

THE 5 G'S

An Introduction to

Our Mission and our Core Values

Church of the Spirit

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This is your participant's guide for the
"Confirming your Faith" series
It has been designed for those interested
in joining Church of the Spirit
as official members and/or for those who
are interested in receiving
the sacrament of confirmation.

Grace is where we start. But that's not all. Not the end. It's also how we continue to grow in our new relationship with God.

What other times (large or small) have you experienced God's grace in your life?

Where do you look for God's grace these days?
The church has historically taught there are many different ways of understanding God's grace.

Prevenient Grace

Subsequent Grace

Habitual or Sanctifying Grace

Sufficient Grace

Actual Grace

Efficacious Grace

We will talk about Sacraments at a later meeting, but to start with it's important to know what a sacrament is:

"Asacrament is an outward and visible sign of a spiritual grace, given by God ..."

So: sacraments are a way to continually receive grace ...

Grace:

It's where it all starts ...

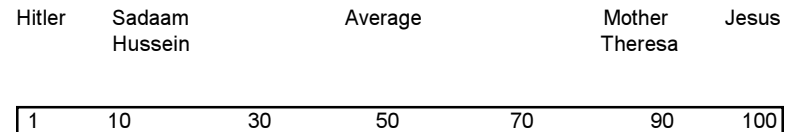


Where do you start with God?

What are some of your earliest experiences of Church?
Were they happy?
Have you ever felt turned off by church?
What is it that first brought you to Church of the Spirit?

There's a difference between starting in a new Church and getting a new start with God. Of course, first you have to ask yourself, "Do you need one?"

Compare yourself on a scale of 1-100 below:



What does the Bible say about our needs?

Romans 3:10-12, 20-23

What options are available to you to make up for your personal shortfall with God?

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Try harder | Give more money |
| Serve on a committee | Do one big thing |
| Be pure in thought & deed | Become repentant |
| Teach Sunday School | Become a martyr |

Now what does the Bible say about our attempts to do better on our own?

[17] Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. [18] For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. [19] Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven ... [48] Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:17-19,48

Where's that leave you? If you can't do it on your own, then you will need someone else's help. when was the last time you asked someone for help? Was that hard for you? Does it come naturally?

Here's what the Bible says about when God's grace arrives:

The Lord said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."

2 Cor. 12:9

What was it like to give up trying to earn God's love through the things you did or tried hard not to do? What is it like to rely on God's forgiveness instead?

(If you haven't made this step yet, take note of it and listen as other speak about their experiences. You'll want to come back and look at this again ...)

For some people this trusting in God's forgiveness is accomplished slowly over time, and for others there is a specific moment in time when they finally "give their life to Christ." In both cases, the end product is that you trust God to forgive and have experienced a sense of God's love in your life.

- Are you a "gradual truster" in God's grace?
- Did you have a specific experience of grace?

Were you baptized as an infant or do you remember what your baptism was like?

What are other ways to experience the grace God offers you -- not just once, but throughout your life?

Selected Verses on Grace

Matthew 5:43-45

[43] Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' [44] But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous."

Luke 18:9-14

[9] He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: [10] "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. [11] The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. [12] I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.' [13] But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' [14] I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted."

Ephes. 2:4-10

[4] But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us [5] even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- [6] and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7] so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. [8] For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God -- [9] not the result of works, so that no one may boast. [10] For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Romans 4:13-16

[13] For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14] If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15] For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. [16] For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham ...

Romans 5:1-2, 6-10

[1] Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, [2] through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God ... [6] For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. [7] Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. [8] But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. [9] Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. [10] For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

1 John 4:13-19

[13] By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. [14] And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. [15] God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. [16] So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. [17] Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. [18] There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. [19] We love because he first loved us.

Ephesians 4:11-24

[11]The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, [12]to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13]until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. [14]We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. [15]But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16]from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. [17]Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. [18]They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. [19]They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. [20]That is not the way you learned Christ! [21]For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. [22]You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, [23]and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, [24]and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, [2] and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Growth:

It's the natural thing to do



Growth is a natural product of health.
Sometimes it's also unhealthy . . .

When you are healthy you grow. You don't have to turn to your child and say, "I command you to grow." If your child is healthy they will grow. It's the natural thing to do.

However, we all know there's other ways to grow -- name some of the unhealthy things that grow in our lives

There's a difference between seeing Christianity as a one step and you're there kind of thing, or as a lifelong Spiritual Journey.

What are the pros and cons to seeing Christianity as:

- a one time decision you make in trusting Jesus
-
-
-

- a long term relationship with God
-
-
-

Paul tells us we are to grow into the full stature of Christ. We start as baby Christians in our faith and must mature.

