



# **LAUNCHPAD**

decide • commit • grow

## **FOUNDATIONS**



Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock;

Luke 6:47-48



LAUNCHPAD: NEXT STEP  
decide commit grow

A 3 part discipleship journey to develop  
foundations and influence in your life.



## Launchpad: Foundations

Our journey starts with knowing God and His amazing grace offered to everyone, everywhere. It doesn't start with a set of religious rules. God gave us foundations to build our lives on. These truths are timeless and crosses every cultural boundary.

The message of Jesus Christ is an invitation to a rich fully restored relationship with God the Father. God designed us for a rich relationship with Him and has given us scripture to guide us in this amazing journey.

This is what the LaunchPad consists of. The Foundations course contains the basic truths about the Love and relationship with God and how you can grow in Him.

During the next 9 sessions, we pray that you will find faith and understand the Love of God for you.

We encourage everyone to do this with someone else and not by yourself. God is a relational being and designed us to be relational as well. Learning these truths in a group with friends will help you to embrace these truths and live them out.

Leadership of Every Nation Gent

## Chapter 1

# Introduction

### **Welcome to the Foundations Course**

Have you just become a Christian? Congratulations on your life-changing decision to follow Jesus! We're celebrating with you and can't wait to see all that God will do through you as you start your new life with Him.

Now that you have made this decision, you may be thinking "what's next"? For most people the initial stages of their new life as a Christian can be a little intimidating. Know that you are not alone and that we are here for you - not only to celebrate with you but also to support you and walk alongside you. If you haven't already noticed, the people at *Every Nation Gent* are very passionate about *sharing God with hearts and minds*. In fact, that is our vision statement:

### **Sharing God with hearts and minds**

We want to help you take the first steps as a new believer.

The *Foundations* course is a safe place for people to come together and share their story of how they became a Christian, to spend time together examining and learning who God is and what He has done for them, and to find out what it really is that God wants them to do with their lives. It is very important to build strong Biblical foundations into your life as you take the first few steps to start your new life with Him in first position.

*"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock."*

*Matthew 7:24*

Take a few minutes and tell us your story. How did you come to know Jesus as saviour?

## **These five steps will get you off to the right START as you follow Christ**

**Start** trusting in Jesus alone for your salvation and stop trusting in yourself and your own good works.

*God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

*Ephesians 2:8,9*

What are some of the things you trust in to make you feel right with God and people?

**Turn** away from everything the Bible calls sin.

*But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription:*

*"The LORD knows those who are his," and "All who belong to the LORD must turn away from evil.*

*2 Timothy 2:19*

Do you know of anything in your life that God would want you to stop doing?

What would happen if you keep doing them?

**Attend** a small group and weekly worship services for personal growth and discipleship.

*And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do,*

*but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*

*Hebrews 10:25*

How important do you think relationships and community are in your spiritual growth?

**Read** and obey your Bible everyday.

*Study this Book of Instruction continually.*

*Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey*

*everything written in it.*

*Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.*

*Joshua 1:8*

According to this verse, how important do you think the Bible is in your daily life?

**Tell** others about your new relationship with Jesus.

*But Jesus said, "No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been." So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.*

*Mark 5:10,20*

Do you think faith is something personal and private or public that should be shared?

## Chapter 2

# Salvation

### **The problem:**

#### **Separation because of sin**

There is an immeasurable gap separating God and man. **This separation is called sin.**

Have you ever felt distant from God? We all have. Feeling far from God is very common. Many who sense this vast separation suppose that if they do certain religious or spiritual acts, that it would bring them closer to God. Some of the most common things people do to gain favour or "connection" with God are:

- Religion
- Meditation
- Become "one with nature"
- Attain more knowledge

The separation between God and man is not a physical nor mental separation. Therefore knowledge, meditation and any physical act won't bring us closer to Him.

*... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ...*

*Romans 3:23*

God is a spirit. **This separation between man and God is a spiritual and moral separation.** If this is a spiritual problem, then the solution to the world does not lie within knowledge, economy, politics or even health. The answer lies in the heart of man. The heart of man – our spirit – got separated from God and resulted in spiritual death that causes moral failure.

