A Grace Administration Primer

Salvation, holy spirit, our sonship rights, our hope, our titles, temptation and prayer.

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Introduction

Purpose – This primer gathers the basic truths every new born-again Christian should know in this day and time. It is not a full study of any one subject. It is a guide to the important topics a new believer needs to understand, so that he can stand, grow and mature in Christ.

The pattern from the first day – On the day of Pentecost, the first day of this grace administration, Peter declared that God had raised Jesus from the dead and exalted him to his right hand, and that Jesus had poured out the gift of holy spirit (Acts 2:32-33). Then he kept on teaching.

Acts 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Peter did not stop at one sermon. “With many other words” he testified, laying out the truth, and exhorted, urging them to act on it. In the Greek, “save yourselves” is “be saved”: it is God who saves, and they were to receive it. “Untoward” means crooked. Paul uses the same word for the world believers live in today: “a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:15).

What happened next shows what a new believer needs.

Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.
Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

About three thousand people were born again in one day, and the next thing they did was learn. They continued in the apostles’ doctrine, in fellowship with one another, and in prayer. Their new birth was complete the moment they believed, but their minds still had to be taught. That is the purpose of this primer.

Why a new Christian needs these truths

1. The new birth is complete, but the mind must be renewed. A person is born again of incorruptible seed when he confesses Jesus as Lord and believes God raised him from the dead (Romans 10:9; 1 Peter 1:23). Yet he still has the same mind, thinking and habits as before. Paul says, “be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2).

2. A new believer is a babe, and a babe needs milk.

1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

3. Without the basics, a believer can be carried away. In this day and time there are more voices, opinions and teachings than ever, and many churches teach little of what God has given the believer: the gift of holy spirit, sonship rights, the hope of Christ’s return. A believer who

knows the basics from the word is not easily moved.

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
Ephesians 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

4. God gave instruction for this administration to the church. All scripture is written for our learning (Romans 15:4), but not all of it is written to us. The letters written to the church tell us most directly what is ours today, so this primer draws mainly from them.

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

How the primer is laid out

The topics follow the order in which a new believer meets them: first what God has done, then what He has given, then who we are and what lies ahead, and last how we walk and talk with Him day by day.

Salvation – how a person is born again.
Once Born Again We Receive the Gift of Holy Spirit – what he received when he was born again.
Speaking in an Unknown Tongue – the proof in manifestation of the new birth, and God's will for every believer.
Holy Spirit Power – the nine manifestations of the gift of holy spirit.
Benefits & Purposes of Speaking in Tongues – why it matters in daily life.
Our Sonship Rights – what God has made us: righteous, sanctified, redeemed, justified, reconciled and adopted.
Our Hope – what lies ahead: the return of Christ and everlasting life.
The Christians' God-Given Titles & Attributes – who God says we are.
Temptation & Sin – the simplicity of walking in newness of life.
Prayer – how we talk with our heavenly Father.

How to use it – Each section is short. Read the verses first; the comments only point to them. Look each verse up in your own Bible and read it in its setting. Come back to these truths as you grow. They are the foundation, and the foundation is Christ: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11).

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Salvation

Background: Ever since Adam and Eve were deceived by the serpent, also known as the adversary, Lucifer, devil, Satan and the tempter among other names, mankind needed a savior to legally redeem him from that error which transferred the authority Adam had over the created world unto the devil. The promise of a Messiah was given immediately after this event in Genesis.

Genesis 3:14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:
Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

It took about 4000 years for God to bring this promise to pass in the birth and life of Jesus the Christ. Christ meaning the anointed one in Greek as does Messiah in Aramaic/Hebrew. As Adam was a son of God so Jesus was the only begotten son of God without the sin nature brought on by Adam allowing him to redeem mankind by his sacrifice and death. And made available after Jesus' ascension into heaven on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 by way of a simple confession and belief in one's heart.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.
Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

It is by the name of Jesus the Christ and his name only that salvation is accomplished. Upon which in God's terms we are born again of his incorruptible seed, his gift of holy spirit, sonship and guarantee of eternal life.

