

**IGROW 2 : GROW  
I AM HOME**

**IFGF**  
**GROW**

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## **FORWARD**

Greetings,

The IFGF church started with the mission statement, "People is Our Mission," meaning that we believe that every soul must first be brought into a relationship with God before they are able to disciple others.

The HOME class will teach you how wonderful it is to have a spiritual home where you can experience protection and support while you grow in Christlikeness.

By attending this class, I hope that you will grow to not only love the house of the Lord, but love the journey of growth as well. Blessings to you as you grow.

*In His Love,*

*Rev. Dr. Jimmy Oentoro*

*Founder of IFGF*

## **CHAPTER 1:**

### **MISSION STATEMENT OF IFGF**

#### **PASSAGE**

*“Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain” (Psalm 127: 1 NKJV).*

#### **STORY**

##### **A SMALL SEED**

A revelation from God changed the messy life of a teenager who was involved in an occult. In time, he transformed into a young man who was on fire for the Lord. The teenager, Jimmy Oentoro, gathered with colleagues at Kapuran 45—an old warehouse occupied by six brothers who were disowned by their parents for choosing to follow Christ. These young people began having revival services for students in the city of Semarang and the surrounding areas. Their faithfulness helped lead many young people to the Lord.

In those services, God convicted Jimmy to go to school in America. This seemed improbable and highly inconvenient for someone who did not have the proper documentations. The process of trying to go to school in America was difficult, but God worked His miracles and Oentoro left for America.

In the States, Jimmy started a prayer meeting at his house to reach out to Indonesian students in his community. Many of the students he knew were lost in the partying culture and did not know God. Together with several colleagues, Jimmy held revival meetings for these Indonesian students, much like what he did in Semarang. His tuition money was used to fund these revival events in the States and in Europe.

A fellowship group called TRC was born from Jimmy’s alliance of Indonesian students in the States in the 1980s. This later became the forerunner for IFGF, the International Full Gospel Fellowship. Today, the IFGF church is still growing in many cities around the world. There are now more than 3,000 IFGF churches in 40 countries. To become a blessing throughout the world, IFGF also established a charity called WorldHarvest to provide education to the poor, medicine for the sick, help to the disaster-stricken, and more.

#### **LESSON**

The Church is a movement established by Jesus. More so, Jesus called the church to be His bride. The Church is not a building or a social gathering. The church is you and I—together. We are the church.

This is why we proudly declare that people is our mission. We're the church—the hands and feet of Christ. We don't stay still in a building. We were called to get out of that building to reach out to souls for the kingdom of God.

## A. DIVINE REVELATION



IFGF was not born out of the thoughts of man, but from the revelations<sup>1</sup> that God had given certain people. Some things you should know when you want to live out the revelations you've received from God is that it:

- Requires time: Philip was willing to sacrifice his time to reach out to the Ethiopian eunuch who wanted to know the truth of Christ (Acts 8: 26-40).
- Requires willingness: Paul and Silas were willing to be imprisoned for the gospel (Acts 16: 19-40).
- Will bear fruit: If you've helped one soul to know Jesus, you are storing treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:20).
- Will have an eternal impact: Whenever a soul repents and turns to God, all of heaven rejoices (Luke 15: 7,10).

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (Johs 3:16 NKJV).*

Every activity, event, service, worship and church development project of IFGF aims to bring people to know Jesus, to be His disciples, and to make disciples of others.

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV).*

*"Then He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men'" (Matthew 4:19 NKJV).*

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<sup>1</sup> "Revelation" or "apokalupto" in the orginial language means revealing or unveiling the cover. Specifically in this instance it refers to a true statement of God's heart to man. It also includes the call of the eternal God to the leader or members of the church to change the world through its involvement in God's plan of salvation for the world.

## B. A CHURCH I UNDERSTAND

### 1. Church is FAMILY.

*"Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous" (1 Peter 3:8 NKJV).*

*"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God..." (Ephesians 2:19 NKJV)*

Babies aren't able to survive without the constant help of others to care for them. Similarly, every person who is reborn in Christ is a spiritual infant and should seek support from a church family. In this family, you will find brothers and sisters who will support you in your growth, laugh with you, empathize with you, and walk through life together with you in love and intimacy. Of course, the family also has disagreements and differing opinions, but these conflicts should not diminish the purpose and beauty of the church family.

### 2. Church is COMMUNITY.

*"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42 NKJV).*

*"...endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3 NKJV).*

Humans need community. Since the days of the apostles, believers gathered together to form a community to strengthen one another and grow together. The church is distinguished by other alliances because there is a call from God within each of its members to live for Him.

### 3. Church is a BODY.

*"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us..." (Romans 12:4-6 NKJV)*

When Christ came into the world, He took on human form (Hebrews 10: 5, Philippians 2: 7). Through this frail, physical body, Jesus revealed God's astounding and courageous love for the world. Even after He ascended to heaven, Jesus is able to continue His work on earth through His spiritual body, which is His church.

As members of His body, we are bound to one another. Our actions affect other members. Each believer, no matter how weak or insignificant he or she feels, has a call

to serve others. The body will grow only if all its members grow. If only one part of the body grows while the other parts remain underdeveloped (for example: If only the hands grow, while the rest of the body is still like a small child), the church will not experience true growth. Therefore, it is important that the whole congregation must aim to grow and function together<sup>2</sup>.

#### 4. The Church BELONGS TO CHRIST.

*"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18 NKJV).*

*"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church" (Ephesians 5:25-29 NKJV).*

Christ willingly died on the cross for His Church. He gave His promise that He will one day come back for His bride (John 14: 3). So, whoever attacks and persecutes the Church will face Christ, the head of the Church. When Saul went to Damascus to persecute the believers, he came face to face with God. He saw a light and heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" (Acts 9: 4) God protects and nurtures His church because we belong to Him.

#### 5. The Church is the PLACE OF GOOD NEWS.

*"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people" (Matthew 4:23 NKJV).*

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek" (Romans 1:16 NKJV).*

The Good News about deliverance, hope, healing, and eternal salvation exists only in Jesus, and the church is where the Good News is declared.

In Matthew 24:14, Jesus says, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, the end will come afterward." The task of the church, therefore, is to bring the Gospel to all the corners of the Earth. God commands us to be a living and breathing movement, preaching the Good News wherever we go.