**The solution:**

**God's sacrifice and substitution**

If God is a just God, He will always bring a righteous judgment upon all wrong. If God is gracious, He will also not want mankind - who has no inherent ability to make moral choices – to be punished unfairly. For these reasons – **Him being just but also gracious** – God let His Son, Jesus Christ, pay the penalty for the sin of man. In this way, the penalty was paid, thus satisfying the justice needed and freeing man from the penalty – thereby giving them grace.

*But now, once for all time, he has appeared at the end of the age to remove sin by his own death as a sacrifice. And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, so also Christ died once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.*

*Hebrews 9:26-28*

What exactly happened on the cross? Through his death on

the cross, Jesus took our place and our punishment. He exchanged His righteousness for our sin. He took our curse and gave us His blessings. Because of His sinless life, Jesus was the only one qualified to pay the penalty for man's sin and to bridge the gap between God and man.

*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,  
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a  
curse for us,*

*for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole."*

*Galatians 3:13*

## **The result:**

### **Our salvation and reconciliation**

Christ died on the cross so that we could receive forgiveness of our sins, be reconciled to God, and have eternal life.

We have all sinned against a holy and righteous God. The penalty for this sin and separation is an eternity without God. **This is what hell is - being separated eternally from God's goodness and love.** Because God is just, sin has to be punished. God is also loving and does not want us to go to hell eternally. Therefore He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for our sin on the cross.

But because of Jesus' sinless life, death could not hold Jesus. He was raised from the dead on the third day. In Christ, we experience forgiveness for our sins and eternal life. In Him we are restored to right standing before God and given a new life as His children.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16*

What do you believe eternal life is?

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ....*

*Ephesians 2:13*

What exactly is redemption?

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

*Ephesians 2:13*

Have you been reconciled with God through Jesus?

## **The response:**

### **Receive God's gift by faith**

Salvation comes when we **receive** God's free gift that He gave us through His Son Jesus. This means, we are not putting our

faith in our effort to become more holy, but trust in Jesus Christ. We cannot save ourselves or earn God's grace. It is based on what Jesus did for us on the cross. ***It has nothing to do with what we do for Him.*** We cannot save ourselves or earn God's favour through our good works. ***We are saved by God's grace when we realise our need for a Saviour, turn from our sin, and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, putting our trust in Him alone for salvation.***

*If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

*Romans 10:9,10*

## **A new start**

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.*

*Ephesians 2:8,9*

*This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

What has been made new?

## **Prayer for salvation**

*Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that the separation between us is because of my sin. I confess that I am a sinner in need of a saviour. Thank you that you had sent Jesus to pay the penalty for my sin. I believe that He died on the cross for me. I believe that You raised Him from the dead. I turn away from my sinful lifestyle today and ask you to forgive me and cleanse me from sin. I want to turn away from everything that the Bible calls sin and receive You as my Lord, Master and Saviour. Please help me to love, serve, and obey You for the rest of my life.*

*In Jesus' name. Amen*

If you have sincerely prayed that prayer, the Bible promises that the old has gone and the new has come! The next five lessons will introduce you to some of the new things that have come.

## Chapter 3

# Lordship

### **Evidence for trusting the Bible**

**Manuscript evidence:** the Bible has stronger manuscript support than any other work of classical history and has been virtually unaltered since the original writings.

**Archeological evidence:** There are many overwhelming pieces of evidence from Archeology to prove that the Bible is not a book full of myths and tales. It is actual history recorded. More and more evidence are being discovered regularly.

**Predictive prophecy:** the Bible records predictions of events that could not be known or predicted by chance or common sense. Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14) Written between 701- 681 BC and fulfilled about 3 BC.

**Scriptural synergy:** 66 books written by 40 different authors in three different languages over a 1500 year period, yet each book

fits perfectly in place with a unique purpose as a component of the whole.

## **Is there any other evidence for God's existence?**

The most overwhelming evidence for God's existence is found in the person of Jesus Christ. His prophecies, life, virgin birth, predicted crucifixion and ultimately, His resurrection, is the proof that He is supreme and sovereign. The historically proven event of the resurrection is by far the most powerful evidence of God's existence. This is also the foundational cornerstone of the Christian faith.

