

NATIONAL BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CURRICULUM

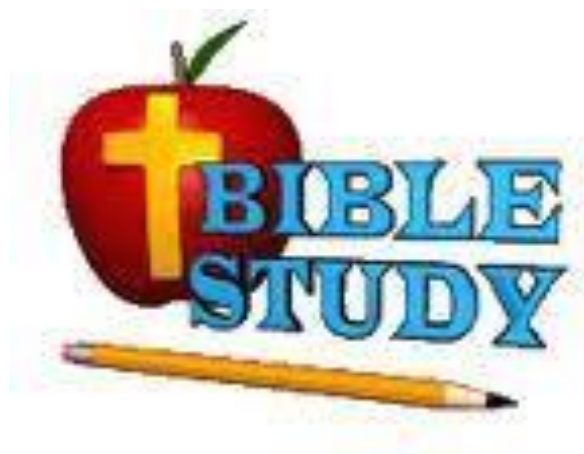


Min. Dr. Deloris McBride - Director

NATIONAL BOARD OF CHRISIAN EDUCAITON PROPOSAL

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Educational Curriculum for the Church of God by Faith

Purpose:

The Church of God by Faith, Inc. is committed to providing spiritual education for its members through organized Bible studies and church studies. It is important that the Church exercises uniformity in Christian Education in order to provide wholesome study for everyone. The Church of God by Faith has a rich heritage that needs to be perpetuated to facilitate a sense of loyalty to the church and to promote Christian growth.

Mission Statement:

The Church of God by Faith provides a Christian Education experience that empowers men and women. This mission will be carried out by inspiring, investing, involving, and impacting members through comprehensive Bible study.

Implementation:

The following mini courses can be implemented through current Bible study sessions and could be completed in a one-hour block of time. Courses listed as seminar courses may take additional time and probably should be scheduled for Saturdays as workshops if necessary. It is recommended that a team of teachers be organized through the local Board of Christian Education. If a church does not have a Board of Christian Education, then a director should be identified to organize the team of teachers, to provide an orientation, and to oversee the implementation of the curriculum.

Curriculum (Designed for One or More Sessions)

NMO 100	New Members Orientation
Church 101	Church History
Church 102	Church Administration
Church 103	Relationship/Fellowship/Obligations
Church 104	Bible Study Techniques
Rel 101	Building Christian Character
Rel 102	Hospitality/Growing the Church from Within
Rel 103	Tithing and Managing Finances Gods' Way
Rel 104	The Gifts of the Spirit
Rel 105	Faithfulness
Rel 106	Encouragement
Rel 107	Healing for Damaged Emotions
Rel 108	Healthy Living the Bible Way
Rel 109	Prayer/Fasting/and Intercession
Rel 110	Evangelism/Growing Church Witnessing and Discipleship
Rel 111	The Worship Experience
Mus 101	Music Emphasis
Sem 101	Marriage/Family/Parenting Emphasis

Sem 102 Single and Single Again
 Sem 103 Overcoming Abuse (Sexual, Physical, Emotional, etc.)
 Sem 104 Overcoming Substance Abuse and other additions

Schedule

NMO 100 Church 101 Church 102 Church 103 Church 104	New Members Church History Church Administration Relationship/Fellowship/Obligations Bible Study Techniques	TBA January
Rel 101 Rel 102 Rel 103 Rel 104	Building Christian Character Hospitality/Growing the Church from Within Tithing and Managing Finances Gods' Way The Gifts of the Spirit	February
Rel 105 Rel 106 Rel 107 Rel 108	Faithfulness Encouragement Healing for Damaged Emotions Healthy Living the Bible Way	March
Rel 109 Rel 110 Rel 111 Mus 101	Prayer/Fasting/and Intercession Evangelism/Growing Church Witnessing and Discipleship The Worship Experience Music Emphasis	April
Sem 101 Sem 102 Sem 103 Sem 104	Marriage/Family/Parenting Emphasis Single and Single Again Overcoming Abuse (Sexual, Physical, Emotional, etc.) Overcoming Substance Abuse and other addictions	May

Course Descriptions

NMO 100 New Members Orientation

New members' orientation covers the mission of the church, by-laws, church organization, church ministries, and a brief overview of church history, church responsibilities, new members' responsibilities, and church leadership.

Reference Material: the Ritual, Church's historical information, Organizational chart, After the Altar Call

Church 101 Church History

Church History covers the history of the National Church, the District, and the local church. It covers information about our founding fathers and mothers and deals with significant developments, events, people, buildings, and etc.

Reference Materials: The *Ritual* of the Church of God by Faith, Inc., Local Church History

Church 102 Church Administration

Church Administration examines the role of the pastor as administrator, church leaders, laymen, and the order of the church. It highlights the need to foster vision, team spirit, and integrity.

Reference Materials: The *Bible*: Ephesians 1:22; 4:15; Col 1:18, Titus 1:5; 2Samuel 5:3; 2Samuel 17:4, 15; 1Kings 20:7, Exodus 7:17; 24:1-9; Numbers 11:16, 24-25; Acts 14:23; 15:2; 20:17; Titus 1:5; James 5:14; Acts 15:2-16:4; Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:11.

Who Runs the Church? 4 Views on Church Government by Paul E. Engle & Steven B. Cowan, *The Purpose Driven Church* by Rick Warren, and *Church Administration in the Black Perspective* by Floyd Massey and Samuel Berry McKinney

Church 103 Relationship/Fellowship/Obligations

Relationship/Fellowship/Obligations examine the importance of developing a relationship with the church which promotes fellowship. It also covers the responsibility of members as it relates to the exercise of their gifts.

Reference Materials: The *Bible*, Relationship - Eph. 4:29, 4:32, Hebrews 10:24 – 25a; Mat 5:24; 1 Cor 6:1; Psalm 41:1; James 1:19, Eph 4:26; Proverbs 15:1; Fellowship – 1 Peter 4:19; Acts 2:42, Gal 5:13; Phillipians 2: 1-2; Psalm 55:14; Eph 4:32; Col 3:16, 1John 1:6-7; Romans 12:10; 1Peter 1:22; Obligations – Romans 13:1-14.

The Purpose Driven Life (pp. 117-167).

Church 104 Bible Study Techniques

Bible Study Techniques involves an introduction to techniques to facilitate an understanding of the Bible. There are several methods for studying the Bible. Rick Warren list the methods:

Reference Materials: The *Bible*, *Rick Warren's Bible Study Techniques*
(http://www.zondervan.com/media/samples/pdf/0310273005_samptxt.pdf)

2 Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (*King James*)

2 Tim 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as a tried-and-true worker who isn't ashamed to teach the word of truth correctly. (*God's Word Translation*)

Romans 6:13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. (*New International Version*)

Ephesians 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, (*New International Version*)

James 1:18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created. (*New International Version*)

Rick Warren *in Bible Study Techniques* list 12 methods for Bible Study:

Bible Study Techniques	Page Numbers
1. The Devotional Method of Bible Study	33
2. The Chapter Summary Method of Bible Study	49
3. The Character Quality Method of Bible Study	61
4. The Thematic Method of Bible Study	79
5. The Biographical Method of Bible Study	97
6. The Topical Method of Bible Study	115
7. The Word Study Method of Bible Study	133
8. The Book Background Method of Bible Study	151
9. The Book Survey Method of Bible Study	169
10. The Chapter Analysis Method of Bible Study	189
11. The Book Synthesis Method of Bible Study	207
12. The Verse-by-Verse Analysis Method of Bible Study	221

Rel 101 Building Christian Character

Building Christian Character introduces the importance of building and maintaining Christian Character.