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<sup>2</sup> Live Full Lives

## 6. The Church is the **HOPE OF THE WORLD.**

*"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV).*

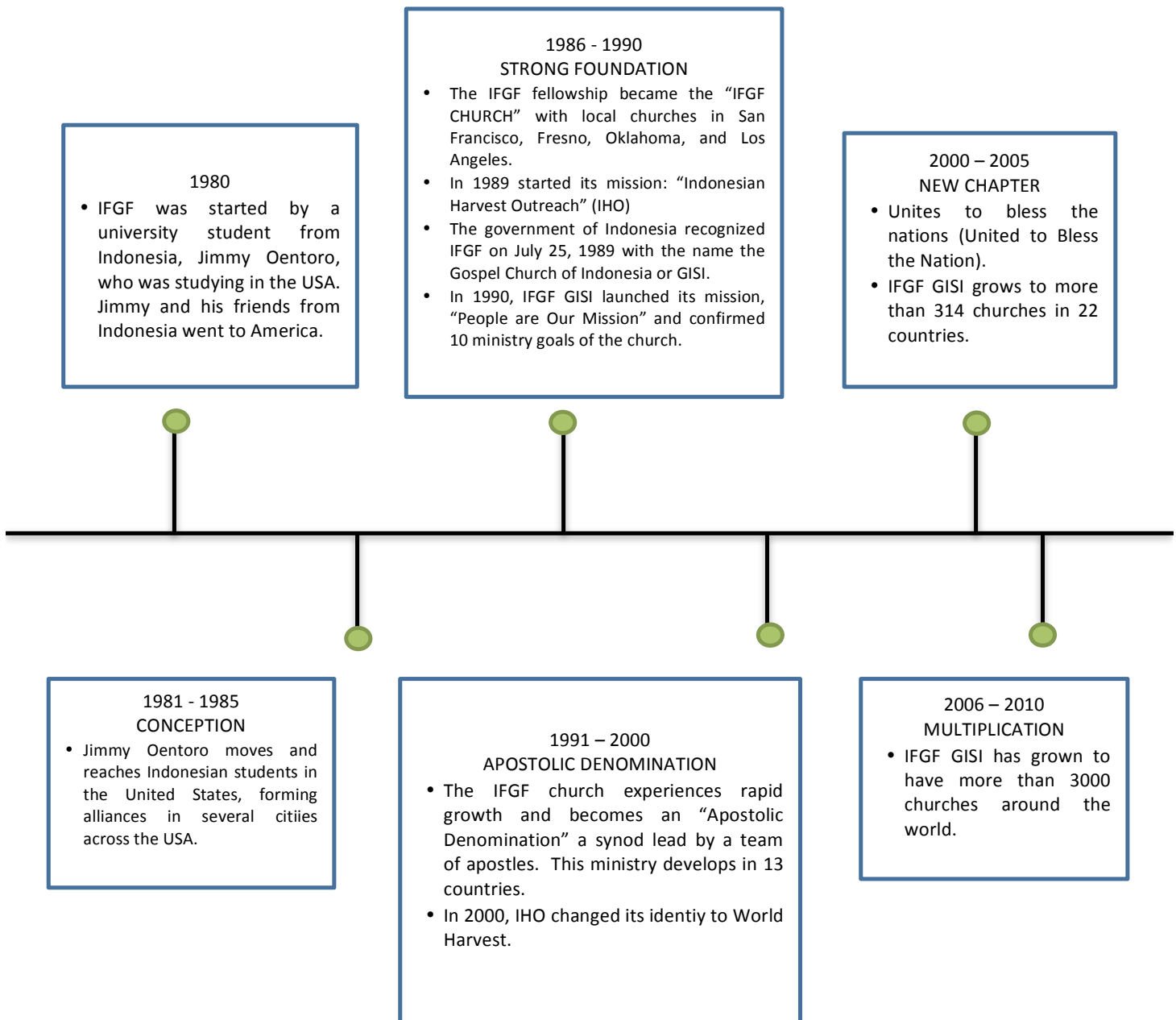
In a world filled with violence, poverty, injustice, and a variety of other challenges, the church should be the long awaited answer. The Church should care for the surrounding communities, provide for their general welfare, help impoverished areas, and engage in charitable acts that will benefit their communities and bring glory to God. Churches could also have a positive impact in the political world, without making the nation a theocracy. The Church is currently involved in combating drugs, educating the younger generation, and positively influencing popular culture and society as a whole. In the business world, the Church has become a source of accountability for businessmen and women, and is involved in shepherding the people in the workforce.

The Church should not be limited to shepherding those within its walls, but should also be shepherding the outside communities and across the globe.

Church ... where the sick are cured  
 Church ... where the enslaved are released from their bondage  
 Church ... where the crushed are restored  
 Church ... where the thirsty are satisfied by living water  
 Church ... where the bread of life nourishes the hungry  
 Church ... where the lost are found  
 Church ... where the desperate find hope  
 Church ... where the stray find their way back  
 Church ... where the bitter find everlasting love  
 Church ... where the lonely find the True Companion  
 Church ... where the weak claim victory  
 Church ... where the negative become positive  
 Church ... where the powers of darkness are destroyed  
 Church ... the riches of God's kingdom are stored  
 Church ... where God's plan and purpose for the world is fulfilled  
 Church ... the world becomes aware of the reality of Christ's resurrection  
 Church ... the greatest story in the world ... the story of the Good News echoed through the Cross of Christ.



### C. THE HISTORY OF IFGF



## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

1. Do you already belong to an IFGF church? If not, what keeps you from becoming a member?

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2. What changes have you experienced in your life since you join IFGF? Share your testimony.

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3. What three things do you like about IFGF?

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## MEMORIZE

*“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18 NKJV).*

## **CHAPTER 2:** **VISION OF IFGF (1)**

### **PASSAGE**

*“According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it” (1 Corinthians 3:10 NKJV).*

*“Or, to put it another way, you are God’s house. Using the gift God gave me as a good architect, I designed blueprints” (1 Corinthians 3:10 The Message).*

### **STORY**

#### **3D BLUEPRINT**

Usually, we use a computer printer at home or in the office to print letters, pictures or other documents, but a company in China built a two-storey villa in less than three hours using a 3D technology printer. They start by printing parts of the villa and then assembling it as if building lego homes. Amazingly, these houses are fire-resistant and can withstand earthquakes measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale. They are also expected to last 150 years. Compared to a regular house, which takes a year to build, this house was built in just 10 days, from start to finish.

