



---

## **New Members' Orientation Principles of the Faith**

---



**Bishop G. Wesley Hardy, Sr.  
Senior Pastor**

**CATHEDRAL OF FAITH COGIC  
2020 Portlock Road  
Chesapeake, VA 23324**

**757-545-0953  
[gwesleyhardy2@gmail.com](mailto:gwesleyhardy2@gmail.com)**

# Table of Contents

Welcome	3
Lesson 1	4
New Life in Christ	4
Lesson 2	6
The Baptism of the Holy Spirit	6
Lesson 3	9
Principles of Christian Growth	9
Lesson 4	11
Learning to Walk in God's Will	11
Lesson 5	13
The Mission of the Church and Your Ministry	13
Lesson 6	15
The Ministry of Stewardship	15
My Covenant With Christ And His Church	17

## **Welcome**

It is such a blessing to have you consider this ministry for e-church or regular membership. I believe that God has sent you and ordained us to be together. This church has many members, but you bring new talents and abilities that God knew that we needed.

As your pastor, I will do everything I can to bring you to mature discipleship. It is my greatest desire to help you to be a part of this ministry. I trust you have already felt my love and concern.

I have outlined a doctrinal study of the faith that sets forth the essence of what the church believes. I have penned six separate lessons for your spiritual enrichment. You may be a mature believer and much of this will be a review or you may be a new convert and these lessons will provide an important foundation.

I look forward to us studying together. You will receive a certificate of membership at the completion of your study.

Bishop G. Wesley Hardy, Sr., D. Min.

Senior Pastor

Revised January 29, 2015

All Rights Reserved

# Lesson 1

## New Life in Christ

### I. The Need for the New Birth

The first man and woman because of their disobedience became sinners and estranged from God, their creator. They died spiritually and later physically. (Genesis 3) All mankind followed in their footsteps. We are all born sinners and estranged from God and reside in a state of eternal death until we receive new life from God. (Romans 5:12) Jesus declared that we all need new birth in order to see and enter the kingdom of God.

### II. The New Birth Experience (John 3:1-8; I Peter 1:23; John 1:12-

#### 13 Eph. 2:8; Romans 10:8-9)

- A. Born of the Holy Spirit
- B. Born of God
- C. Born of the Word
- D. Work of Grace
- E. Confession of Faith
- F. Justification by Faith (Romans 5:1-9)

### III. The New Life Dimensions

- A. A new creation (II. Corinthians 5:17)
- B. A new family (Romans 8:16; John 3:1-2)
- C. A new kingdom (Colossians 1:13)
- D. A new destiny (Revelation 21:1-7)

### IV. The Importance of Sanctification

- A. To set a part for a sacred use (Exodus 40:13)
- B. The process of being cleansed and delivered from sin
- C. An ongoing work of the Holy Spirit

### V. The Cleansing from Demonic Spirits (II Corinthians 7:1)

- A. Oppression
- B. Obsession
- C. Possession

## **VI. The Process of Deliverance from Demonic Activity**

- A. Self-deliverance through the Word (James 4:7)
- B. Deliverance through exorcism (Mark 16:17)
  - 1. Recognize the problem
  - 2. Necessity of repentance
  - 3. Necessity of forgiving others

## **VII. The Necessity of Keeping Ones' Deliverance**

- A. Stand with the Word (Galatians 5:1)
- B. Discipline (Galatians 5:24-25)
  - 1. Prayer and fasting
  - 2. Avoid temptation
- C. Look for changed lifestyle
  - 1. Conversation (Philippians 1:27)
  - 2. Conduct (Ephesians 4:1)
  - 3. Appearance: spiritual and physical
  - 4. Attitude (Philippians 4:5-8)

## **VIII. The New Life Celebrations (Matthew 28:19)**

- A. Baptism in water by immersion
  - 1. Symbolizes death and resurrection (Romans 6:4-5)
  - 2. Follows the pattern of the early church (Acts 2:41)
- B. Holy Communion (1Corinthians 11:23-32)
  - 1. The Bread represents the Body of Christ.
  - 2. The Juice represents the blood of Christ
  - 3. The service done in remembrance of His death.

## **Lesson 2**

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

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is another work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Every born-again believer has a need for this spiritual experience. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity. His mission is comprehensive in the life of the New Testament Church.