1 Peter 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sin nature has passed to every generation since Adam's transgression, and it leads to death, which remains permanent without salvation.

Salvation provides remission of sin both the sin nature and a man's previous sins. After being born again, if we sin (broken fellowship), we receive forgiveness through Jesus Christ (1 John

1:9). This new birth and salvation is a free gift not of works or confession of sin. Rather it is by grace, God's divine favor and love.

Romans 5:15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

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Once Born Again We Receive the Gift of Holy Spirit

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (holy spirit).

God is holy, God is spirit so he gives of that which he is so we can then communicate and fellowship with our heavenly father as he intended with his new sons and daughters. In John, Jesus prophesies of what would shortly come to pass. This is what we now have as born again saints.

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

John 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

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Speaking in an Unknown Tongue

Speaking in an unknown tongue (to the speaker) is not commonly taught, but it is fully described in New Testament scripture written to Christians. Also, God is the Holy Spirit, the Giver; his gift is holy spirit, power from on high (Luke 24:49). So Holy Spirit must not be confused with the gift, holy spirit, and can be understood by the context where it is translated and written.

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
Acts 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost (holy spirit the gift), and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Speaking with other tongues was the proof in the senses realm of the internal reality of the new birth. Confessing Romans 10:9–10 brings to pass the internal spiritual reality of the new birth. God's word in those verses is the proof of that internal reality. But our heavenly father made something greater available to us, power and proof in manifestation by speaking in an unknown tongue.

Shortly before the outpouring of holy spirit on the day of Pentecost Jesus explains this more fully to his apostles.

Acts 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.
Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost (holy spirit) is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Once we receive the gift of holy spirit we are to be witnesses of Jesus Christ's accomplished work in us.

Throughout the book of Acts speaking in tongues was expected and the proof in the senses realm of the new birth.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
Acts 8:14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:
Acts 8:15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost (the gift of holy spirit):

Acts 8:16 (For as yet he (it) was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)
Acts 8:17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost (the gift of holy spirit).

Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.
Acts 10:45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.
Acts 10:46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.

So our heavenly father has provided plenty of scriptures demonstrating his will. So what is his will?

1 Corinthians 14:5a I would that ye all spake with tongues,
1 Corinthians 14:18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

This is God's will for all born again believers.

What language is being spoken? Languages of men and/or angels.

1 Corinthians 13:1a Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels

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Holy Spirit Power

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost (gift of holy spirit) is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The gift of holy spirit includes nine manifestations so we can walk as God intended in with spiritual power. Just as we learned to speak in an unknown tongue after we confessed Jesus as Lord we can also learn how to utilize the other eight manifestations.

1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal (for the benefit of all).
1 Corinthians 12:8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;
1 Corinthians 12:9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;
1 Corinthians 12:10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:
1 Corinthians 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

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Benefits & Purposes of Speaking in Tongues

It is the foundation for the operation of the other eight manifestations. It is the first demonstrated manifestation which began this (our) grace administration on the day of Pentecost Acts 2:1...

According to 1 Corinthians 14 speaking in tongues is to be done quietly to oneself when among other people (1 Corinthians 14:28), unless interpreted during a believers meeting so everyone understands and is edified. Speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues or prophecy during a believers meeting is to be decent and orderly unto edifying (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Tongues are for a sign
Mark 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;
1 Corinthians 14:22a Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not:

It builds us up spiritually
1 Corinthians 14:4a He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself;
Jude 1:20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost (the gift of holy spirit which is speaking in tongues),

It is bearing witness with God that we are his children
Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
1 John 3:2a Beloved, now are we the sons of God,

It is witness that we are joint heirs with Christ, and heirs of God
Romans 8:17a And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;

It strengthens us with might in our inner man.
Ephesians 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;
2 Corinthians 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

It proves the resurrection and ascension of Christ. This is the day of Pentecost and what everyone heard was the Apostles speaking in an unknown tongue.
Acts 2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.
Acts 2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

It is our guarantee of a new spiritual body in the future.
Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,
Ephesians 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased

possession, unto the praise of his glory.