This 3D printed home was carefully designed on the computer before it was executed. The dream drew a blueprint of a villa and planned the features they wanted. They created a blueprint and prepared all of the materials they needed before printing and installing it. Before even assembling it, they made sure they created strong blueprints. Without the right foundation and plan, the house would be unintentional and unsafe.

Building a church should be similar to building a house. There needs to be an architect who makes a “blueprint,” or a plan, which can then be transformed into a building. The blueprint is the *mission* or *vision* of the church. Building a church is like building a house.

### **LESSON**

In building IFGF, we also have a ‘blueprint’ that is the mission statement: “People is Our Mission; Connect With God and Make Disciples.”

God gave our church these ten visions as a description of the church and the congregation that we should build together (next page).



## A. PRAYER

*“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving...” (Collosians 4:2 NKJV)*

### 1. Build your relationship with God through CONVERSATION.

Prayer is the means to a relationship; it’s not an empty ritual. Prayer is a conversation between the believer and God. Many of us consider prayer to be a mere last resort when we hit rock bottom. Yet, prayer should be more than a last resort. Prayer is the way we connect to God on a day-to-day basis. Through prayer we can understand God's will and gain knowledge of His character. We can express all of our worries and thanksgiving to God. Prayer is the method by which you are connected to God.

*“Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations” (Isaiah 56:7 NKJV).*

### 2. Prayer is an active form of LONGING.

It seems like the concept of waiting is becoming harder for modern people. We’ve become a society that demands instant gratification. However, we are called to wait upon the Lord. This is not a passive and full type of waiting, but an active waiting where we continuously rely on God and pray to Him.

*“My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me, ‘Where is your God?’” (Psalm 42:2-3 NKJV)*

### 3. How to APPLY prayer:

a. Personal Prayer

A personal prayer is a prayer that we do alone. Although we should make time for personal prayers, we are still advised to raise prayers for others. Remember that the content of our prayers should not only focus on satisfying our own needs or desires. Let us also pray for our family, relatives, our friends, and their friends. We also need to pray for those who are in authority over us, including our parents, church leaders, bosses, and even those in the government.

*"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4 NKJV).*

b. Corporate Prayer

In addition to the personal prayer, the Bible also advises us to engage in corporate prayer:

- Old Testament (Joel 2:15, 2 Chronicles 7:14)

*"Blow the trumpet in Zion, Consecrate a fast, Call a sacred assembly..." (Joel 2:15 NKJV)*

*"...if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV).*

- Jesus addresses the benefits of prayer together (Matthew 18:19-20)

*"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:19-20 NKJV).*

- The early church (Acts 2:42)

*"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:42 NKJV).*

## B. POWER

*"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD" (Luke 4:18-19 NKJV).*

When Jesus came, God's grace changed the course of human history. Jesus boldly announced that the day of salvation had arrived, the power of the evil had been conquered, and the devil was defeated (Luke 10:18). God's salvation has since been available for all who

repent. This same power to bring people to wholeness is also expressed in Jesus' ministry, when He casted out demons, opened the eyes of the blind, healed deaf ears, and more. The verse above is also a picture of what the Church should be like. The power of God is not just something one experiences in the Sunday worship service, but it is also experienced when one brings the Good News to those who are poor and oppressed. God's Church is called to be the delivery agent of His power:

*"When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth'" (Matthew 28:17-18 NKJV).*

### 1. The POWER of Christ in his church.

- a. The power of Christ over the grave ("Hell will not prevail against it..." Matthew 16:18).
- b. The power of Christ over illnesses ("They shall lay hands on the sick and they will recover..." Mark 16:18).
- c. The power of Christ over evil ("...drive out demons in My Name...." Mark 16:17).

*"To you I will give the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:19).*

### 2. Receive the ANOINTING of the Holy Spirit.

Before believers can be effective fulfilling the Great Commission, they must be equipped with the divine power of the Holy Spirit.

*"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8 NKJV).*

In the above passage, the disciples finally came together and prayed until the Holy Spirit descended as evidenced by the new languages they spoke. The baptism of the Holy Spirit changed the disciples from the inside out. Those who had been cowards before became the very ones who shook the world with the Good News. They began to fulfill the Great Commission through the signs and miracles they performed wherever they went. God's Church began to grow rapidly. When Christians are filled with the Holy Spirit, the Church will not sit still.

### 3. APPLYING the power of the Holy Spirit in our Daily Lives.

According to Romans 8, living in the power of the Holy Spirit will help us with the following:

- a. We will not need to live according to the flesh.
- b. We will be set free from spiritual oppression.
- c. We will desire and choose to live in God's will.

- d. We will allow the Holy Spirit to pray through us and express things that are beyond our understanding.
- e. We will be a victorious people.

## C. WORSHIP

*“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24 NKJV).*

Some people might think that praise and worship only happens during church services; precisely, when worship music is playing. However, this is only one aspect of praise and worship. Worship is a lifestyle, not a once-a-week act. When we thank God for being good to us, we’re praising Him. When we listen to His command to love others, we’re worshipping Him. Praise and worship are not limited to just music.

### 1. Praise is our OFFERING to God.

When we praise and worship God, we glorify Him and acknowledge all the mighty things He’s done for us. The offerings that are most pleasing to God are our genuine praises, repentance, and gratitude.

*“Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them” (Psalm 22:4 NKJV).*

### 2. Praise is a SIGN OF TRUST.

It’s not hard for us to praise Him when things are good and dandy, but the most faithful praises are actually lifted up *in the midst* of a storm. Even though you might be uncertain of the impending future, you would still lift up praises to the Lord if you truly believe that He will deliver you somehow and give you victory over your circumstances.