*... who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,*

*Romans 1:4*

## **Lordship and salvation**

The starting point of salvation is the knowledge of the Lordship of Christ. Confessing Jesus is Lord implies a submission to His Lordship in every area of life. **If Jesus is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all.** We do not have the option of receiving Him as Saviour and not as Lord. Salvation is an all-or-nothing proposal.

*If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*Romans 10:9*

## **Lordship demands obedience**

Anyone who claims Christ as their Lord is expected to do what He says. Intellectual faith and empty confession is not enough. If we say Christ is our Lord, our lifestyle should back up our claim.

*"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"*

*Luke 6:46*

*Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven,*

*but only those who do the will of my father who is in heaven."*

*Matthew 7:21*

## **Lordship begins in the heart**

Submitting to Christ as Lord is not about following a set of religious rules and traditions. Rather, Lordship is a matter of the heart. Lordship begins as an eternal submission of the heart. If it is genuine, it will eventually manifest itself in outward obedience.

*But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord ...*

*1 Peter 3:15*

## **Lordship is a continuous walk**

We begin our Christian life by acknowledging that Jesus is Lord. We must continue to walk under His Lordship for the rest of

## Launchpad: Foundations

our lives. Lordship is not having a one-time experience with God, but developing a lifetime walk with God. The more we know Him, the more we submit to Him.

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him.*

*Colossians 2:6*

Have you submitted the following areas of your life to the Lordship of Christ? Health, relationships, finances, time?

What other areas of your life do you still need to submit to His Lordship?

## Chapter 4

# Repentance

### A new start

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think about the word *repentance*?

*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, everyone of you, In the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins ..."*

*Acts 2:38*

Driving a car in the wrong direction on a one-way street is foolish and dangerous. Some drive the wrong way out of ignorance; others out of rebellion. There is a spiritual parallel. Whether out of ignorance or rebellion, we are all on a dangerous one-way street that will ultimately lead to eternal separation from God. Until we turn around (repent) and begin following Christ, every step we take is a step in the wrong direction – a step away from God.

## **Repentance, sorrow, and fruit**

Real repentance begins when we are truly sorry for our sins. This "Godly sorrow" makes no excuses, takes full responsibility, and never places blame on people, society, or circumstances. **It acknowledges that our sin is primarily against God.** Godly sorrow produces true repentance and a changed life.

*Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*

*2 Corinthians 7:10*

*Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said,*

*"I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."*

*And you forgave the guilt of my sin.*

*Psalms 32:5*

On the other hand, "worldly sorrow" only produces excuses. While Godly sorrow is having a broken heart when we realise we have offended a Holy God, worldly sorrow is being sorry we got caught, or being sorry we have to suffer the consequences of sin. The ultimate difference between Godly sorrow and worldly sorrow is fruit. **Worldly sorrow never produces the fruit of a changed life; it only produces spiritual death.**

*"...I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds."*

*Acts 26:20*

*"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."*

*Matthew 3:8*

What do you think is the main difference between *repentance* and *sorrow*?

## **Repentance and forgiveness**

The parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-24 is a beautiful picture of true repentance. The son that left his father's house in rebellion, came to his senses, turned his back on his lack of good sense and returned to his father. He made a 180 degree turn around, walking away from his former life of sin and rebellion. His father forgave him for his offences and received him back. In the same way, our Heavenly Father is faithful to forgive us when we turn to Him and repent of our sins.

*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out,*

*that times of refreshing may come from the Lord ...*

*Acts 3:19*

Ever had a stain on your shirt that you couldn't wash out? Imagine a stain remover that would not only remove the stain, but would make the shirt just like new again. That's what happens when we repent and receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour. He not only cleans the sin's stain of guilt and shame from our hearts, He gives us a new heart.

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

*1 John 1:9*

## **No regret**

Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to God. It means we stop trusting in our own good deeds and religious activity and start trusting in Christ alone. We were going in the wrong direction; now we are going in the right direction. We were running from God; now we are walking with Him. Repentance is the starting point of a new life. Repentance takes us off the treadmill of a self-centred life and puts us on the fast track of God's glorious purpose for our lives. Turning to God means no looking back and no regrets.

*Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret ...*

*2 Corinthians 7:10*

## **Supernatural power**

You might be asking the question "How will it be possible to not do all these things anymore? Even if I would try to live holy, will I be able to do this by myself?" This is obviously not possible. For this reason God gave us His Holy Spirit. When we receive the Holy Spirit, God gives us the strength to live this life that He plans for us to live. We will not do this out of our own strength, but out of His power. When we live by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will see the

characteristics of God develop in us.

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law*

*Galatians 5:22-23*

Have you repented of your sin and fully placed your trust in Jesus Christ to save you?

How has this decision changed your life?

## Chapter 5

# Baptisms: Water

### A new life

What comes to mind when you hear the word *baptism*?

*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit ... Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.*

*Acts 2:38,41*

When the crowd asked Peter what they should do in response to his sermon, he gave them a three-fold answer: repent, be baptised and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thousands responded and were added to the fellowship of believers. The biblical pattern is that everyone who is baptised is also added. Every baptised disciple is expected to become an active member of the local fellowship.

Does baptism make you a church member?

## **Water baptism**

The Bible presents several illustrations to help us understand water baptism. Each of these pictures of water baptism show the old life being put away and the new life emerging. In water baptism, we publicly identify with what Christ did for us on the cross, put away the old life of sin, and begin a new life of obedience to Christ.

## **Burial and resurrection**

Paul compares Christian baptism to a burial. In order to be buried, a person must first die. In the same way, the prerequisite for baptism is death to sin. After we are buried in baptism, then we are raised to live a new life.

*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus have been baptised into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*

*Romans 6:1-4*

Does this then mean you only become a Christian after you are baptised?

## **Crossing the Red Sea**

In the same way the Israelites were in slavery to the Egyptians, we were all slaves of sin. The Israelites were freed from their bondage by passing through the Red Sea. Baptism pictures the freedom from sin that Jesus purchased for us on the cross.

*For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren,  
that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the  
sea;*

*and all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;  
1 Corinthians 10:1,2*

## **The Flood**

Peter teaches that it is not the water or the removal of dirt that saved us, but the death and resurrection of Christ.

*who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept  
waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in  
which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the  
water. Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you-not the  
removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good  
conscience-through the resurrection of Jesus Christ*

*1 Peter 3:20,21*

What then saves you; baptism or the resurrection of Christ?

Why then get baptised?

## Chapter 6

# Baptisms: Holy Spirit

### **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

Do you think you need the Holy Spirit in your life? Why?

It is impossible to live the Christian life apart from the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to lead us into all truth.

*But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you... But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.*

*John 16:7,13*

### **Jesus the Baptiser**

John the Baptist taught that water baptism was an act of repentance, and pointed out that Jesus would baptise His disciples

with the Holy Spirit.

*"I baptise you with water for repentance.*

*But after me comes one who is more powerful than I,*

*whose sandals I am not worthy to carry.*

*He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*

*Matthew 3:11*

Why do you think you should be baptised in the Holy Spirit as well as getting baptised in water?

## **Power to be a witness**

The Holy Spirit empowers us to be effective witnesses. A witness is one who not only tells the truth, but also lives the truth.

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

*Acts 1:8*

## **God's gift for today**

Peter taught that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift promised for every believer, not just for those present during Pentecost.

*38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you*

*will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."*

*Acts 2:39,39*

## **How to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit**

James tells us that we do not have because we do not ask. In order to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we must ask – and we must ask in faith.

*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?"*

*Luke 11:13*

## **The Laying on of hands**

Many disciples in the New Testament received the baptism of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands.

*Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit.*

*Acts 8:17*

## **Spiritual gifts**

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is accompanied by the manifestation of spiritual gifts. In the biblical accounts of baptism in

the Holy Spirit, the most common spiritual gifts manifested is the gift of tongues.

*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

*Acts 2:4*

*While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.*

*Acts 10:44-46*

*And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.*

*Acts 19:6*

## **The gifts of tongues and prophecy**

Tongues and prophecy are both designed for edification or for strengthening. Tongues strengthen the individual and prophecy strengthens the church.

*Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation.*

*1 Corinthians 14:1,3*

*One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church. Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.*

*1 Corinthians 14:4,5*

*For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.*

*What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.*

*1 Corinthians 14:14,15*

*Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues. But all things must be done properly and in an orderly manner.*

*1 Corinthians 14:39,40*

Have you received the Gift of the Holy Spirit?

