12 packs of Diet DP
 - _1_ 12 pack of Sprite
 - _1_ 12 pack of Lemonade
 - _1_ 12 pack of Iced Tea
- _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

Sam's List

- _4_ cases of bottle water (___ each)
 - _2_ cases of Welch's mixed juices (grape, apple, orange pineapple)
 - _1_ case of 100% orange juice
 - _____
 - _____
- _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

Other Stores

- Party City – round tablecloths
 - LifeWay - communion
 - _____
- _____
 - _____
 - _____

Facilitators Checklist

Sam's List

- 2 veggie trays
- Chips – 4 bags (2 Cheddar Sunchips, 1 plain Ruffles, 1 sour cream and onion)
- 1 tray assorted muffins (12 muffins each, cut in half)
- 2 trays assorted danishes (24 danishes each)
- 1 box assorted granola bars (35 bars each)
- 2 large boxes of strawberries (3, if also serving for breakfast)
- Fruit – 2-3 kinds for Saturday breakfast (bananas, cantaloupe, grapes, oranges)
- 2 assorted cheese cakes (12 slices each)
- 2 brownie pies (___ slices each)
- 3 boxes of assorted cookies (24 cookies each)
- 1 tub of small muffin brownies (two bite brownies)
- 1 bag Tropical Trailmix
- 1 bag Peanut M&Ms
- Flowers for small and large vases
- Hard candy (typically Jolly Ranchers)
- Mixed candy for Overflow Room tables
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Walmart List

- Chocolate kisses (small bag...for brownies)
- Almond bark (white melting chocolate)
- Fruit, if not gotten at Sam's
- 2 cans cherry pie filling
- Small bottle of chocolate syrup (or from home)
- Ranch dip
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Other Stores

- Gas/convenient store – ___ bags of ice
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Supplies:

Bring from home...

- Extra serving trays
 - Powdered sugar and sifter
 - Bowl to melt chocolate
 - Wax paper
 - Ice chest
 - Chocolate syrup
 - Large paper clips
 - Phone charger
- _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

Friday Night – Wal-mart List:

- _____
 - _____
 - _____
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- _____
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 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

Life Advance Sessions and Leaders Information

#	Session Title	Facilitator	Using PPT?	Comments
1	Openness and Transparency Sin and Personal Spiritual Profile			
2	The Cross			Using DVD clip from The Passion -
3	Healing of Past Wounds and Hurts			
4	Principles of Forgiveness			
5	Generational Strongholds			
6	The Baptism in the Holy Spirit			
7	Putting on the Armor of God Putting on the New Man			
8	Zeal For God's Purpose			

Leaders Guide

Preparation for Life Advance

The role of Leader for Life Advance is a great responsibility and privilege. This handbook was created to help with the process and answer any questions that may arise in preparation, planning and leading a small group at the Advance. Please know that this is a guideline of what has been done in the past. We understand that you have great giftings and talents and want you to make this a time where each one participating feels comfortable and pampered, that nothing will hinder them from experiencing a life changing encounter with the Holy Spirit.

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The Purpose

**To destroy the works of the enemy in the life of each child of God attending the retreat
(I John 3:8)**

- To help restore the personality of the believer.
- To heal broken relationships.

- To impart vision and direction, beginning with the very first day after the retreat is finished. This deals with the person's commitment to his marriage, family, church and place of employment.

Prayer and Preparation

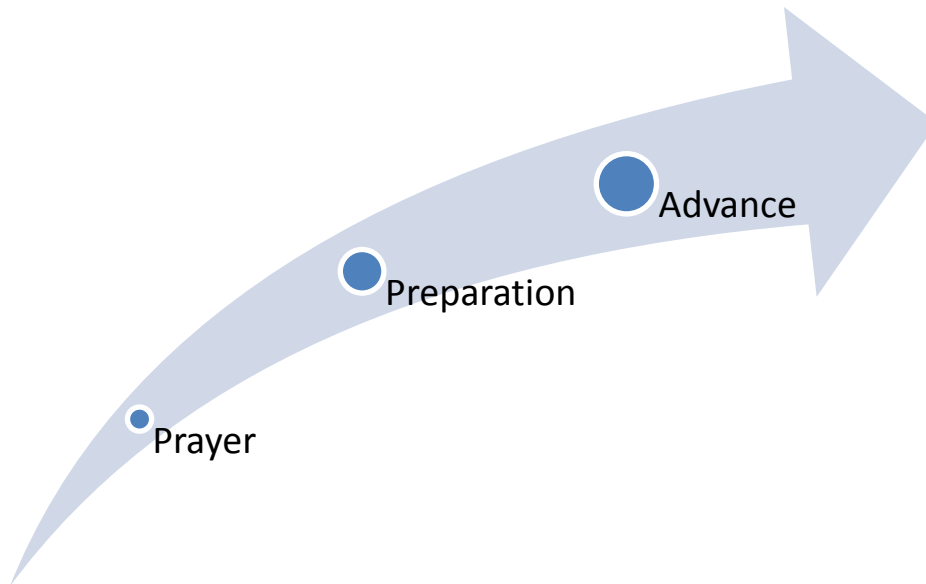
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Make sure that you have committed time to praying and fasting for God to move and use you to His fullness as a leader in the Life Advance. Spend time praying for those who have signed up for the advance and for the other leaders. If possible spend time in prayer with the other leaders. Read through each workshop and mark in

exhortations and mental notes that will help you as you lead. Have the freedom to express what the Spirit is teaching you and leading you to say.

Feel free to ask the previous leaders any questions that you might have prior to the Advance. Realize that we want you to be yourself; you do not have to duplicate exactly how it was done the last time. Make sure that you know and are familiar with the time requirements of the sessions you will be leading.

Remember to be real. You don't have to know the answers to every question put before you. Look to the other leaders and trust God to give you wisdom and divine insight.



Advance

When you see the word, **LEADER** during your teaching time, it is for you to read for your information, or for you to read out loud to the group.

1. Come prayed up and well prepared. I encourage you to go over your message in front of a mirror to help you prepare. It is essential that you stick firmly to the time schedule.
2. Be enthusiastic and energetic.
3. **Never apologize for being nervous.** An apology only communicates to the hearer that you are not prepared and that they should not listen to what you have to say.
4. Feel free to use personal illustrations, but stay close (very close) to the lesson. If you do not stay focused to the manual the group will become distracted by trying to find where you are at in the book.
5. It is essential that you stick to the time you have been allotted and cover the material in this book.

If the Life Advance is at the church facility, or at a home where the people will go home for the night. **HIGHLY ENCOURAGE** the group to not allow the enemy to win. The enemy would love to keep you from receiving the victory tomorrow. Tomorrow will be some of the most powerful times of ministry. Please set your alarm and do everything in your power to be here on time. Rest assured that the enemy will do everything he can to keep you from coming in the morning – determine now to allow God to have the victory.

Prayer Minister

Preparation for Life Advance

The role of Small Group Prayer Minister for Life Advance is a great responsibility and privilege. This handbook was created to help you with the process and answer any questions that may arise in preparation, planning for the Advance. Please know that this is a guideline of what has been done in the past. We understand that you have great giftings and talents and want you to make this a time where each one participating feels comfortable and pampered, that nothing will hinder them from experiencing a life changing encounter with the Holy Spirit.

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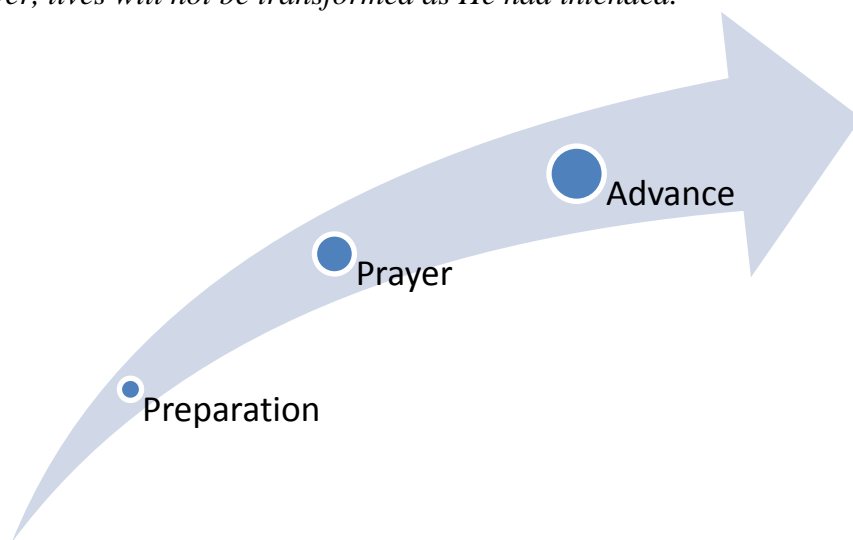
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Preparing to Minister

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Guidelines For Small Group Prayer Ministers

- Because the small group ministry times are so vital, it is of utmost importance that these leaders are chosen with great care. When choosing leaders look for those who love people, especially the hurting and needy.
- Utilize leaders who are trained in one on one ministry when possible.
- Ideally, one leader should be assigned for each group of 3 or 4. You really need more prayer partners than you think. The more the merrier.
- Men and women and best friends should be separated for all small group ministry times. The challenge for the group leader is to reach a high level of trust in a very short period of time.
- All leaders involved in our Life Advance should fast and pray for the three days prior to the Advance.
- We encourage each leader to make sure that his heart is pure before God and that no known sin is present before arriving at the retreat location.
- It is especially important that no group leader leave for this time of ministry with unresolved issues at home.

Planning

- Ask the group leaders to begin praying ahead of time for the retreat and their respective group members.
- Encourage group leaders to expect God to use them in remarkable ways.
- God will use them in new ways.
- God will give them manifestations of the Holy Spirit to help them minister.
- God will grant them great love and authority to help set the captives free.
- It's normal for leader to be nervous
- Invite God's equipping presence to come.
- With every responsibility we take on in the kingdom of God, there is always a corresponding anointing and imparting of grace from God. This is what the leader needs to embrace and tap into in his spirit.
- It is vital for the leader to exhibit a natural enthusiasm and an obvious desire to love and serve the members of his group.
- If these qualities are being expressed, the trust of the group members will quickly develop, which will ultimately determine the level of openness expressed in group ministry times.

Some specific, practical things that the group leaders can do are as follows:

- Memorize the first names of their group members and address them accordingly.
- Use eye contact, gestures, and other forms of expression to communicate their interest and commitment to their group members.
- Spend time with their group members during breaks and mealtimes. They can sit together, or the leader can take walks with members of his group. He should target those that he feels need the most attention.
- Leaders are to guarantee their group members absolute confidentiality. If any information is to be shared beyond the group setting, it is only to be disclosed to a pastor, unless otherwise permitted.
- Leaders need to express love, forgiveness, and acceptance to those they minister to.
- Leaders need to be good listeners, slow to speak, and tactful.
- Leaders must remember that those sharing hurts, wounds, bondages, disappointments, etc. are sharing their intimate feelings and experiences. It would be tragic for a group leader to forget the awesome responsibility he bears to help the hurting.
- Ask the group leaders to begin praying ahead of time for the retreat and their respective group members.
- By doing this, two things happen: the spiritual level of the retreat increases considerably, and a spiritual bond is established between the leader and his group members.
- As a result, there will be greater trust and transparency within the ministry groups.

Advance

Dismiss into small group time quietly with an attitude of ministry. You do not want to stop what the Holy Spirit has begun.

Make sure person in charge has already divided the people into small groups of 3, no more than four to a group. Men with men – women with women, young with young, etc.... Close friends and relatives should also not be in the same group.

As the group dismisses, ask them if anyone would need individual ministry (or if you sense that they need some one on one ministry) have one of the prayer partners take them aside to minister to them.

(Those prayer partners for individual ministers should already be pre-selected and ready to minister.)

Here are some small group helpful hints:

1. Listen to the Holy Spirit.
2. Allow the Holy Spirit to move.
3. Listen to the Holy Spirit as He speaks to you of how to pray for the group.
4. Always minister in LOVE. Show them you care for them. Never be judgmental. Let the Holy Spirit bring conviction, healing and forgiveness.

Ask them these questions.

- What did the Holy Spirit speak to you personally about, during the last two sessions?
- What did the Holy Spirit reveal to you as you filled out the Spiritual Profile? (They do not have to share with you the details of what they filled out on the profile)
- What did the Holy Spirit speak to you during the session on the cross?

If the Life Advance is at the church facility, or at a home where the people will go home for the night. HIGHLY ENCOURAGE the group to not allow the enemy to win. The enemy would love to keep you from receiving the victory tomorrow. Tomorrow will be some of the most powerful times of ministry. Please set your alarm and do everything in your power to be here on time. Rest assured that the enemy will do everything he can to keep you from coming in the morning determine now to allow God to have the victory.

The Night Of The Life Advance

Make sure that everyone has a manual and pen or pencil and encourage them to put their name and the date on their manual.

Make sure that you have worship songs picked out and the words to the songs entered into the lap top computer that will feed into the video projector. Make sure that whoever is going to work this knows fully what will take place at each workshop and knows when and what they are responsible to do.

LEADER: Start at 6:40

...Life Advance opening exhortations

Roman numeral I , numbers 1-4 are to be said before they open their manuals.

I. Before we begin, we would like to ask five things of you.

1. Our desire is that each person here will walk away victorious and encouraged about what God did in them. You can help to ensure the success of each workshop. We have chosen to have this meeting here because it is away from the distractions and cares of the world. We ask that for tonight you turn off your cell phones and realize that this is not a time for joking. This is a serious time and we want to eliminate all distractions. Remember it is important that you not step out.
2. The Life Advance was created to be a time of ministry and healing for you. We ask that for tonight you commit to being ministered to. Again, this is not a night for you to minister to someone else. We ask that you allow God to speak to you specifically about your life. This includes “nudging” your spouse. Let the Holy Spirit speak to him/her.
3. Our desire tonight is to get through all of the material and to be able to allow for sufficient ministry time in each workshop. For this to happen we must stick to the structure of the Life Advance. We want you to feel free to ask questions but we believe that most of your questions will be answered as we progress through the workshops. We realize that you may have some knowledge and insight about the topics but we ask you not to use this as a time to debate the content or method we have chosen to use.
4. Please make a commitment to stay in the room. Even if you're feeling an inward pressure to leave or sense that you are becoming emotional, we want you to stay! Remember this is a Spiritual battle that you need to win.

5. **The Life Advance is designed to allow the Holy Spirit to truly dig deep into the depth of your soul and begin to heal areas of your life.** In one sense, it is like medical surgery – it might not feel very good in the process. **Rest assured the process is at times hard and painful, but the end result is victory and joy.** Let's allow the Holy Spirit to reveal and then heal this weekend. Let's walk out of here in victory for the Lord.

6. The Life Advance is what you make it. If you come with an attitude that you choose to not receive – you probably will not receive anything from it. Please begin with a heart that cries out to our Heavenly Father, *"Father, show me areas in my life that You desire to reveal and heal."*

II. Have them open to the first page of their manuals.

(Read this page to them)

Life Advance: A Life-changing encounter with the Holy Spirit that will Advance your passion for God...

III. Have them look over the Time Schedule sheet.

We want to try to stay on schedule.

The Life Advance is intentionally repetitive.

IV. Open with prayer.

Invite the Holy Spirit to come and minister to the hearts and minds of every person.

Acknowledge the presence of Jesus.