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. [14] We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. [15] But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ ... Ephes. 4:11-24

In the opening book of the Bible we are told to be fruitful ... What does a fruitful person look like?

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it ... " Genesis 1:28

In order to be fruitful a person needs:

Jesus used the image of growing and bearing fruit to show us what the spiritual life was like:

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; [44] for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. [45] The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks. Luke 6:43-49

Selected Verses on Growth

Matthew 7:15-23

Jesus said, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. [16] You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? [17] In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. [18] A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. [19] Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. [20] Thus you will know them by their fruits. [21] "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. [22] On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' [23] Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.'

Notes

From Personal Experience:

Can you tell of a time when you needed support and received it, or looked for support and did not get it?

Is there an area in your life where you would most like to have more support?

Small Groups are not another name for committees ... they are a way of learning, being caring for, growing, sharing, and ministering to others.

Discipleship Groups
Bible Studies
Seeker Groups
Task Groups (Teams)
Support Groups
Accountability Groups

What they share in common is a mixture of time spent in learning, sharing and serving. A team may not spend much time in prayer but focus on working together to accomplish a task, like cleaning the church building. A Discipleship group may spend equal time learning and sharing, and pick a service project once or twice a year.

All our groups also share in a commitment to providing a safe place for newcomers and old-timers alike, for seekers and long time Christians. They meet for an agreed time, and then reevaluate whether to meet for another "season." Small Group leaders also agree to meet regularly with Pastor Roger for support and training.

And if there is not yet a team/group/study that fits your needs or schedule, we can help you start one that will.

Groups:

It's where life happens



There are many things you do by yourself and other things that are better done with others.

Do you belong to many groups, organizations?

Name some ...

But are there more?

Compare yourself on a scale of 1-10

Quiet and Introverted					Outgoing and Extroverted				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

General assumptions we make:

outgoing people need and enjoy being part of groups more than introverted people
introverted people need to be more outgoing
spirituality is a personal experience of the divine
Christianity has to do with a person's choice to trust in Jesus and their personal relationship with Jesus

The Bible talks about Christianity as a way of life. For very few people, that life is lived without other people. For the rest of us, Christianity has to do with how we live with "one another."

Look at the enclosed info called the "One Others"
What does this say about Christianity?
What would a church look like that followed these?

Why Small Groups? It's in the Bible:

(1) Because we are the "body of Christ"

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. [28] And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. [29] Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? [30] Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? [31] But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

1 Cor. 12:27-31

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ ... [15] But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, [16] from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love ... [25] So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another.

Ephes. 4:11-13, 15-16, 25

(2) Because meeting together strengthens us

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering ... [24] And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, [25] not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another ...

Hebrews 10:23-25

(3) It's *The Way* of the early Church

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43] Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. [44] All who believed were together and had all things in common; [45] they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46] Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, [47] praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

(4) Provides a framework for doing life together

Moses sat as judge for the people, while the people stood around him from morning until evening. [14] When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said ... "What you are doing is not good ... You should represent the people before God, and you should bring their cases before God; [20] teach them the statutes and instructions and make known to them the way they are to go and the things they are to do. [21] You should also look for able men among all the people, men who fear God, are trustworthy, and hate dishonest gain; set such men over them as officers over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens ... [24] So Moses listened to his father-in-law and did all that he had said. [25] Moses chose able men from all Israel and appointed them as heads over the people, as officers over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.

Exodus 18:13-26

(5) And because it's hard to live all by yourself, Groups offer us a chance for _____.

Deciding what I want to give

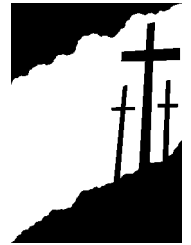
Important: This is a work sheet for your use only.
Do not return it to the church.

If giving to the church is a chore or a duty please feel free to stop here. No matter how much the church may need financial support, we are not interested in receiving dues. Paul says, *"The Lord loves a cheerful giver."* It's not that God loves cheerful givers but will also take gifts from grumpy givers. Grumpy givers aren't really *"giving."* For at least 4000 years the standard for giving has been called the *"tithe."* When we give back some of what they earned is a way to say thanks to God for all the rest we receive from him. How could you ever pay God for his love or his promise of new life? We can't. But we can show our thanks to God by our love and our gifts to help others. This idea of a tithe is a graduated form of giving, with everyone able to do their part. Ask yourself if at the end of the year you will feel good about your gifts back to God. How and what you give are never based on the needs of the church or a budget, but solely between you and God. Make sure you are giving in a way you will be proud of at the end of the year.