It builds us up to walk by the spirit, which bears the fruit in our lives
Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
Galatians 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.
Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Provides a way to speak mysteries, divine secrets to God
1 Corinthians 14:2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

Here on the day of Pentecost those present that heard each of the Apostles speaking in a tongue in their language said we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.
Acts 2:11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

It Magnifies or gives glory to God
Acts 10:46a For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.

It is perfect prayer
Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered (put into words).

It is giving thanks well. Here in 1 Corinthians 14 are given the instructions on speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues and prophecy. So regarding speaking in tongues...
1 Corinthians 14:17 For thou verily givest thanks well,

It is worship in spirit and in truth
John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

A way to be filled with joy
Acts 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost (gift of holy spirit).
Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost (gift of holy spirit).

It gives rest to the soul
Isaiah 28:11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.
Isaiah 28:12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.
1 Corinthians 14:21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

It provides a way to quicken our mortal bodies. It not only strengthens our inner man, but

adds life to our physical bodies.
Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

It provides a way to make intercession for the believers and the work of the ministry. We simply stay our mind on the person or situation to which we direct the power of God and speak in tongues.
Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
Romans 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.
Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

It provides power for effectual witnessing. We can not only pray for doors of utterance, but by the very operating of the power of God makes our witness more effectual.
Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

It provides a way to open your heart intimately to God.
Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.
Galatians 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Speaking in tongues, when exercised with its companion manifestation of interpretation of tongues, brings forth a message of edification, exhortation and comfort to the believers. (And any non-believers in the meeting)
1 Corinthians 14:13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.
1 Corinthians 14:27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

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Our Sonship Rights

Righteousness, Sanctification, Redemption, Justification, Reconciliation, and Adoption

Now that we are born again of God's spirit we are no longer spiritually part of the kingdom of the world. We live spiritually in the Kingdom of God, thus we have rights that we can claim and walk in. We should memorize these because they are our rights as a son of God. If we don't claim them the adversary will take advantage of us. We need to claim these rights in order to reap the blessings and benefits of each in our daily lives.

Righteousness – God has made us righteous now. We are right before God. How righteous is God? That is the righteousness we have. We no longer have to be sin conscious and downtrodden.

Romans 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.
Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;
Romans 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Sanctification – To be sanctified is being set apart, God set us apart from the world, unto eternal life. Now we are to live as being set apart from the world.

1 Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Hebrews 10:10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Redemption – We have been redeemed from the curse of the law.

Galatians 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13), and the law of the spirit of life has made us free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2). It is our sacred duty to live apart from the world according to God's standard in our daily lives.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.
Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for

it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

1 Corinthians 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?
1 Corinthians 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Justification – We are justified, just as if we never sinned.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

What freedom from sin consciousness and self condemnation we have. This is why we can have the utmost confidence, trust and believing in God’s promises and loving goodness toward us. Now that we are justified spiritually, it is our responsibility to avoid the entrapment of sin in our daily lives.

Reconciliation – we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son. To be reconciled to God is to no longer be separated from him.

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

The corresponding action to being reconciled is to engage in our ministry of reconciliation. God has entrusted the ministry of reconciliation to us; it is our ministry.

2 Corinthians 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

You probably did not know that you have a ministry, a calling. With the new birth it is our duty and a privilege to minister reconciliation by calling men and women to God by way of Jesus Christ. It is as simple as sharing what God has done for you along with the free gift and simplicity of Romans 10:9–10

Adoption – We have been placed as grown sons in God's family, with the full standing and inheritance rights that go with it — not servants, but heirs.