2:Peter 1:5-7" And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity."—

Reference Materials: The *Bible*: Gal 5:22; Col 1:9-11; Ephesians 5:9, 2 Cor 3:3; 2 Cor 5:17; 2 Peter 1:5-7; *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren

66 Character Traits

Adaptability	Appreciation	Attentiveness
Availability	Commitment	Compassion
Concern	Confidence	Consideration
Consistency	Contentment	Cooperation
Courage	Creativity	Decisiveness
Deference	Dependability	Determination
Diligence	Discernment	Discretion
Efficiency	Equitableness	Fairness
Faithfulness	Fearlessness	Flexibility
Forgiveness	Friendliness	Generosity
Gentleness	Gratitude	Honesty
Humility	Integrity	Joyfulness
Kindness	Love	Loyalty
Meekness	Mercifulness	Observance
Optimism	Patience	Peacefulness
Perseverance	Persistence	Persuasiveness
Prudence	Punctuality	Purpose
Resourcefulness	Respect	Responsibility
Security	Self-Control	Sincerity
Submissiveness	Tactfulness	Temperance
Thoroughness	Thriftiness	Tolerance
Trustworthiness	Truthfulness	Virtue

Rel 102 Hospitality/Growing the Church from Within

Hospitality and Growing the Church from within examines the impact of church hospitality and how hospitality can impact Church growth and retention.

Reference Materials: The *Bible* – Mat 25:34-35; 1 Tim 3:2; 1 Tim 5:10; 1 Pet 4:9; Romans 12:10-13, 3 John 1:8; 3 John 1:5; 1 Cor 12:27-28; Heb 13:2;
The Purpose Driven Church by Rick Warren.

Rel 103 Tithing and Managing Finances Gods' Way

Tithing and Managing Finances God's Way emphasizes the importance of giving financially to the church and presents tithing as an important aspect of the believer. This course is also designed to teach effective ways of managing one's finances.

Reference Materials: The *Bible*: Genesis 14:20, Genesis 28:20-22, Leviticus 27:30-32; Num 18:21; Deut 12:5-11; Deut 14:22-29; Deut 26:12-15; 2 Chron 31:5-12; Neh 10:37-38, Neh 13:5-12; Amos 4:4, Malachi 3:8-10; Mat 23:23, Luke 11:42; Luke 18:12, Hebrews 7:5-9.

Bible Basics for Spirit-filled believers by Leon Bible.

Rel 104 The Gifts of the Spirit

The Gifts of the Spirit delineates the various gifts individuals may possess and the importance these gifts have on church and personal ministry. According to Drew (2010), the purpose of the distribution of spiritual gifts in the body is for edification, exhortation, comfort, confirmation, and establishment in ministry.

Reference Materials: The *Bible*, I Cor 12:1; I Cor 14:3-5; Heb 2:4, Romans 1:11; 1Tim 4:14, 2 Tim 1:6; Mat 7:11; Luke 11:11-13; 1 Cor 14:13; Roman 1:11, Roman 12:6; 1 Cor 4:7, 1 Peter 4:10, 11, Romans 12:4-8; 1 Cor 12:14-27, 29, 30; Mat 25:15; 1 Cor 12: 11, 18; Heb 2:4; Romans 11:29, 1 Cor 12:7, 14:26; Eph 4:16; Col 4:17, 1 Pet 4:10; 1 Cor 14: 26-33, 40; 1 Tim 4:14, 1 Cor 12:7. I Cor 12:7; 1 Cor 12: 12-30, 1 Pet 4:10, Romans 12:6, 1 Cor 2:14; 1 Cor 14:39; 1 Thes 5:20; 1 Cor 14:12, 1 Cor 12:31; 1 Cor 14:1, 12, 39; 1 Pet 4:11.

Bible, 19 Gifts of the Spirit by Leslie B. Flynn; The Gifts of the Spirit by Diane Dew

Rel 105 Faithfulness

Faithfulness is examined to express its effectiveness and impact on Christian growth and church growth.

Reference Materials: The *Bible*, The Passionate life by Mike Breen and Walt Kallestad (pp. 51-58), Healed Without Scars by David G. Evans (pp. 159-177)

Rel 106 Encouragement

Encouragement covers the importance of encouraging others through the use of the gifts and also examines encouragement as a powerful weapon to accomplish various goals.

Reference Materials: The *Bible*, Proverbs 12:25; Psalm 86:7; Acts 11:23, I Thess. 5:11; 14; Romans 15:5, Psalm 121: 2-3, 2 Corinthians 1:5; John 14:1; Galatians 6:2; 1 Peter 5:7. 2Thess.

2:16-17; Psalm 37:7; Isaiah 49:13; Isaiah 54:10; Romans 15:4; Psalm 55:22, 46:11, 68:19; I Cor 14:26; Mat 11:28. *19 Gifts of the Spirit* by Leslie B. Flynn (pp. 93-101).

Rel 107 Healing for Damaged Emotions

Healing for Damaged Emotions addresses the emotional pain that is deeply rooted in the Christian's past. Unresolved pain manifests itself in various forms. This course teaches individuals how to face the reality of pain-filled past and to proceed in a healthy way.

Reference Materials: *The Bible, Healing for Damaged Emotions* by David A. Seamands

Rel 108 Healthy Living the Bible Way

Healthy Living the Bible Way examines the importance of proper diet and exercise. It provides information for everyone concerning healthy living using biblical principles.

Reference Materials: The *Bible*, <http://www.healthyliving.org/>, <http://www.cdc.gov/healthyliving/>.
Mind Body and Soul

Rel 109 Prayer/Fasting/and Intercession

Prayer/Fasting/and Intercession covers the importance of developing and maintaining a prayer life, the necessity of fasting associated with praying, and the value of intercessory prayers.

Reference Materials: *The Bible*, <http://www.dianedew.com/prayerbs.htm> by Diane Drew

Rel 110 Evangelism/Growing Church Witnessing and Discipleship

Evangelism/Growing Church Witnessing and Discipleship involves growing the church through effective witnessing. It also covers discipleship which is critical church growth. Only until a person becomes a disciple is when he or she can be effective witnessing. Note: Jesus called his disciples and made them disciples. There are certain principles individuals must understand to promote evangelism.

Psalm 145:11 - "They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power."

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

Reference Materials: *The Bible* – Mat. 28: 19-20; Romans 12: 18; 14:18-19; Ephesians 4:3; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Cor 3:6, Col 2:19; Ps 35:27.

Purpose Driven Church, The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren (pp. 227-319);
44 Church Growth Principles that are Real and Work by Richard Krejcir
(http://sites.silaspartners.com/partner/Article_Display_Page/0,,PTID34418_CHID771414_CIID1363062.00.html)

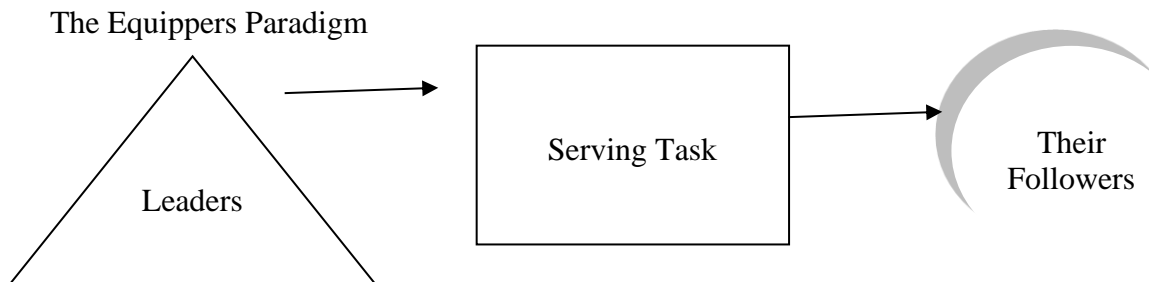
Rel 111 Christian Leadership

Christian Leadership is designed for anyone who is called to lead in a leadership capacity. It covers the role of the leader, the responsibility, leadership styles and their effectiveness.

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12.

Reference Materials: *The Bible*: Romans 12: 6-8; Eph 4:11-12, John 16:13; Luke 2:52; Acts 10:38; Romans 12:8

Leadership Essentials: Shaping Vision, Multiplying Influence and Defining Character by Gregg Ogden and Daniel Myer



Mus 101 Music Emphasis

Music Emphasis examines music genre that is appropriate for the Christian life and the church.