Give praise to God in advance for what He is going to do tonight.

Pray against the attempts of the enemy to try and stop what God wants to do tonight.

As you close, encourage each person to verbally, in prayer, express their willingness for God to minister to them as He sees fit.

V. Next enter into a time of worship.

Play 2 or 3 songs that are familiar to everyone.

(Preferably songs we use in our worship.)

Encourage the people to really press into God.

-- We want to begin by experiencing the presence of God in worship!

-- It is important for us to really enter into an intimate time of worship.

EQUIPPING TRACK #2

LIFE ADVANCE



A LIFE CHANGING ENCOUNTER
WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT THAT WILL
ADVANCE YOUR PASSION FOR GOD

A **Life**-changing encounter with the
Holy Spirit that will **Advance**
your passion for God.

Introduction

The next step of the journey into cell leadership and other leadership roles in the church is the *Life Advance*. The Advance will focus on healing from past hurts, forgiveness, strongholds, determining spiritual needs, training on spiritual warfare, encouraging and instilling each participant with the expectation and zeal to fulfill what God has called us to do.

You have finished the LIFE Manual and now you are ready for the *Life Advance*. We named it the *Life Advance* because we desire for this time to be a *life* changing encounter with Holy Spirit and that it will *advance* your passion for God.

We believe that when a person encounters God, he will encounter change. We desire for you to encounter God, for Him to change you and for you to discover the joy and victory that God has for you.

Updated May 2010 (11th printing)

Life Advance Time Schedule

FRIDAY

5:45 – 6:00 p.m.	Check In
6:00 – 6:45 p.m.	Registration/Dinner
6:45 – 7:00	Opening Words
7:00 – 7:30	Worship
7:30 – 8:30	Session #1 Openness and Transparency Sin and Personal Spiritual Profile
8:30 – 9:00	Session #2 The Cross
9:00 – until ?	Small Group Time

SATURDAY

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 – 9:30	Worship
9:30 – 10:15	Session #3 Healing of Past Wounds and Hurts
10:15 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 11:15	Session #4 Principles of Forgiveness
11:15 – 12:15	Small Group Time
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch
1:15 – 1:45	Worship
1:45 – 2:30	Session # 5 Generational Strongholds
2:30 - 3:30	Small group Confession Communion
3:30 – 4:05	Session #6 The Baptism In The Holy Spirit
4:05 – 4:30	Large Group Alter Call
4:30 – 4:45	Break
4:45 – 5:30	Session # 7 Putting On The Armor Of God Putting On the New Man
5:30 – 6:00	Session # 8 Passion For God's Purpose

The Life Advance is Intentionally Repetitive

As we go through the Life Advance you will notice that some principles will overlap from one workshop to the next. The Life Advance is intentionally repetitive. We did this so that you would be able to grasp and apply the principles to your lives. Having said this we want to welcome you to the...**LIFE ADVANCE**.....

Opening Prayer and Worship!

SESSION #1 OPENNESS, TRANSPARENCY, AND SIN

Introduction to the session: If individuals participating in the Life Advance are to receive the maximum benefit possible, they must be able to be open and transparent before others. This is a critical aspect of the retreat and is the emphasis of the first night. The standard of openness and transparency that must be established is a high one, but we have several examples from Scripture that we can use for encouragement.

The purpose of this workshop is to destroy the works of the enemy in the lives of each Believer; that we may walk in the victory of the Lord. (1 John 3:8)

I. OPENNESS & TRANSPARENCY

But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Four steps:

- ❖ Realize that we all struggle with ___**SIN**___ and ___**TEMPTATION**___.

Romans 3:23 *ALL have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*

Romans 3:10 *There is not one who always does right, not even one.*

- ❖ Understand what sin does to my ___**RELATIONSHIP**___ with ___**GOD**___.

Isaiah 59:2 *But your wrongs have separated you from your God, and your sins have made him hide his face so that he doesn't hear you.*

- ❖ Accept Jesus' ___**UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**___.

Romans 5:8 *But God put his love on the line for us by offering his Son in sacrificial death while we were of no use whatsoever to him.*

- ❖ Invite ___**JESUS**___ into the secret, dark places of my ___**HEART**___.

Revelation 3:20 *Look I am standing at the door, I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me.*

Proverbs 23:13 *He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.*

The Message (a paraphrase of the Bible) *You can't whitewash your sins and get by with it, you find mercy by admitting them and leaving them.*

II. TESTIMONY:

LEADER: Guidelines for the testimony – It should be no longer than 15 minutes. The testimony should share the person’s life before Christ. Have them share the pain, the hurts and the emptiness they felt. Without glorying in the sin, have them share of their past. (Example: They may share that they were sexually promiscuous. They do not have to share or “glory in” the details of their sin). Have them share how they filled the void with the things of the world. Then they need to share how the Lord filled the void. Share how the Lord has brought spiritual and emotional healing to their lives since coming to the Lord. (They may also need to share that the Lord is not done with them yet.) Now share how the Lord has healed the pain, the hurts from the past.

The sharing should emphasize two things: the love and power of God to transform a life, both before and after conversion, and the importance and beauty of being able to be honest and transparent before others. This time of transparency should not include detailed depictions of anything sinful or in any way inappropriate.

The person sharing should convey God the Father’s compelling desire to help His child, whatever the need may be. We usually tell those in attendance that God does not categorize sins. Through the Cross, He has dealt once and for all with the issue of sin. Now God wants us, having received His forgiveness, to move on. He would want us to hear Him say, “Shame OFF you, my child.”

The speaker needs to intertwine a wide spectrum of experiences, both glorious and perhaps even heart rending, in the course of his message. By doing this, he is actually modeling how the participants should in turn share from their lives during group ministry times.

The example of our Lord Jesus Christ and the example of biblical characters such as Mary Magdalene, the apostle Paul, and others display levels of openness and transparency that seemed natural to them but are almost nonexistent among members of the body of Christ today.

Many people come to church and hear great testimonies of victories won and amazing answers to prayer. However, seldom does one hear of the weaknesses that all of us possess, our secret shortcomings, even areas of our lives that need God’s immediate intervention. Consequently, countless Christians who attend church feel defeated and condemned. The Life Advance is especially geared to help those who are struggling in these areas.

This time of transparency is vital in establishing a high level of trust, which will be needed to minister on a deep level to those seeking help. This is true especially in the small groups that meet during the retreat. Confidentiality is to be guaranteed to all, whatever the setting might be, whether in small groups, general sessions, or even spontaneous conversations. Trust will automatically grow in an atmosphere of safety and security.

III. ISSUE OF SIN

What is sin?

- a) The Bible defines sin for us.

James 4:17 - *"Therefore to him who knows to do ___GOOD___ and does not do it, to him it is ___SIN___."*

- b) Sin is simple: It is disobedience to God.

- c) The Bible also explains how the enemy entices a Believer to sin and how unrepented sin takes control. (James 1:12-15)

The Devil does not make us sin. Sin is when we willfully disobey God.

- d) Sin should be treated as a spiritual cancer, it is life threatening to the Believer.

- e) Sin is devastating to individuals, marriages, families and communities. The ultimate consequence of sin is death. (Romans 6:23, James 1:15).

James 1:15 - *"Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to ___SIN___; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth ___DEATH___."*

- f) Sin not only brings havoc on the individual's life, but innocent victims suffer from the repercussions of sin. This is especially true to families, marriages, friendships, and churches. Sin does not only affect the individual who committed the sin, but the consequences of sin affect the relationships around you.

Example: We can see how the sins of our nation affect the people of the nation. We can see how the sins of a husband or wife can destroy a family. We can see how gossip and lies destroy churches.

Each Believer must deal with the sins in their own lives. Unrepented sin, left alone, will grow and begin to bring havoc on the individual's life and the lives of those around them.

LEADER: Allow this time at the Advance to be a time of true repentance before God and a time of overcoming the sins and temptations you struggle with in your life.

Be honest with yourself. You know your struggles. You know your temptations and you know your sins. Guess what? So does God, and He is waiting and ready to forgive and bring victory to these areas in your life.

Sin – Who me?

Psalm 90:8 (NKJV) *"You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of your countenance."*(Jesus sees ALL your sins)

God has a PLAN for your life and so does the ENEMY.

John 10:10 (NKJV) *“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”*

The enemy uses HIDDEN sin to steal our peace, kill our joy, and destroy our life.

1John 1:5-10 (NKJV) *“This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”*

GETTING FREE

Pray and ask Jesus to REVEAL our sin.

ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY and admit we have sin.

CONFESS our sin to God.

Confess our sin to others so we can be WHOLE and HEALED.

IV. REVIEW SPIRITUAL PROFILE:

LEADER: At this time please review with the group the “Spiritual Profile”. Have them fill it out as you review it. Let them know that no one will see this, this is for their eyes only and at the end of the session we will shred it up.

When you are done reviewing the profile, share with the group that we will deal for more with these areas tomorrow. This profile was to simply allow for the Holy Spirit to begin to speak and begin to heal in these areas.

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL PROFILE

This profile is designed to help you evaluate your spiritual background and upbringing. It is also meant to help you see how wrong patterns of thinking or behaving may have developed and become a part of your life. This assessment is between you and the Lord. No one else will look at it. As a matter of fact, at the end of this session, you will shred it up, and hopefully the issues you struggled with will be gone as well.

Please answer each question as truthfully as you can.

Family:

1. Who in your family is a follower of Christ?

2. Have you or any person of your family been involved in the following?

<input type="checkbox"/> Hinduism	<input type="checkbox"/> Baha'i faith	<input type="checkbox"/> Buddhism	<input type="checkbox"/> Mormonism
<input type="checkbox"/> Islam	<input type="checkbox"/> Jehovah's Witnesses	<input type="checkbox"/> Krishna	<input type="checkbox"/> Christian Science

3. Have you or any person in your family been involved in any of the following?

<input type="checkbox"/> Calling the dead/spirits	<input type="checkbox"/> Horoscopes	<input type="checkbox"/> Palm reading
<input type="checkbox"/> Good luck charms	<input type="checkbox"/> Dungeons & Dragons	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonic/death music
<input type="checkbox"/> Demonic experience	<input type="checkbox"/> Psychics	<input type="checkbox"/> New Age
<input type="checkbox"/> Fortune-telling	<input type="checkbox"/> Magicians	<input type="checkbox"/> Superstitions
<input type="checkbox"/> Transcendental meditations	<input type="checkbox"/> Ouija boards	<input type="checkbox"/> Cults of any type
<input type="checkbox"/> Predicting the future	<input type="checkbox"/> Secret order groups	<input type="checkbox"/> Yoga
<input type="checkbox"/> Use of witchcraft or sorcery (including white magic)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fascination with occult movies	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship of any other than the one true God

4. Have any tragedies been repetitive in your family?

<input type="checkbox"/> Plague	<input type="checkbox"/> Fire	<input type="checkbox"/> Poverty	<input type="checkbox"/> Abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Incest
<input type="checkbox"/> Murder	<input type="checkbox"/> Divorce	<input type="checkbox"/> Rape	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial ruin	

5. Are you aware of the existence of any ancestral sins, such as the following ones?

<input type="checkbox"/> Violence	<input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual immorality
<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Drug abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Adultery

6. Were there major sins committed against you in your childhood by a family member or by any other person?

<input type="checkbox"/> Verbal abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Sexual abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical abuse	

Personal:

7. With what areas of obedience to the Word of God do you habitually struggle?

<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer	<input type="checkbox"/> Meditation	<input type="checkbox"/> Fasting
<input type="checkbox"/> Tithing	<input type="checkbox"/> Self-control	<input type="checkbox"/> Faith
<input type="checkbox"/> Submission to authority	<input type="checkbox"/> Growing in Christ-likeness	<input type="checkbox"/> Fellowshiping

____ Supernatural work of the Holy Spirit _____ with believers

8. Have you ever participated in or been a part of any of the following sexual sins?

____ Fornication	____ Adultery	____ Homosexuality
____ Molestation	____ Lust	____ Incest
____ Unhealthy Masturbation	____ Bestiality	____ Sexual fantasizing beyond spouse
____ Pornography	____ Telephone/cyber sex	____ Desire to see others' nakedness beyond spouse (voyeuristic)
____ Exhibitionism (wanting others to see your nakedness)		

9. Do you have any of the following addictive/destructive habits present in your life?

____ Sleeping disorders	____ Forgetfulness	____ Illegal drug use
____ Smoking	____ Envy/jealousy	____ Stealing
____ Chewing Tobacco	____ Suicidal thoughts	____ Excessive foolish talking
____ Alcohol addiction	____ Prescription drug abuse	____ Violence
____ Lying	____ Eating disorders	____ Breaking promises
____ Bad attitudes	____ Gambling	____ Adult movies
____ Addiction to TV	____ Selfishness/greed	____ Disorganization
____ Making light of things	____ Manipulation	____ Frequent tardiness
____ Addiction to video games	____ Being argumentative	____ Obsessive indulgences
____ Seductive behavior	____ Dirty language	

10. Do you habitually experience any of the following emotions, thoughts, feelings, or dispositions?

____ Anxiety/fear	____ Anger	____ Being critical of others
____ Perfectionism	____ Feelings of inferiority	____ Rationalizing
____ Indecisiveness	____ Bitterness	____ Confusion
____ Apathy	____ Loneliness/isolation	____ Pride/superiority
____ Chronic counseling	____ Racism	____ Unusually long periods of depression
____ Hatred of someone (who? _____)	____ Unforgiveness (toward whom? _____)	____ Insecurity
____ Negative attitude	____ Constantly disappointed	

11. Do you experience any of the following spiritual encounters?

____ Nightmares	____ Demonic visitations	____ Premonitions
____ Déjà vu experiences	____ Demonic visions	____ Fearful or unclean thoughts
____ Demonic/driving thoughts in your mind		

12. Do you have any of the following problems preventing you from having a normal physical condition?

____ Chronic illnesses	____ External problems	____ Low energy levels
____ Dyslexia	____ Major disease(s)	____ Sense impairment
____ Internal organ problems	____ Attention deficit disorder	

Relationships:

Give a one or two word answer to describe the following (good, bad, not applicable).

13. Your relationship with your mother:
14. Your relationship with your father:
15. Your relationship with your children:
16. Your relationship with your spouse (if married):
17. Your relationship with any other significant individuals in your life:
18. Your social life:
19. What is the one thing you hoped would not be asked in this interview?

Curses, Vows, and Judgments:

20. Curses are words spoken against you by someone. They are usually a result of rebellion against authority (Genesis 3:14-17, Mark 11:20-21). Have you any knowledge of curses at work in your life, past or present (teachers, bosses, public leaders, or spiritual leaders speaking negative words over your life, such as “You are cursed because of your dad.”)?
21. Vows, oaths, and swearings are promises or pledges made (James 5:12). Have you any knowledge of vows or oaths at work in your life, past or present? This includes words spoken by you. (Example: “If it takes every penny I have, I’ll get you back.” Second example: “I’ll go to hell rather than live with them.”)
22. Judgments are negative conclusions about a person that are projected into his future. Usually these are precipitated by the person’s condition or performance (Matthew 18:18). Do you know of any made against you, past or present? (You are stupid.” “You never do anything right.” “You’ll never amount to anything.” “You’re lazy, ugly, dumb.”)

LEADER: Pray for the group and ask the Lord to begin to speak to them about the information that was listed on the profile. Ask the Lord to begin the healing process over their lives.

Jesus has come to heal the broken and free the captives...