#### **I. The Promised Coming of the Holy Spirit**

A. Prophecy in the Old Testament (Isaiah 28:11; Joel 2:28; Isaiah 43:19)

B. Symbols of the Holy Spirit in Scripture

1. Tongues
2. Water
3. Fire
4. Oil
5. Wind
6. Breath

C. New Testament Predictions

1. John the Baptist ( Mathew 3:11)
2. Christ (John 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:7; Acts 1:5)

#### **II. The Purpose**

A. Teacher, Counselor, Comforter, Helper, Revealer (John 14:26; 16:13:14)

B. Empower or anointer (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8)

C. Intercessor (Romans 8:26)

D. Distributes spiritual gifts (Mark 16:17,18;  
I Corinthians 12:4-11; I Corinthians 14:2, 14:15)

#### **III. How to Receive the Baptism of the Spirit**

A. Revealed in Scriptures (Acts 2:1-4; 8:14-17, 10:44-47;

19:1-6).

- B. Ask in Faith (Luke 11:13)
- C. Praise brings His Presence.
- D. The experience is a gift. (Acts 2:38)
- E. Focus mentally on Christ who baptizes us in the Spirit. (Matthew 3:11)
- F. Yield yourself to the Holy Spirit in faith.
- G. Resist the temptation to be fearful.
- H. Believe that you are being empowered by the Spirit.
- I. Release your praise and your tongue to the Spirit.
- J. Speak the words and phrases the Holy Spirit gives.
- K. Expect to speak in tongues as the presence of the Spirit increases.
- L. Receive the ministry of laying on of hands to help you receive this experience.

#### **IV. Misconceptions to Guard Against**

- A. The baptism of the Spirit is different from being born of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is present in the life of all born again believers.
- B. The experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for only those who are already saved.
- C. The baptism of the Holy Spirit does not make us mature believers. It is not the same as having the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5:22)
- D. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not the same as being sanctified or cleansed by the Spirit.
- E. The power or anointing of the Holy Spirit must be renewed through worship, prayer, and obedience to the Word.

## Lesson 3

### Principles of Christian Growth

Anything that does not grow will die. This is true of all forms of life and especially human beings. All infants must grow or die the same can be said concerning all spiritual born believers. The Word, prayer, and worship are the basic ingredients for the Christian life. Without these, the Christian cannot mature. The believer should grow in his/her faith and obedience to the Lord.

#### I. Cultivate a Desire for the Word (I Peter 2:2)

- A. As we read the Word, it reveals God's nature, redemptive acts, and direction for our lives. (Isaiah 40:12; John 3:16; Matthew 7:13-14)
- B. As we meditate on the Word, we grow spiritually and build our faith (Psalm 1:1-2; Romans 10:17)
- C. As we study the Word, we are equipped for service. (2 Timothy 2:15)
- D. As we practice the Word, we mature spiritually. (Matthew 7:24-29)
- E. As our hearts are in terms of receiving the Word, so are we, with respect to growth and maturity. (Mark 4:14-20) The quality of the soil determines growth.

#### II. Cultivate a Prayer Life (Luke 18:1)

- A. Prayer is communication with God. (Philippians 4:6,7)
- B. Our relationship with the Lord determines our effectiveness in prayer. (John 15:7; James 5:16-18)
- C. We should pray in faith (Mark 11:23,24) in the name of Jesus (John 14:13,14;16:23) according to the will of God. (I John 5:14)
- D. Spirit filled believers should pray in the spirit (tongues) as with the understanding. (I Corinthians 14:14-15) well



### **III. Cultivate the Worship Experience (Psalm 95:1-7a)**

A. It is what God requires. (John 4:23-24; Hebrews 10:25)

B. When properly directed, it is the highest human experience of which we are capable.

### **IV. Cultivate the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)**

A. The greatest fruit is love. (I Corinthians 13)

B. Strive to be a person of integrity.

## Lesson 4

### Learning to Walk in God's Will

The most important goal every believer should have is to do the will of God. Jesus was our perfect example in this respect. He always did the will of the Father. Our Lord has a wonderful plan for each of our lives. He challenges us to reach our fullest potential. That can only be approached as we know the will of the Father and do it. We can only be used by God as we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us on a daily basis. Notwithstanding, the devil does everything he can to entice us away from the will of God. If we do not know how to deal with temptation, we will constantly miss the will of God.

#### **I. As our Lord was tempted while here on earth so can we expect to be tempted.**

A. The purpose of temptation is to test our commitment to doing God's will rather than our own. (James 1:2-4)

B. Temptation comes from three sources: the weakness of the flesh the pressure of the world system, and Satan. (James 1:13-15; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 2:14-15)

#### **II. We must be led by the Spirit in order to overcome temptation** (I Corinthians 10:12-13)

A. The Spirit leads us as we receive instruction through preaching and teaching. (Romans 10:14-17)

B. We can be led by the Spirit as we meditate on the Word. (Psalm 1: 1-2; 119:105)

C. We can be led by the Spirit as we seek the Lord in prayer and Fasting. (Acts 13:2-3)

D. We can be led by the inward witness of the Spirit. (Romans 8:14, Corinthians 2:12)

E. We can be led by a still small voice. (I Kings 19:12, John

10:4)