Reference Materials: *The Bible*, <http://www.dianedew.com/music.htm>

Seminars

Sem 101	Marriage/Family/Parenting Emphasis
Sem 102	Single and Single Again
Sem 103	Overcoming Abuse (Sexual, Physical, Emotional, etc.)
Sem 104	Overcoming Substance Abuse and other additions

The following information on fasting was received from <http://www.dianedew.com/fasting.htm>.
Permission to print the information must be received.

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Fasting

"And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: And I prayed unto the Lord God, and made my confession..." Daniel 9:34

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- I. Is there a place for fasting in New Testament times?
 - A. Fasting was not required of the disciples of Jesus.

Matthew 9:14 (Mark 2:18; Luke 5:33) "Then came to him the disciples of John, saying, Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but thy disciples fast not?"
 - B. But Jesus spoke of a day when there would be a place for fasting.

Matthew 6:16-18 (Not "if," but "when ye fast ...") "Moreover when ye fast, ...But thou, when thou fastest..."

Matthew 9:14-15 (Luke 5:34-35) "And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast."
- II. What guidelines are set forth in scripture concerning fasting?
 - A. It is to be done in a manner of humility and secrecy.

Matthew 6:16-18 "Moreover when ye fast, be not as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou,

when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret ..."

Luke 18:9-14 "And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray. . . The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are . . . I fast twice in the week, I give tithes . . . And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to this house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

B. Fasting is closely related to prayer and reading of the Word.

I Samuel 1:6-8, 17-18, etc. "And her adversary . . . provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat. Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? ... Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him . . ."

Nehemiah 1:4 ". . . when I heard these words, I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven."

Nehemiah 9: 1-3 ". . . the children of Israel were assembled with fasting . . . and stood and confessed their sins . . . and read in the book of the law of the Lord their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the Lord their God."

Daniel 9:3, 20 "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplication, with fasting . . . and while I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication . . ."

Joel 2:12 ". . . turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning."

Jonah 3:8, etc. "For word came unto the king ... and he caused it to be proclaimed and published ... saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God ... Who can tell if God will ... turn away from his fierce anger ... And God saw ..."

Luke 2:37 "And she was a widow of about 44 years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day."

Acts 9:9, 11 "And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink."

Acts 10:30 "Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing."

Acts 13:2 "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said . . ."

Acts 14:23 "And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord . . ."

I Corinthians 7:5 ". . . that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer . . ."

C. A fast may be either absolute or partial.

1. Examples of absolute (complete) fasts:

Deuteronomy 9:9, 18 ". . . 40 nights, I neither did eat bread nor drink water."

Ezra 10:6 "Ezra. . . did eat no bread, nor drink water: for he mourned . . ."

Esther 4:16 "Go, gather together all the Jews . . . and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day . . ."

Acts 9:9 ". . . and neither did eat nor drink"

Acts 27:33 ". . . This is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing."

2. Examples of partial fasts (abstinence from certain foods only):

I Kings chapter 17

Daniel 10:3 "I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled."

D. There is a place for both the corporate (group) and the individual (personal) fast.

1. Examples of corporate fasts:

I Samuel 7:5-6 "And Samuel said, Gather all Israel ... and they gathered ... and fasted ..."

II Chronicles 20:34

Ezra 8:21-23 "Then I proclaimed a fast ... So we fasted and besought our God ..."

Nehemiah 9:1-3 "... the children of Israel were assembled with fasting ..."

Joel 2:15-16 "... sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly; gather the people ..."

Jonah 3:5-10 "the people ... proclaimed a fast ... from the greatest of them even to the least"

Acts 27:33-37

2. Examples of the individual fast:

II Samuel 12:15-16, 22-23 "... and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth."

I Kings 21:27-29 "When Ahab heard those words, he... fasted, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly."

Psalms 35:13 "But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting ..."

Daniel 9:3 "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer ... with fasting ..."

Luke 2:36-37 "And there was one Anna, a prophetess ... a widow of about 44 years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day."

Acts 9:9 "... and neither did eat nor drink."

III. Fasting in itself is of no spiritual value (Isaiah 58; Jeremiah 14:12; I Corinthians 8:8) – "that which is of the flesh is flesh," John 3:6 – but it is the attitude of a heart sincerely seeking Him to which God responds with blessing.

Joel 2:12, 13 "Rend your heart, and not your garments ..."

Romans 14:6, 17

I Corinthians 15:50

A. Only fasting that is done with the right motive, that of glorifying God, can be pleasing in His sight.

Isaiah chapter 58 "Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? ... Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure ... ye fast for strife and debate ... ye shall not fast as ye do this day ... Is it such a fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands ... to undo the heavy burdens ... to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? When thou seest the naked, that thou cover him ..."

Zechariah 7:5-6 "... When ye fasted and mourned ... those 70 years, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me?"

Matthew 6:16-18 "The hypocrites ... disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast."

Luke 18:9-14 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I am not as other men are ... I fast twice in the week ..."

- B. The same Bible that teaches abstaining from foods (as God leads) also warns us against testing the Lord (Matthew 4:7).
 - 1. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 6:9), and we are to care for them as such (v. 20).
 - 2. It may indeed be profitable for a season for us to exercise severe discipline, to "keep under my body, and bring it into subjection" (I Corinthians 9 :27), to be "temperate in all things" (I Corinthians 9 :25), but we must also realize that "that which is flesh is flesh," and we cannot produce spiritual results – however sincere our intentions – from that which is purely flesh.
 - 3. To deny the flesh of its natural desires may cause us to be more "in tune" to hear the voice of the Lord (Deuteronomy 9:18, 25, etc.), but it also places us in a realm more easily prone to the attack of the enemy. It was when Jesus had been fasting for 40 days that He was faced with the greatest Satanic attack (Matthew 4:1-3; Luke 4:1-2).
 - C. Scripture warns that in the last days there will be many "forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats," etc. (I Timothy 4:1-3). We are to test the spirits, to see whether they be of God (I John 4:1).
- IV. How long should I fast?
- A. Bible personalities fasted and sought God diligently until they obtained from God what they desired (see the examples of Hannah, I Samuel 1:6-8, 17-18; and Paul, Acts 9:9,17-19) – or until the Lord made it evident that what they requested simply would not be obtained (as in the case of David, II Samuel 12:15-23).
 - B. The length of a fast may vary.
 - 1. One night.
Daniel 6:18
 - 2. One day.
I Samuel 7:6
II Samuel 1:12; 3:35
Judges 20:26
 - 3. Three days and three nights.
Esther 4:16
Acts 9:9, 17-19
 - 4. Seven days.

I Samuel 31:13

II Samuel 12:16-23

5. Fourteen days. Acts 27:33-34
6. Twenty-one days. Daniel 10:3-13
7. Forty days.
 - a. Moses (at two different times).
Exodus 24:18; 34:28
Deuteronomy 9:9, 18, 25-29; 10:10
 - b. Elijah.
I Kings 19:8
 - c. Jesus.
Matthew 4:2 (Mark 1:13; Luke 4:2)

V. When should I fast?

Many occasions for fasting are recorded in scripture.

- A. The ordination of elders and commissioning of apostles to ministry.
Acts 13:3 "And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."
Acts 14:23 "And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord..."
- B. Intercession for the people of God.
Exodus 24:18
Deuteronomy 9:8-9, 12-20, 23-27
Ezra 10:6
Daniel 9:3-4
Joel 2:12-14, 17-18
Jonah 3:5-10
- C. Humbling and chastening of oneself.
I Kings 21:27-29 "... Seest thou how Ahab humbleth himself before me?"
Psalms 35:13 "... I humbled myself with fasting ..."
Psalms 69:10 "I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting ..."
- D. Seeking the Lord and His way.
Judges 20:26-28, etc. "Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto the house of God, and wept, and sat there before the Lord, and fasted that day until evening, and ... inquired of the Lord ... (whether to) go out to battle ... And the Lord said, Go up ..."
II Chronicles 20:3 "And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah."
Ezra 8:21-23 "Then I proclaimed a fast ... that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance. For I was ashamed to ask the king ... to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our god is upon all them for good that seek him ... So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us."
- E. Repentance and confession of sin.
I Samuel 7:6
I Kings 21:27-29

Ezra 10:6 "... he ate no bread, nor drank water: for he mourned because of the transgression ..."
Nehemiah 1:4-7, etc. "...when I heard these words, I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed..."
Nehemiah 9:1-3 "... the children of Israel were assembled with fasting ... and stood and confessed their sins ... one fourth part of the day ... they confessed ..."
Jeremiah 36:6-10
Daniel 9:3-5, 20 "... confessing my sin and the sin of my people ..."
Jonah 3:5-10

F. Receiving healing.

I Samuel 1:5-11, 18-20
II Samuel 12:15-16, 22-23
Isaiah 58:8
Acts 9:9, 17-19

G. Petitioning God to withhold His hand in judgment.

Deuteronomy 9:18, 25 "And I fell down before the Lord ... I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins ... because the Lord had said he would destroy you."
Isaiah 58:9

H. Preparation to receive word from God.

Deuteronomy 9:18, 25
Isaiah 58:9

I. Spiritual deliverance.

Isaiah 58:6 "Is not this the fast that I have chose? To loose the bands ... to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?"
Mark 9:29 (Matthew 17:21) "And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting."