Read: Isaiah 61:1 - *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound.*

Jesus speaks this over your wounds, hurts, and sins.

Now have the group come forward to SHRED THE PROFILE

In session 1 we found:

- The importance of openness and transparency
- The costs of sin
- The importance of genuine repentance

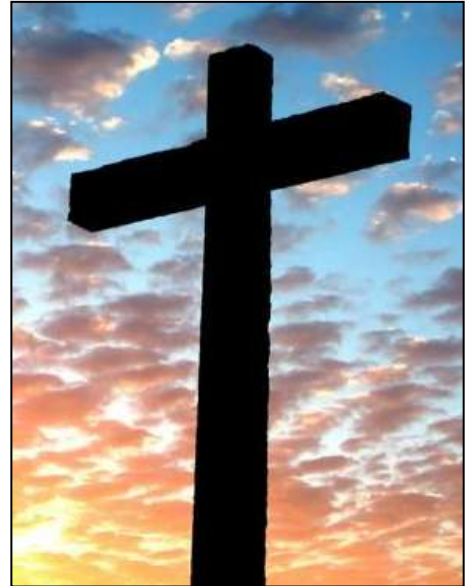
Jesus knows how you feel.

Jesus knows every emotion, physical and mental.

Today what does the ____**CROSS**____ mean to you?

- a. A symbol, a decoration, a piece of jewelry.
- b. A symbol of death and torture.
- c. A symbol of sacrifice and salvation.

The fact is Jesus Christ suffered and died a horrible death on the cross as payment for your sins!



I need to see how much Jesus really loves me in spite of what I have done to Him.

Ephesians. 5:2 (NKJV)

*And walk in love, as ___**CHRIST**___ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*

“He Gave His Life for us”... What does that mean to you?

- He didn't just die but he had to suffer a terrible death for our sins.

This is how much Christ loved you:

John 15:13 (NKJV)

*Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's ___**LIFE**___ for his friends.*

- 1 John 3:16 (NKJV)“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we ___**ALSO**___ ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

The power for healing and forgiveness of your sins is in this cross, the suffering and death of Jesus:
But how do you gain possession of the power of the cross to change your life?

1. I need to take responsibility, that my sins caused Him to have to be crucified. Think about the sins in your life that nailed Jesus to the cross.
2. Once I have made the message of the cross, my personal responsibility, the power of transformation invades every aspect of my life.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- a. The Holy Spirit, living inside of us, convicts and empowers us to resist and overcome sin.
- b. The Holy Spirit uses His voice, His Word, and godly counsel to transform us to be like Jesus.
(Righteous and Holy) Ephesians 4:24
- c. I no longer am a slave to sin, the power of the cross has set me free.

Romans 8:10-11 *And if Christ is in YOU _____, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in YOU _____, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

LEADER: Simplify and paraphrase this paragraph...

Remarks on numerous postmortems, pronounced the opinion that here we had a proof of the death of Christ being due not to the effects of crucifixion but to “laceration or rupture of the heart” as a consequence of supreme mental agony and sorrow. It is well attested that usually the suffering on the cross was very prolonged. It often lasted two or three days, when death would supervene from exhaustion. There were no physical reasons why Christ should not have lived very much longer on the cross than he did. On the other hand, death caused by laceration of the heart in consequence of great mental suffering would be almost instantaneous. In such a case the phrase “died of a broken heart,” becomes literally true.

Jesus did not struggle or fight with the soldiers who crucified him. He willfully lay down, spread out His arms and said I love you this much.

When Jesus said “Father forgive them, for they know not what they do” He was talking about us.

They crucified Jesus with His own tools, the tools of a carpenter. Wood, hammer, and nails.

We crucify Christ everyday with our sins. Nail your sins to the cross for the last time, repent, draw a line in the sand today. There is no turning back.

The Power Of The Cross:

It is essential that each believer grasp the significance of what Jesus accomplished on the cross. Often we take what Jesus did for us for granted, but as the Holy Spirit reveals to us the depth of Jesus' suffering on the cross and the spiritual implications it has on our lives, we will begin to experience the freedom and victory that God desires for our lives.

1) Mark's account of the cross powerfully emphasizes Christ's suffering and death. (Mark 15:1-40)

- a) The cross was Christ's response to man's need of a REDEEMING Savior. Sin required His substitutionary death once and for all. Through acceptance of Jesus' gift to us, we can have a relationship with God.
- b) The cross was a Roman form of execution symbolizing that the one who died in such a fashion was cursed. Death on the cross involved tremendous SUFFERING, both physically and emotionally, before the person ultimately dies.

LEADER: Here you have three options. Read the medical description of the Crucifixion at the back of this session, show an excerpt from, “The Passion Of The Christ”, or show the excerpt from the “Passion Of The Christ with no sound and read the description of the crucifixion. If you have access to a projector or DVD – it is highly recommended that you show the excerpt from the movie. When you show the excerpt from the movie, begin at the place where Jesus is being beaten and also show the crucifixion.

2) Jesus' suffering expressed His love and commitment to and for all mankind, regardless of race, gender, nationality, or socio-economic status (John 3:16; I Timothy 2:4; John 4:9,10).

I Timothy 2:4 - *"who desires all men to be SAVED and to come to the KNOWLEDGE of the truth."*

Consider His suffering. Every lash He took upon His back declared His great love for all people who would live on this planet He created.

Prayer: Take a few moments and ask God to make the cross a greater reality in your life. Ask Him to help you grasp the awesome price that was paid for your salvation.

LEADER: As they are praying, you may want to make these exhortations.

Ask God to reveal to you the price that was paid for your sins. Now think of the sins that tempt and entangle your life now. Radically renounce and turn away from the things that are in disobedience toward God. Repent before God. (Allow yourself to weep and to mourn for these sins)

Now begin to receive the forgiveness He gives to you for every sin that you have ever done. Receive God's forgiveness as a gift. For those who truly repent, He is faithful to forgive.

You cannot earn His forgiveness; it has already been paid for in full (I John 1:9, 2:2; Titus 2:14). This is one of the great privileges of a Believer. God desires to forgive and cleanse our hearts.

After you give this exhortation, be quiet to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to the individuals.

I John 1:9 - *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Leader: Small Group Time:

Make sure person in charge has already divided the people into small groups, no more than 3 to a group. Men with men – women with women. Close friends and relatives should also not be in the same group.

As the group dismisses, ask them if anyone would need individual ministry (or if you sense that they need some one on one ministry) have one of the prayer partners take them aside to minister to them.

(Those prayer partners for individual ministers should already be pre-selected and ready to minister.)

Dismiss small group quietly with an attitude of ministry. You do not want to stop what the Holy Spirit has begun.

Here are some small group helpful hints:

1. Listen to the Holy Spirit.
2. Allow the Holy Spirit to move.
3. Listen to the Holy Spirit as He speaks to you of how to pray for the group.
4. Always minister in LOVE. Show them you care for them. Never be judgmental. Let the Holy Spirit bring conviction, healing and forgiveness.
5. Ask them this question:
 - What did the Holy Spirit speak to you personally about, during the last two sessions.
 - What did the Holy Spirit reveal to you as you filled out the Spiritual Profile?
(They do not have to share with you the details of what they filled out on the profile)
 - What did the Holy Spirit speak to you during the session on the cross.

If the Life Advance is at the church facility, or at a home where the people will go home for the night. **HIGHLY ENCOURAGE** the group to not allow the enemy to win. The enemy would love to keep you from receiving the victory tomorrow. Tomorrow will be some of the most powerful times of ministry. Please set your alarm and do everything in your power to be here on time. Rest assured that the enemy will do everything he can to keep you from coming in the morning – determine now to allow God to have the victory.

Crucifixion! A medical doctor provides a physical description:

The cross is placed on the ground and the exhausted man is quickly thrown backwards with his shoulders against the wood. The legionnaire feels for the depression at the front of the wrist. He drives a heavy, square wrought-iron nail through the wrist deep into the wood. Quickly he moves to the other side and repeats the action, being careful not to pull the arms too tightly, but to allow some flex and movement.

The cross is then lifted into place. The left foot is pressed backward against the right foot, and with both feet extended, toes down, a nail is driven through the arch of each, leaving the knees flexed.

The victim is now crucified. As he slowly sags down with more weight on the nails in the wrists, excruciating fiery pain shoots along the fingers and up the arms to explode in the brain- the nails in the wrists are putting pressure on the median nerves. As he pushes himself upward to avoid this stretching torment, he places the full weight on the nail through his feet.

Again he feels the searing agony of the nail tearing through the nerves between the bones of his feet. As the arms fatigue, cramps sweep through his muscles, knotting them deep relentless, throbbing pain. With these cramps comes the inability to push himself upward to breathe. Air can be drawn into the lungs but not exhaled. He fights to raise himself in order to get even one small breath. Finally, carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream, and the cramps partially subsided.

Spasmodically, he is able to push himself upward to exhale and bring in life-giving oxygen. Hours of limitless pain, cycles of twisting joint wrenching cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, searing pain as tissue is torn from his lacerated back as he moves up and down against rough timber.

Then another agony begins: a deep, crushing pain deep in the chest as the pericardium slowly fills with serum and begins to compress the heart. It is now almost over-the loss of tissue fluids has reached a critical level-the compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy, thick, sluggish blood into the tissues-the tortured lungs are making frantic effort to gasp in small gulps of air. He can feel the chill of death creeping through his tissues...Finally, he can allow his body to die...

All this the Bible records with the simple words, "... and they crucified Him" (Mark 15:24). What wondrous love is this? Many people don't know that pain and suffering our Lord, Jesus Christ went through for us... because of the brutality, crucifixion was given a sentence to only its worst offenders of the law.

Thieves, murderers, and rapists would be the types of people who were crucified. Yet, there was Jesus being crucified between two hardened criminals... What did Jesus do? Did He murder anyone? Did He steal anything? The answer as we all know is NO!! Jesus did nothing to deserve death, yet He went willingly to die, in between 2 thieves, so that we might be saved. And there, in between the sinners, was our Savior for all our sins.

The ability for one to be healed of the pain and guilt of past wounds and hurts is directly related to a person's ability to forgive one's self and others for all past sins that they have committed and all sins committed against them. We want you to allow God to speak to you. For this to happen you are going to have to deal with some of the past wounds and hurts in your life. This may be a very emotional time for some of you. We want you to remember that we are a family and we love and care about you. It is ok to let your emotions come out as you allow God to begin to heal you of the wounds and hurts that have been inflicted on you.

THE FOUR STAGES OF LIFE FOR PAST WOUNDS AND HURTS:

Childhood:

1. The wounds and hurts that we experience from infancy up until right before adolescence may or may not be remembered as an adult.
2. These wounds often play a significant part of how a child develops and how he or she will respond to other wounds or hurts they may experience in the future.
3. Individuals who may have caused us harm at this point in our lives could be parents, siblings, relatives, peers, teachers, and spiritual leaders.
4. Often it is during these early years the seeds of hatred and insecurity are planted in the mind of a child.
5. **Our character and moral values are often determined by the things that we have experienced or have been taught during this crucial period of early development.**

Some children who have been labeled with clinical behavioral disorders are children who are acting out and responding to the pains and hurts in their lives. Society chooses to deal with these problems by using technical names and medications. We believe that by applying biblical principles that even the youngest of children can be healed of the pains and wounds in their lives. We are NOT implying that medical psychology or treatment with medications do not have their benefits, however we believe that God has the ability to heal and restore our past emotional wounds.

Adolescence:

1. This stage of our lives, from preteen to shortly after the high school years are often a difficult and vulnerable time.
2. During this phase we are developing both emotionally and physically.
3. It tends to be a time when we begin to searching for personal significance.
4. It is a period when a person enjoys neither the privileges of childhood nor the freedoms of adulthood.
5. If strong values are not established by this time, peer pressure and social values will dictate our future as an individual.
6. Wounds and hurts have a much greater impact on us at this time of our lives and our responses to them may be as varied as attempting suicide or violent outbursts toward others.
7. No matter how we responded to these wounds and hurts, be it inwardly or outwardly, if not dealt with properly they may still be affecting our lives today.

Wounds experienced during childhood often lead to actions that bring about more hurts during these teen years. During this time, teens often turn to drugs or alcohol as a way to escape the pains and hurts they've experienced and some even turn to sex as a way to fill a void in their lives, not realizing that all of these lead only to more pain and hurt. Drugs and alcohol become an addiction that compounds and complicates their ability to be healed of the wounds and hurts in their lives. Sexual relationships at this time often lead to multiple partners creating soul ties that bring further guilt and unfulfillment.

Early Adulthood:

1. Career and marriage choices are being made at this stage in our lives and we finally have experienced personal freedom as an adult.
2. These things that we thought would make us happy and complete, has made life more complicated than we expected. (College, job, marriage or kids -whether by choice or as the result of poor decisions or personal mistakes)
3. For some, these very same things become a doorway for hurts or wounds in our lives.
4. For others, it compounds upon the wounds and hurts that they have experienced in the past.
5. In either case it may lead to depression, anxiety or a sense of overwhelming discouragement.
6. We realize that something is extremely wrong but because we have been wounded so many times we may have a hard time putting our finger on exactly what is bothering us.
7. For some, the first real signs of bitterness and resentment begin to be manifested outwardly through our actions.

Latter Adulthood:

1. By this stage of our lives the children have become somewhat independent and possibly are grown or out on their own.
2. The job is not as exciting as it used to be or worse yet never became what it should have been.
3. The marriage, whether your first or second, lacks the romance that you so desired.
4. You may be one of those, because of a divorce or an untimely death, who are facing the reality of spending the rest of your life alone.
5. At this stage of life you have experienced victories as well as defeats.

We have coined phrases like "mid-life crisis" or "second childhood". It is quite possible that the reality of the pains and hurts in our lives are so overwhelming to us that in order to cope, we feel the need to make a radical change(s). Many times, these choices are self-centered and we care very little about the effect that they will have on the people around us. We fail to see that these choices continue to add more pain and hurt to our own lives as well as to the lives of others.

6. For some reason you seem unable to focus on anything other than the losses and the failures.
7. Worse still is the fact that it seems that there is not enough time to correct all the wrongs and the reality that there are some things you can no longer go back and change seems to haunt you. The thought that torments them is, "I wasted my life and there is not enough time left to do anything about it."

The only thing worse than having a bad day is being with a person who's had a lifetime of "bad days". You can be assured that tomorrow is going to be a bad day for them too. This individual places his hope for the future based on what has happened in the past. They will tend to do one of two things:

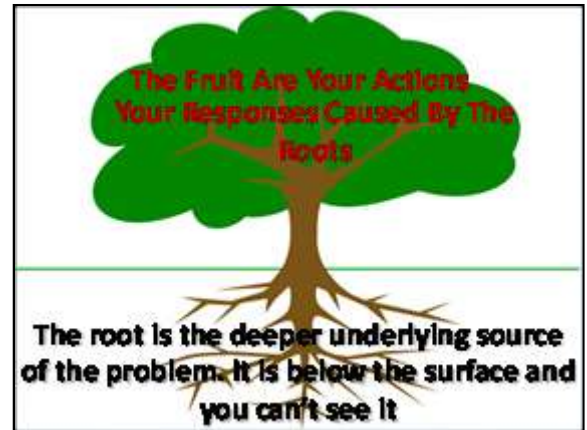
- a. Blame everybody else for their problems or
- b. Blame themselves for all the wrong things that have or will happen to them. (This person is known for their overwhelming negative attitude.)

