

FLP

Discipleship Training

Manual

Salvation to quiet time (week 1)

Welcome to this introductory course that will help you in the initial stages of the greatest decision/heart change that has taken place in your life.

Just like taking medication for a disease to prevent a relapse it is essential to take the following.

Understanding Salvation

Salvation basically means being saved from something, that something is the reason why we are so jubilant when we get saved.

We are saved from the judgment of our Father God when eventually the earth has been harvested and all of us face our Father God and are either Judged for our sins or are pardoned due to being saved from this judgment through Jesus our Saviour who died on the cross.

So why do we need Salvation? I'm a good person and I've kept the rules of the 10 commandments....

Some of us come from really sinful pasts and others of us were never really that bad and would be considered by all to be quite saintly. Unfortunately we all fall short of the Glory of God because of the sin that took place in the garden of Eden.

The FALL of Man, God made a covenant with man after He created him and his help meet Eve, basically freedom was given to them on condition that they stayed within the boundaries of the rules stated by God. God granted permanent asylum and perfect freedom from harm as long as the rules were not broken. The two were warned that they would die(spiritually) if they didn't adhere to them. Here is a basic biblical extract and explanation:

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. 20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib[h] he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

We need salvation, due to the fact that we are separated from a relationship with God, through the sin of Adam and Eve. We are under a curse due to their sin, some of which we will suffer till the day we die. Namely Pain in child birth and for a man to toil for his food till the day he dies Genesis 3:14-20. These are consequences of sin, but the one curse that has been broken when we get saved is the curse of eternal damnation (eternity separated from God in hell).

Salvation can be rejoiced over because through it we:

1. break the curse of eternal separation from God
2. restore a relationship with God himself through Jesus
3. no longer are guilty of our sin, but rather forgiven
4. we are a new creation as if we are rebooted and all viruses are deleted.
5. our lives can be put back together like a shattered clay pot being put back together piece by piece and when finished the vessel doesn't even leak.
6. we can grow our inheritance in heaven once we are saved.

Death to self and life through Christ.

Lets take the clay pot as an example, we are all like clay pots that are moulded and shaped in the world. The clay pot once baked in the kiln becomes rigid brittle. When God comes into our lives we willingly hand ourselves over to Him, we destroy our old self in order to be re-invented into the vessel that He intends for us. So the pot is broken into pieces and ground up into a powder and water(Holy Spirit) is added again and the clay is softened and becomes a workable, wet and flexible lump that the potter(God) puts onto His wheel and slowly moulds us from the bottom up.

We only become aware of the state that we are in once we have been drawn by the Holy Spirit, once we know we are sinners we need salvation from sins consequences. This is done through Jesus, the sacrificial lamb that needed to be sacrificed for the sins of man.

How do I get saved?

Belief that Jesus is our Saviour and that He died for our sins

Rom 10:9

9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Ask for forgiveness(repent).

Be baptized(Baptism should not be avoided as this is a matter of obedience).

Acts 2:37-39.

Salvation chain:

Romans 3:23

Romans 6: 23

Romans 5:8

Romans 10:9-10

Romans 10:13

Acts 16:31

John 3.

Romans 6

Water Baptism (week 2)

Baptism comes from the word **baptizo** this means to fully submerge oneself.

When we get saved we fully jump into the river so to speak of God. We give our hearts to Jesus and this means we go the whole 9 yards, part of going the whole distance is being baptized.

Baptism is like the seal of our salvation, like a letter that has been placed in the envelope we are placed in Christ when saved, the letter envelope needs to be sealed and baptism is like the seal that closes the envelope keeping the letter in place and secure.

Mark 16:16

16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Baptism is an act of obedience; we need only look at Jesus who didn't need to be baptized but did it to fulfill all righteousness. How much more so should we be obedient to do this to fulfill our righteous stand with our Lord.

Matthew 3 13-15

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

Righteousness is a state of cleanliness or right standing given to us through the saving work of Jesus.