J. Seeking assistance in time of fear.

II Chronicles 20:3 "And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast ..."

K. Mourning another's death (II Samuel 1:12; 3:35); out of concern for another's safety (Daniel 6:18); or when faced with threats on one's own life (Esther 4:3; 9:1-3).

L. Seeking protection.

Ezra 8:21-23

M. Lacking material provision; in need.

II Corinthians 11:27 "... in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often ..."

VI. Fasting is an extremely valuable and important facet of the Christian life; but it is not an infallible means of "getting what we want" from God.

(Jeremiah 14:12 "When they fast, I will not hear their cry ...") Example: II Samuel 12:15-23 (David's son died anyway.) Obedience is better than sacrifice (I Samuel 15:22).

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PRAYER

"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." Mark 1:35

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I. Prayer is the backbone of the ministry.

A. Because of his unique relationship with God, the scriptures say of Moses that "there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto" him, "whom the Lord knew face to face."

Deuteronomy 34:10 (See also Exodus chapters 32-33 and Deuteronomy chapter 9.)

B. Jesus Himself spent much time alone in prayer.

Matthew 14:23

Mark 1:35; 6:46; 14:32-40

Luke 3:21-22; 5:16; 6:12-13; 9:18, 28-29; 11:1; 22:31-32, 39-46; 23:34

John 6:15

Hebrews 5:7

C. The New Testament epistles reveal an intense devotional life of prayer in the ministry of Paul the apostle.

Romans 1:9 "... without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers."

2 Corinthians 12:8

Ephesians 1:16 "Cease not ... making mention of you in my prayers."

Philippians 1:3, 4 "Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy."

Colossians 1:9 "... since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you ..."

Philemon 4 "... making mention of thee always in my prayers."

2 Timothy 1:3 "...without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day."

D. The early church knew the importance of prayer and intercession in behalf of its leaders.

Acts 2:42 "And they continued steadfastly ... in prayers."

Acts 1:14 "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication ..."

Acts 12:5, 12 "... but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him."

2 Corinthians 1:11 "Ye also helping together by prayer for us ..."

II. Scripture teaches that we are to have a regular and consistent life of prayer.

Luke 18:1 "... men ought always to pray, and not to faint."

Luke 21:36 "Watch ye therefore, and pray always ..."

Acts 6:4 "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer ..."

Acts 12:5

Ephesians 6:18, 19 "Praying always ..."

Colossians 1:3 "... praying always for you."

Colossians 4:2 "Continue in prayer, and watch ..."

1 Thessalonians 1:2 "always"

1 Thessalonians 5:17 "without ceasing"

2 Timothy 1:3 "... without ceasing ..."

A. Daily.

- Psalms 86:3
Acts 2:46
- B. In the early morning.
Psalms 5:3 "My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee and will look up."
Psalms 88:13; 119:147
Mark 1:35 "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed."
- C. In the evening.
Genesis 24:63 "And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at the eventide"
- D. Three times a day.
Psalms 55:17 "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."
Daniel 6:10, 13 "Now [Daniel] ... kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed ..."
Acts 2:1, 15; 10:9, 30
- E. Day and night.
Psalms 22:1, 2 "O my God, I cry in the daytime ... and in the night season, and am not silent."
Psalms 77:2 "In the day of trouble I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not ..."
Psalms 88:1
Nehemiah 1:6
Luke 18:7
1 Thessalonians 3:10 "Night and day praying exceedingly ..."
2 Timothy 1:3
- F. At midnight.
Psalms 119:62 "At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee ..."
Acts 16:25 "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God ..."
- G. All night.
Psalms 63:6 "When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches."
Isaiah 26:8, 9 "With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early ..."
Luke 6:12 "... and continued all night in prayer to God."
- III. For whom and for what should we pray?
Scripture says we should pray "for all men " (1 Timothy 2:1), for anything (Philippians 4:6).
- A. For those in spiritual leadership.
2 Corinthians 1:11
1 Thessalonians 5:25
Hebrews 13:17-18a
1. For boldness to speak the truth.
Ephesians 6:19, 20
 2. For their divine protection.

- Acts 12:5
2 Thessalonians 3:1-2
3. For an open door of ministry.
Romans 15:30-32
Colossians 4:3
2 Thessalonians 3:1-2
- B. For fellow-believers.
Romans 1:9
Ephesians 6:18
1. For their healing.
Acts 28:8
James 5:16
2. For their spiritual development and maturity.
Ephesians 3:14-16
Colossians 4:12
1 Thessalonians 3:10-13
2 Thessalonians 1:11
1 Peter 5:10
3. For unity.
John 17:9, 11, 20-22
4. For divine protection, spiritual strength, and victory over the enemy.
Luke 22:31-32
John 17:15
- C. For ourselves.
1 Chronicles 4:10 "And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying,
Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that
thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil,
that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested."
Psalms 106:4, 5
Hebrews 5:7
1. For material needs.
Matthew 6:11
Proverbs 30:7, 8
2. For guidance.
Psalms 27:11; 31:3
Jeremiah 33:3
Daniel 2:17-19
Colossians 1:9, 10
James 1:5
3. For victory over temptation.
Matthew 6:13
Luke 22:40
4. For wisdom.
1 Kings 3:5-12
Proverbs 2:3
James 1:5

5. For forgiveness of sin.

Numbers 5:6, 7
1 Kings 8:47-50
Ezra 9:15; 10:1
Psalms 25:11; 32:5; 51:1
Daniel 9:4-5, 20
Matthew 6:12
Luke 11:4; 18:13
Acts 8:22

6. For physical healing.

1 Samuel 1:5, 10-20
1 Kings 13:4-6
2 Kings 20:1-6 (Isaiah 38:1-5; 2 Chronicles 32:24)
Psalms 30:2
James 5:14
Matthew 8:2-3 (Mark 1:40-43; Luke 5:12, 13)

D. For temporal rulers.

1 Timothy 2:1-3

E. For the unsaved, whether an individual, a city (Psalms 122:6; Jeremiah 29:7; Daniel 9:3, 16-19), or a nation (Romans 10:1); that God will send laborers into the harvest (Matthew 9:38).

F. For our enemies.

Matthew 5:44
Luke 6:28; 23:34
Acts 7:59-60

IV. How are we to pray?

This is not such an unreasonable question. The disciples asked Jesus how to pray (Luke 11:1). Jesus answered them by giving them a model prayer (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4), often called The Lord's Prayer. However, this was never intended to become "vain repetition" to them (Matthew 6:7). Jesus did not say, "Repeat after Me ..." Rather, He said, "After this manner" – that is, "in this way" – prayer should be offered to God (Matthew 6:9).

A. Secretly, or alone (Matthew 6:5-6; 14:13, 23; Mark 1:35; 6:46, 47; 1 Kings 4:33; Acts 9:40), as well as in the presence of others (1 Kings 8:22-23; Matthew 18:19-20; Acts 12:5, 12; Romans 15:30; 2 Corinthians 1:11).