The truth is, no matter where you may be in these four stages, **THERE IS HOPE FOR YOU!**

EVERY WOUND AND/OR HURT IN OUR LIVES CAN BE BROKEN DOWN INTO TWO PARTS:

The Fruit: This refers to what was produced in your emotions and how you now respond to situations. It is the surface problems, **the fruit caused from the root.** This may range from mild emotional damage to deep emotional and physical damage.

The Root: This refers to the deeper underlying source of the problem. It is often hard for an individual to discern the difference between the **fruit** and the **root** of a hurt or wound in their life.



Here is an Example: A child raised in an extremely dysfunctional home. The Fruit would be that he/she made poor life choices, including relationships. The Root is a root of rejection.

The way we respond to certain situations may be directly related to wounds or hurts that you experienced prior to that situation. If you experienced rejection or abandonment in a previous relationship, you may have a natural tendency to go from one relationship to another. This is true in the church as well. If you hop from church to church, this too may indicate that you're still suffering from a previous wound or hurt.



Satan would have you to focus on the fruit rather than on the root of the hurt or pain in your life. Just like a weed in a garden, unless you get to the root, the weed will continue to come back to the surface to expose its ugly self. So it is with the roots of the wounds and hurts in our lives. You may feel that you have dealt with the pain that a certain wound has caused, yet you continue to experience outward emotional effects from that wound. **Let's get to the root!**

COMMON ROOTS OF PAIN AND HURTS:

Rejection:

1. Rejection results from the denial of love.
2. When one is loved, he is approved and accepted.
3. When one is rejected, he is disapproved and refused.
4. Rejection can come in many forms (i.e. individual rejection, peer rejection, spouses rejection and church related rejection).
5. These examples can lead to self rejection and/or the fear of rejection.

Abuse:

1. Abuse is injury or damage resulting from mistreatment.
2. Abuse generally occurs in three forms: **verbal abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse.**
3. We cannot minimize the effect that these have on our lives.

Tragedy:

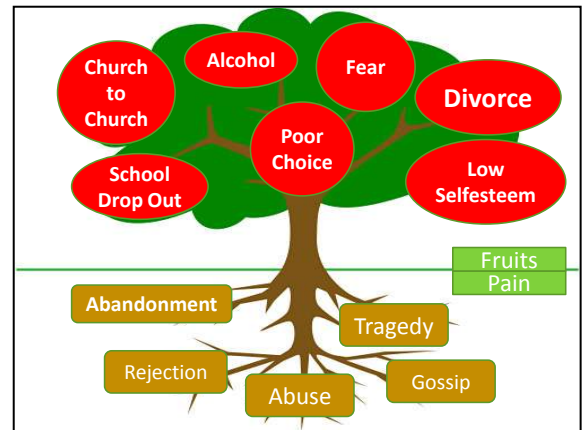
1. Tragedy is an extremely sad or fatal event or course of events.
2. The loss of someone or even the loss of something valuable can have a long lasting impact on our lives.

Jealousy:

1. Jealousy is the overwhelming need to have or obtain more than what is natural or allowed based on what others possess.
2. It most often stems from feelings of inadequacy but can be projected on individuals as well.

Gossip:

1. Gossip is the act of spreading facts or rumors with the intent to hurt another individual or to better one's self at the expense of others.
2. **Forms of gossip are evil reports, slander, lying and character assault.**



LEADER: Ask if there are any questions.

Possible Roots to the Wounds and Hurts in My Life

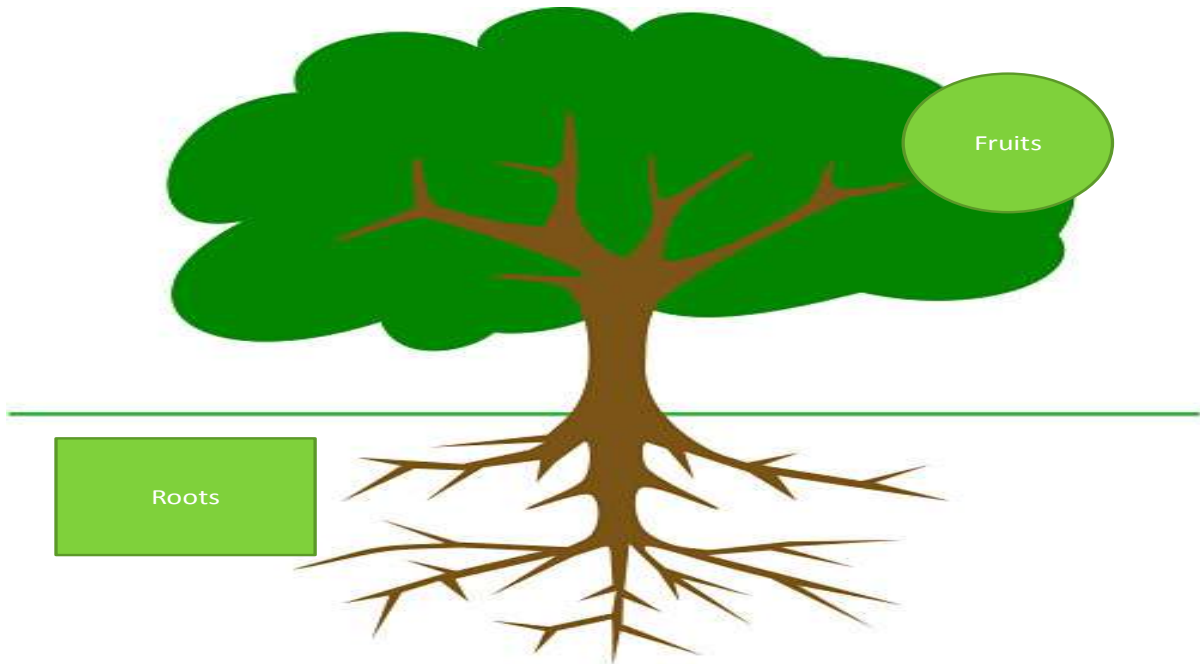
We have created an evaluation form to aide you as you seek to allow God to heal the past wounds and hurts of your life.

Before you begin, we ask that you take a minute and ask the Lord to guard your mind from all lies and deceptions of the Devil and to reveal to you only the true roots of the pains and hurts in your life.

LEADER: Stop now and give them a few minutes to pray. Exhort them that this is the critical time in the Advance and is the time for deepest ministry.

Say: *Allow the Holy Spirit the freedom to minister to you.*

On the next page – there are four stages of life that we talked of earlier. As you look over the list of **Common Roots of Pain and Hurts** and sense that a root listed is a possible root for the pain and/or hurt in your life, please list it in the appropriate stage of life.



Childhood: _____

Adolescence: _____

Early Adulthood: _____

Latter Adulthood: _____

As we can see from the things that we have listed above, there may be many roots in our lives. We want God to pull out those roots so that they no longer affect us. We would like you to pray and ask God to show you which of the roots that you listed has had the deepest affect on your life. Circle the one that has the greatest effect on your life.

LEADER: Please ask them now to spend a few minutes in prayer – alone. Have them ask the Holy Spirit to begin the healing process in their life, allowing healing and freedom to begin.

They will spend time after the next session, (in a small group) discussing and receiving healing.

LEADER: Begin morning with powerful worship. Encourage the Prayer Partners to feel the freedom to operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit if they feel led. Encourage the class to enter into His presence. Feel free to worship the Lord. Feel free to kneel or express your worship before the Lord.

Introduction

The ability for one to be healed of the pain and guilt of past wounds and hurts is directly related to a person's ability to forgive one's self and others for all past sins that they have committed and all sins committed against them. Often, surface emotions such as anger, fear and depression and many other outward expressions, are a result of a person's failure to forgive others that have wounded them. Some individuals suffer the same types of emotional symptoms because they are unable to forgive themselves for sins that they have committed against others. These emotional responses in both cases, be it obvious to an individual or not, are symptoms rather than the root causes of one's problems. Let's take a deeper look at what God has to say about forgiveness and our responses to individuals and circumstances.

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

Let us begin with the basic principle that as Believers we need our lives to resemble that of Christ's (1 John 2:6). This happens as we seek to know Christ through studying **His Word** and being open to what He desires to speak to us through His Spirit. Before we move on we would like you to ask yourself four questions.

1. **Am I teachable?** Yes or No

2 Tim 3:16 exhorts us that all scripture is profitable for instruction, correction and reproof.

2. **Am I willing to be transformed into Christ's image?** Yes or No

1 Peter 2:1-3 exhorts us to rid ourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy and slander of every kind. Like newborn babes, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. (NIV)

3. **Am I willing to be changed by God's written word?** Yes or No

Romans 12:2 exhorts us to not be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

4. **Am I willing to verbally act upon things God shows me?** Yes or No

Romans 10:10 teaches us that it is with the mouth that we confess unto righteousness.

If you answered yes to each of these questions then you are willing to allow God to speak to you about areas of unforgiveness in your life.

Take a minute to write down a prayer and thank God for His Word and ask His Spirit to begin to show you areas of your life that you need to work on as we continue through this topic of forgiveness.

SYMPTOMS OF UNFORGIVENESS

The unforgiving are:

Lonely

Emotionally unstable

Irritable

Resentful

Joyless

Fearful

Defensive

Negative

The unforgiving often have:

Difficulty communicating

A critical spirit

Outburst of anger

Self-centered attitudes

Trouble with intimacy

An inability to risk

A negative attitude

Difficulty feeling close to God

Eight Principles of Forgiveness

Principle 1: Forgiveness requires we take account.

Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.' And when he had begun to settle them (the accounts of the servants) there was brought to him one who owed him ten thousand talents (Matt. 18:22, 24). If we want true freedom from our offender, we must ask God to reveal areas of unforgiveness.

Principle 2: A debt only **JESUS** can repay.

If we look to the offender for healing, restitution or compensation, we will only be more wounded. The one who has caused the pain does not have the means to repay the debt or remove the pain from our lives. **“But as he was not able to pay,”** (Matt. 18:25). The abuser can not repay.

Principle 3: Anger must be **RELEASED**.

Anger is a normal reaction to injustice, but must be released before freedom will come. **But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.**(Matt. 18:25).

Principle 4: Forgiveness is not dependent on the offender.

The integrity and sincerity of the indebted wounder is **NOT** critical for true forgiveness to be administered. **The servant therefore fell down before him, saying ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’** (Matt. 18:26). Forgiveness is a cutting off, a release or sending away of the offense or debt.

Principle 5: Forgiveness **REQUIRES** compassion.

Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. (Matt. 18:27). The peace and compassion we feel enable us to truly release another’s debt.

Principle 6: Forgiveness offers emotional release.

Forgiveness emotionally **RELEASES** the one offering the forgiveness, but may have no impact on the one whose debt is cleared. The king **released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denari; and he laid his hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’**(Matt. 18:27-28).

Principle 7: Forgiveness does not always lead to reconciliation.

There is no evidence the king and servant ever became friends or had lunch together. Reconciliation may or may not come as a result of forgiveness.

Principle 8: Forgiveness is a Process.

Forgiving an offender is not necessarily a one-time act, when an offense from the past stings the memory again, we must choose to continue to walk in forgiveness.

Four Stages of Forgiveness

When the heart has been hurt and when trust has been betrayed, there is a process of restoration we must walk through. Knowing where you are in the forgiveness process can help you as you seek to walk in forgiveness.

#1 Acknowledge the Hurt.

1 Peter 4:12 **Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you.**

#2 Admit Your Feelings.

Titus 3:3 **For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.**

#3 Choose to Heal.

Phil 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

#4 Forgive as Jesus Forgave.

Colossians 3:13 *Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.*

To Forgive Or Not To Forgive? Scripture is very clear that as Christians it is necessary for us to make sure that we maintain an attitude of forgiveness. Many Christians however, fail to focus on this area of their spiritual walk or tend to think that it is not an important part of daily discipline. Christ made this point very clear when He was teaching His disciples to pray (Matthew 6: 9-15). Let's look at some other reasons we may tend to **fail** to forgive.

Reasons We Fail To Forgive Others.

1. We fail to remember exactly how much God has forgiven us and that we are commanded to forgive others based upon the forgiveness we have received.

Colossians 3: 13 *bearing with one another, and FORGIVING one another, if anyone has a complaint against another, even as Christ FORGAVE you, so you also MUST do.*

Have I failed to forgive for this reason? Yes or No

2. We fail to realize that unforgiveness gives way to Satan's schemes.

2 Corinthians 2: 10-11 *Now whom you forgive anything, I also FORGIVE. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for YOUR sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take ADVANTAGE of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

Have I failed to forgive for this reason? Yes or No

3. We fail to understand that by not forgiving we are choosing to remain unproductive and ineffective.

2 Peter 1: 8-9 *For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither BARREN nor UNFRUITFUL in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has FORGOTTEN that he was CLEANSED from his old sins.*

Have I failed to forgive for this reason? Yes or No

4. We forget that as Christians the forgiveness we continue to receive from God is directly related to our ability to forgive others.

Matthew 6: 14-15 *For if you **FORGIVE** men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive **YOU**. But if you **DO NOT** forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father **FORGIVE** your trespasses.*

Have I failed to forgive for this reason? Yes or No

5. We fail to realize the impact that our unforgiveness has on others and on ourselves.

Hebrews 12:15 *looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the **GRACE** of God; lest any root of **BITTERNESS** springing up cause **TROUBLE**, and by this many become **DEFILED**;*

LEADER: Show Power Point of this picture and explain.



(A person adding a piece of luggage for each symptom)

The unforgiving are: lonely, emotionally unstable, irritable, resentful, joyless, fearful, defensive, and negative.

So with this baggage the unforgiving often have: difficulty communicating, a critical spirit, outburst of anger, self-centered attitudes, trouble with intimacy, an inability to risk, a negative attitude, difficulty feeling close to God.

Some of us are carrying this baggage around with us. Some of us think I only have this small little baggage. Some of us put our baggage in the closet thinking no one will see it. Some of us hide it under the bed, but God sees your baggage and He knows that the baggage is just the symptoms of unforgiveness but that the root of your unforgiveness is what's inside.

Unforgiveness impacts ourselves as well as others around us. Through the process of forgiveness you can get rid of this baggage.

Hebrews 12:1 *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every **WEIGHT**, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,*

Have I failed to forgive for this reason? Yes or No

6. We fail to give God opportunity to test our heart.

Psalms 139:23-24 *Search me, O God, and know my **HEART**; try me, and know my anxieties; And **SEE** if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Have I failed to forgive for this reason? Yes or No

7. We think that by forgiving someone we are releasing them from their responsibility for the sin they committed. (We release them from our judgment into God's judgment.)

Romans 12:19 *Beloved, do not AVENGE yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is MINE____, I will repay," says the LORD____.*

Have I failed to forgive for this reason? Yes or No

Of the seven reasons listed, which area do you feel you need to work on the most? _____

Why? _____

Examples Of Forgiveness:

These are designed to allow the Holy Spirit to jog your memory of areas where you choose forgive.

1. My FATHER GOD: *When death has come into my family, hard times, financial difficulties, or what I thought were punishments from God and people said "It's God's will," and I became bitter and resentful toward my loving Father .*

2. MYSELF: *For my sins, faults and failings, for all that is bad in myself or that I think is bad, I forgive myself; and I accept Your forgiveness.*

I further forgive MYSELF for taking Your name in vain, not worshipping You by gathering in Biblical community, for hurting my parents, getting drunk, for sins against purity , bad books, bad movies, fornication, adultery, homosexuality. Also, for abortions, stealing, lying defrauding, hurting peoples' reputation. You have forgiven me today, and I forgive myself.