Ephesians 1:5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

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Our Hope

The Christians Hope includes:
1. Living forever with the Lord and fellow believers (1 Thessalonians 4:17), in the new heavens and new earth God has promised (2 Peter 3:13).
2. Having perfect bodies just like Christ does now (Philippians 3:21).
3. Living in a world where there is no evil or injustice.
4. Enjoying rewards that we have earned in our earthly lives (1 Corinthians 3:14).

Currently “hope” is often used like “ I wish.” which is a degradation of the biblical definition. For example, I might say “I hope it rains” when there is no reasonable expectation of rain.

The Christians hope is based on a promise of God, which is an accurate biblical use of “hope” which is a sure expectation that it will come to pass.
Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;
Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Also, We can have hope in the wrong thing:1 Timothy 6:17a Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust (hope) in uncertain riches, but in the living God. Hope in the living God is a sure expectation of eternal life.

Life is difficult. Hope – our sure expectation of eternal life gives us a reason to push forward despite circumstance. Hope is considered one of human’s basic needs. Hope gives life meaning.

The hope – our sure expectation of eternal life protects our “head,” our thought life:
1 Thessalonians 5:8 But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. & Ephesians 6:10–17

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.
Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
The hope of salvation, eternal life is guaranteed, but rewards are for living for God according to his word in this life. Hope gives us a goal to receive our rewards in the future and comfort of life

everlasting.. Hope is a powerful motivational tool.

Hebrews 6:18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:
Hebrews 6:19a Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast,

Hope is an anchor of the soul!

1. Hope Keeps the believer from being “blown away” from Christianity by the storms of life. That is pressure...
2. Hope Keeps the believer from drifting away from Christianity; simply finding or being tempted by other things in life more interesting and fun. That is false hope in present things which leads us away from standing for God.

We are going to read these verses to get a better understanding of our hope of salvation and everlasting life.

1 Corinthians 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?
1 Corinthians 15:13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:
1 Corinthians 15:14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.
1 Corinthians 15:15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.
1 Corinthians 15:16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:
1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.
1 Corinthians 15:18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.
1 Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. (in other words if this life is all we have to hope in)
1 Corinthians 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept (dead).
1 Corinthians 15:21 For since by man came death, by man (Jesus) came also the resurrection of the dead.
1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
1 Corinthians 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

The mystery revealed

Colossians 1:26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:
Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: – **our sure expectation of eternal life and glory, which is God's manifested power when he brings it to pass.**
Colossians 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
Philippians 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;
Old Testament believers looked forward to the Messiah and it was their responsibility to live accordingly, Jesus came and fulfilled the law, so it is the responsibility of man today in this our grace administration to confess Jesus as Lord and believe God raised him from the dead to be saved. That's what it says and that's what it means. God set the rules, that is why we need to make known Christ the messiah to everyone. Which is our ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18

1 Peter 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

1 Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope – **hope our sure expectation of eternal life.**
1 Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep (in death) in Jesus will God bring with him.
1 Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent (precede) them which are asleep.
1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
1 Thessalonians 4:18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

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The Christians' God-Given Titles & Attributes

Christians

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Scripture does not say who first called the disciples Christians. The name means those of Christ, or with Christ in them, and it is not inaccurate to call oneself or be called a Christian: “if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed” (1 Peter 4:16).

Saints

Romans 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Called, belonging to

Romans 1:6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

Sons of God

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Brothers to the Lord Jesus the Christ

Hebrews 2:11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Brothers and sisters to one another

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Beloved

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;
2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

Servants

Romans 6:22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Disciples or disciplined ones

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;
Acts 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The body of Christ & members in particular

Romans 12:5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.
1 Corinthians 12:27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Ministers when we rise up in service

2 Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

Stewards of the grace of God

1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Ambassadors

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Fellow citizens

Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

Heirs of God

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Shine as Lights, children of light

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;
Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

A new creation

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Strangers and pilgrims in this present world

1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
1 Peter 2:10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.
1 Peter 2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;
Peter, the apostle to the circumcision, applies Israel's titles from Sinai (Exodus 19:5-6) to his readers. The church is one new body, not a renamed Israel (Ephesians 2:15).