- (a) My income for last year was approximately: _____
- (b) A 10% tithe of this would have been
(move decimal point one place to the left): _____
- (c) Each 1% of my income would have been
(move decimal one more place to the left): _____
- (d) Last year I gave back to God: _____
- (e) Last year I gave what percent of my income?
(divide item c into item d): _____
- (f) My income for this year will be approximately: _____
- (g) A 10% tithe of this would be: _____
- (h) Each 1% of my income would be: _____
- (i) This year I want to give back to God: _____
- (j) Which will be this percent of my income: _____

God:

Putting God first in your life
must also come first ...



We have a lot of favorite things in life:

What's your favorite ...

food
movie

type of car
ice cream

vacation
restaurant

To have a favorite means it's a default setting -- the one we go to most often and enjoy the most. That's the place God wants to have in our lives. It's why the first commandment God gave deals with putting him first:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; [7] you shall have no other gods before me. Deut. 5:6-7

He goes on to explain in more detail:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. [5] You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. [6] Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. [7] Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise ... Do not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who are all around you, [15] because the Lord your God, who is present with you, is a jealous God. The anger of the Lord your God would be kindled against you and he would destroy you from the face of the earth. Deut. 6:4-7, 14-15

Do churches usually put God first?

CS Lewis writes this about the church's purpose:

"It is so easy to get muddled about Christianity. It is easy to think that the Church has a lot of different goals-- education, building, missions, holding services ... [Yet] the Church exists for nothing else but to draw people closer to Christ, to make them like Christ. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible, are simply a waste of time. God became one of us for no other purpose ..." -- in Mere Christianity

What would it look like to have a Church put God first?

Do Christians put God first in their lives? How often?

If they did there should be a marked increase in certain activities and a change in the appearance of how faithful people lived -- that would distinguish them from those who are not Christ Followers.

Do you see that around you? In yourself?

What one change can you make this week to put God first more frequently in your life?

Here at Church of the Spirit there are some specific ways we put this value into action:

(1) We will refuse to gossip about one another

Putting God first means doing whatever we can to build up the Body of Christ rather than tear it down.

(2) We will not put causes and political concerns above the cause of Christ, of loving him, serving him and bringing others into his kingdom.

Theological disputes and issues will always tear away at the Church. Praying together and working for a common goal brings us together.

(3) We will use our time, spiritual gifts, and money to serve God and one another in a ministry of some kind

Putting God first also means making a commitment to put him first with the things that we value, which includes our money and our time.

Next week we'll talk about using our Spiritual Gifts to serve God and one another.

A note about financial stewardship: Many churches teach different things about giving ... sometimes churches don't talk about giving at all because money seems like a touchy issue. We believe giving is all a part of living -- and we give back to God based on what he has given us. We believe God asks each person to give proportionally of their income, and to give God his portion first ... as a way of putting God first in our lives.

deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. [29] Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? [30] Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? [31] But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way ...

1 Cor. 12:1-31

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. [4] For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, [5] so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. [6] We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; [7] ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; [8] the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

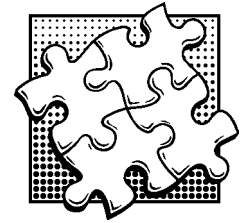
Romans 12:3-8

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Ephes. 4:11-13

Gifts:

Learning how God wired you and why ...



There are some things in your life that you do better than others. Take a moment to look at these and list a few below:

I have a talent for:	I have no talent in:

Where did you get those talents?

parents
training
genetics

encouraged to develop them
as a child
naturally good at them

Notice there can be a difference between the talents you were born with and those that you have learned. Name one of each of these:

One of my talents:

Something I learned to do:

Christ Followers talk about talents, those naturally born abilities that we all have in one way or another, and gifts ... special abilities given to us by God.

The Bible lists a large number of different kinds of "gifts of the Spirit" and describes them in different ways in various verses. There is no one complete set of gifts given in one spot in the Bible, so we are allowed to work through many passages and compare and contrast them. They include:

Administration	Hospitality	Prophecy
Generosity	Evangelism	Teaching
Faith	Leadership	Healing
Wisdom	Mercy	Craftsmanship
Encouragement	Shepherding	Helps

Which of these do you think you might have? If you had to pick one or two, what would they be?