I also forgive myself for any delvings in superstition, using ouija boards, horoscopes, going to séances, using fortune telling or wearing lucky charms, I reject all that superstition and choose you alone as my Lord and Savoir. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit.

3. My MOTHER: *I truly forgive my MOTHER. I forgive her for all the times she hurt me, she resented me, she was angry with me and for all times she punished me. I forgive her for the times she preferred my brothers and sisters to me. I forgive for the times she told me I was dumb, ugly, stupid, the worst of the children or that I cost the family a lot of money. For the times she told me I was unwanted, an accident, a mistake or not what she expected, I forgive her.*

4. My FATHER: *I forgive him for any non-support, any lack of love, affection or attention. I forgive him for any lack of time, for not giving me his companionship, for his drinking, arguing, fighting with my mother or the other children. For his severe punishments, for desertion, for being away from home, for divorcing my mother or any running around, I do forgive him.*

5. My SISTERS AND BROTHERS: *I forgive those who rejected me, lied about me, hated me, resented me, competed for my parents' love, those who hurt me, who physically harmed me. For who were too severe on me, punished me or made my life unpleasant in any way, I do forgive them.*

6. My SPOUSE: *For lack of love, affection, consideration, support, attention, communication; for faults, failings, weaknesses and those other acts or words that hurt or disturb me.*

7. My CHILDREN: *For their lack of respect, obedience, love, attention, support, warmth, understanding; for their bad habits, falling away from the church, and any bad actions which disturb me.*

8. My IN-LAWS, MY MOTHER-IN-LAW, FATHER-IN-LAW, SON/DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AND OTHER RELATIVE By Marriage: *Those who treat my family with a lack of love. For all their words, thoughts, actions or omissions, which injure and cause pain, I forgive them.*

9. My RELATIVES: My grandmother and grandfather, aunts, uncles, cousins, whom may have interfered in our family, been possessive of my parents, who may have caused confusion or turned one parent against the other.

10. My CO-WORKERS: Those who are disagreeable or make life miserable for me. For those who put their work off on me, gossip about me, won't cooperate with me, try to take my job, I do forgive them.

11. My NEIGHBORS: For all their noise, letting their property run down, not tying up their dogs who run through my yard. Not taking in their trash barrels, being prejudiced and running down the neighborhood, I do forgive them.

12. My CHURCH: From the past for their lack of support, affirmation, bad sermons, pettiness, lack of friendliness, not providing me or my family with the inspiration we needed, for any hurts they have inflicted on me or my family, even in the distant past, I forgive them today.

I forgive all those who are of different PERSUASIONS, those of opposite political views who have attacked me, ridiculed me, discriminated against me, made fun of me, economically hurt me. I forgive those of different religious DENOMINATIONS AND BELIEFS who have harassed me, attacked me, argued with me, forced their views on me or my family. Those who have harmed me ETHNICALLY, have discriminated against me, mocked me, made jokes about my race or nationality, hurt my family physically, emotionally or economically, I do forgive them today.

13. PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE: who have hurt me in any way: doctors, nurses, lawyers, judges, politicians and civil servants. I forgive all service people: policemen, firemen, bus drivers, hospital workers and especially repairmen who have taken advantage of me in their work.

14. My EMPLOYER: For not paying me enough money, for not appreciating my work, for being unkind and unreasonable with me, for being angry or unfriendly, for not promoting me, and for not complimenting me on my work.

15. My SCHOOLTEACHERS AND INSTRUCTORS: From the past as well as the present. For those who punished me, humiliated me, insulted me, treated me unjustly, made fun of me, called me dumb or stupid, made me stay after school, I truly forgive them today.

16. My FRIENDS: Those who have let me down, lost contact with me, do not support me, were not available when I needed help, borrowed money and did not return it, gossiped about me.

17. For the ONE PERSON in my life who has HURT ME THE MOST: I forgive anyone who I consider my greatest enemy, the one who is the hardest to forgive or the one who I said I would never forgive.

The individual who seeks to forgive others, removes the potential for bitterness to root in. Bitterness left to fester will damage and destroy one's life. By forgiving, you are freeing yourself from bitterness.

Once we have forgiven those who have hurt or wounded us we need to pray for them and find ways to bless them. (Do not condone their sin.)

LEADER: Small Group Time

This is *one of the most important* ministry times of the ADVANCE. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as He is ministering to the group.

Don't rush this time.

Have worship music playing softly during this time. Briefly review what we discussed in the previous two sections: (Healing From Past Wounds and Hurts and The Principle Of Forgiveness). Then challenge your small group to begin to let the Lord speak and heal.

Here are some small group helpful hints:

- 1. Listen to the Holy Spirit.**
- 2. Allow the Holy Spirit to move.**
- 3. Listen to the Holy Spirit as He speaks to you of how to pray for the group.**
- 4. Always minister in LOVE. Show them you care for them. Never be judgmental. Let the Holy Spirit bring conviction, healing and forgiveness.**
- 5. Ask them this question:**
 - What did the Holy Spirit speak to you personally about, during the last two sessions.**
 - What did the Holy Spirit reveal to you about your past wounds and hurts?**
 - What did the Holy Spirit speak to you during the Principles of Forgiveness?**
- 6. Make sure you give yourself time to spend in prayer with your small group to have them verbally ask for healing from their past wounds, hurts and them to ask the forgive those who have harmed them.**

A. Overview: Strongholds and Curses

II Corinthians 10:4 *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, (Deuteronomy 5:9b-10; 18:9-14; 28:15-58; 29:25-28; Jeremiah 16:10-13).*

LEADER: READ THIS

The Old Testament scriptures create differences in doctrinal perspectives, but we would all agree that strongholds exist today and that the Believer should seek freedom from these strongholds. We acknowledge that there are many different theological convictions as it relates to strongholds and curses that we could debate over, but we are here to seek the victory that Jesus has won for us.

Introduction: The word stronghold means to fortify. Believers can have stronghold of blessings, or unhealthy strongholds in their lives.

Example: We can live in a stronghold of righteousness or a stronghold of freedom. These are positive strongholds that are healthy for our spiritual well being.

Unhealthy strongholds are the result of our sins or the sins of preceding generations. In our everyday life, unhealthy strongholds - make us unprofitable. The enemy will use specific sins to hinder, if not destroy, a persons' growth in the Lord. He uses these sins to fortify his interest to kill, steal and destroy (John 10:10).

Example: You can see a cycle of abuse from generation to generation. You can see a history of alcoholism or drug addiction, a lack of submission to authority, sexual sins, etc... All these are areas that the enemy has had the freedom, through unrepented sin, to fortify and wreak havoc on peoples' lives.

Curses are negative words spoken over your life. When the recipient of the curse believes and accepts the lie (the negative words spoken over them), it allows the curse to become reality in their daily life.

But the blessing is that the Bible instructs us that as Believers we have spiritual weapons to destroy the works of the enemy.

II Corinthians 10:4 - *For the WEAPONS of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down STRONGHOLDS.*

The Bible gives us divine warning that the sins of the parents can have devastating consequences on the children. When parents willfully rebel against God, they open themselves to strongholds and potentially these same sins could be repeated through future generations.

The good news is that Jesus paid the price for these strongholds to be broken in our lives. Strongholds are broken when we recognize, repent of, renounce, and cast them off in the mighty name of Jesus.

Indications of a Unhealthy Stronghold and or curse

The following pages list some symptoms that may indicate the presence of strongholds and or curses in one's life. These are areas that often times happen as a result of strongholds but they **do not** necessarily prove that those who struggle with these issues do so because of strongholds. We must be very sensitive to the Holy Spirit to reveal these strongholds and not jump to conclusions. We do not want to go overboard and attempt to find, "a demon behind every door knob". *The operative words here are: "Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit on this issue."* As you read through the list, if the Holy Spirit speaks to you about a stronghold (or curse from past generations) in your life, receive His guidance, wisdom, and healing.

Within the following list of strongholds (curses) , some may be evident in your life while others may not apply to you. Just allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you.

Strongholds are areas where the enemy has been able to fortify in one's life. The enemy then bombards the individual with constant temptations in a particular area of sin. The sin is our choice. This is why breaking the strongholds in our lives is so important.

Curses are negative words spoken over your life. When the recipient of the curse believes and accepts the lie (the negative words spoken over them), it allows the curse to become reality in their daily life.

Receiving freedom from our strongholds and curses - destroys the enemies grip and therefore makes it easier to make righteous choices in our lives.

James 4:7 *Therefore submit to God. Resist the Devil and he will flee from you.*

LEADER: Review each stronghold and give a moment to allow the Holy Spirit to speak to the group. Encourage them to check the areas that the Holy Spirit speaks to them about. Then go through the Prayer of Release and Healing.

1. An Inability to Prosper

Remember that prosperity means more than simply monetary gain. It also deals with happiness, friends, fulfillment, etc. Prosperity could deal with one's finances, but it may also deal with one's ability to prosper in fulfillment of God's plans for your life. All or some may apply to your life.

- a. This person studies and works hard but always seems to fail at his goals and struggles with applying healthy principles and skills.
- b. You acquire the proper skills, but success eludes you.
- c. Failure seems almost inevitable.
- d. Depression often settles in like a cloud, due to frustrations.
- e. You often say things such as: "Nothing ever goes right for me."
- f. Money seems to come in and go right back out and you are never able to get ahead.
- g. Credit cards are too great of a temptation for you.
- h. Unhealthy debt is a part of your life.
- i. Financial decisions are typically made on impulse, rather than a well thought out decision.
- j. A family history of never being able to get ahead and always on the verge of bankruptcy.

We must be very careful that we not use the Devil as a “scapegoat” for our own unwillingness to learn and apply Biblical principles. A more balanced approach to this topic on “an inability to prosper” may simply be our own lack of learning and applying biblical principles to our lives. Our own family’s past may show a history of failing to use biblical principles. In this instance, one must break the strongholds that hindered one from receiving and applying sound biblical principles for success. Don’t blame it on the Devil. Accept responsibility and seek God for victory.

Scripture References: Deuteronomy 28:47-48; Deuteronomy 28:17

2. An Inability to "Be Yourself"

- a. A dark, oppressive influence inhibits you from fully expressing yourself.
- b. You never feel completely free to be yourself.
- c. You see yourself in a negative light, and never see your God-given gifts and talents.
- d. You are controlled by what others think and struggle with a low-self-esteem.
- e. You see others in your family who also deal with the same problems.

This stronghold could simply be your inability to see yourself as God sees you.

3. A History of Mental, Emotional Breakdowns, or Severe Chronic Depression

- a. You feel as though you are constantly on the verge of a nervous breakdown.
- b. Anxiety is a part of life for you.
- c. Simple situations and problems overwhelm you.
- d. You have a family history of nervousness and anxiety.

This might be from a stronghold of fear. II Timothy 1:7 ***For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.***

Scripture References: Deuteronomy 28:20; Deuteronomy 28:28; Deuteronomy 28:34

4. A History of Occult Activity, Demonic or Oppressive Spirits

- a. Superstitions
- b. Involved in the occult, (e.g., witchcraft, astrology, spiritualism or divination)
- c. Opening one’s self to powers of the spiritual realm, such as pre-cognition or other psychic abilities
- d. Severe trauma, with evidence of effects passed on through the family (e.g., drowning,

- resulting in fear of water in other members, especially descendants)
- e. Made a blood covenant with Satan or involved in satanic worship
- f. Involved with a witch or other persons involved in the occult

5. Historical Family Connections

- a. Involvement with events of great sin, evil or trauma, (e.g., massacres, plagues, slavery, conquests, etc)
- b. Ethnic origin issues; negative traits, cultural evils, oppression, curses. (Ex: a culture that is entrenched in witchcraft)

6. Religious History

- a. All non-Judeo/Christian religions in the family or ancestral history, (Islam, Buddhism, etc...)

7. An Inability to Control Your Anger.

- a. A family history of abuse or uncontrolled anger
- b. An obsessive, uncontrollable rage and anger in your life
- c. Outbursts of anger that come out of nowhere.

8. A Tendency to Yield to Sinful Sexual Behaviors.

- a. This is more than just yielding to temptations that are common to man.
- b. You are dwelling upon sinful and harmful sexual misconduct.
- c. You have an inability to resist pornography. (This is an addiction. It is more than just occasionally yielding to the flesh.)
- d. You have a family history of sexual sins.
- e. Adultery is a repeated behavior in your families history
- f. You have a constant "battle in the mind" and an obsession to unnatural sexual sins such as homosexuality, molestation, adultery, pedophilia, bestiality, cross-dressing, etc...

These are definitely areas of demonic oppression that must be broken.

9. A History of Repeated Chronic Sickness (especially if hereditary)

Not every form of sickness or disease is the direct result of a curse or sin. Many things can cause sickness and disease. Simply listen to the Holy Spirit, if you sense Him speak that your Chronic sickness is from a stronghold or curse – then mark it down.

- a. A family history of chronic sickness
- b. A constant battle with different forms of chronic illnesses.

Scripture References: Deuteronomy 28:21; Deuteronomy 28:22; Deuteronomy 28:27
Deuteronomy 28:59; Deuteronomy 28:61

10. A Breakdown of Marriages, and Family Alienation

Countless parents in the present generation have experienced this stronghold.

- a. You have a family history of divorce.
- b. You continually involve yourself in relationships that are unhealthy and harmful.

- c. Your family history is one of strife within the extended family
- d. You see the destruction that divorce causes, but feel powerless to deal with the situation.
- e. You often see the quick way out of a situation, rather than confronting it and dealing with the issues.

11. A Constant Bombardment of Suicidal Thoughts

- a. You have a family history of suicides or attempted suicides
- b. You sometimes sense life is just too difficult.
- c. You feel that others would be better off, if you weren't around.

12. Destructive or Abnormal Patterns or Relationships

- a. You can see a history of addictions in your family.
- b. You can see a family history of Abuse (emotional, mental or physical)
- c. You see a history of hostility and or controlling habits in your family.
- d. You have constant thoughts of revenge, bitterness, anger or depression

All of the strongholds (and curses) listed can be broken by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:11a *And they OVERCAME him by the blood of the LAMB and by the word of their testimony,*

Causes of Strongholds

The following is a list of the causes of the main strongholds (or curses) that commonly afflict our lives. These are in no way a complete list of the causes.

1. False gods (Exodus 20:1-5)
2. Various moral and ethical sins (Deuteronomy 27:15-26)
3. Anti-Semitism (Numbers 24:9)
4. Legalism, carnality, apostasy (Jeremiah 17:5)
5. Theft, perjury, robbing God (Zechariah 5:1-4)
6. Authority figures (Deuteronomy 5:16)
7. Self-imposed curses or strongholds due to sin... (Matthew 12:36-37)
8. Servants of satan
9. Soulless prayers (Proverbs 28:9)

LEADER: Small Group Time

- 1. During the Small Group Time – make sure you fulfill the Divine Exchange.**
- 2. Go over each part of how to break stronghold and curses.**
- 3. Give them a few minutes to right down areas the Holy Spirit is speaking to them about.**
- 4. Pray out loud together and break the strongholds and curses.**
- 5. Listen to the Holy Spirit as He speaks to you of how to pray for the group.**
- 6. Allow the Holy Spirit to move.**
- 7. Always minister in LOVE. Show them you care for them. Never be judgmental. Let the Holy Spirit bring conviction, healing and forgiveness.**

The Divine Exchange:

- a. **Jesus** was punished that I might be forgiven.
- b. **Jesus** was wounded that I might be healed.
- c. **Jesus** was made sin with my sinfulness that I might become righteous with His righteousness.
- d. **Jesus** died my death that I might share His life.
- e. **Jesus** became poor, that I might become rich with His riches.
- f. **Jesus** bore my shame that I might share His glory.
- g. **Jesus** endured my rejection that I might have His acceptance as a child of God.
- h. **Jesus** became a curse that I might receive a blessing.