Collectively we are the temple of God

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Vessels of mercy

Romans 9:23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

Believers

Acts 5:14 And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.

Sons of Abraham because he is the father of believing

Galatians 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.
Galatians 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

The epistle of Christ

2 Corinthians 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Attributes

The Just, the righteous, the redeemed, sanctified and reconciled ones as we learned from our sonship rights.

Glorified

Romans 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Forgiven

Colossians 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Delivered and translated

Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Faithful & obedient when we maintain that status

Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:
2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Partakers of the divine nature

2 Peter 1:4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

New man

Ephesians 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;
Ephesians 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and

true holiness.

A living sacrifice

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Blameless and harmless

Philippians 2:15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

Followers of God

Ephesians 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

Accepted in the beloved

Ephesians 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

More than conquerors

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Complete

Colossians 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;
Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.
Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

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Temptation & Sin

The simplicity of walking in newness of life in Christ

Once a person confesses Romans 10:9–10 they are born again and receive the gift of holy spirit. But that individual still has the same mind, thinking and habits as before becoming a Christian. The next aspect and requirement is fellowship with our heavenly father by learning the scripture written after the day of Pentecost and obeying his will and instruction in daily life.

Let's take a quick look at those verses.

Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Let me preempt the following with the reminder in Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: **Our own works or goodness is not a part of salvation.**

Look at the first part of Romans 10:9 confess with the mouth the Lord Jesus... Here Lord is the Greek word kurios, meaning master, the one with authority. In this context it is Jesus, not God. So here we are confessing Jesus as Lord in our lives. With the understanding that we are to give up our own sovereignty and recognize his in our lives. Jesus Christ has authority and is our master for us to emulate according to scripture.

As a Christian we are no longer under the legalism of the Mosaic law, however there are boundaries we are instructed not to cross for our own benefit and to maintain fellowship with God our father. Sin is broken fellowship and there are many things we are instructed not to do. It is spiritually healthy to desire to maintain fellowship with God our father. This desire is a Godly motivator to do so.

We are all going to be tempted and a new Christian may ask, how am I to know what are the wrong thoughts or actions, not knowing much of the scripture yet? One will learn these guidelines over time, but what does one do in the meantime? Think logically... most every individual, especially one that has a heart to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior as we have done, know the difference between right and wrong. So even a new born Christian can walk in fellowship with God from day one. We are to think about what we are thinking about and contemplate before taking the wrong action.

1 Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer **[or allow]** you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. **There is absolutely a way for all of us to escape temptation.**

Most Christians believe that overcoming temptation takes great will power and that with each

temptation there is terrible turmoil and struggle. This is not true, nor is this thinking found in the scripture written to us. Would you like to learn that temptation does not have to have power and authority over you? Well Motivation of heart is the key and I will show you several aspects that will release you from any power and authority of temptation in your life. The practical application is accepting and believing in your heart God's grace, his divine favor toward you, his unwavering love and forgiveness, that he looks beyond our shortcomings to the perfection of his spirit within us along with his promise of everlasting life in a new spiritual body at Christ's return. This takes humility toward God and recognizing his good, acceptable and perfect will for our lives.

I want you to think about a person close to you that you care about. If someone tempted you to steal from or hurt that person would it take any will power at all to overcome that temptation? No!! with double exclamation points. Why? Because the motivation here is love. How much more so when we love God from the heart to obey him.

1 John 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

It is the love of God that makes it joyously easy to keep his word. When we genuinely love God temptation no longer has any power over us. Let's read the first part of that verse again. 1 John 2:5 But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: See? It is the love of God that is the motivation and which gives us the conviction ability to keep his word. There is no struggle or fight to do so. Where there is the love of God in our hearts, there is the will and ability to keep his word.