F. We can be led by unusual manifestations such as dreams, visions, prophetic words. (Acts 2:16-18; 9:1-6)

### **III. We must learn to be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit.**

(Acts

10:19-20)

A. Commit our way unto the Lord. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

B. Pray much in the Spirit. (Colossians 3:15)

## Lesson 5

### The Mission of the Church and Your Ministry

#### The Mission Statement

To bring people to Jesus Christ and His church and disciple them in the faith. (Matthew 28:19-20)

#### I. The Church as the Body of Christ

- A. Every member has a place in the body.
- B. All parts of the body are interrelated to each other. (I Corinthians 12:15-26)
- C. Spiritual giftedness is determined by the Holy Spirit. (I Corinthians 12:1-11)

#### II. Your Place in The Body's Ministry

A. Where do I fit in this church? Why am I here? What is my purpose? How can God use me here? These are questions for which you must discover answers in order for you to reach your divine destiny. (I Corinthians 12:12-26)

#### III. The Calling of God to Carry the Church's Ministry.

(Ephesians 4:1-3)

- A. Find your place in the ministry of the church.
- B. It is not God's will that any be spiritually lazy.
- C. You will not feel spiritually fulfilled unless you are about your Father's business. (John 9:4)

#### IV. The Believer is Commanded to Witness for Christ

- A. We must not be ashamed of our Lord. (Mark 8:38; Romans 1:16)
- B. Fear of rejection is our greatest enemy. (II Timothy 1:7)
- C. Jesus commanded his followers to go into all the world and proclaim the gospel. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15,16)
- D. The Holy Spirit gives power and wisdom to be an

effective witness. (Acts 1:8)

## **V. The Challenge to Carry out the Mission of the Church**

A. Be an example of the believer. (Romans 12:1,2)

B. Follow Christ's example and witness to those in your social network.

C. Practice giving your personal testimony.

D. Make a list of persons you come in contact with that you would like to be saved and possibly become members of this church.

E. Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead you to those persons that are open to receive the Word.

F. Pick a Sunday from time to time to celebrate by inviting as many people as you can to worship with you. Concentrate on those who are not saved, non-churched, or those searching for a Spirit filled church where they can grow in Christ.

## Lesson 6

### The Ministry of Stewardship

A steward is one who has been put in charge of another's goods. The giving of our tithes and offerings to support the ministries of the Lord's church is Christian stewardship. Stewardship is a vital part of worship and ministry. Ancient Israel was admonished never to come before the Lord empty handed (Deuteronomy 16:16,17).

#### I. The Proper Motivation for Giving is Essential.

- A. Our love for Christ and His church should be our highest motivation for giving.
- B. We should imitate God in our giving (John 3:16).
- C. Recognize that we are merely giving God what is already His, because it all belongs to Him (Psalm 24:1).
- D. We must give with the proper attitude (2nd Corinthians 9:7).

#### II. It is Important to Understand the Principles of Giving.

- A. The principle of sowing and reaping applies to our giving (2 Corinthians 9:6).
- B. Tithing is the foundation of stewardship. (Proverbs 3:9-10)
- C. When we fail to tithe or give, we are guilty of robbing God (Malachi 3:8-12)
- D. We should also give offerings for the work of the Lord.
- F. All members are assigned an envelope number to track your Tithes and offerings.

#### III. The Ministries of Giving Support the Ministries of the

**Church.**

A. We tithe to Jesus Christ our great high priest. (Hebrews 6:20; 7:1-17)

B. Tithing is the foundation of stewardship. (Proverbs 3:9-10).

C. The tithe should be given to the church where you receive spiritual nurture.

D. When we fail to tithe or give, we are guilty of robbing God. (Malachi 3:8-12)

E. We should also give offerings for the work of the Lord.

F. All members are assigned an envelope number to track your tithes and offerings.

## **My Covenant With Christ And His Church**

I have joined this church because I feel it is the will of God. Therefore, I submit to its leadership and enter into a covenant love relationship with this branch of Zion. Without reservation, I make the following vows as a part of this covenant:

1. I will seek God's righteousness and live a consecrated life unto the Lord.
2. I will repent of any sin found in my life and forgive others for any offense against me.
3. I will seek to be filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking with tongues.
4. I covenant to develop my prayer life and read the Bible on a regular basis so that I might mature spiritually.
5. I will support the church financially with my tithes and offerings on a regular basis.
6. I covenant to being active in this church by attending on a regular basis and being actively involved in some ministry or group.
7. I covenant to carry out the mission of the church by reaching out to others who needs Christ.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_