Galatians 3:13 *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.'*

How to Break Strongholds & Curses

- a. Confess your faith in Christ and what He has already done on the cross to break the curse in your life.
- b. Repent of all rebellion and sin. (James 4:7)
- c. Claim forgiveness for all sins
- d. Forgive anyone who has harmed you or wronged you.
- e. Renounce all contact with anything pertaining to the occult or the satanic. Pray a prayer of release from the strongholds in your life. In the prayer, name the strongholds in your life that the Holy Spirit has spoken to you about.

Prayer of Release and Healing: *Father God, I believe that the curse was broken when Jesus died on the cross. I give up all my rebellion, my harboring rejection, bitterness and unforgiveness. I give up my sins and submit myself to You.*

I confess all my sins before you and ask for your forgiveness. I forgive all who have harmed me. I believe that on the cross, Jesus paid the price for me to have a life of victory and freedom.

I receive Your gift to break the strongholds in my life. I receive your gift to break the curses that have wreaked havoc on my families lives. Through Jesus, I now cast down every stronghold built up in my life by the enemy. Strongholds that I have willfully allowed to settle in my life personally.

In particular, I cast down the stronghold(s) or curses of:

In the mighty name of Jesus, I cast these strongholds (curses) down and renounce the power of the enemy in my life. By faith I now receive the release, and I thank you and love you.

In Jesus name, Amen!

LEADER:

Ask them this question: What did the Holy Spirit reveal to you about strongholds and curses?

Once the group has prayed for release and healing of strongholds and curses, move into a time of partaking in the Lord's Supper (Communion)

Communion is a powerful time of remembering the awesome price that was paid for our physical, emotional and spiritual healing.

Read: *I Corinthians 11:23-26*

Use this time to worship the Lord and to praise Him for delivering you from wounds of the past, and for strongholds in your life.

LEADER: For the sake of time, please **DO NOT** read through this during the workshop. Do challenge the students to read over this information on their own time.

The information is very helpful as the students continue to see victory over strongholds in their lives. It is also so invaluable to know what the Word says about occultic practices that are so prevalent in our society today.

About the Occult

One of Satan's favorite weapons against us is occult involvement. The occult (meaning "secret" or "hidden") is Satan's world of the spirit. Occult involvement means that we seek to gain knowledge or power from a spiritual source other than God. The special danger of occult involvement is that it appeals to our spiritual hunger, which is our innate desire to find the Lord, and diverts us from Him into the occult underworld – a dead end.

God's Word on the occult

The Old Testament strictly forbids occult participation in a number of passages. Deuteronomy 18:10-12 reads: *Let no one be found among you who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist (some translations say "wizard") or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord.*

Webster's definitions read:

Divination – an act of foretelling the future, assuming the help of unseen powers.

Enchant – to use magic words or charms to place (another) under a spell.

Medium – one supposedly having access to supernatural agencies and knowledge or power derived from them.

Necromancer – one who claims to reveal the future by communication with the dead.

Witch – one thought to have supernatural powers through a contract with Satan.

Wizard – a sorcerer, one possessed of magic influence.

We read in Isaiah 47:11-15: *"But evil shall come on you; you shall not know its origin. And mischief shall fall on you; you shall not be able to put it off. And desolation shall come on you suddenly, you shall not know. Stand now with your spells, and with the multitude of your sorceries, in which you have wearied yourself since your youth. Perhaps you will be able to profit; perhaps you may bring terror. You are exhausted by your many plans; now let the astrologers stand up and save you, the stargazers, making known what is coming on you into the new moons. Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them; they shall not deliver themselves from the power of the flame; there shall not be a coal to warm them; nor fire, to sit before it. So they are to you with whom you labored, your merchants from your youth. Each one wanders to his own way; none shall save you".*

By the time of the New Testament, the Hebrews had pretty well banished occult things from their home country, so Jesus did not have to deal with it specifically (except when Satan tempted Him to turn stones into bread). However, as soon as Christians began to move into heathen lands, they began to be exposed to occult practices. Acts 19:18-20 states ***And many who believed came and confessed and showed their deeds. Also many of those practicing the curious arts, bringing together the books, burned them before all. And they counted the prices of them and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the Word of God grew mightily and prevailed.*** In Acts 8:20, when Simon The Magician tried to buy the Holy Spirit to add to his bag of tricks, Peter answered ***May your money perish with you...***

In II Thessalonians 2:9-11, Paul warns about the last days: ***whose coming is according to the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceit of unrighteousness in those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, so that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie,***

Occult Involvement

We need to remember that **all occult involvement brings spiritual confusion**. This confusion begins when we recognize that there are other spiritual forces besides God, and when we use them, attempt to consult them, or are preoccupied with staying “on their good side.” When we open ourselves up to occult involvement, we violate the first commandment, ***You shall have no other God but ME*** (Exodus 20:30 and Jesus’ commandment, ***You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength*** (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Matthew 22:37, mark 12:30, Luke 10:27).

Remember, too, that the wrong things we do in innocence and ignorance hurt as much as the things we do deliberately. It only takes one time. Satan has set occult traps throughout our world into which he hopes we will fall. God’s way of healing us through confession, renouncement and forgiveness works not only for our sins but also for our errors and our ignorance, as well. **We must confess and receive forgiveness for our occult involvement, whether it was done in sin, error or ignorance.**

The Occult Check List

The following list is trying to give a solid framework for occult renouncement, and it is based on information on the teachings of Christians who are considered experts in this area.

Circle each one in which you have participated, so you can confess it:

Have you, other family members or ancestors ever – just for fun, out of curiosity or in earnest – done any of the following?

Soothsayers/fortune Tellers (Deuteronomy 18:9-16; Daniel 2:26-28; Isaiah 2:6, 47:10-15; Micah 5:12; Acts 16:16)

1. Have you ever had your fortune told by tea leaves, palm reading, crystal ball, fortuneteller, etc?
2. Have you ever read or followed horoscope, or had a chart made for yourself to predict your future? Have you ever read other type(s) of birth signs?
3. Have you ever been hypnotized, practiced self-hypnosis, yoga or transcendental meditation? (In biblical days, hypnotism was spoken of as “casting a spell,” and a hypnotist was called a “charmer”) Have you ever been involved in charming or enchanting (attempts to use spirit power)?

Necromancy, Spiritualism (1 Samuel 28:7-11; II King 21:6; Isaiah 8:19-22; Leviticus 19:31 and 20:6)

4. Have you ever attended a séance or spiritualist meeting?
5. Do you believe in reincarnation? Have you ever had a reincarnation reading?
6. Have you ever played with Ouija board, crystal ball, Dungeons & Dragons or other occult games?
7. Have you ever had a Tarot card reading or practiced cartomancy (using playing cards for fortune telling or other magical purposes)?
8. Have you ever played games of an occult nature, using ESP, telepathy, hypnotism, etc.?
9. Have you ever consulted a medium, spiritualist or numerologist? Have you ever acted as a medium? Have you ever practiced channeling?
10. Have you ever seen and/or communicated with apparitions that are not of God?
11. Have you ever sought healing through magic spells or charms, or through a Christian Scientist or spiritualist? Have you ever sought psychic healing or had psychic surgery?
12. Have you ever been involved in acupuncture? (This practice is an example of one that is not always occultic, but it can be of the occult and should be renounced in case any occult or demonic influence was present.) You must make sure if you are considering acupuncture that the one conducting the treatment is not tied to a religious root, rather it is purely medical.
13. Have you ever practiced table lifting, levitation of objects, pendulum swinging, lifting of bodies, automatic writing, astral travel or soul-travel?
14. Have you ever used a charm or amulet for any kind of protection or “good luck”, be it a rabbits foot, four leaf clover, A image of a Saint, or even a cross? Our protection doesn’t come from an object of any kind, but from Jesus alone. Are you superstitious?
15. Have you ever participated in chain letters or emails? (Ones that say you will be blessed or even cursed if you forward or do not forward the letter.) This practice is seeking a blessing or avoiding a curse, based upon your actions outside of God will. This is superstition. Blessings only come from God.
16. Have you ever practiced water witching or dowsing to find out information such as where to dig a well?
17. To your knowledge, have you ever practiced any other kinds of black arts?

Occult Books, “Contact” Objects and Other Media (Exodus 19:25-20:6; Deuteronomy 5:8-10,7:4-6 and 25-26; I Kings 14:7-11; II Kings 23:1-25; Psalm 97:7; Isaiah 42:17; Acts 19:19-20; II Corinthians 10:3-5)

18. Have you read or possessed books on astrology, interpretation of dreams, augury or interpretation of omens, cults or other religious groups which deviate from Christian doctrine such as Christian Science, Unity, Scientology or Science of Mind?
19. Have you read or possessed books on witchcraft, fortune telling, magic, ESP, psychic phenomena or possession?
20. Do you have anything in your home that was given to you by someone in the occult? Do you have anything in your home of an occult nature?
21. Have you followed the writings of Edgar Cayce, Jean Dixon, Shirley Maclaine, L.”Ron” Hubbard (Church of Scientology) or any other New Age author?
22. Do you find yourself interested in demonic types of movies such as The Exorcist, Rosemary’s Baby or The Omen? Are you drawn to horror shows or scary movies such as Friday the 13th? Are you fascinated with evil or the occult?
23. Have you accepted the humanist theory that man is self-sufficient and does not need God?
24. Have you ever listened to hard or Acid Rock music with a satanic influence or music with a New Age influence?

25. Have you ever worshipped in a shrine or temple of a non-Judeo/Christian religion? Do you possess any books, articles or statues from any of these religions?

Sorcery Or Magic (II Kings 17:17, 21:6; Isaiah 47:9; Malachi 3:5; Acts 8:11, 13:4-12, Revelation 18:23, 21:8)

26. Have you ever practiced sorcery or magic?
27. Have you ever practiced mind control over any person or animal cast a magic spell or sought a psychic experience? Have you ever contacted a psychic in person or through a psychic hotline?

Devil Worship (II Chronicles 11:15; psalm 106:37; I Corinthians 10:20-22; Revelation 9:20-21, 13:4)

28. Have you ever made a pact with satan or been involved in or witnessed satan worship or black magic?
29. Have you ever worn, owned or had in your home the symbol of the Egyptian ankh (a cross with a ring top that is used in satanic rites?)
30. Have you ever celebrated a black mass? Have you ever witnessed a black mass?
31. Have you ever made a blood covenant or pact?

Witchcraft (Galatians 5:19-20; I Samuel 15:23, 28:7; II Kings 9:22,23,24; I Chronicles 10:13; Isaiah 8:19, 19:3, 29:4; Micah 5:12)

32. Have you ever attended witchcraft or **voodoo** activities?
33. Have you ever been involved in **Freemasonry**, Eastern Star, De Molay or Rainbow Girls?
34. Have you ever wished someone else were dead? Wished you were dead?
35. Have you ever planned or attempted to take someone else's life?

Yoga

36. Have you ever participated in yoga, even for exercise?

Why Yoga Is Contrary To The Word Of God:

According to Webster's New World Dictionary, yoga is "a mystic Hindu discipline for achieving union with the supreme spirit through meditation, prescribed postures, controlled breathing, etc."

The word "yoga" means "union with god," and the goal is to unite one's transitory (temporary) self with the infinite Brahman, the Hindu concept of "God." This god is not a literal being, but is an impersonal spiritual substance that is one with nature and the cosmos. This view is called "pantheism," the belief that everything is God and that reality consists only of the universe and nature. Because everything is God, the yoga philosophy makes no distinction between man and God.

For many Christians in the West who don't understand the history behind it, yoga is simply a means of physical exercise and strengthening and improving flexibility of the muscles. However, the philosophy behind yoga is much more than physically improving oneself. It is an ancient practice derived from India, believed to be the path to spiritual growth and enlightenment.

Over the last several decades yoga has been embraced by the mainstream of society – and even the church. We find yoga classes offered at YWCAs, church fellowship halls, and even elementary schools.

The question becomes, is it possible for a Christian to isolate the physical aspects of yoga as simply a method of exercise, without incorporating the spirituality or philosophy behind it? Yoga originated with a blatantly anti-Christian philosophy, and that philosophy has not changed. It teaches one to focus on oneself instead of on the one true God. It encourages its participants to seek the answers to life's difficult questions within their own conscience instead of in the Word of God. It also leaves one open to deception from God's enemy, who searches for victims that he can turn away from God (1 Peter 5:8).

1 Peter 5:8 - ***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.***

Yoga is a dangerous practice for the Christian and leads seekers *away* from God rather than to Him. You may say, "Well, I'm not doing any of the meditation stuff. I'm just following the exercises." Spoken from a woman who taught yoga for years: *It is impossible, however, to separate the subtleties of yoga the technique from yoga the religion. I know because I taught and practiced hatha yoga for years. Hatha yoga is the most popular yoga style available on store-bought videos and in most gyms.*

Hatha yoga is the aspect of yoga which focuses on the physical body through special postures, breathing exercises, and concentration or meditation. It is a means to prepare the body for the spiritual exercises, with fewer obstacles, in order to achieve enlightenment. The practice of yoga is based on the belief that man and God are one. It is little more than self-worship disguised as a high level of spirituality.

The postures in yoga are offerings of worship to 330 million Hindu gods. Yoga postures really are an offering of worship to other gods. The Bible tells us in Psalm 81:9, that we should not worship any other god, but the one true God.

As Christians, you are instructed to "be transformed by the **renewing** of your mind" (Romans 12:2), not the *emptying* of your mind. The Word teaches us that transformation occurs as we meditate and feed on the Word of God – renewing our minds by filling them with *God's* thoughts, not emptying them or filling them with the prideful thoughts of man.

It seems the enemy has a counterfeit for almost everything the Lord offers. While mind-numbing tranquility may feel good for a time, it's a poor substitute for the "peace which surpasses all understanding" (*Philippians 4:7*) and "the joy of the Lord (*which*) is your strength" (*Nehemiah 8:10*).

Whatever we do should be done for God's glory (1 Corinthians 10:31), and we would be wise to heed the words of the apostle Paul: "Fix your thoughts on what is true and honorable and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise" (Philippians 4:8, NLT).

Remember, too, that the wrong things we do in innocence and ignorance hurts as much as the things we do deliberately. It only takes one time. Satan has set occult traps throughout our world into which he hopes we will fall. God's way of healing us through confession, renouncement and forgiveness works not only for our sins but also for our errors and our ignorance, as well.

**We must confess and receive forgiveness for our occult involvement,
whether it was done in sin, error or ignorance.**

Take this time right now to confess and receive from the Lord.

What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of Jesus' words concerning the "*promise of the Father*" (Luke 24:49). It is a baptism with **POWER!** Jesus is the one who Baptizes in the Holy Spirit, and through this experience, the kingdom of God is manifested in our lives.



After receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, we have the power to witness, to resist sin, the devil, and to be all that God intended for us to be in His kingdom. The phrase *Baptism in the Holy Spirit* means to be immersed in a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

When someone is Born Again (receives salvation), God, the Holy Spirit, comes to live inside of him. (John 3:6-7, Romans 8:9-11). When Jesus Baptizes someone in the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11), he is immersed in or ***filled with the power of the Spirit*** (Acts 1:8).

The Bible shows that it is very important for **ALL** Believers to be ***Baptized in the Holy Spirit*** and to speak in tongues (Acts 19:2-6).

What is speaking in tongues?

In Acts 2:1-4, the followers of Christ were baptized with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, fulfilling Jesus' command to wait in Jerusalem for this experience (Acts 1:4).

When they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in tongues. These tongues were not a language that they had learned, but a Spirit-inspired language that came directly from God Himself.

This is a special communication and a perfect prayer to God (Romans 8:26). This is our spirit speaking to the Holy Spirit (**I Corinthians 14:2**). Your Personal Prayer Language should be a regular portion of your prayer time (**I Corinthians 14:14-15**). Everyone who has received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit has the ability to pray in their Prayer Language in Tongues. Every Believer should seek the *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*.

How do you speak in tongues?

Many have raised questions about how someone speaks in tongues. First, you must understand that it is the Spirit of God that "***gives the utterance***." In other words, the Holy Spirit gives you the words to say. You must speak them, but He is faithful to give them.

Just as your mind tells you what to say when you want to speak, the Holy Spirit will give you the words to say when you speak in tongues. However, you must be the one to speak the words. When you speak, your voice box, tongue, lungs, and mouth all work together to form words.

When this happens, the very words that you want to speak come out. The same thing happens when you speak in tongues. Without you having to think about it, the Holy Spirit will direct all your speaking faculties to speak the words of the Spirit. You will speak, but it is He who will tell you what to say.

In John 7:38-39, Jesus tells the disciples, ***“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.”*** The Greek word for heart (belly in the King James Version) is defined as the “innermost part of a man; the soul; the heart as the seat of thought, feeling, and choice.”

Imagine what Jesus meant when He said that “out of your heart (belly),” rivers of living water would flow. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a biblical experience that fulfills the desire of Jesus for believers to receive the power of God in their lives.

Here are some things to remember concerning the Baptism in the Holy Spirit:

If you are saved (born again), the Holy Spirit lives inside of you.
(I Corinthians 3:16, Romans 8:9).

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift from God that comes **AFTER** salvation.

There are no examples in the Bible of individuals who did not receive the *Baptism in the Holy Spirit* who sincerely and honestly desired to receive it (**Acts 2:39**). For this promise is for **ALL** Believers.



Acts 2:39 *For the PROMISE is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*



All Believers are entitled to and should seek the promise of the Father, the “Baptism in the Holy Spirit” and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of ALL in the early Christian Church (Luke 11:11-13; Joel 2:28-29).

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US THE POWER TO SERVE AND WITNESS (Acts 1:8).

AN OVERFLOWING FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8).

AN INTENSIFIED CONSECRATION TO GOD AND DEDICATION TO HIS WORK (Acts 2:42).

IT GIVES YOU A MORE ACTIVE LOVE FOR CHRIST, FOR HIS WORD AND FOR THE LOST (Mark 16:20).

IT EDIFIES, CHARGES UP OUR FAITH, STRENGTHENS OUR WALK WITH BOLDNESS AND POWER AND BUILDS OUR FAITH (1 Corinthians 14:4; Jude 20).

IT CREATES A DEEPER AWARENESS AND OPERATION OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT (1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Hebrews 2:3-4).

THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO PRAY (Our prayer language in tongues) (Romans 8:26).

USED FOR PRAYING AND SINGING (I Corinthians 14:14-15).

A SPECIAL AND PERFECT COMMUNICATION (PRAYER) WITH GOD (Romans 8:26).

Our prayers often have issues of the flesh – soulish and selfish desires, but when we **pray in tongues**, it is our spirit speaking directly with the Holy Spirit, a perfect prayer. **The perfect will and desires of God.** The Holy Spirit is directing our prayer and therefore we are praying the very will and purposes of God.

A person may be saved and baptized in water, but not yet be Baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-16).

Speaking in tongues and praising God are signs, or evidences, of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44-46).

Some Believers may receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit before they are baptized in water (Acts 10:46-48).

The word *baptize* means “to put under,” “to cover,” or “immersed”. When a person is Baptized in the Holy Spirit, he is totally immersed, or enveloped, in the Spirit of God.

IN CONCLUSION – Let me review:

The Baptism In The Holy Spirit gives us the power to serve and witness.

All Believers are entitled to and should seek the promise of the Father, the “Baptism in the Holy Spirit” and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of ALL in the early Christian Church.

BREAK INTO SMALL GROUPS OF 4-5 STUDENTS AND 1 OR 2 PRAYER MINISTERS

FACILITATOR: BREAK INTO SMALL GROUPS OF 4-5 STUDENTS AND 1 OR 2 PRAYER MINISTERS

- **The Facilitator of the Life Advance and those who flow very well in leading someone in the *Baptism In The Holy Spirit* should move from small group to small group bringing oversight and guidance to the groups. (This should only be one or two people)**
- **The Facilitator should already have assigned certain prayer ministers to be a part of each group. Each group should have at least one prayer minister that is comfortable and confident to lead someone in the *Baptism In The Holy Spirit*.**

PRAYER MINISTERS:

- **The Prayer Minister should follow the outline below carefully: Please review these notes before the small group begins. Please be sensitive to the individual and to the Holy Spirit as you lead this small group time. (The students have this information in as well.)**
- **The other Prayer Minister in the group should assist but only one Prayer Minister should actually lead the group.**
- **The small group allows the students who already have received the *Baptism In The Holy Spirit* to use this as a equipping time of teaching them how to lead someone in the Baptism. They should be there to learn and to pray for those receiving.**

PRAYER MINISTER: SHARE THIS WITH THE SMALL GROUP

Anyone who sincerely asks for the Baptism In The Holy Spirit, receives the gift and has the availability to pray in their prayer language. If you do not vocalize your prayer language this does not mean that you did not receive it.

If you sincerely ask for the *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*, then you will receive it and receive the ability to speak in tongues, whether you verbalize it or not.

NOW: REVIEW THE NOTES BELOW WITH THE STUDENTS

Here are steps to help you receive the Baptism In The Holy Spirit:

A. REMOVE ALL BARRIERS:

- Why do I desire to receive the *Baptism In The Holy Spirit*? Evaluate your motives. Is there desire to receive the gift birthed in pride?
- Deal with any sin issues, unforgiveness, doctrinal hang-ups, pride, or any unclean thing that may block you from receiving.
- **Here are some causes why people do not release their prayer language:**
 - a. Pride: Fear of sounding foolish.
 - b. Accepting the lie of the enemy that you are not worthy to receive.
 - c. Sin issues.
 - d. A fear the tongue would come from “self” (the flesh) and not from the Holy Spirit.
 - e. A sense that the Holy Spirit would overtake you and control your actions, voice and tongue. (He gives the utterance – you speak it forth)

f. Expecting your experience to be like someone else's.

(All of these are different ways and reactions of how different people received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Laying on of hands or no laying on of hands; in a group, or alone; warm fuzzies or very little emotions, ecstatic emotions or very calm)

These may be some of the reasons why your verbalization of your prayer language is hindered. However know that you receive the *Baptism in the Holy Spirit* when you sincerely ask for it, you have the ability to pray in your prayer language in tongues. It is very important that you continue to seek to release your tongue, because we are edified and empowered by the Holy Spirit – when we pray in tongues.

B. REQUEST: Jesus said all we have to do is ask and we would receive.

Luke 11:13 - *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!*

- The Prayer Minister will place their hand lightly on your shoulder and pray for you.
- Confess any sin, and renounce anything from your past that would hinder you from receiving the Holy Spirit?
- Tell the Lord that you want to be *Baptized in the Holy Spirit* with the evidence of speaking in tongues.
- Here is a prayer to pray with them: (Student will repeat this after the prayer minister)

Father, remove all barriers of sin and anything that hinders me from receiving all that You have for me. I ask now that for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in my personal prayer language. Fill me with your power so that I can be a better witness for you. I now step out in faith believing that I have received Your wonderful gift in Jesus name.

PRAYER MINISTER: Please follow these instruction thoroughly:

1. Do not ask for them to speak certain words that mimic (or fake) the sounds of a prayer language.
2. Never push or force something to happen, just let the Holy Spirit minister to them.
3. Simply rely on the Holy Spirit.
4. After they ask for the gift of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit – simply encourage them to speak forth the words or sounds that come from their spirit. (The Holy Spirit gives the utterance, but it is the individual that must speak it forth)
5. As you pray for them, pray against any fears or lies of the enemy.
6. They may only speak a few syllables, rejoice in this and let them know as they continue to exercise their new gift, the Holy Spirit will expand their heavenly vocabulary.
7. During the process and after they receive the Baptism, rejoice with them.
8. Be sure they do not feel forced, but loved through the entire process.

C. RECIEVE:

- The moment you ask for the *Baptism In The Holy Spirit* you received it.
- Reach out by faith and take hold of this gift that God freely gives to all those who believe in Him.
- Don't analyze this with your mind, but allow your spirit to receive this gift.
- Receive by faith. You must understand that it is the Spirit of God that "gives the utterance". The Holy Spirit gives us the words. We must speak them, but He is faithful to give them. Jesus won't grab your tongue and force you to speak. We do the speaking.

D.WORSHIP HIM: We are always encouraged to seek the giver, not just the gifts.

- As you're seeking and worshipping God, you will sense a new language. New words that you've never spoken before will begin to rise in your spirit.

F. RELEASE:

- This is where our faith comes in. At this point, exercise your faith and begin to speak in your new tongue. By faith, stop praying in English and start praying in tongues.
- It is kind of like a baby learning to talk. As first it just might be a few syllables. Just speak the words that the Holy Spirit prompts. What it sounds like is up to Him.
- The Prayer Minister will have their hand lightly on your shoulder and begin to pray softly in their own prayer language. Don't be afraid, nor care about what your prayer language might sound like – just begin to speak it out.
- You may at first have only a few words, but go ahead and speak those in faith, and others will follow. As they yield your tongue to the Spirit, you will begin to feel a wonderful release of worship. Peace and joy, two fruits of the Spirit, will flood over you with a new sense of the presence of God. You will never be the same!
- When we speak, our voice box, tongue, lungs, and mouth all work together to form words. When this happens, the very words you want to speak come out. When we speak in tongues, the Holy Spirit directs all of our speaking faculties to speak the "words of the Spirit". It is us who speaks, but He will tell us what to say. **The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a biblical experience that fulfills the desire that Jesus had for every believer to receive the power of God in his or her life.**

SUMMARY -- We should **ask, seek, and knock to receive** the **Holy Spirit** who will come and teach us to pray. (Luke 11:19, 13, Romans 8:26)

- Pray in your prayer language as often as possible. In the car, taking a walk, or any other time which is available for prayer.
- All Believers who earnestly ask for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit receive and has the ability to pray in their own prayer language in tongues, whether they choose to use it or not. Sometimes fear keeps people from praying in tongues, even though they received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and have the ability to pray in tongues.

PRAYER MINISTER:

1. Once you have reviewed the notes, asked them if they have any questions?
2. Then ask, who has received the *Baptism In The Holy Spirit* and have utilized their prayer language?
 - Their role now is to pray quietly and to use this as an equipping time as to how to lead someone in the *Baptism In The Holy Spirit*.
 - You may ask them at an appropriate time to join with you in gently laying hands on the one being prayed for to receive.
3. For those who have not received the *Baptism In The Holy Spirit*: - is there any reason why you should not seek the Lord for the *Baptism In The Holy Spirit* right now?
4. For those who have prayed and accepted the *Baptism In The Holy Spirit*, but have never vocalized their prayer language: – would you like to ask the Lord for your prayer language?
5. For those who prayed for and accepted the *Baptism In The Holy Spirit*, but you haven't utilized your prayer language in a long time or is not consistent in utilizing your prayer language: – would you like to ask the Lord for a refilling?

Prayer Minister: Please be sensitive to their hesitations, fears, or simply the fact that they are not ready. We never want to force or overstep. In order to receive they must thirst for what the Lord has for them.

**YOU HAVE WALKED THE STUDENTS THROUGH THESE NOTES,
NOW FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES YOU DISCUSSED HERE AND
PRAY WITH AND OVER THOSE DESIRING TO BE
BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

Session # 7

PUTTING ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

Putting Off the Old & Putting on the New Man

Now that we have spent some time looking back at our lives and dealt with issues such as strongholds, past hurts and unforgiveness and we have viewed these areas through the cross and what Christ accomplished through the shedding of His blood, we want to take another step and begin walking in the victory that Christ has won for us.



PUTTING ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

**LEADER: Read Text -- Ephesians 6:10-20
Please do not take too much time. Simply ground them on putting on the armor of God.**

Paul in verse 10 makes a very important point regarding spiritual warfare that we need to always remember. We never want to think that we will be effective in and of our own strength. We need to realize that Paul's exhortation was **to be STRONG in the Lord and in the power of HIS might**. Any efforts to fight this enemy with any weapon or strength outside of that which only God can supply is doomed to fail.

In verse 11 Paul makes another strong point that we don't want to miss. He says **to put on the WHOLE armor of God**. Not just one piece, not half of the armor, but the whole armor. This is crucial for us to be able to stand against the devil and the tactics that he will surely try to use to destroy us. God desires for each of us to be able to stand on our own. We each need to be personally responsible to put on our armor.

Paul reinforces these points by reminding us of who we are up against in verse 12. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**, against **powers**, against the **rulers of the darkness of this AGE**, against **spiritual hosts of wickedness in the HEAVENLY places**. Paul wants us to fully understand we are not in a human fight against other individuals, but against a spiritual fight with the enemy.

We are in a spiritual battle against Satan that is taking place for three main strategic objectives:

1. **To keep unbelievers in the dark.** Jesus calls us to preach the good news to those who are in the darkness in order that they might come into the light, to a knowledge of the truth and be set free that they might become children of God. (2 Corinthians 4:4)
2. **To render believers spiritually ineffective.** Every Believer throughout the whole world is undergoing the same attack by our adversary the devil. We need to always be on guard so that we do not find ourselves caught in the teeth of the one who seeks to devour us like a roaring lion. (1 Pet. 5:8-9)

3. **To hinder God's work in the world.** Jesus himself experienced many attempts of the devil to try to stop Him from doing what He was sent into the world to accomplish. (Luke 4:13) Paul tells us that many times he was hindered from coming to see those who were in Thessalonica. (1 Thessalonians 2:18) Satan is always looking for ways to hinder God's work. We need to focus on the fact that Satan is a defeated foe and that in Christ, we are to be victorious over Satan and his schemes. God made a provision for us to be victorious over Satan through His Son Jesus. Now as Christians all that we have to do according to verse 13, is to put on our armor so that we will be **able to WITHSTAND in the evil day**. No soldier would be so foolish as to fail to put on his armor when he knew that he was going to war against an enemy whose expressed purpose was to mortally wound him.

To put on the armor of God is not simply a mental or verbal routine. It is a process that will require discipline and effort on our part so that we might fully understand and know how to use and apply the Word of God in our daily lives.