- a. Paul and Silas praised God while in prison in Philippi (Acts 16:26). Their songs of praise made the prison shake, their shackles dropped off and the prison doors opened. Because of this, the jailer and his entire household believed in Jesus.
- b. With cheers and trumpets sounded for the Lord, the walls of Jericho collapsed and Joshua and the Israelites took the city (Joshua 6:20).
- c. Gideon won the battle with the Midianite army with only 300 men who blew trumpets and broke jars with their praises to God (Judges 7:20).

### 3. Praise ATTRACTS PEOPLE to God.

When the people of God praise Him, His presence is among them and great things happen: Joy, healing, and miracles. These things often attract unbelievers to become interested in God.

*“And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself” (John 12:32 NKJV).*

*“Blessed is that man who makes the LORD his trust, And does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies” (Psalm 40:4 NKJV).*

*“...they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:46-47 NKJV).*

#### **4. Praise comes in all forms of EXPRESSIONS:**

- a. Words – Psalm 34:2
- b. Songs – Psalm 47:7-8
- c. Shouts – Psalm 27:6
- d. Raising Hands – Psalm 63:5
- e. Music – Psalm 33:2-3
- f. Hand Claps – Psalm 47:2
- g. Standing – 2 Chronicles 20:19
- h. Kneeling – Psalm 95:6
- i. Dancing – Psalm 149:3

### **D. COVENANT**

#### **1. Covenant with the CHURCH.**

The word ‘covenant’ in the Old Testament is described as an agreement confirmed through blood sacrifice, a banquet meal, or an oath, in which two or more parties commit to certain actions. There are serious consequences if a covenant is violated. In a mutually binding agreement, each party will benefit by meeting their agreed upon obligations.

*“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...” (Ephesians 2:19 NKJV)*

The Church is described as the Family of God. Each member needs to be under the auspices of his spiritual family, the Church. When God saved us, we immediately became a part of His family. We have an unbreakable bond with Him, which is eternal and spans both heaven and earth. God also gives us a spiritual family who will help us grow in the knowledge of Him and the truth.



So, when we register as members of a church, just as orphans are officially adopted into their new families, we do this to acknowledge our bond with our church family—our spiritual palce of belonging.

## **2. Covenant with GOD.**

The Bible states that the Lord is a God who makes covenants with His people, keeps covenants and reveals His covenant. In the Old Testament, we can see God made a covenant with Adam, Noah, Abraham, David, and Israel. In the New Testament, the Lord makes a new covenant with His people through Jesus Christ.

*“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18 NKJV).*

## **E. THE WORD**

### **1. KNOW God through His Word.**

Etymologically, the word ‘know’ (*ginosko* - Greek) means to have personal experience. This is when you have a close deep relationship with someone. When you say you “know someone,” it means you have a close relationship with that person, talk to him or her often, and understand his or her heart.

Similarly, as God’s children, we should really get to know God and not just know *about* Him. Knowing God means we experience things with Him and not just hear about Him from others. To know God, we need to read His Word. We will also know Him better when we obey His Word. As written in John 14:23, Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and be with him."

### **2. God’s Word is a GUIDE.**

The Word of God provides the wisdom and insight we need to live godly lives. By meditating on the Word of God day and night, we will also be able to discern God’s will in our lives. We might not know the entire story, from beginning to end, but God will reveal to us His mighty plans one step at a time using His Word.

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105 NKJV).*

## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

1. What is your vision for yourself and how can that vision be applied within the context of the church?

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2. How do you connect with God in your day-to-day life? List what you do in order to develop your relationship with God.

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3. When your relationship with God suffers, do you think other areas of your life will be affected as well? Why?

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## MEMORIZE

*“...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death...” (Philippians 3:10 NKJV)*

## **CHAPTER 3:** **VISION OF IFGE (2)**

### **PASSAGE**

*“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV).*

### **LESSON**

Jesus extended an amazing invitation to us to become His followers. He wants to make us fishers of men.

*“Then He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men’” (Matthew 4:19 NKJV).*

If we are to be fishers of men, we have to know whom we are trying to reach and how to communicate with them appropriately.

#### **A. MISSION**

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” (Matthew 28:19 NKJV)*

The Church is commissioned with the task of bringing the good news of God's love and salvation to the ends of the earth.

- To Adam, God said: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Genesis 1:28).
- To Abraham, God made a covenant: "I will make you into a great nation, and bless you and make your name famous; and thou shalt be a blessing ... and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12: 2-3).
- In regards to Israel, God chose a nation to become a messenger of His mission in the days of the Old Testament (Exodus 19: 3-6, Deuteronomy 7: 6-7).
- In regards to His servants, God called them to be a prophet to the nations, to fulfill the "mission of His world" (Jeremiah 1: 4-5; Isaiah 6: 8-10).

- Even God Himself gave His Son to engage in a mission and became a missionary to the world (John 3:16).
- During Christ's ministry, He preached the gospel of the kingdom's mission in this world (John 4: 4-42, Matthew 8: 5-13; Mark 13:10).
- To His disciples before He left the world, He gave us the great commission to make disciples of all nations and go to the ends of the Earth (Matthew 28: 14-20; Mark 16: 15-18).

God's heart is spacious, to say the least. He has room in his heart for everyone in this world. We are to show God's love through our words and deeds wherever we are. Maybe you can start with those who are alone.

*“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation...” (2 Corinthians 5:18 NKJV)*

## **B. BALANCE**

Having an unbalanced life can have a negative impact on every area on our priority list, as Paul advised Timothy in 1 Timothy 3: 5, "If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?"


Therefore, we should aim to strike a balance in these five key areas:

- Spiritual
- Missional
- Relational
- Developmental
- Professional

This is consistent with the 5 key elements of IFGF:

- Covenant
- Great Commission
- Compassion
- Innovation
- Excellence

Below is a table to help you evaluate the level of balance.

	NEW  MATURE					
	1	2	3	4	5	
Spiritual						
Missional						
Relational						
Development						
Professional						

NOTE:

- 1 Very poor
- 2 Poor
- 3 Average
- 4 Good
- 5 Excellent

## C. GIVING

*“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7 NKJV).*

*“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you” (Luke 6:38 NKJV).*

### 1. God loves a **CHEERFUL GIVER**.

One of the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit is 'generosity.' Generosity is a huge component of God's perfect character. He even gave his only begotten Son for our salvation:

*“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16 NKJV).*

In addition, Jesus was merciful and He always gave: He fed 5000 people, delivered people from the power of darkness, and gave up His own life for us.

