

GROWING

This information is the second part of a four part training called GROWING DEEPER. In the following pages we will consider some of the most basic healthy habits a Christian can develop in his/her spiritual life, including prayer, bible study, and giving.

Throughout the following pages, please use the Scripture by each statement/question as a guide to determine your best choice for a word to [fill in the blank](#). Also, please give thoughtful consideration to the [questions/statements](#) which are included throughout the following pages.

PRAYER

[How do you define prayer?](#)

One simple definition of prayer is conversation with God. And like any conversation, there are various elements in our conversation with God. One simple way to remember basic important elements of prayer is by the acronym **TALC**.

Thank

Ask

Listen

Confess

Thank

Thank God not only for things and answers to prayer, but also for who He is: patient, loving, kind.etc.

Ask

Ask God requests for yourself and requests for other people (sometimes called "intercession")

Listen

Prayer should not be a one way conversation with us doing all of the talking. Include time to be still and to listen to what God has to say. This can be done in silent reflection when we ask God to direct our thoughts. And listening can take place as we listen to God's word – the Bible. More will be said about this in a few moments.

Confess

Admit to God the sin in your life. This includes both things you have done which you should not have done and things you have left undone which you ought to have done. It includes confession not only of actions, but also of attitudes, and words we have spoken.

[I include the following elements in my prayer with God:](#)

Thank	almost never	fairly often	every day
Ask	almost never	fairly often	every day
Listen	almost never	fairly often	every day
Confess	almost never	fairly often	every day

[I commit to including all of the elements of prayer every day in my conversation with God: Yes No](#)

BIBLE STUDY

The type of Bible study we will consider here is Bible study for personal understanding and application.

3 Basic Questions to Ask @ Bible Verses:

- 1. What did it mean then?**
- 2. What does it mean now?**

When a person attempts to answer these first two questions, it can be helpful to consider the following suggestions and resources:

Suggestions

- read in different translations
- read aloud to yourself
- underline or color code key verses
- follow a reading plan

Resources

- Study Bible
- different translations
- Concordance
- Bible commentary
- Bible handbook
- Bible dictionary
- Bible atlas
- Computer software
- Internet sites (two helpful websites):
 - <http://www.blueletterbible.org/>
 - <http://www.biblegateway.com/>

3. So what for me?

Questions Which Yield A Good Application

- Is there any:
 - sin to confess?
 - promise to claim?
 - attitude to change?
 - command to keep?
 - example to follow?
 - prayer to pray?
 - error to avoid?
 - truth to believe?
 - thing to thank God for?

Characteristics Of A Good Application

- Personal
 - Should apply to your own life
- Practical
 - Should be something which can be put into practice
- Possible
 - Should be something you can actually do with God's help
- Provable
 - Should be something which can be verified/measured that you accomplished

I will commit to read the Bible for application daily once per week once per month never

GIVING

Here we consider benefits of giving, right attitudes toward giving, and the method of giving known as “tithing.”

BENEFITS OF GIVING

1. Giving helps me reflect the nature of God.

“God so loved the world that He gave his only Son...” John 3:16

2. Giving draws me closer to what matters most.

“Where your treasure is, there your heart is also.” Matthew 6:21

3. Giving is the antidote to materialism.

“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to be generous and willing to share. In this way they may take hold of the life that is truly Life!”

1 Timothy 6:17-19

4. Giving strengthens my trust in God.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of your income, and he will fill your barns to overflowing.” Proverbs 3:5,9

5. Giving is an investment in heaven.

“... Give happily to those in need, and always be ready to share whatever God has given you. By doing this, you will be storing up real treasure for yourselves in heaven - it is the only safe investment for eternity.”

1 Timothy 6:18-19

6. Giving blesses me.

“A generous man himself will be blessed.” Proverbs 22:9

7. Giving makes me happy.

“There is more happiness in giving than in receiving.” Acts 20:35

GIVING WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDES

1. Give willingly.

“For if the willingness is there, your gift is acceptable according to what you have, not according to what you don't have.” 2 Corinthians 9:12

2. Give cheerfully.

“... for God loves a cheerful giver!” 2 Corinthians 9:7

3. Give abundantly.

“They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service ...” 2 Corinthians 8:3-4

4. Give generously.

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows generously will reap generously.” 2 Corinthians 9:6

***** THE KEY TO GIVING *****

“...they first gave themselves to the Lord...” 2 Corinthians 8:5

TITHING IS A BIBLE-BASED PRACTICE OF GIVING

The Bible teaches about tithing as a practice of giving. The next page provides more information about tithing.

WHAT IS TITHING?

“Tithe” means “a tenth part”

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A “TITHE” AND AN “OFFERING”?

A “tithe” is giving a tenth of my income. An “offering” is anything I give beyond my tithe.

WHY SHOULD I TITHE?

1. Because God deserves it.

“A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy.” Leviticus 27:30

2. Because Jesus commended tithing.

“Yes, you should tithe, and you shouldn't leave the more important things undone either.”

Matthew 23:23

3. Tithing demonstrates that God has first place in my life.

“The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God in first place in your life.”

Deuteronomy 14:23

4. Tithing reminds me that my ability to earn money was given to me by God!

“Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”

Deuteronomy 8:18

5. Tithing expresses my thanks to God for His blessing.

“Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.”

Deuteronomy 16:17

6. God says that refusing to tithe is robbing from Him!

“God says ‘Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!’ But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ God says ‘In tithes and offerings ... Bring your whole tithe to My house.’” Malachi 3:8-10

7. Tithing gives God a chance to prove He loves you and wants to bless you!

“Bring your whole tithe to My storehouse. Test me in this” says the Lord, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you won't have room enough for it! I will prevent pests from devouring your crops and the vines in your fields will be protected from plagues.” Malachi 3:10

8. Tithing proves that I love God.

“... I want you to be leaders also in the spirit of cheerful giving ... This is one way to prove that your love is real, that it goes beyond mere words.” 2 Corinthians 8:7b – 8

WHAT SHOULD I TITHE?

The first part of what I earn, not “whatever happens to be left after bills.”

“Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income.” Proverbs 3:9-10

WHERE SHOULD I GIVE MY TITHE?

Where I worship

“Bring your whole tithe to My storehouse (Temple) ...” Malachi 3:10

WHEN SHOULD I TITHE?

As soon as I earn money

“On the first day of every week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn.” 1 Corinthians 16:2

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have just completed GROWING. We hope you have a clear understanding of prayer, Bible study and giving, and we hope you will continue to develop these healthy habits in your spiritual life.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please let us know your response to the statements below in one of following ways:

Good: Bring a hard copy of your responses to us in person on a Sunday morning or mail a hard copy to Discovery Church, P.O. Box 357, Newark, OH 43058.

Even Better: Send your responses by email to: discoverychurch@gmail.com

Best: Complete all four of the GROWING DEEPER classes and indicate your responses by filling in the online form: [Click here to link to the online response form](#)

(Or click on the link for the online response form on the GROWING DEEPER page on the church website.)

I commit to including all of the elements of prayer every day in my conversation with God: Yes No

I will commit to read the Bible for application daily once per week once per month never

I already give a tithe Yes No Prefer not to answer

I already give offering beyond my tithe Yes No Prefer not to answer

I will attempt to increase my level of giving Yes No Maybe Prefer not to answer

...AND KEEP GOING!

We encourage you to participate in two more “classes” which provide the opportunity for you to GROW DEEPER in your relationship with God and with other people:

SERVING

WORSHIPING-CONNECTING-INVITING