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Know that even while we were sinners, God loved us (Romans 5:8) and made us his children by spirit which is everlasting. So we in turn love God because we recognize the love he first had for us, even when we did not deserve it.This is motivation for us to love God in return. When we love God in return we will obey his word and overcome temptation and sin. Because for us, there is only one choice, God's way. <u>The desire to choose temptation and sin is now gone because it is not a viable option or choice.</u>

1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. **God has revealed these things to us now by his spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10); their fullness awaits Christ's return.**

The hope of Christ's return and future rewards are another motivation to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength which nullifies any and every temptation. Are you beginning to see The simplicity of walking in newness of life in Christ.

I am not saying that we will never make mistakes and break fellowship with the father. We will sin at times and because we love God we heed the following which brings forgiveness and restores our fellowship with him.

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Without being sin conscious it is proper to recognize that we have sin in our lives, but vs 9 says...
1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins **[to God]**, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **So no worries. What another great incentive to love God from the heart and obey him implicitly. Because he has our complete salvation wholeness taken care of.**

Another aspect is to have the awareness that God is ever present, with us and in us. Just speak in tongues and you have the proof in manifestation. God is closer than our very breath. Once we believe the reality of this we no longer turn away from God to obey temptation and sin. How could we, as we now walk hand in hand and heart to heart with our Father every moment of the day.

Hebrews 13:5b for he [God] hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
Hebrews 13:6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. **Our heavenly Father is always with us.**

Another important aspect as we learn the instruction to us written after Pentecost, especially the letters to the church (Romans through Thessalonians), is to recognize and receive it as God's word. We don't question it, God said it, that settles it. He is the creator of the heaven and earth and all that is therein. We believe and know in the depth of our being that his word reigns supreme far and above our own misguided thoughts and desires or the influences of the world.

Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

God's word is truth and supersedes all sense knowledge information. This is why we trust his word more than our own inclinations and desires, except when they are in alignment and harmony with truth.

If You Are in a Deep Struggle

I felt it necessary to include the following: Because God does not leave anyone to suffer in sin, so I need to share this one last route to deliverance. There are times when a Christian's past has imparted a deep seated sin and temptation to sin that may not neatly fit into one of the aspects I previously shared, one that is a genuine struggle to overcome. If that is the case, there is nothing to be ashamed of, God wants healing for everyone.

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;
John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Continuing in God's word makes one disciplined and by doing so you will know the truth and it DOES NOT JUST SET YOU FREE, IT PERMANENTLY MAKES YOU FREE. If one is only set free, he can be imprisoned again. Jesus said, “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36). This is God's promise even in the most difficult captivity to temptation and sin. The answer is to find the scriptures dealing with your particular circumstance and make it your own by prayer and believing until you are made free. If that is not enough it may be necessary to involve another trusted believer, seasoned in the word to help with teaching, encouragement, prayer and possibly administering the power of God by way of the gift of holy spirit. Your heavenly father loves you equally as all that are his.

In closing, the final take away is that overcoming temptation and sin should not be a struggle in our lives even for the newest Christian.

1. because we love God from the heart,
2. we believe in Christ's return and our future rewards,
3. we recognize God is with us and in us,
4. we know his word is truth and can trust its authority for our lives, and
5. if and when we do sin or give into temptation, we confess our sins and know we are forgiven.

Thus by making the reality of these truths our own we will have the Godly motivation and conviction to overcome temptation and sin. This is The simplicity of walking in newness of life in Christ.

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Prayer

Prayer is a solemn request for help or joyful expression of thanks and praise addressed to God. This is a basic definition of prayer, but as we shall see from scripture there are varied nuances and other directions prayer can take.

Matthew 6 Jesus teaches how to pray and it is part of his sermon on the mount. It is mis-called the Lord's prayer as that title is not in scripture.

Jesus says - After this manner therefore pray ye. He did not say pray these words, but after this manner. There are many Christian groups that repeat this prayer religiously over and over erroneously. Two verses prior to Jesus lesson he says.