### 2. Giving is a **LIFESTYLE**.

The message of the world is to accumulate as much as you can for yourself, while the message of the Bible is to give as much as you can to others.

Here are some of the reasons to give:

- Giving expresses my gratitude to God
- Giving shows God that I honor Him and love His people
- Giving demonstrates that I want God to have authority over my resources

*“Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine” (Proverbs 3:9-10 NKJV).*

### **3. OFFERINGS are a form of giving.**

There are three kinds of offerings:

#### **a. Tithing**

*“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ in tithes and offerings. For you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it’” (Malachi 3 : 8-10 NKJV).*

The tithe is 10% of your income or profit. Tithing is an obligation, because we restore to God what is His to begin with. Tithing is also a wonderful way to support your local church and pastoral team. They operate mainly on your tithing, so this command to tithe also serves an incredibly practical purpose as well and spiritual.

#### **b. First-Fruit Offerings**

First Fruits are gifts from your first and best efforts, as an offering to God. Some examples of first fruits include dedicating your firstborn to God, giving God a portion (or all) of the money from your first paycheck, etc. First fruit offerings are meant to be given within the context of a grateful relationship with God—not to gain any special blessings from Him.

*“...that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide” (Deuteronomy 26:2 NKJV).*

At the time the Israelites entered the land, the Lord commanded them to bring the first fruits of what they produce to God, in order to:

- Respect the Lord (Proverbs 3: 9-10).
- Make all of our efforts, work and activities holy (Romans 11:16) and bless our homes (Ezekiel 44:30).
- Demonstrate our faith in the Lord and to keep our hearts from becoming attached to possessions (Luke 12:34).

c. Special Offerings / Gifts

Besides the two offerings that have been discussed above, there are other voluntary offerings as well. These offerings are not prescribed. It can be given to the church, charity organizations, schools, and/or other places that need financial help. This offering is beyond tithing and the first fruits.

*“There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty” (Proverbs 11:24 NKJV).*

*“...for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7 NKJV).*

## D. EXCELLENCE

*“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men...” (Colossians 3:23 NKJV)*

### 1. Do the **BEST** you possibly can.

We are by no means perfect, but as disciples of Christ, we are expected to continually learn, improve, and walk towards spiritual maturity—to become more like Christ. To excel does not mean to be perfect. This value is more about gaining spiritual maturity and giving to God our very best, out of our awe and gratitude towards Him. Please keep in mind that this is **not** about gaining God’s love, acceptance, or even salvation. Those things cannot be earned, only freely given and received. We should strive for excellence because we’re grateful for God and we want to honor God.

### 2. **EXCELLENCE** cannot be separated from the desire to grow.

*“But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you abound in this grace also” (2 Corinthians 8:7 NKJV).*

The Word of God invites you to continue to grow and thrive in:

- Faith (spiritual aspect of life)
- Words (aspect of missions)
- Love (aspect of mercy)
- Knowledge (the growth aspect)
- Occupation (the professional aspect)

### 3. **BENEFITS** of excellence.

Some people choose to do average work simply because it’s easier. However, the Bible actually teaches that striving for excellence is a lot more profitable in the end.

## E. LEADERSHIP

*“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2 NKJV).*

A leader is not always the one who stands behind the pulpit or sits in the CEO position. Everyone can be a leader in the general sense, when he or she becomes a role model for others. Simply put, a leader influences others.

As called leaders of this broken world, we need to reach out to those who are lost and help equip people to disciple others. There are leaders in the church to make sure that the church can be cared for properly and that it can reach its full potential.

You can start now. Think of one or two people you want to encourage, lead them to come to Christ, help them grow in the Word by getting plugged into a care group, begin serving, and then eventually they will learn to lead others.

## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

1. Have you been discipled by someone? What benefits did you experience?

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2. What percentage of each week is dedicated to meeting others, chatting, reaching out, or praying for them?

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3. What things can be reduced so that you can take the time to reach out to others?

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## MEMORIZE

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” Amen (Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV).*



## CHAPTER 4:

### DNA AND THE CORE VALUES OF IFGF

#### PASSAGE

*“For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 3:9-11 NKJV).*

#### LESSON

DNA contains the blueprint for all cellular activity. DNA is present in every living thing. Churches and organizations also have a metaphorical kind of DNA. These are the characteristics or values that they hold and believe in and pass on to others. This DNA can also be a blueprint which determines why and how the church has been built.

*“Using the gift God gave me as a good architect, I designed blueprints” (1 Corinthians 3:10, The Message).*

*“According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it...” (1 Corinthians 3:10 NKJV).*

OUR <b>VALUES</b>					
DNA	PERSONAL	FAMILY	MARKETPLACE	MINISTRY	LEADERSHIP
COVENANT	AUTHENTIC	COMMITMENT	PARTNERSHIP	RELATIONSHIP	APOSTOLIC
GREAT COMMISSION	LIFESTYLE	EXAMPLE	WITNESS	POTENTIAL	GENERATIONS
COMPASSION	LOVING	TOGETHER	GENEROSITY	SERVANTHOOD	GRACEFUL
CUTTING EDGE	PROGRESS	ENGAGING	INNOVATIVE	RELEVANT	APPRENTICE
CHAMPION	CONVICTION	EMPOWER	DOMINION	IMPACTFUL	PURPOSE

## A. COVENANT - SPIRITUAL ASPECT

Through his son Jesus Christ, God has made an everlasting covenant with his church. Therefore, we are committed to one another as partners to forge authentic relationships.

1. AUTHENTIC: Being comes before doing; for what you do is always determined by who you are.  
  
*"But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' ... (Matthew 5:37 NKJV).*
2. COMMITMENT: The attitude that compels you to do more beyond your promise; the strength to follow through when things fall apart.  
  
*"And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two" (Matthew 5:41 NKJV).*
3. PARTNERSHIP: The more you share, the more you get. When ideas are shared, the result is always greater than the sum of the parts.  
  
*"How could one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight, Unless their Rock had sold them, And the LORD had surrendered them?" (Deuteronomy 32:30 NKJV)*
4. RELATIONSHIP: Love people for who they are.  
  