Christians believe that you receive the Holy Spirit in the act of baptism. It is then that God gives you his gifts. He can also give you manifestations of his Spirit following that, and you are to grow in his Spirit (and bear the fruit of the Spirit) in the days and years after your baptism. But in baptism you receive the Spirit in a special, and full, way. Such as:

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" [38] Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39] For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

Acts 2:37-39

Bible Verses to study:

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed ... [4] Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; [5] and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; [6] and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. [7] To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. [8] To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, [9] to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, [10] to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. [11] All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. [12] For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. [13] For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. [14] Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. [15] If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. [16] And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. [17] If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? [18] But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose ... [21] The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you ..." [26] If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. [27] Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. [28] And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then

The word Episcopal means:

The Episcopal Church is --

- a part of the Anglican Communion
- an historic Church
- a catholic and apostolic Church
- a protestant Church
- an autonomous Church
- a contentious Church

We are arranged by geographic areas --

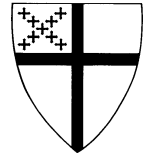
Provinces -- Dioceses -- Regions -- Parishes

We are governed by a combination of elements --

- National Church: House of Bishops, General Convention
National Church Center "815"
- Diocese: Bishop, Executive Committee, Council
Diocesan HQ, Regional Councils
- Parish: Rector, Wardens, Vestry
- Church of the Spirit: A different org chart ...

What holds us together is not an authority or even a
common theology but common prayer
Let's take a look at the book you'll rarely see here
The Book of Common Prayer -- 1976

An Episcopal Church?



Who needs denominations
and labels in this day and age?

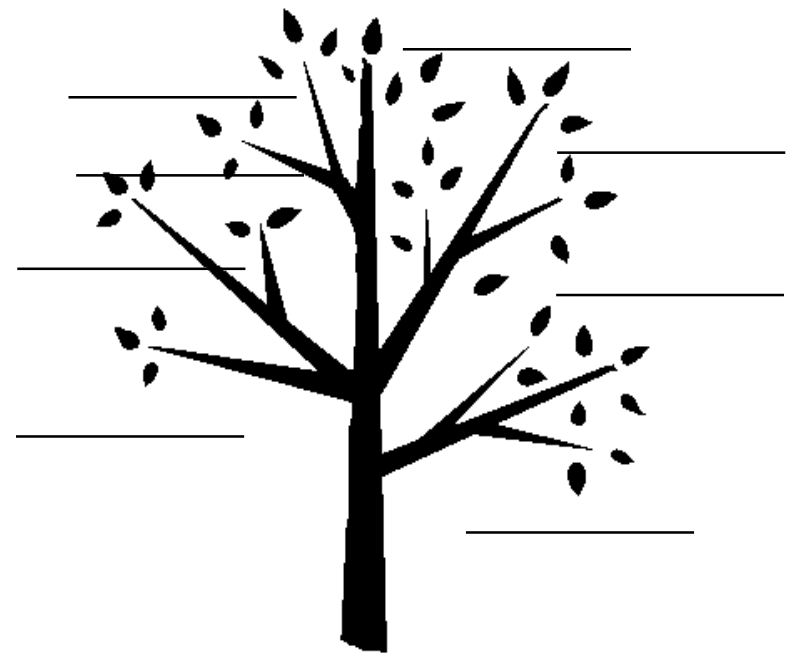
Getting the vocabulary correct:

I belong to which religion?

I belong to what denomination?

I belong to what church?

The Christian Family Tree:



Sacraments



Your way to experience God's grace, over and over

How often do you do the following things?

eat a snack or a meal	fill up your gas tank
go to the grocery store	check your e-mail
take a shower	do a load of laundry

There are many things we do in life that need to happen more than once, we need to do them over and over. When it comes to other experiences in life,

Name something you only want to go through once:

Name something you'd enjoy as frequently as you could:

Experiencing God's grace is not a once-in-a-lifetime event. In fact we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit often. The Bible talks about this experience in many ways:

- (a) You can be filled with the Spirit
- (b) The Spirit of the Lord can come upon you
- (c) The Spirit may fall upon you
- (d) You can be "in the Spirit"
- (e) The hand of the Lord may be upon you

There is a sense of being "anointed" by the Holy Spirit that arises in both the Old and New Testaments. This would be a momentary thing, that could be repeated, but leaves a mark that separates you from who you were before ...

What is a sacrament?

"A sacrament is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as a sure and certain means by which we receive that grace."

How many sacraments are there? 2 + 5 = 7?

Protestants: 2 sacraments (Baptism & Communion)
Catholics: 7 sacraments
Episcopalians: 2 sacraments + 5 sacramental rites?

The 5 "sacramental rites" differ from communion and baptism in that they are not necessary for all people like the first two.

"Necessary vs. Mandatory"

Must you be baptized to be saved?