B. In Jesus' name (as His representative).

John 14:14; 16:23-24

C. In faith.

Matthew 21:22
Mark 11:24
Hebrews 11:6
James 1:5-7; 5:15

D. According to the will of God.

Mark 14:32-36
John 15:7

- Romans 8:27
1 John 5:14, 15
- E. In the spirit (Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 14:2, 14-15; Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20), as well as with the understanding (1 Corinthians 14:9, 13-17).
- F. In any position physically.
1. Kneeling.
1 Kings 8:54; 2 Chronicles 6:13; Ezra 9:5; Daniel 6:10
Matthew 17:14; Mark 1:40; Luke 22:41; Acts 7:60; 9:40; 20:36; 21:5
Ephesians 3:14
 2. Standing.
Isaiah 38:2-3; Mark 11:25; Luke 18:13
 3. Sitting.
Nehemiah 1:4; Acts 2:2; 16:13
 4. Lying down (prostrate), face to the ground.
Numbers 16:22; Joshua 7:6, 10; Ezra 10:1
Ezekiel 9:8; 11:13; Matthew 26:39
 5. Kneeling with face between the knees.
1 Kings 18:42
- G. In any place (1 Timothy 2:8 "everywhere"), not necessarily in a building specifically designated for worship. God "does not dwell in temples made with hands."
- 1 Kings 8:27
2 Chronicles 6:18
Isaiah 66:1-2
Jeremiah 7:4
Mark 13:1-2
Acts 7:48-50; 17:24-25, 29-30
2 Corinthians 5:1
1. At home.
Daniel 6:10
Acts 9:11; 12:12
 2. On the battlefield.
1 Chronicles 5:20
2 Chronicles 13:13-16
 3. In a mountain.
Matthew 14:23
Mark 6:46
Luke 6:12; 9:28
 4. On a housetop.
Acts 9:9
 5. In a garden.
Matthew 26:36
Mark 14:32-40
Luke 22:39-40
 6. In a desert or secret place.

Matthew 14:13

Mark 1:35

Luke 5:16

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 7. In a field. | Genesis 24:63 |
| 8. On a riverside. | Acts 16:13; 21:5 |
| 9. In the belly of a fish. | Jonah 2:1 |
| 10. In a closet. | Matthew 6:6 |
| 11. In jail. | Acts 16:25 |

V. What hinders the answers to our prayers?

A. It was a Satanic hindrance that withheld the answer to Daniel's prayer for 21 days (Daniel chapter 10, particularly vv. 12-13).

See Ephesians 6:12.

B. The fault may lie within the petition itself.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. Unbelief. | James 1:6, 7 |
| 2. A wrong motive. | James 4:3 |

C. Sin or disobedience may be the barrier.

Psalms 66:18

Proverbs 15:29; 28:9

Isaiah 59:1, 2

Jeremiah 5:25

John 9:31

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Selfishness. | Proverbs 21:13 |
| 2. Pride. | Hosea 5:5-7 |
| 3. Unforgiveness. | Mark 11:25-26 |
| 4. Disharmony in the home. | |

Matthew 5:23-24

1 Peter 3:7

5. Religious hypocrisy.

Isaiah 1:11-15, esp. v. 15

Matthew 23:5, 14, 27-28

6. Rebellion against hearing God's word.

Proverbs 1:24-25, 28

Zechariah 7:11-13

7. Idolatry. Ezekiel 14:1-7

8. Deceit; injustice. Jeremiah 5:25-31

D. An effective prayer life is conditional upon our personal walk and relationship with Jesus Christ.

1. Obedience.

John 9:31

1 John 3:22

2. Righteousness.

Psalms 34:15, 17

Proverbs 15:8, 29

James 5:16

3. Humility.

2 Chronicles 7:14-15
Psalms 9:12; 10:17; 102:17
Matthew 23:5, 14, 27-28
Luke 18:13-14

4. Faith.

Matthew 21:22
Mark 11:22-24
1 Timothy 2:8
James 1:6-7
1 John 5:13-15

5. The fear of the Lord.

Psalms 145:19

6. Abiding in Christ.

Psalms 91:1, 14-15
John 15:7

VI. Sometimes God chooses to delay the answers to our prayers.

Jeremiah 42:7, 2-4
Luke 18:7

A. Though Job was "perfect and upright in the sight of God (see chapter 1:1, 8; 2:3), the Lord allowed him to suffer tremendously – but not without purpose. Job 23:10

B. God's intention in delaying an answer to a request may be to work into our character a specific quality desirable in His sight.

1. Patience. James 5:11
2. Obedience. Hebrews 5:8
3. Humility. 2 Corinthians 12:7-9, etc.

C. God answers prayer according to His time and will (see Psalms 40:1).

But we must be persistent in seeking Him for answers to our requests.

Genesis 32:26-29 "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me ...
And He blessed him there."

Song of Songs 3:14; 5:2-6

Isaiah 62:6-7 " ... keep not silence, and give Him no rest ... "

Matthew 7:7 "Keep on asking ... keep on seeking ... keep on ..."

(The Greek tense denotes continual action.)

Matthew 15:22-28 "... kept praying ..."

Luke 11:5-13, esp. v. 8 "... because of his importunity ... "

Luke 18:1-8 "...by her continual coming ..."

VII. It is important to realize that God really hears our prayers.

2 Chronicles 7:15 "... Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attentive unto the prayer that is made in this place."

Psalms 10:17 "Lord, thou has heard the desire of the humble ... thou wilt cause thine ear to hear."

Psalms 18:6

Psalms 34:15, 17 "... his ears are open unto their cry ... The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth ..."

Psalms 102:17 "He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise

- their prayer."
 Psalms 66:19, 20; 106:44
 Psalms 116:1, 2 "I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice
 and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore
 will I call upon him as long as I live."
 Psalms 141:2; 145:19
 Psalms 32:6 "For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee
 in a time when thou mayest be found..."
 Proverbs 15:8, 29 " ... the prayer of the upright is his delight."
 James 5:16b "... The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."
- A. Our prayers rise like incense before Him.
 Exodus 30:8
 Psalms 141:2
 Revelation 5:8; 8:3, 4
- B. He promises an answer.
 Matthew 7:7-11; 21:22
 Mark 11:24
 Luke 11:9-13
 John 15:7, 16; 16:23-24
 1 John 3:22; 5:14-15
- C. It requires discipline on the part of the flesh to submit to God in prayer.
 Mark 14:37-41
- D. Satan desperately tries to hinder and disturb our prayer life (Daniel 6:7,
 12; 10:2-3, 10-14, etc.). But this only proves the importance of perseverance
 in prayer.
- VIII. If God knows our needs before we ask Him (Isaiah 65:24; Matthew 6:8), and
 we have the promise of His provision (Psalms 84:11; Matthew 6:33; 2 Corinthians
 9:8; Philippians 4:19), why should we pray?
- A. It builds up our faith. Jude 20
- B. It humbles us. 2 Chronicles 7:14
- C. Prayer strengthens us.
 Psalms 27:14
 Psalms 138:3
 Isaiah 30:15
- D. It gives us an inner peace.
 Philippians 4:6-7
 Isaiah 26:3
- E. Scripture says "ye have not because ye ask not."
 John 16:22
 James 4:2
- F. We are exhorted to make mention of our needs before God (Philippians
 4:6) so that, when the answer comes, God will get the glory for it (John
 11:41, 42, 45).

Music 101 Music Emphasis

The following was received from the Internet. Permission must be granted to be used as part of our curriculum.