*"We love Him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19 NKJV).*
5. APOSTOLIC: God has chosen a set man in every generation. Heed your leaders and listen to their counsel; follow them as you follow Christ.  
  
*"...having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:20 NKJV).*

"Covenant" provides the space for you to develop the potential and talent that God has placed within you.

## B. GREAT COMMISSION – MISSIONAL ASPECT

Not only has God reconciled us back into right relationship with Him, He has also given us the amazing privilege to partner with Him to draw people to Himself. As Christ's ambassadors, we live to be witnesses on earth by setting an example through our lifestyles. We must raise up a generation of believers, cultivate potentials, and improve the lives of all people through the power of the Gospel.

1. LIFESTYLE: Live the Word and use words to change lives. Evident in your speech; apparent in your deed.  
  
*"...praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47 NKJV).*
2. EXAMPLE: Talk the talk, and walk the walk.  
  
*"...not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us" (2 Thessalonians 3:9 NKJV).*
3. WITNESS: Be a living letter for others to read and become the evidence of God's grace.  
  
*"You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men..." (2 Corinthians 3:2 NKJV)*
4. POTENTIAL: You are a masterpiece; created in God's image, full with qualities and potential.  
  
*"...as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue..." (2 Peter 1:3 NKJV)*
5. GENERATIONS: Involve everyone – young and old alike. For generation after generation shall proclaim God's mighty work.  
  
*"And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions" (Joel 2:28 NKJV).*

Whatever your professions are, you are a witness for Christ. Like an open book, your lifestyle speaks volumes to others about the Christ that you represent. Because of that, He

has commanded that you to make disciples of all nations through His power and with His participation. We should do this through our lives, our words and our service.

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV).*

## C. COMPASSION – RELATIONAL ASPECT

We love because Christ first loved us. We express this love together by serving our community with love, grace and generosity – becoming a channel of blessing to one another.

1. LOVING: Love one another with no strings attached.  
  
*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another” (John 13:34 NKJV).*
2. TOGETHER: Teamwork makes common people achieve uncommon result.  
  
*“Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor” (Ecclesiastes 4:9 NKJV).*
3. GENEROSITY: Your blessings are bestowed not to increase your standard of living, but your standard of giving.  
  
*“...while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God” (2 Corinthians 9:11 NKJV).*
4. SERVANTHOOD: Someone who is devoted is someone in servitude.  
  
*“But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves” (Luke 22:26 NKJV).*
5. GRACEFUL: Be gracious in your speech and deeds.  
  
*“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9 NKJV).*

God's Word emphasizes the importance of love in all of our thoughts and attitudes towards others. Everything that is not grounded by love basically have no eternal value.

*"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing..." (1 Corinthians 13:2 NKJV)*

## **D. INNOVATION - DEVELOPMENTAL ASPECT**

Through the power of His grace and Holy Spirit, God has enabled us to be a progressive church that is relevant in ministry, engaged with society, and innovative in function. We invest in training apprentices to become next generation of leaders for our church and community.

1. PROGRESS: From ordinary to extraordinary. Never stop learning and always discover new ways to do things.  
  
*"Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all" (1 Timothy 4:15 NKJV).*
2. ENGAGING: Be a connector that provokes interest, inspire values, and evoke desire in others to excel in life.  
  
*"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12 NKJV).*
3. INNOVATIVE: Be open to anything new; arrive curious, leave inspired.  
  
*"So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord' (Matthew 25:20-21 NKJV).*
4. RELEVANT: Be applicable in your ministry, be the answer for the needy.  
  
*"...to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some..." (1 Corinthians 9:22 NKJV)*
5. APPRENTICE: Learn the lesson in each experience; grow and be wise.

*"...and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith..." (1 Thessalonians 3:2 NKJV)*

*"Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all..." (1 Timothy 4:15 NKJV)*

## **E. CHAMPION-PROFESSIONAL ASPECT**

We are sold out to the belief that in Christ, we are victorious. Since the beginning of creation, God has empowered us to have dominion over the earth. He has given us the power to impact the lives of others and be an agent of hope and purpose.

1. CONVICTION: The currency to respond to God's highest calling in your life; not just do what is convenient, but what brings conviction in you.

*"So Jesus said to them, 'Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you'" (Matthew 17:20 NKJV).*

2. EMPOWER: Live to inspire, embrace differences as might.

*"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:12 NKJV).*

3. DOMINION: Sovereignty was given to be developed, to be used to pave the way for the second coming of the Lord.

*"Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth'" (Genesis 1:28 NKJV).*

4. IMPACT: Your ministry is not mere activities, but it could influence to infinity.

*"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.' You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:13-14 NKJV).*

5. PURPOSE: One with an aim in life is one with strength.

*"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV).*

## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

1. How can you be a blessing in your current environment?

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2. Have you ever experienced disappointment while you were being compassionate? Explain.

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3. How can you apply the DNA and values described in this chapter in your personal life?

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## MEMORIZE

*"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11 NKJV).*

## **CHAPTER 5:** **A PLACE OF PROTECTION**

### **PASSAGE**

*“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God” (Romans 13:1 NKJV).*

### **LESSON**

#### **A. GOD AS THE SOURCE OF ALL AUTHORITY**

The word 'authority' is derived from the word 'exousia' which means honor, power, influence, power, rights. God Himself is the source of all authority. When God created man, He gave man the authority to be in charge, to protect, and to take care the rest of His creation. Authority speaks of God's covering over men. However in the garden, Adam violated God's command, man failed and gave away his God-given authority.

But in spite of the failure of man, God still holds supreme authority. He executed His plan to restore authority to man by sending His only Son, Jesus Christ. In all authority, Christ came into the world to bring salvation and protection to those who believed in Him as He overcame the power of the devil.

When one believe in Christ, he/she is immediately restored under the covering of the authority of Christ, which provides security, strength, and protection against any evil devises. Restored to the initial plan of God for mankind, believers are given the authority to resist the devil and live victoriously. Again, not by their own authority, but by the authority of Christ.

#### **B. AUTHORITY OF CHRIST – A LEADER WHO SERVES**

When Adam fell into sin, man failed to walk under the authority of God. Christ was then given the authority and power to redeem all mankind.