The seven sacraments are:

- Baptism
- Anointing/Last Rites (*Unction*)
- Communion
- Holy Orders
- Confirmation
- Holy Matrimony
- Confession (*Reconciliation*)

Is God's activity limited to these rites?

"God does not limit himself to these rites; they are patterns of countless ways by which God uses material things to reach out to us."

The basis for theology comes from the first big gift ...

Are you more of a Christmas Christian
or an Easter Christian?

When you choose to become a baptized member we ask you to promise to live as a Christ Follower. These promises are known as your Baptismal Covenant.

(1) *This Baptismal Covenant provides the lowest common denominator of our faith. It's the baseline, the foundation.*

(2) *The Baptismal Covenant is for all baptized Christ Followers and is a part of the national church's expression of its faith, not a local one.*

Baptismal Covenant

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

Answer: I renounce them

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

Do you promise to follow and obey him as your Lord?

Answer: I do

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

Answer: I will, with God's help

Membership

Has both privileges and responsibilities



At *The Spirit*, you choose the level at which you wish to participate.

Active in the Congregation

You may or may not be baptized yet, but you wish to learn more about your faith by attending services and group here at Church of the Spirit

Baptized Member

As a baptized member you now enjoy full membership in God's family, called the Church. You are trying to live out the promises of the Baptismal Covenant in your daily life.

Committed Member

You are baptized and desire to become an official member of this church.

Core Member

You may or may not be baptized yet, but you wish to learn more about your faith by attending services and group here at Church of the Spirit

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Membership Covenant

I will live as authentic a Christian life as I can, with God's help. I will seek God in each day, learn to see him at work in my life and in the world around me, serve him by reaching out to others, and I will share my faith with others as best I can so they too can share in the joy of knowing God in their life. As a member of the Church of the Spirit I pledge myself to:

SEEK THE LORD

- q I will make time for weekly Bible Study
- q I will open myself up to God and listen for his word
- q I will seek to discover my spiritual gifts and use them

THROUGH PRAYER

- q I will develop a daily routine of prayer and quiet time
- q I will pray for the growth of our Church
- q I will pray for my own needs, for others, especially for those who have no relationship with Jesus

INVITED BY JESUS & INVITING OTHERS

- q I will invite others to worship with us and join us
- q I will listen for God's invitation to grow closer to him

DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS,

- q I will attend worship services regularly
- q I will grow as a disciple through regular participation in a small group
- q I will seek to love and serve others, especially those who have no relationship with Jesus

INSPIRED BY GOD & INSPIRING

- q I promise to share in the Spirit of the Church by supporting one another and by refusing to gossip
- q I will welcome newcomers and guests
- q I will use my spiritual gifts for the good of others in some form of ministry in the Church

WHILE TRAINING TO BECOME A BETTER DISCIPLE

- q I will support the work of the Church with my time, talents and treasures
- q I will put into practice what I am learning
- q I will, when called by God and the Church leaders, share in the leadership of the Church

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. [43] Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. [44] All who believed were together and had all things in common; [45] they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. [46] Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, [47] praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47

What does it mean to you to **Find Jesus**? Have you?

How can you best **Follow Jesus** in the next week?

Being a **Fruitful Disciple** means

experiencing the fruit of the Spirit

love	joy	peace
patience	kindness	generosity
faithfulness	gentleness	self-control

becoming productive in the world on behalf of God

How could you become more of a **Faithful Witness**?

Why are we here?



Does the world really need just another church?

Purpose. Mission. Without one you're not sure what to do next or why. With one you have a blueprint for the future.

Consider: What's the mission of ...

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NASA | <input type="checkbox"/> LAPD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disney World | <input type="checkbox"/> White House staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Washington Redskins | |

Corporations spend money and time to develop mission statements. If you had a mission statement it might be ...

Church of the Spirit did not exist in 1997. When we first started asking people to join, they wanted to know what Church of the Spirit was about, and what it did. They also wanted to know what set Church of the Spirit apart from other churches. Those were appropriate questions. Our answer: since the start we've had a simple mission statement developed from the Bible. If something does not fit the mission, we don't spend time or energy on it.

"We're here to help you Find and Follow Jesus as Fruitful Disciples and Faithful Witnesses."

Welcome to Church of the Spirit

**Where we started, not so long ago,
with just 4 people and a dog.**

Now we're ...

Kingstowne's Community Church

**A new Church for a new community
and a new generation ...**

A safe place for people with questions ...

**A new gathering of Christ Followers and those
seeking a closer relationship with God,
sponsored by the 185 Episcopal churches
of Richmond and Northern Virginia ...**

Not for everyone but we may be just right for you ...