Matthew 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.
Matthew 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

Here is his lesson;
Matthew 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Matthew 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Matthew 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.
Matthew 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Seems pretty simple, but Jesus was a master teacher and here he is sharing a perfectly ordered and numbered list of how to pray. There are eight parts to this list with each part a demonstration of truth that the people listening could remember and implement. Let us do the same.

1 - Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **One is primary and signifies unity. This is a prayer of praise to God.**

2 - Thy kingdom come. **Two establishes a truth or divides away that which is unwanted. This is a prayer acknowledging the establishment of God's Kingdom which is distinctly apart from and supersedes the kingdom of the world.**

3 - Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. **Three Signifies Completeness. This is a prayer of power for ministering. When and where God's will is done on earth as in heaven it is a completed spiritual work.**

4 - Give us this day our daily bread. **Four Signifies the creation, the world and mankind. This is a prayer for all daily needs.**

5 - And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. **Five signifies grace. This is a prayer**

for forgiveness.At this time God's people were still under the law, forgiveness of others was required for oneself to be forgiven. Not so for us in this our grace administration. We forgive because we have been forgiven. Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

6 - And lead us not into temptation, **The number six relates to man and human weakness, the evils of the devil and the manifestation of sin. This is a prayer to aid escape from temptation.**

7 - but deliver us from evil **Seven signifies spiritual perfection. This is a prayer for protection from evil.**

8 - For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. E**ight signifies a new beginning, and to super-abound. With Amen declaring So Be It** (This closing line is not found in many of the oldest manuscripts of Matthew.)

We can still utilise Jesus guide to prayer today by following those eight categories listed. But as we look at other scriptures relating to prayer we will see a much broader scope of effect available to us after the day of Pentecost.

Previously we learned that speaking in an unknown tongue is speaking by the spirit and one of the purposes is perfect prayer and praise to God.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
Romans 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

But praying in the spirit by speaking in tongues is not the focus of this study. Here we want to look at prayer with our understanding where we engage with God our Father with our mind and our own words, maybe even including promises of God and scriptures when we pray. Additionally there are many Christians that have not learned the availability of praying in the spirit and do not know how to speak in tongues yet, but their prayer life can still be effective.

1 Corinthians 14:15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. **God wants prayer from our own heart and mind also.**

Here is more that Jesus shared in the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:
Matthew 7:8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that

knocketh it shall be opened.
Matthew 7:9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?
Matthew 7:10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?
Matthew 7:11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

That is a very plain and simple to understand passage. He says to ask and you will receive and to know God will give good gifts. However, I would like to clear up any misunderstandings regarding prayer and asking God for something. There are rules when it comes to God's instruction and to get results we must abide by those rules.

Requirement number one. What we are asking for must be available. If scripture does not say it is available, all the prayer in the world will not get us results. We must know from scripture what is available.
1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
1 John 5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Requirement number two. When we pray we must believe to receive.
Mark 11:22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.
Mark 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.
Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Matthew 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
James 1:7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.
James 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Requirement number three. We pray utilizing the name of Jesus the Christ. Not just in the name of Jesus but Jesus Christ the triumphant redeemer.
1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
John 14:14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name

of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.
Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

Requirement number four. It is never to be a religious ritual or prayer of repetition. Nor are we to plead with God. When God says he will answer our prayers when we believe, then he will. Pleading and begging signify unbelief rather than trust in God.

Colossians 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;
Colossians 4:3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:
Colossians 4:4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

When we pray we are to do so with thanksgiving. Thanksgiving for God's ability and willingness to answer our prayer and for the privilege to open our heart to God freely. Also for those that serve for open doors to speak the revealed mystery of Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

We are to pray without ceasing as the need presents itself and in every thing give thanks. Is there a need, heaviness of heart, trouble in our day, others that have need, etc. We are to be spiritually aware and walk in love with a readiness of mind to pray as necessary. The next verse emphasizes this clearly.

Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; <u>continuing instant in prayer</u>;

1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 1 Timothy 2:2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 1 Timothy 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

God exhorts that
supplications – asking humbly and earnestly with petitions or requests
prayers – all other forms of communication with God
intercessions - entreaty to intercede in favor of another
giving of thanks – thanksgiving and praise
To who? All men! And to those in authority.
Purpose? that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
Why? For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

KJV 1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

ESV 1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

God does not want a married couple's prayers to be hindered. Together they are a believing force in prayer. To avoid discord between a couple **the husband is to take the initiative** to work with the wife in an understanding way. Why? Because they are heirs together of the grace of life. Husband and wife are to move together as one mind, heart and soul so prayers are not hindered. **Peter calls the husband to take the initiative in understanding and honour, so that their prayers are not hindered.**

James 5:13 Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. **If any among you are suffering, keep praying. If merry keep reciting psalms.**
James 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: **Sick? Call the elders to pray for healing. Anointing with oil signifies sanctification and would be used symbolically only. The oil itself holds no power, but is only an demonstration of one's being set apart for God. An elder is one who is seasoned in God's word and ministering.**
James 5:15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. **Believing prayer shall save the sick, but it is the Lord that performs the healing along with forgiveness of sins.**
James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. **Fully share faults, shortcomings, problems and illness, pray one for the other as needed. Because, emphasis here**: The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. **The next two verses are the spiritual proof that this is so.**
James 5:17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.
James 5:18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.
James 5:19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; **Bring him back to the truth**
James 5:20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. **Could be physical death from sickness and sin or spiritual death for one that becomes born again. In both cases forgiving a multitude of sins by correction of the error on truth.**

So we see the individual is to pray, elders are to pray for the sick, effectual fervent prayer avails much, we are encouraged to correct error on the truth to save others from physical or spiritual death and forgiveness of many sins because the error has been corrected.

James 4:3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Here we see we must pray according to the will of God and not our own will. We are to walk in the love of God when we pray avoiding our own desires.

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do

also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.
John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.
John 14:14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

During the Gospel period Jesus was a minister to the circumcision and the Judeans had to abide by the Mosaic law. Jesus knew that once he was risen and ascended greater works would be available to us. For instance we can lead others into the new birth which was not available in the Gospel period. God along with Jesus honors his word. Ask anything in his name and he will do it. We know that God answers prayer, but Jesus could say I will do it because he was the anointed representative for God.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.
John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

In this section Jesus is sharing with his disciples and speaking of a time in the near future when they would bring forth fruit and that fruit would remain. What fruit remains from the work of the Apostles after the day of Pentecost? Everyone born again of the spirit since Pentecost in Acts 2. See the last two verses in John 15, it is regarding the comforter, the spirit of truth which was poured out on the day of Pentecost when the Apostles officially began their ministry.

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:
John 15:27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
1 John 5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

When we ask anything according to God's will we have confidence that he hears us and because he hears us **we know** we have the petitions we desired of him. WE KNOW AND ARE ASSURED AND CONFIDENT

KJV 1 Timothy 2:7 Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.
1 Timothy 2:8 I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.
I include this verse in the ISV for better understanding.
ISV 1 Timothy 2:7 For this reason I was appointed to be an announcer, an apostle, and a faithful and true teacher of the gentiles. (I am telling you the truth. I am not lying.) **because of this....**
1 Timothy 2:8 Therefore, I want the men everywhere to pray, **taking action according to my admonitions** lifting up holy hands without being angry or argumentative.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. **Rather than being anxious, prayer, supplication with thanksgiving...**
Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep (guard) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. **The peace of God replaces any possible anxiousness by guarding our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus**

1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. **We are righteous now so the Lord's ears are open to our prayers.**

KJV 1 Peter 4:7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.
I include the ISV for better understanding.
ISV 1 Peter 4:7 Because everything will soon come to an end, be sensible and clear-headed, so you can pray.

1 John 5:13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:
1 John 5:15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.
1 John 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death.

This is a big deal, we can pray for others sins to be forgiven. We take the place of the absent Christ and minister to man's greatest need. Forgiveness and entrance to eternal life through Jesus Christ.

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