If so, what are the main gifts of the Holy Spirit you think you are functioning in right now?

## Chapter 7

# The Bible

### A new devotion

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

*Acts 2:42*

Christianity is more than just a religion. It is first and foremost a relationship with God. The foundation of any healthy relationship is communication. The better the communication, the better the relationship will be. God talks to us in many ways but primarily through His Word, the Bible. We talk to Him through prayer. We learn to listen to the sound of God's voice in our lives when we read His Word. He listens to us when we pray. We respond to His Word with action. He responds to our prayers with action.

In what ways does God speak to you?

### The Bible

The Bible is the inspired written Word of God. It consists out of stories from **history, poems, letters and prophecies**. We should value the Bible more than even our daily food.

*I have not departed from the commands of his lips;  
I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.  
Job 23:12*

Before turning to Christ, we lived by the world's standards. Now we accept the Bible as the final authority for what we believe and how we live. God's Word is the ultimate and absolute standard for every area of life.

## **What is the key to spiritual growth?**

As newborn babies crave milk and need it to grow, so genuine new Christians crave God's Word and need it to grow strong in faith.

*Like newborn babies, 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.*

*1 Peter 2:2,*

The more we hear or read the Bible, the more our faith will grow.

*Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message,  
and the message is heard through the Word about Christ.  
Romans 10:17*

How important do you think it is to have the Bible as your absolute standard in life?

**A Brief Overview Of The Bible**

The Old Testament (39 books)			
Pentateuch	Historical Books	Poetry & Wisdom Books	Prophets
<p>Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy</p> <p>Pentateuch means "five volumes". These books include mostly narrative Stories as well as the Law that God gave Israel.</p>	<p>Joshua Judges Ruth 1&amp;2 Samuel 1&amp;2 Kings 1&amp;2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther</p> <p>These books contain narratives that follow Israel's up and down history.</p>	<p>Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs</p> <p>What these works have in common is their artistic form. They incorporate poetic or proverbial elements.</p>	<p>Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi</p> <p>They were God's spokes persons who challenged the rebellious people to turn back to God.</p>

**A Brief Overview Of The Bible**

The New Testament (27 books)			
Gospels and Acts	Pauline Letters	General Letters	Apocalyptic Literature
<p>Matthew Mark Luke John Acts</p> <p>These historical accounts follow Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and the rise of the early church.</p>	<p>Romans 1&amp;2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians Thessalonians 1&amp;2 Timothy 1&amp;2 Titus Philemon</p> <p>Paul's letters were written to individuals or churches and often explain the nature of the Christian life.</p>	<p>Hebrews James Peter 1&amp;2 John 1,2&amp;3 Jude</p> <p>These letters were written by others and often focus on church in general.</p>	<p>Revelations</p> <p>Apocalyptic literature uses vivid imagery and a cosmic narrative to portray God's ultimate consummation of history; a vision of the future that gives hope in the present.</p>

## **How can I resist temptation?**

Jesus resisted temptation, not by will power, but by knowing and quoting God's Word. We can win the temptation war the same way, by knowing and speaking God's Word.

*The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."*

*Jesus answered, "It is written: 'People do not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

*Matthew 4:3,4*

Head knowledge and religious facts don't produce purity and holiness. The word planted deep in our hearts will keep us from sin.

*How can those who are young keep their way pure?*

*By living according to your word ...*

*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

*Psalms 119:9,11*

## **How can I be successful?**

Meditate on God's Word and carefully obey it. Then success is certain. Obedience brings success.

*"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.*

*Then you will be prosperous and successful."*

*Joshua 1:8*

## **How can I know God's will for my life?**

As we renew our minds by studying God's Word, we will be transformed and we will understand God's will.

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*

*Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

*Romans 12:2*

## **What happens if I know God's Word but don't do what it says?**

The measure of our spiritual progress is not how much of the Bible we know, but how much we obey. Those who constantly learn but fail to obey, end up deceiving themselves.

*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

*James 1:22*

Write down areas in your life that you know is contradicting to the Word of God.

## **How should I study the Bible?**

Studying the Bible is one of the most exhilarating things you can do. There is something for everyone. Poetry, History, love stories, wars, etc. All of this together explains God's Grand design and plan for mankind.