The Ministry of Music

"It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice with the ... instruments of music, ... that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord; so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God." II Chronicles 5:13, 14



by Diane Dew

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- I. The history of musical instruments can be traced throughout the Bible.
 - A. The earliest instruments of music (Hebrew, *kinnor*, translated "harp" in Genesis 4:21) were invented by a man named Jubal.
 - B. Other instruments were later made by David (I Chronicles 23:5; II Chronicles 7:6; 29:26) and Solomon (II Chronicles 9:11).
 - C. Some were made of silver (Numbers 10:1, 2), some of brass (I Chronicles 15:19), and some of fir wood (II Samuel 6:5).
 - D. The use of musical instruments in worship can be seen both in the Old (I Chronicles 13:8; II Chronicles 5:12,13; Nehemiah 12:35-41; etc.) and in the New Testaments (Revelation 5:8, 9; 14:2, 3; 15:20; 18:22).
 - E. However, instruments were used on occasions other than the worship of God.
 1. The timbrel (tambourine) was popular in use with dance to celebrate military victories.
 - Exodus 15:1-21
 - Judges 11:34
 - I Samuel 18:6, 7
 2. The trumpet had multiple uses.
 - a. To proclaim feast days.
 - Leviticus 23:23-25; 25:9
 - b. To gather an assembly.
 - Numbers 10:1-8
 - c. To sound an alarm for battle against the enemy.
 - Numbers 10:9
 - Nehemiah 4:18, 20
 - Joel 2:1
 - Amos 3:6
 - Jeremiah 4:19
 - I Corinthians 14:8
 - d. To herald the arrival of a new king.

- I Kings 1:34-41
3. The harp and oboe were used during joyous secular festivities.
 Isaiah 5:12
 Amos 5:23; 6:4-6
 4. The oboe was also played during funeral ceremonies.
 Matthew 9:23
 5. Solomon listened to music for his own personal enjoyment.
 Ecclesiastes 2:1, 8
 6. Many instruments came to be used in the worship of pagan gods.
 Daniel 3:4-7, etc.

II. The musical inventions of Jubal (Genesis 4:21) eventually led to the development of many varied instruments.

A. Stringed instruments.

Psalms 33:2; 150:4
 Isaiah 38:20

1. Viols.

Isaiah 14:11; Amos 5:23; 6:5

2. Psaltery, harp and lyre.

Genesis 4:21; 31:26, 27; I Samuel 10:5
 II Samuel 6:5
 I Kings 10:12
 I Chronicles 13:8; 15:16, 28; 16:5, 42; 25:1, 6
 II Chronicles 5:12, 13; 9:11; 20:28; 29:25
 Nehemiah 12:27; Job 21:12; 30:31
 Psalms 33:2; 71:22; 92:3; 108:2; 137:4; 144:9; 149:3; 150:3
 Isaiah 5:12; 30:32; Ezekiel 26:13
 Daniel 3:5, 7, 10, 15
 I Corinthians 14:7; Revelation 5:8; 14:2; 15:2

3. Dulcimer.

Daniel 3:5, 10, 15

B. Wind instruments.

1. Trumpet, horn and cornet.

Leviticus 25:9; Numbers 10:1-10
 Joshua 6:5, 20; Judges 7:16-22
 I Kings 1:34, 41
 I Chronicles 13:8; 15:28; 16:42; 25:5
 II Chronicles 5:12, 13; 15:14; 29:26-29; Ezra 3:10
 Nehemiah 12:35, 41; Psalms 98:6; 150:3
 Daniel 3:5, 7, 10, 15
 Hosea 5:8; Zechariah 9:14, 15

2. Flute (sometimes translated "pipe" or "organ").

Genesis 4:21; I Samuel 10:5; I Kings 1:40
 Job 21:12; 30:31
 Psalms 150:4; Isaiah 5:12; 30:29; Jeremiah 48:36

Daniel 3:5, 7, 10, 15; Luke 7:32

3. Sackbut (trombone).

Daniel 3:5, 7, 10, 15

C. Percussion instruments.

1. Cymbals.

II Samuel 6:5

I Chronicles 13:8; 15:16, 19, 28; 16:5, 42; 25:1, 6

II Chronicles 5:12, 13; 29:25

Ezra 3:10

Nehemiah 12:27

Psalms 150:5

I Corinthians 13:1

2. Tambourine (timbrel; or tabret, pl.).

Genesis 31:27; Exodus 15:20; Judges 11:34

I Samuel 10:5; 18:6

II Samuel 6:5; I Chronicles 13:8; Job 21:12

Psalms 68:25; 81:2; 149:3; 150:4; Jeremiah 31:4

3. Bells.

Exodus 28:33-35

4. Sistra or rattle (Hebrew "mnaamin" = cornets).

II Samuel 6:5

5. Triangle ("shalishim," here translated "instruments of music").

I Samuel 18:6

III. What place does human training or natural talent have in the ministry of music?

A. Some skill (human training) is involved in ministering through music.

I Samuel 15:22 "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

I Samuel 16:17 "And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me."

Psalms 33:3 "Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise."

I Chronicles 15:22 "And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song: he instructed about the song, because he was skillful."

I Chronicles 25:7 "So the number of them, with their brethren that were instructed in the songs of the LORD, even all that were cunning, was two hundred fourscore and eight."

B. In the Old Testament there were instructors of music.

I Chronicles 15:22

I Chronicles 25:7, 8

II Chronicles 23:12

C. However, skill is not enough. It is the anointing that breaks the yoke (I Samuel 16:18). There is a realm of prophetic music.

I Samuel 16:14-23 "But the spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. And Saul's servants said unto him, Behold now, an

evil spirit from God troubleth thee. Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well. And Saul said unto his servants, Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me. Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him. Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep. And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul. And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight. And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him."

II Kings 3:15 "But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him."

I Chronicles 25:1, 3, 6, 7 "Moreover David and the captains of the host separated to the service of the sons of Asaph, and of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, with psalteries, and with cymbals: and the number of the workmen according to their service was: Of Jeduthun: the sons of Jeduthun; Gedaliah, and Zeri, and Jeshaiiah, Hashabiah, and Mattithiah, six, under the hands of their father Jeduthun, who prophesied with a harp, to give thanks and to praise the LORD.... All these were under the hands of their father for song in the house of the LORD, with cymbals, psalteries, and harps, for the service of the house of God, according to the king's order to Asaph, Jeduthun, and Heman. So the number of them, with their brethren that were instructed in the songs of the LORD, even all that were cunning, was two hundred fourscore and eight."

D. As a musician, David was famous for both the skill by which he played and the anointing under which he ministered.

I Samuel 16:16-23

E. Truly anointed music has a powerful effect on its hearers.

1. Spiritual deliverance may be obtained.

Samuel 16:14-23

Psalms 149:5-9

2. "The priests could not stand to minister" because the Presence of the Lord was so real.

II Chronicles 5:13, 14

Psalms 149:5-9

3. It lifts the ministry about to come forth.

II Kings 3:14-16

IV. The scriptures repeatedly exhort us to "sing unto the Lord!"

Exodus 15:21

Psalms 33:3; 81:1; 149:1; etc.

Ephesians 5:18, 19

A. Singing was a very prominent part of worship in the Old Testament.

I Chronicles 16:9

Ezra 2:41

Nehemiah 7:6 7

Psalms 66:2, 4; 68:4, 25, 32; etc.

1. Solomon's songs numbered 1,005.

I Kings 4:32

2. David had a choir of 288 voices.

I Chronicles 25:7

3. Worship in song marked many of the historical achievements of Israel.

- a. Moses and the children of Israel, at the crossing of the Red Sea.

Exodus 15:1, 2, 21

- b. Deborah and Barak, at the defeat of Sisera.

Judges 5

- c. David and all Israel, at the bringing up of the ark of God.

I Chronicles 15

- d. The Levites, at the foundation of the house of the Lord.

II Chronicles 5:12

Ezra 3:11

- e. The dedication of the wall of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 12:27-29

4. Those who were exceptionally skillful were appointed to be songleaders.

I Chronicles 15:22, 27 "And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song: he instructed about the song, because he was skilful.... and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers ... "

Nehemiah 12:46 "For in the days of David and Asaph of old there were chief of the singers, and songs of praise and thanksgiving unto God."

- B. Jesus and His disciples sang when gathered together.

Matthew 26:30 (Mark 14:26) "And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives."

- C. The early church knew the power of praising God in song.

Acts 2:46, 47; 16:25, 26

I Corinthians 14:15, 26

Ephesians 5:19

Colossians 3:16

James 5:13

- D. The angels of God worship continually in song.

Isaiah 6:3

Luke 2:13, 14

- E. This is what we will be doing for all eternity.