1. All **AUTHORITY** is in Christ.

*“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth’” (Matthew 28:18 NKJV).*

All authority in heaven and on earth is given to Christ Jesus. As believers, we need to know that our authority and power cannot be separated from Christ. It is His power and wisdom that is in us and not our own.



*"Jesus answered, 'You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin'" (John 19:11 NKJV).*

2. Christ willingly became a **SERVANT** of all.

Jesus came with the full authority of God, but he did not use his authority with impunity for his own benefit and pleasure, but he came to serve:

*"And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all'" (Mark 9:35 NKJV).*

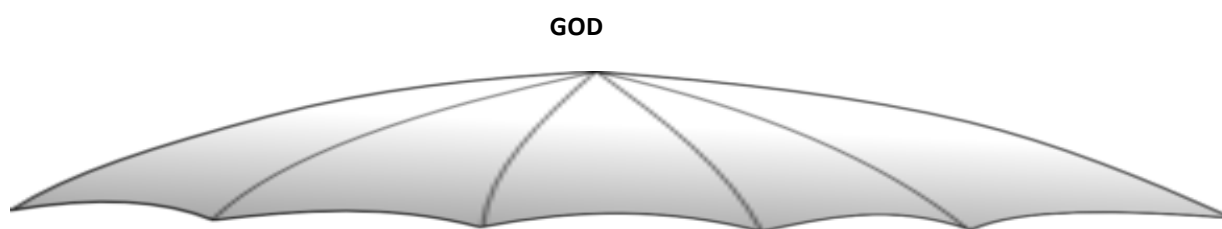
*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45 NKJV).*

The authority of Christ in your life is not about making you feel wonderful and great in and of yourself, but it is given so that you can serve and protect those whom God placed under your authority.

### **C. DELEGATED AUTHORITY OVER YOU**

In life, God delegates people of authority over your life. These delegated authorities function as coverings to provide protection over our daily lives. It is crucial for you to understand the importance of this authority, because it will affect you spiritually and emotionally.

Here are some leaders which God has placed over your life: Your family, church leaders, workplace leaders and the government.

ILLUSTRATION OF AUTHORITY COVERING IN DELEGATED AUTHORITY<sup>3</sup>

<b>FAMILY</b>	<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>WORK</b>	<b>GOVERNMENT</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FATHER</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTHER</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHILD</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>APOSTLES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHURCH LEADERS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONGREGATIONS</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MASTER</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EMPLOYEE</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CENTRAL GOVERNMENT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CITIZENS</b></p>
<p><i>Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. (Colossians 3:20 NKJV)</i></p> <p><i>Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." (Ephesians 6:1-3 NKJV)</i></p> <p><i>A fool despises his father's instruction,</i></p>	<p><i>Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages." (1 Timothy 5:17-18 NKJV)</i></p> <p><i>To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under</i></p>	<p><i>Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.. (Colossians 3:22 NKJV)</i></p> <p><i>And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.. (Colossians 3:23-24 NKJV)</i></p> <p><i>Servants, be submissive to your masters with all</i></p>	<p><i>Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. (Romans 13:1 NKJV)</i></p> <p><i>For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil .... For he is God's minister to you for good.... (Romans 13:3-4 NKJV)</i></p> <p><i>For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing. <sup>7</sup> Render</i></p>

<sup>3</sup> Research in Principle of Life BASIC SEMINAR TEXTBOOK. 1986 Instructor: Bill Gothard. ISBN 0-916888-05-3

<i>But he who receives correction is prudent. (Proverbs 15:5)</i>	<i>your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. (1 Peter 5:1-3 NKJV)</i>	<i>fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. (1 Peter 2:18 NKJV)</i>	<i>therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due.... (Romans 13:6-7 NKJV)</i>
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#### **D. FUNCTION OF LEADERS (DELEGATED AUTHORITY) OVER YOU**

*“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you” (Hebrews 13:17 NKJV).*

God’s purpose for leadership (delegated authority) is to protect and care for His creations.

##### **1. LEADERSHIP COVERS**

- a. Provide **ORDER**.

*“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes” (Judges 21:25 NKJV).*

In book of Judges, the people of Israel were living in chaos because they did not have authority charges over them and they just did whatever they wanted, assessing for themselves what was right or wrong. There was much disorder within this nation.

- b. Provide **CLARITY OF DIRECTION**.

It is crucial for you to have the faith to believe that God is using those He placed in authority over you to give you directions. When a centurion (commander) in the bible asked Jesus to heal his subordinate, he understood as how a kingdom operates its authority through a structural process, so does the kingdom of God operates through the leadership. Jesus concluded that He had never encountered such great faith, like the centurion, even among His own people, the Israelites. (Matthew 8:9-10)

##### **2. LEADERSHIP PROTECTS**

The essence of submission is not simply about placing yourself under the ‘instruction or

command or order', but rather you come under protective coverings. Therefore, when living outside of God's covering, you are placing your life in danger, vulnerable to the attacks from the enemy.

*"Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account..." (Hebrews 13:17 NKJV)*

*"For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil" (Romans 13:4 NKJV).*

***A person who cannot obey cannot lead.***

***(Benjamin Franklin)***

### 3. **LEADERSHIP PROVIDES.**

This God-given authority in your life helps you to:

#### a. Grow in **MATURITY.**

*"...for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ..." (Ephesians 4:12-15 NKJV)*

#### b. **SHAPE YOUR CHARACTER.**

Every person has weaknesses or flaws in his/her life that need to be shaped and improved. God uses people in positions of authority to help.

## **E. ATTITUDE TOWARDS AUTHORITY**

### 1. **WILLINGNESS to submit.**

Submission refers to an attitude of the heart, which involves a willingness to put yourself under the authority, receive instructions and do it with all of your heart, not grudgingly.

*"Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you" (Hebrews 13:17-18 NKJV).*

The authority that God has placed in your life are not perfect people in both their actions or speeches. Mistakes, miscommunications or differences of opinion are inevitable. For that reason, these verses in the book of Hebrews do not just discuss obeying, but in the spirit of submission, we need to pray for our leaders. There are also two extreme responses you should avoid:

- a. Spirit of Resignation (Blind obedience) - follow whatever you are told by an authority figure without regard to the Word of God or other given laws.
- b. Spirit of Rebellion - failure to submit to and be under the authority God has placed over you.