But to make sense of it is sometimes a bit daunting. This is why a good bible study routine helps. First of all, it is important to understand the purpose of Bible study, make sure you understand the content of this chapter.

Then some tools might be handy:

- Get a good translation of the Bible. (There are many available. Some are translations and some interpretations. Get both and compare them to get the fuller meaning of what the verse has to say.)
- Find a good commentary. (There are some commentaries online as well as good translations with commentaries in them.)
- Find a place (i.e. a special chair)
- Choose a time (i.e. schedule it and don't try to squeeze it in)
- Read and study (i.e. try to read through entire books of the Bible)
- Prayer (i.e. pray about the passages you read and let the Holy Spirit help you)
- Journal (i.e. record the things God is doing in your life)

A good tool to help in your Bible study is "Bible Study Methods" by Rick Warren.

## Chapter 8

# Prayer

### **A new relationship**

Jesus is our best example for prayer. By observing His personal prayer life, we can learn important principles on how to have an intimate time of connection with the Father.

*One day Jesus was praying in a certain place.  
When he finished, one of his disciples said to him,  
"Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."  
Luke 11:1*

Prayer is something we should learn to do on a continual basis. Prayer is like an iceberg; the majority of the ice is below the surface and can't be seen. Our personal time in prayer is private, but the more we spend in prayer the larger the area above the surface will become.

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful  
Colossians 4:2*

## **What prayer is and is not**

There are some prescriptions from Jesus on how to NOT pray. Hypocrites are people who do things to gain favour with people. Prayer is something between you and God and should not be used to impress others with.

*And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites,  
for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and  
on the street corners to be seen by others.  
Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full."  
Matthew 6:5*

Pagans are people who are religious and have no relationship with God. They pray all kinds of mantras and repetitive words thinking the more they say the greater the chances of something happening. God desires relationship with us and is willing to answer any prayer that is prayed by faith – not repetition.

*<sup>7</sup>And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans,  
for they think they will be heard because of their many words.  
<sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows  
what you need before you ask him."  
Matthew 6:7,8*

## **How are we to pray then?**

Pray to the Father... not to the mother, saints or angels.

*But when you pray, go into your room,  
close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen.  
Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret,  
will reward you."  
Matthew 6:6*

Pray through Jesus. He is the only way to the Father.

*For there is one God and one mediator between  
God and human beings, Christ Jesus, himself human ...  
1 Timothy 2:5*

*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one come to the Father except through me."  
John 14:6*

## **What can we pray for?**

Jesus gave us an example of a prayer that gives us guidelines on prayer. Prayer is not simply approaching God with some requests. Prayer consists out of worship, thanksgiving and requests.

First of all **Worship** God for who He is and what He has done.

*Pray like this:  
Our Father in heaven,  
may your name be kept holy.  
Matthew 6:9*

Pray for **God's will** to be done in your life, country, church and other areas.

*May your Kingdom come soon.*

*May your will be done on earth,  
as it is in heaven.*

*Matthew 6:10*

Ask God to help you in **your needs**. These can be in various forms, physically, relationally, financially and in your spiritual growth and relationship with Him

*Give us today the food we need,*

*Matthew 6:11*

Forgiveness is a huge aspect of God's grace. If you have anything against anyone else, then you should bring it in prayer to God and forgive them. Also confess the known sins in your own life to God.

*and forgive us our sins,*

*as we have forgiven those who sin against us.*

*Matthew 6:12*

There is also an enemy – the devil – that would want you to turn away from God and will try to bring you into temptation. Pray that God will protect you against his schemes.

*And don't let us yield to temptation,  
but rescue us from the evil one  
Matthew 6:13*

## **Does God really answer prayer?**

Absolutely! The more specific you are in your prayers, the more specific the answer will be. The secret is to pray according to His will. We know His will by knowing His Word. Therefore if we pray according to His Word, we know He will answer.

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God:  
that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.  
And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask –  
we know that we have what we asked of him.  
1 John 5:14,15*

But what if my situation is not directly mentioned in the Bible? How do I know I am praying the will of God?

When you spend time in Gods Word and in prayer, you become sensitive to the leading of His Holy Spirit. God speaks to us in various ways and one of them is through the Holy Spirit. We obtain a sensitivity to His voice when our hearts are filled with His Word.