Revelation 5:9; 14:3; 15:3

V. There is a difference between singing prepared music, in which the words and tune are set (II Chronicles 29:28), and the spontaneous, unpremeditated melody of "singing in the spirit" (Colossians 3:16).

- A. Spiritual worship is different from any type of natural singing.

I Corinthians 14:15

- B. It is "a new song," never before heard.

Psalms 33:3; 149:1

C. It is acceptable in the assembly as well as in private prayer.

Acts 4:24 all with one accord

Ephesians 5:18, 19

VI. Did dancing historically have any place among the people of God?

A. Dancing commonly took place at the celebration of military victories.

I Samuel 18:6

I Samuel 21:11 "And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands?"

I Samuel 30:16 "And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah."

B. It was accompanied very early by the playing of musical instruments and singing.

Exodus 15:20, 21

Judges 11:34

I Samuel 18:6; 2:11

Job 21:11, 12

C. Both men (I Samuel 6:14; 30:16; I Chronicles 15:29; Acts 3:6-8) and women (Exodus 15:20, 21; Judges 2:21; 11:34; I Samuel 18:6) took part in this means of expression.

D. Although intended for the praise of God (Psalms 149:3; 150:4), dancing soon came to be a common practice in the worship of pagan gods as well (Exodus 32:6; 19; I Kings 18:26).

E. As an expression of joy (Psalms 30:11; Lamentations 5:15), dancing is prophetically described by Jeremiah as present among God's people at the fulfillment of the promise of full restoration.

Jeremiah 31:4 "Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry."

Jeremiah 31:13 "Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow."

F. "David danced before the Lord with all his might" at the bringing up of the ark of God.

II Samuel 6:5, 14 (I Chronicles 13:8) NOTE: The same word literally translated "danced" in verse 14 is in verse 5 mistranslated "played."

G. Although evil when used to appeal to the carnal nature of man (Matthew 14:6; Mark 6:22), dancing is appropriate in its place (Ecclesiastes 3:4) and is not to be despised (I Chronicles 15:29). The scriptures exhort us to praise God in dance (Psalms 149:3; 150:4).

VII. Individual heart attitudes and entire group participation are both very important, for the Spirit to move in a worship service.

A. The importance of unity.

II Chronicles 5:13, 14 " ... the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice (singular) ... then the house of the Lord was filled with a cloud ... so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud; for the

glory of the Lord had filled the house of God."

Acts 2:1-4 "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place, and suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues ... and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues... "

B. "With gladness" and joy.

I Chronicles 15:16

II Chronicles 29:28, 30

Nehemiah 12:27

C. "With all their might."

I Chronicles 13:8

D. "In your heart" (not routinely) and "to the Lord" (not to each other or to an audience).

Colossians 3:16

Ephesians 5:19

VIII. Whether by the use of instruments, song, or dance, music is a very scriptural means of expression towards God.

A. Hundreds of scripture verses describe or make reference to the purest form of music – the spiritual worship that will fill all eternity.

Psalms 150; etc.

Revelation 5:8-14; 7:15; etc.

B. This liberty of expression is a delight to God (Psalms 149:3, 4). It is the very purpose for which man was created (Revelation 4:11).

Forty-four Proven and Effective

Biblical Church Growth Principles that Work!

Ideas to consider: (Romans 12:18; 14:18-19; Ephesians 4:3; Hebrews 12:14)

1. The number one reason for church growth is the preaching ability of the pastor. (Luke 3:1-7)
2. The number one reason why people stop coming to your church is conflict and gossip! (James 3:5-6)
3. The number two reason that people leave a church is poor "people skills" of the pastor and/or leadership, because they do not manage the conflicts and gossip! These poor "people skills" will cause the majority of conflicts between that pastor and the people. (Matthew 5:9)
4. The Bible must be taught in such a way that it is real and can be applied to the lives and situations of the people. You are to equip and disciple people, not just in the basics of the faith, but also in how to be Christians in their families, work, and relationships. They must

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be taught how to be effective Christians, and how to live their lives to His glory! (Psalm 119:9-12)

5. Preach holiness, how to worship, how to deal with sin, how to relate to one another, and how to love one another, while modeling it yourself! Evangelism, stewardship, and discipleship come out of these! As people are transformed, they can be taught and motivated. (Jeremiah 33:6; Romans 7:12; Galatians 3)
6. The best growing churches in the world have solid Biblical preaching at their core. These churches do not water down the Gospel so much that you cannot see the lifted cross! They do not overemphasize the seeker and ignore discipleship!
7. Real, heartfelt, God exalting adoration must be the focus of the worship service. It must never lift up the leaders or be a performance to entertain. It is God who is the audience and we are the people who are to praise and glorify Him! We are still to make our services friendly and innovative, as there is nothing wrong with plays and contemporary themes as long as the service glorifies Christ and is not a medium just to entertain the people. Remember, the congregation is the performer, the worship team is the leader, and God is the audience! Don't mix these up! This is where all of the church growth and spiritual growth principles come to their focal point--the reason for discipleship, and maturity. All that we do in the church--from faith, fellowship, and outreach to facilities--come to this point and reason: TO WORSHIP CHRIST! (Psalm 138:1-4)
8. You must have a well thought out, empowered vision and mission statement with a clearly defined purpose, and strategies on what God has called you to do and be. It must be real and authentic, and you must be willing to act on it. It is one thing to write it out, but another thing to act it out (see the article on *Preparing the Pastor and Church Leadership to Grow*)!! (Hebrews 11:1-2)
9. Teach and model passionate spirituality. The Christian life is not meant to be dry and mundane. Even the Puritans were vibrant, just read their writings! Your job is to convince the people in your church to grow beyond just doing their duty to achieving spiritual passion and conviction. (Phil. 3:7-11)
10. The training, discipling, recognition, and encouragement of the church are critical roles for the pastor. If the senior pastor feels he does not have the gifts and abilities to equip and train others to do ministry, then he needs to build a team around him that does! If the training is not done, the church will fail! Some pastors are great teachers, but cannot do anything else. A pastor must operate in his gifted area, and encourage others who will compensate for him in the areas where he is weak. He must always strive to give support and to do the rest of these bullet points! (Romans 7:4-6; 1 Corinthians 10:14-16; 12; Ephesians 4:9-16)
11. Have a system of pastoral care to train your staff and leaders to immediately respond when they hear of a church member, especially another leader (most churches neglect their leaders, thinking they are OK and do not need anything!) or someone in their family with a pastoral need or emergency. Assign a key person to be in charge by 24-hour shifts. Have a

contact list and trained deacons or care workers to be ready to act when the need arises. No one is self-maintaining. We all need support and care! Make sure you have caring people to be there in a timely manner! (1 Corinthians 13:1-8; Colossians 4:5; 1 Timothy 3:14-15; Hebrews 12:14-15)

12. Confront sin, evil, and heresy in the church immediately! The leadership must put down conflict quickly, whether it involves political agendas, the color of the carpet, how to say an offertory prayer, what songs to sing, or who is to be in leadership. The church must move in purpose and unity. This is tough, but possible! (Philippians 2:14)
13. The church must be willing to spend at least one-third of its resources of time, talent, and money in outreach and missions. (Psalm 90:1-2)
14. Political agendas that are contrary to God's Word and Will are the second biggest disruption to the church! (John 13:35)
15. The church should strive to be effective. The best way to do this is by following the precepts of Scripture. We can organize the church by mobilizing the people according to their Spiritual Gifts! So few churches do this, even though it is so Scripturally clear! (Romans 12)
16. The church can achieve the extraordinary when the people serve in their area of their giftedness in a team manner. The quarrels and apathy will dry up as the energies are redirected and channeled in a Godly way. People will function less in their own strength and more in the power of the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12-14)
17. Good Biblical teaching and preaching will provide the Holy Spirit with *fuel* that energizes people and facilitates growth. The biggest growing churches are the ones who preach the Word with power, conviction, and in truth, such as Calvary Chapel (Acts 2:17-39)!
18. The leadership must have a real genuine sense and modeling of being Christ's servant, and the people in their care as His children. This is *Servant Leadership Development*. (Galatians 2:20-21; Ephesians 4:11-13)
19. Leaders of growing churches empower the people in their care. They do not see or use volunteers just as helpers, but as the tools and the prime resources with which to glorify God, and enablers of the goals of missions and needs to be reached. They do this by encouragement, training, and organization, all centered to have the people of God growing in and receiving the Spirit in order to reach the full potential that God has for them. If a pastor, coach, or key supervisor gives special recognition and encouragement even once, that leader and/or volunteer will usually remain very faithful and loyal to the church! (Romans 12; John 4:23; Colossians 1:24-29; 1 Timothy 4:15-16)
20. The leadership must be able to steer the church through rough *white waters*! (See our articles on *Conflict Resolution*, *Gossip*, and *Hypocrisy*, and Matthew 18)