LEADER: Please do not read every scripture listed. These are for their reference. (Only read the ones with fill in the blanks)

THE BELT OF TRUTH: (vs. 14a *Stand therefore having GIRDED your waist with truth*)

To gird means to encircle, surround or bind with a belt, to prepare oneself for action

John 14:6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

John 8:31-32 *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

I John 1:5-6 *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.*

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS: (vs. 14b *...having PUT ON the breastplate of righteousness,*)

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

I John 3:7-10 *Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 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. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.*

SANDALS OF PEACE: (vs. 15 *and having SHOD your feet with the PREPARATION of the gospel of peace;*)

Luke 1:79 *To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

Romans 10:15 *And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"*

THE SHIELD OF FAITH : (vs. 16 *above all, taking the SHIELD of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of wicked one.*)

A shield is used as a tool of defense to protect one from the fiery darts of the enemy. Our faith (our foundation of what we believe and hope for) is a great shield of defense from the tactics of the devil.

In ancient times, when an army would go to war, they would inter-lock their shields to provide maximum protection from the enemy's darts. The Believer receives maximum protection from the tactics of the enemy, when our shield of faith is inter-locked and committed to a Biblical community of Believers.

LifeCells provide a Biblical community where Believers are able to stand together in faith.

Matthew 21:21-22 *So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.*

Romans 1:17 *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

2 Corinthians 5:7 *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

THE HELMET OF SALVATION: (vs.17a "And TAKE the helmet of salvation,")

Acts 4:12 *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT: (vs. 17b *and the SWORD of the Spirit which is the WORD of God.*)

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

Psalms 119:11 *Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!*

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

Luke 4:4 *But Jesus answered him, saying, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word of God.'*

PRAYER:

The final step in putting on the armor of God is found in verse 18. *praying ALWAYS with all prayer and supplication in the SPIRIT, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the SAINTS*

As we are successful in putting on the armor of God, and praying as we should, two things will happen:

1. We will not only be able to stand but to *withstand* when the enemy comes in like a flood.
2. The mystery of the gospel will be made known because boldness will be evident in our lives and in the lives of those we are praying for.

PUTTING OFF THE OLD AND PUTTING ON THE NEW MAN

You may experience CONFLICT within you as you constantly make choices between good and evil, between doing what YOU want and doing what GOD wants.

You must set your mind to please GOD instead of YOURSELF.
(Romans 7:19-25, Romans 8:5-9, 2 Corinthians 5:15, Galatians 5:17, Philippians 3:12-14, Colossians 3:1-2)

LEADER: Please read the rest of the scriptures out loud in this session.

PUT OFF AND PUT ON:

A. In order to change your THOUGHTS, WORDS, and ACTIONS while following Christ, you must learn to trust and obey God's Word. You must "put on" the attribute and character of Jesus.

B. Colossians 3:8-10 *But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰ and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,*

Put Off: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another

Put On: the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him

C. *Ephesians 4:25-32 Do Not Grieve the Spirit Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. 26 "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good,*

that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Put Off: falsehood, stealing, unwholesome speech, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, and malice.

Put On: speaking the truth, working and giving to those in need, edifying speech, kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness.

These sins are to be PUT OFF and Christ-like deeds are to be PUT ON. When a PUT OFF is listed in Scripture, there is an appropriate PUT ON given, often in the same passage.

- D. Galatians 5: 16-26 ¹⁶ *I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.* ¹⁷ *For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.* ¹⁸ *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.* ¹⁹ *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,* ²⁰ *idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,* ²¹ *envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.* ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,* ²³ *gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.* ²⁴ *And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.* ²⁵ *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.* ²⁶ *Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

Put Off: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like

Put On: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control

- E. John 15:4-5 *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the VINE, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do NOTHING.*

We can do nothing in our own strength, we must be connected to the vine (JESUS) in order to walk in victory.

We are in a spiritual battle, for us to be strategically effective, we must arm ourselves appropriately. We must obey the Word of God and **put off** those things that the Word calls sin and **put on** the attributes and character of Jesus.

We began this ADVANCE , like a roller coaster. We began high then dove down head first into our sins, forgiveness, wounds, and strongholds. Then we began to ascend out from the bottom and rebuild our lives free from sin, unforgiveness, and wounds. Realizing that the process of healing is a continuous journey, we hope you will leave enriched, equipped, healed and deeper in your walk and maturity with the Lord.



We end this **LIFE ADVANCE** with a session on **PASSION FOR HIS PURPOSE**.

1. Purpose is the foundation for lasting fruitful ministry. Behind every successful leader is a task he or she feels called and compelled to accomplish.
2. **YOU ARE HERE: TO BE EQUIPPED AS A LEADER...TO HAVE A PASSION FOR HIS PURPOSE.**
3. LEADERSHIP: Is one who influences another.
4. PASSION: An intense driving enthusiasm (overpowering devotion) in working for a cause.
5. PURPOSE: The object for which something exists.

We all need to walk in a divine purpose for our lives. It is the reason for our existence. We, as Believers, believe that God created us. He knew us in our mother's womb (Psalm 139:13), that we are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14) and that God created us for a specific purpose. He did not create us to just go through life, buy a home, have children, and die. God created us with a reason to live. It is the very reason why we exist. Everything we do, (our jobs, our friends and hobbies), are a source to fulfill His purpose in our lives. We do not live for these things, rather we live for God's purpose. You were created with a PURPOSE, a destiny with God.

Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, in chapter 1 begins by saying, "It is not about you." God created you to fulfill His purpose on this earth. Our purpose in life is not to fulfill our own selfish wishes, but to fulfill God's purpose and what He has placed us here for.

Ephesians 2:10 - *For we are His WORKMANSHIP, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God PREPARED beforehand that we should walk in them.*

Ultimately, it is not about us, it is all about Jesus.

We want you to end this Life Advance with an intense enthusiasm - A PASSION - to work for your very reason for your existence.

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I receive from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

LEADER: Please do not read all the scriptures. They are for the students' reference. Just read the ones that have a fill in the blank.

FIVE THINGS ABOUT MY PURPOSE: (Say this)

I. I HAVE A PURPOSE (Say this after me)

1. God made you for a specific PURPOSE, it is the very reason you were created.

Ephesians 2:10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

Ephesians 5:15-17 *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, REDEEMING the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

2. Just because you were created with a purpose does not guarantee that you will automatically fulfill that purpose. (God does not normally violate our freewill).

Colossians 4:17 *And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may FULFILL it.*

3. When a local church has a unified purpose, it brings joy and FRUITFULNESS.

Philippians. 2:1-2 *Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being LIKEMINDED, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*

II. A PURPOSE TO SHINE THE LIGHT OF JESUS -- TO A DARKENED WORLD.

(Say this after me)

Matthew 5:14 *You are the LIGHT of the world.....*

In former times, why was the light house keeper so important at a light house?

He was to shine the light to a darkened sea to protect the ships coming into the harbor.

You are the light house keeper to a darkened world. God has stewarded us to shine the light of Jesus to this generation. We are responsible for this generation.

1. You are called to be an AMBASSADOR for Christ.

II Corinthians 5:18-20 *Now all things are of God, who has RECONCILED us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their TRESPASSES to*

them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are AMBASSADORS for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

As an ambassador, you REPRESENT the Kingdom of God to people. You are God's messenger to your friends, family, neighbors, and to the world.

2. You are called to be a *witness*.

Acts 1:8 *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be WITNESSES to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

3. *You are called to be a disciple and you are called to disciple PEOPLE*.

We fail the Great Commission from God if we only lead people to Jesus. The Word calls us to discipleship...

Matthew 28:19-20 *Go therefore and make DISCIPLES of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

The Word calls us to raise up reproducible leaders, not followers – an army of disciples, rather than an audience of people.

Life Church is passionate about developing disciples and leaders in the Kingdom of God. Discipleship is a life-long process. Life Church is passionately committed to systematically equipping and empowering people to give away what they have been given - by discipling this generation for Jesus.

We must grasp that *Kingdom Business Is The Most Important Business On Earth.*

In order to fulfill our purpose as a church, Believers must be willing to be trained as leaders and be willing to serve.

Biblical Leadership is SERVANT LEADERSHIP.

- Let your cell leader challenge your walk and how you are fulfilling your purpose.
- Let your cell be a place where the Gifts of the Spirit are in operation. For the Holy Spirit will use the gifts to reaffirm His purpose in your life.
- Take the next step in fulfilling your purpose: Have your cell leader take you through the LLT.

II Timothy 2:2 *And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. (THIS IS DISCIPLESHIP!!)*

4. You are called to love people for the Lord, and help to meet their needs. (You are not called to love selected people—you are called to love ALL people).



Matthew 25:35-36 *For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to me.*

5. You are called to INFLUENCE people for JESUS.

1 Peter 4:10 *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God*

III. MY PURPOSE IS BEST FULFILLED IN A TEAM (A BIBLICAL COMMUNITY)

1. Jesus sent His disciples out in TEAMS.

Illustration: In Matthew 4:19, Jesus calls us to be fishers of men. In Biblical days, fishing was done with a large net, not a rod and reel. Fishing with a net requires working with a team. Our purpose is best fulfilled with a net (in a team of Believers – a Biblical community)



Mark 6:7 *And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits.*

2. This was the pattern of the New Testament early church. They fulfilled their purpose in a unified team.

Acts 2:46-47 *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

3. Because we are called to work as a team, no one man can accomplish his purpose by HIMSELF. (God has not called us to be Lone Rangers)

1 Corinthians 12:21-23 *And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty.*

4. Being a part of a unified team protects you and makes you more effective.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 *Two are BETTER than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls for he has no one to help him up.*

5. LifeCells provide a **TEAM** to accomplish God's purpose that one individual could not accomplish on their own. (*LifeCells* create the opportunity for true New Testament Biblical community)

IV. I WILL NEVER BE SATISFIED -- UNTIL I AM FULFILLING MY PURPOSE.

1. Living in our God given purpose brings a sense of inner satisfaction and fulfillment.
2. Living with purpose brings the ___**SATISFACTION**___ of joy.

Acts 20:24 *But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy...*

3. Living with purpose brings the satisfaction of working with others -- on things that are eternal.

Acts 2:46-47 *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church those who were being saved.*

4. Living with purpose brings the satisfaction in seeing your ___**GIFTS**___ and talents used for the Lord.

V. I HAVE NO PROMISE OF TOMORROW, THEREFORE I MUST WORK TODAY.

John 9:4 *I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.*

John 4:35 *Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields for they are already white for harvest!*

Luke 12:19-20 *And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.' "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'*

CHALLENGE TO FULFILL GOD'S PURPOSE FOR YOUR LIFE

Rick Warren's book, "The Purpose Driven Life" defines our purpose in five points:

- #1 - I was planned for God's pleasure. (The Biblical term for this is, "WORSHIP".) - Mark 12:30
- #2 - I was formed for God's family. (The Biblical term for this is, "FELLOWSHIP".) - Romans 12:5
- #3 - I was created to become like Christ. (The Biblical term for this is, "DISCIPLESHIP".) - Phil. 2:5
- #4 - I was shaped to serve God. (The Biblical term for this is, "MINISTRY".) - I Peter 4:10
* We serve God by serving others. *
- #5 - I was made for a mission. (The Biblical term for this is, "EVANGELISM".) - Colossians 4:5

Absolutely nothing is more fulfilling than seeing lives saved and growing in Jesus. Nothing brings more joy than living out your purpose in this world.

Be about the Father's business. Walk in the victory of the Lord. Don't give up. Run the race to win the prize (I Corinthians 9:24-27). Don't underestimate how much God can use you.

God has given you ___**VICTORY**___ and ___**AUTHORITY**___ to fulfill your purpose.

Luke 10:19 *Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

**As we come to the close of this workshop,
The Passion For His Purpose, we want you to remember:**

(Let's say it together)

I HAVE A PURPOSE.

**A PURPOSE TO SHINE THE LIGHT OF JESUS -- TO A DARKENED WORLD
MY PURPOSE IS BEST FULFILLED IN A TEAM (A BIBLICAL COMMUNITY)
I WILL NEVER BE SATISFIED -- UNTIL I AM FULFILLING MY PURPOSE
I HAVE NO PROMISE OF TOMORROW, THEREFORE I MUST WORK, TODAY**

LEADER: Read to the group – *The purpose of the Life Advance was to destroy the works of the enemy in the lives of each Believer, that we may walk in the victory of the Lord. (1 John 3:8)*

We believe that you can continue to have more and more victory as you allow God to minister to you. Realize, that there may still be some deep rooted issues in your life that the Holy Spirit desires to reveal and heal. You might need more times of intense ministry – don't let the Life Advance come across as a one-time fix all weekend. Healing, at times, is a process of allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal the deep rooted wounds and bring healing to those wounds. My encouragement to you is to allow the Holy Spirit to continue the process of healing that He has begun this weekend.

We look forward to hearing many wonderful reports. Let me end by saying that the Life Advance is designed to allow the Holy Spirit to heal you, free you, and mature you in order for you to experience all joys of living for Jesus. Life is not about grudgingly working for a vengeful God, but serving a Heavenly Father who loves you so much – that He gave us Jesus – to restore us to a proper relationship. You are now able to walk victoriously in all the promises and power afforded to you in His Word.

Below is a list of scriptures that remind you of who you are in Christ.

Who I Am In Christ

We as Christians have privileges and rights because of our relationship with our Lord.
It is good for us to know who we are in Christ so that we are able to stand on
the firm foundation that Christ has given us.

I am a child of God..... 1 John 3:2
I am forgiven of all my sins Ephesians 1:7
I am a new creature 2 Corinthians 5:17
I am the Temple of the Holy Spirit 1 Corinthians 6:19
I am accepted in Christ..... Ephesians 1:6
I am reconciled to God..... 2 Corinthians 5:18
I am a saint..... Romans 1:7
I am the head and not the tail Deuteronomy 28:13
I am called of God..... 2 Timothy 1:9
I am complete in Christ..... Colossians 2:10
I am delivered from the power of darkness Colossians 1:13
I am an ambassador for Christ 2 Corinthians 5:20
I am the light of the world..... Matthew 5:14
I am dead to sin..... Romans 6:2
I am alive to God Romans 6:11
I am a king and a priest..... Revelation 1:6
I am fit to partake of His inheritance Colossians 1:12
I am more than a conqueror Roman 8:37
I can do all things through Christ... Philippians 4:13
I overcome the world..... 1 John 5:4
I have everlasting life..... John 5:24
I am healed by the wounds of Jesus 1 Peter 2:24
I have God as my shield Proverbs 30:5
I am sufficient to minister the gospel 2 Corinthians 3:6
I am a friend of God..... John 15:15
I have favor with God..... Psalm 30:5
I am blessed coming in and going out..... Deuteronomy 28:6
Christ in me is the hope of glory ... Colossians 1:27

Remember: 2 Corinthians 1:20 say, “For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us”.

LEADER: Read to the group....

The next step in our discipleship process is the *Life Leadership Training (LLT)*. The *LLT* will add more depth to the foundations laid in the Life Manual.

I end by saying: “*Enjoy your freedom in Christ. Enjoy your relationship with our Father God and I hope this Life Advance truly was, ‘A Life-changing encounter with the Holy Spirit that will Advance your passion for God’.*”

LEADER: As we conclude – ask if anyone would share a testimony of what the Holy Spirit has done in their life this weekend.

SURVEYS: Pass out the surveys and ask the group to take few minutes to fill it out. Use the back of the survey if necessary. It will help us better prepare for the next Life Advance.

Thank all the workers and ministers

CONCLUDE IN PRAYER!!