## 2. Appeal

You do not need to respond to differences with extremes because the Word of God teaches some basic essentials about how the believer is to appeal to authority:

- a. Delivered with **LOVE**.

Love should be the reason you express your opinion. When your opinion differs from the opinions of those in authority, you have to express your opinion in love. You should not be presenting it to prove simply who is wrong and who is right, but you should be motivated to share because you love them and want to bring about godly change.

*“...but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ...” (Ephesians 4:15 NKJV)*

- b. Expressed with **HUMILITY**.

You can not appeal without humility, because you still have many shortcomings. So, learn to convey your point humbly and be graceful enough to embrace any differences.

*“For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body” (James 3:2 NKJV).*

- c. **RELY** on God who is in control.

When you express your concerns, depend on God, who is able to overcome all the problems and worries that you have.

- d. Communicate opinions in a **POLITE AND RESPECTFUL** manner.

*“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29 NKJV).*

- e. Remain **GRACEFUL** whether or not your suggestions are accepted.

*“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (Ephesians 4:31-32 NKJV).*

### SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

1. Are you currently under someone’s spiritual covering? Whose?

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2. Were you placed in authority over someone else? How was that experience?

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3. How do you usually respond to leaders with differing opinions from you?

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### MEMORIZE

*“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably” (Hebrews 13:17-18 NKJV).*

## **CHAPTER 6:** **A PLACE OF GROWTH**

### **PASSAGE**

*“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:46-47 NKJV).*

### **LESSON**

Some people assume that they do not need a community. They feel that they could live alone and care for themselves without needing other people in their lives. Did you know that God, who created us, is a Triune God who is constantly in community with Himself? God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit always work together and have the same goals. Although they have different roles, they still are unified and cannot be separated.

*“For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one” (1 John 5:7 NKJV).*

*“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth’” (Genesis 1:26 NKJV).*

God is always in community, and if God Himself is in community, what makes us feel that we do not need a community in our lives?

### **A. ICARE – A COMMUNITY FOR GROWTH**

#### **1. You were created for COMMUNITY.**

*“That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3 NKJV).*

God gave us other communities in the world that will mold us into the person He wants us to be. The first community that we had was our family. Our parents first established and imparted their values unto us.

In addition to family community, there are other communities, such as friends, neighbors, churches, and other groups. When we join a community that is toxic, the risk is we could

lose our identity (sense of who we are in God) due to the negative influences of that particular group.

## 2. CARE GROUPS are positive communities.

Care groups are small communities where everyone is accepted and loved regardless of their situations. We can be ourselves and can experience healing. Many communities hide the truth because they do not want you to leave their communities. Communities should be authentic, telling the truth in love, so that they forge a relationship of mutual trust. We can face challenges and emerge victoriously because of the support of a friend who tells the truth in care group.

## B. DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY – A PROCESS FOR GROWTH

*“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2 NKJV).*



### 1. COME to God.

Discipleship begins with the decision to follow Jesus, followed by the call to share the message of salvation so that everyone has the opportunity to know about His love as you did.

*“Then He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men’” (Matthew 4:19 NKJV).*

- a. Become FRIENDS with those who do not yet know Jesus.



*“Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eats with them” (Luke 15:1-2 NKJV).*

In the course of Jesus’ life and ministry, you can see that Jesus often spent time with sinners such tax collectors, prostitutes, and other rejects from the society. Jesus was friends with them to serve and minister to them in everyday life.

2. **GROW** in your knowledge of Him.

*“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2 NKJV).*

In the course of discipleship, growth becomes an important thing that needs to happen continuously. Jesus wants you to experience renewed growth by:

a. Having **FAITH** through prayer and His Word.

The growth of believers is hinged on their faith in Jesus through prayer and reading His Word daily.

*“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock” (Matthew 7:24-25 NKJV).*

b. Showing **LOVE** within the church community.

At the beginning of the journey of Jesus as Savior, He called His disciples into a community which He led with love. After He ascended to heaven, His disciples were to follow His commands and example by continuing to gather together in a community where they love each other.

*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35 NKJV).*

3. **SERVE** in accordance to His calling and with His power.

*“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10 NKJV).*

Like Christine Caine brilliantly said, “God doesn’t call the qualified. He qualifies the called.” You don’t have to be qualified to serve God. If you’re willing, He can and will use you.

Here are some common misconceptions about serving:

a. The main role of a pastor is to serve me.

This thought often demands that a pastor fulfill all of the congregation's spiritual needs. Unconsciously, the pastor is made into a "superhero" and the members of the church are just passive spectators.

The correct role of the pastor is to "equip" you to serve others in the family, church and community.

*"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers" (Ephesians 4:11 NKJV).*

- b. A person must experience spiritual maturity before he serves.

This thought convinces the congregation that before they serve, they must pray a lot, know a lot of Scripture, or obtain a certificate of eligibility before God can use them.

But the truth is you will not experience spiritual maturity *until* you serve.

*"for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12-13 NKJV).*

4. **LEAD** your disciples to disciple others.

*"Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick" (Luke 9:1-2 NKJV).*

Jesus did not talk about believers following Him as spectators, but He empowered His disciples to do what He had done. Similarly, he gave you the power to be able to lead and empower His disciples to continue to make disciples of others.



PROCESS	PURPOSE	TOOLS	ACTIVITIES
COME	Receive salvation and preach the gospel	I'm saved	Connect One to One, Super Sunday
GROW	Rooted in faith and embedded in the local church	Home	iCare
SERVE	Involved in ministry and inviting others to get involved	iServe & ministry training	Ministry
LEAD	Leaders who disciple so that his disciple can disciple others	iLead	Core Team iCare / iCare Leader, multiplication

## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

1. Are there any obstacles to becoming an authentic person?

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2. In what ways do you feel that you still need to grow? How do you plan to achieve this?

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3. Write down the names of two friends who you would like to reach this year. Connect with them, invite them out to eat, talk, and be a good friend to them. Pray that they come to Jesus.

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## MEMORIZE

*"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another..." (Romans 12:9-10 NKJV)*