21. The best plans and calls of the Lord will stall out due to conflict! God's voice is the first one muted--read the book of Amos! The Holy Spirit cannot work effectively when *ill will* and *ill desires* are running the roost. You must drop to your collective knees and pray for revival. That will work! However, church growth, spiritual or numerical, will never work in an atmosphere of conflict! (Philippians 1:6-8)
22. The best way to deal with conflict is to combat it through love. When people know that you love them and will listen to them, it is difficult for them to be mad. Love, indeed, covers a multitude of sins! (Proverbs 10:12 1 Peter 4:8)
23. Warning: do not *agree* when you do not! (Proverbs 9:8; 17:27-28; 26:20; 3 John 9-12)
24. Be careful about taking on too many negative people! Spread the load out. Delegate. There is only so much you can take, so guard your own heart too! (Proverbs 4:23)
25. If you want people to like you, then be nice to them! Interesting people are interesting because they are interested in others! People like people who like them, so be kind, thoughtful, listen, be polite, and do not forget to smile. Make sure you are *real*, for if you are not, then you are in the wrong position or profession! You must enjoy people and be interested in them to be a good leader or pastor. Being prideful and/or obnoxious only serves Satan! (James 1:2; Colossians 3:13)
26. Sometimes people just will not like you if you are modeling Christ, and some do not like to be led to Scriptural principles. These people are happy in their will and desires, and will not like the Fruits of the Spirit working around them. They are the weeds in the wheat. Let those people go, and focus on the ones whose hearts are after His! (Romans 16:17-18; Galatians 1:10; Titus 3:9-11)
27. Listening, without arguing or defending yourself, is extremely important! This requires prayer and self-discipline. If you cannot do it, you may be in the wrong profession. Have someone do it, just get it done! Your task is not to persuade people to accept your view, but to communicate Biblical precepts and get them to catch it! You are to make them feel heard. When they feel they are listened to, then their defenses will come down and relationships can be built. Then it will be a pleasure to lead them. They will respect and love you more, and will be more likely to be led by your goals. (Romans 8:31; Ephesians 4:25-29; James 3:1-12)
28. If, and when you use surveys, make sure you are determining between perceived *felt* needs versus *real* needs and what God is calling you to! Otherwise, you will take your church down a *rabbit trail* away from God's call! (Ephesians 5:8-21)
29. A leader must be willing to make improvements and change, even if it steps on the toes of others, but stay firm and be uncompromising to the Word. At the same time, allow people to be in the process with a listening ear, so they can catch the new direction and take ownership of it. (Colossians 4:7-8; Philippians 4:8-9)

30. Are you and your leadership learning and growing in community with one another, willing to go beyond your prejudices and fears and embrace what Christ has for you? (Colossians 1:24-29; 1 Timothy 3:14-15)
31. A church's spiritual health is a matter of focus. To develop an action plan, to change the pew-sitting church into the Christ powered church, you have to go beyond talking about it and actually do something! This requires a focus on Christ that turns into passion and conviction. That passion must come from growth in Christ. If it does not, you will be working for yourselves and not for the Lord and Creator of the Universe! The focus must be on Christ, not the church. That focus determines whether you have a survival mentality or a service mentality. Do you have a church filled with competing agendas, or one with a purpose that is poured out to our Lord? (Philippians 3:10)
32. A church must disciple, and small groups are the best means to do this. Arrange, train, and lead your small group leaders to teach the Bible clearly, going beyond just discussing passages to applying it to their daily lives. Make sure these groups focus on prayer, allowing healthy interaction, so people feel free to express issues, ask questions, and discuss the concerns of life, as the leadership encourages as well as teaches. (Psalm 119:9-12; Ecclesiastes 4:8-10; Matthew 6:33-34; 28:18-20)
33. Teach and model Discipleship, so that personal disciplines are in the Word, and you are filled with excitement and wonder, willing to train, share, and/or teach others what you have learned. (Matthew 28:18-20)
34. If the primary emphasis is on maintaining your building, or on getting more people involved, or on money, this is sure evidence that the focus is on survival. Do the people have a willingness to serve? If so, this is the greatest gauge of a Christ centered church! That willingness to model Christ in the community will only come out when it is done to others in the church first! That focus can only come out with a servant-focused attitude! (Matthew 28:18-20)
35. Pastors, who are real, and authentic, lead healthy churches. This builds trust. Real, authentic leaders will never grandstand, make up problems, or blame others, but will take responsibility, and tell their stories honestly. In wisdom, they will disclose truth, tempered with listening. Be open, and encourage the other leaders to do so too. Authentic leaders can be vulnerable and sensitive at the right times in the right places, and yet wise enough not to give out too much so as to be perceived as weak and needy. Real Christians will forgive you for your mistakes when you are honest! (Acts; James 5:16; 1 John 1:8-10)
36. All too often in the American church, we try to offer people community without cause. The Seeker sensitive, watered down gospel says nothing and inspires people to do nothing. Without a real cause, the church is just another civic club, such as the Kiwanis or Lions. We have to teach the transformation that only Christ gives. (Ephesians 4:11-13)
37. Find out what the image of your church is in the community. To do this, go door to door, and ask people how you can pray for them, then come together as a church to pray for them.

While you are asking them for prayer requests, ask if they know about your church and what you can do to improve. By doing this, you will get a feel about how the community sees you and then you can know what areas need improvement and work. This is a great project for all ages, especially youth groups! This prayer task can also be turned into a very effective way to reach out to people and transition into a “Lighthouse of Prayer.” (Matthew 10)

38. Communicating the gospel in a postmodern context can make us feel forced to compete with the entertainment industry. Do not let this happen. Most people are over stimulated already, and do not always need the PowerPoint and multimedia show. They need reality. Use media as a tool if you need to, or if your people like it, but ask and find out! (I personally love PowerPoint, but I was on staff at a church that did not, so I did not use it.) We cannot compete with Hollywood. Furthermore, we do not have to! We have the power and presence of the living God! (Isaiah 55:6-11; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Romans 6:3-11)
39. Commitment to loving and caring relationships is essential! Loving relationships that are sincere, real, and practical from the work of Christ in your church will be the quintessential factor that will bring people in far better than any evangelism campaign could ever do! People do not want to just hear about Christ as much as they want to see and experience how Christian love really works. They can do this through you! Remember that Christ lived and taught the principle that people respond when we reach out to them. (Mark 12:28-31; John 3:22; 13:35; 1 Corinthians 13)
40. Organize a prayer base in your church. See our Prayer Channel for details. See the article in our prayer channel, *Leading the Church to be People of Prayer*. (John 13:34-35; 20:19-23; Romans 12:1-21)
41. For successful evangelism, the key is to focus the church’s evangelistic efforts on the questions and needs of non-Christians. Find the need that is not being fulfilled and fulfill it, such as a parent support group, a daycare or an after school program. (2 Corinthians 2:3-4; Colossians 1:24-29; 1 Peter 3:15)
42. Do not be afraid to preach Biblical stewardship and how to handle money. If you do not know how, acquire resources to help you. Stewardship, as well as generosity, is a sure sign of the health of your church. A stifled church, no matter how many are attending, will always have financial problems, where a small, poor church with real conviction and purpose will usually have enough! (Proverbs 3:9-10)
43. Make sure your programming is appropriate and needed. (Philippians 3:12-14)
44. A healthy church is prayerful in all of the aspects of church life and ministry. They are reliant upon God’s power and the authority of His Word! (John 15:4-5)