*But if you remain in me and my words remain in you,  
you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!  
When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples.*

*This brings great glory to my Father.*  
*John 15:7,8*

## Chapter 9

# The Church

### **A new community**

*Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."*

*Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you.*

*You did not learn this from any human being.*

*Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.*

*Matthew 16:16-18*

Through a revelation of the Holy Spirit, Peter confessed the true identity of Jesus, the Son of God. Jesus said this truth would be the foundation stone that His church would be built on. He also described the type of church He would build, a victorious church that would overcome the kingdom of darkness. Jesus and Paul used the word "church" in reference to the people of God. Church never referred to a religious building. Here following are some benefits of

being part of a local church community:

## **Friendship**

Real friends. Everyone needs them. Few find them. The best place to look for real friends is in the church, among the people of God. True friends are those who have our best interest in mind. They stick with us through thick and thin. Real friends never lead us away from God. Instead, they provoke us to godliness.

*A friend loves at all times,  
and a brother is born for a time of adversity.  
Proverbs 17:17*

*One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin,  
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.  
Proverbs 18:24*

## **Fellowship**

If a piece of burning coal is removed from the fire, it will cool off. If it is put back in the middle of a pile of red-hot coals, it will burn again. The same is true of Christians. If a Christian is removed from fellowship with other red-hot Christians, he or she will cool off spiritually. If a Christian stays in fellowship, he or she will stay on fire for God.

*All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the*

*Lord's Supper), and to prayer.*

*A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity.*

*Acts 2:42-46*

*Don't team up with those who are unbelievers.*

*How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness?*

*How can light live with darkness?*

*2 Corinthians 6:14*

## **Worship**

God is looking for sincere worshipers. Worship is simply the expression of our love, devotion, and commitment to God. This is expressed in primarily three different ways: time, talents and treasures.

We Worship God by giving Him our **time** to serve in the church community He has placed us.

We worship God through making our **talents** available in our local church to help make it a place where we give our best for God and help organise and serve the vision with skill and excellence.

We worship God through our **treasures**. As a local church, we are being commanded by God to take care of the financial needs of the church where He has placed us.

*But the time is coming--indeed it's here now--  
when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in  
truth.*

*The Father is looking for those who will worship him that  
way.*

*John 4:23,24*

## **Discipleship**

The last command Jesus gave His followers before He ascended to heaven was to go and make disciples, to baptise these disciples, and to teach them how to obey God's Word. Therefore, we should first be disciples or followers of Jesus, then we should teach others to follow Him.

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,  
baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and  
the Holy Spirit.*

*Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have  
given you.*

*And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of  
the age."*

*Matthew 28:19,20*

*And the things you have heard me say in the presence  
of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who  
will also be qualified to teach others.*

*2 Timothy 2:2*

## What does Every Nation Gent do?

When you attend Every Nation Gent, you will soon find out we are very passionate about ***Sharing God with hearts and minds***. In fact, this is our vision statement.

We want to **SHARE**. Jesus said we have to GO and make disciples. We should not wait around for people to come to us. We love **GOD** and want people to know who He is and what He has done for us through His Son Jesus.

We want Jesus to touch the **HEARTS** of people as we share God with our own **HEARTS**.

We want people to know God is not a blind-faith-religious idol, but can be understood with their **MINDS**. Therefore we share God with our **MINDS** on an intellectual level.

## What are the values of Every Nation Gent?

When we share God with hearts and minds, we deeply value ***Family, Foundations, Freedom and Fruitfulness***.

During our NEXT STEP groups, we will explain in detail the reasons we believe these values will help us fulfil God's call for this church.

Sign up now for the NEXT STEP group and become part of this exciting journey.

## Next Step

## What does Every Nation Gent do?

- Have you been baptised?
- Are you attending the weekly worship services?
- Have you joined a small group?
- Sign up for the NEXT STEP small groups and LEADERSHIP small groups.
- Are you serving at Every Nation Gent with your time, talents and treasures?

*To know more about Every Nation internationally, visit our website [www.everynation.org](http://www.everynation.org).*

*To know more about what is happening at Every Nation Gent, visit [www.everynationgent.org](http://www.everynationgent.org)*





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