Baptism and infants: we see nowhere in the bible that infants were baptized, only people that had repented of sin and turned from their wicked ways. No infant is even aware of their sin therefore there are no grounds for baptism. We see this in the Book of Acts where Peter preaches to the crowd at the day of Pentecost and the people were convicted of sin and then asked him what they should do. He told them to repent and then to get baptized.

We are qualified to be baptized through our salvation, there is no waiting period or training needed between salvation and baptism Acts 8:26-39

BAPTISM FOLLOWS REPENTANCE IT NEVER PRECEDES IT.

Baptism is a physical (outward) representation of our salvation, demonstrated before witnesses of what has taken place in our hearts.

The following scripture best portrays baptism in a literary context:

Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Who can baptize people?

We see in scripture that the Disciples and John baptized people, Jesus doesn't seem to have baptized people. This means that anyone who is a believer or disciple of God can baptize a person. The disciples were not learned men, instead they were normal garden variety people like you and I.

Baptism is not:

Baptism is not salvation, our salvation comes when we confess our sins and accept Jesus as Lord, therefore Baptism is a physical representation to witnesses of what has taken place in our salvation. So baptism can act as form of accountability, telling others of our confession of faith. In most instances when people get saved their families generally don't take it too seriously but when they get baptized the persecution seems to breakout.

The Man on the cross had no means of getting down from the cross after repenting to get baptized, yet Jesus said that he would go to paradise with Him.

Luke 23: 40-43

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Baptism of the Holy Spirit (week 3)

Baptism of the Holy Spirit we see in the bible and Jesus is described as the one that will do this, John came and baptized people and with water and paved the way for Jesus who was to bring salvation from sin and baptize with the Holy Spirit.

Mark 1:8

8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

We have seen that baptism of water is essential and so is being baptized by the Spirit.

The Reason why we need to be baptized by the Holy Spirit

We know that the Holy Spirit is in us the day we are saved because He is the one who draws us to salvation and the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one(three in one). There is a measure of the Holy Spirit deposited in us when we do get saved. There is, however, not yet a filling in full measure poured out by the Holy Spirit as we see in the Book of Acts that resulted in them preaching the Word boldly.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit enables us to be Powerful witnesses of the Lord. We become effective in advancing His Kingdom once we are filled with Power from the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

He was given in Jesus absence to come to us and provide us with all the tools we need to get into the Kingdom of Heaven. That is why we need to embrace Him and all He has to offer us

John 14:26

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

The Holy Spirit continues to come upon us as the need arises, we see The disciples namely in Acts being filled on separate occasions.

the first occasion was the upper room Acts 2 the second corporate infilling was Acts 4.

the Disciples were individually filled with power on separate occasions in order to fulfill their purpose. Refer to Acts read it and see where they were filled, it brought boldness and effectiveness to their duties in Christ.

Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The evidence of the Holy Spirit working in and through us is the fruit that is produced through us in our actions... these fruits are essential for us to mature as Christians and to be attractive to non believing people. Fruit is to be eaten and generally the world imbibes the fruit we produce for it.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Power Gifts

The Holy Spirit equips us with gifts to make the work of getting the lost saved and sanctifying the body. These gifts are tools which the Holy Spirit pours on us as He wills. The gifts are available to us all and anyone has access to them. We need only get into a situation where one of them is needed and the Holy Spirit will enable us to access them. They are not there to define or identify us to glorify us but to advance His kingdom and bring glory to God.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He distributes them to each one, just as He determines.

How Do I receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

We see the disciples merely prayed for the people to receive the Holy Spirit. The same applies to us. All we have to do is open our hearts and pray for this to happen. Ask someone who you know to be filled with the Spirit to pray with you. you may be prompted to speak in tongues as the disciples did on the day of Pentecost, this is a great gift and should be sought. Many spirit filled believers are able to speak in tongues, invite this into your life and ask God to Give you a spiritual language. This will enable you to communicate with God in a new and awesome way. You may be filled with the Holy Spirit in a corporate meeting as in the day of Pentecost, this too, is why it is essential to meet with fellow believers.

Commitment (week 4)

Commitment is the part we play in our relationship with Jesus or better said the, “walk” with Him. This has to do with what we do, besides the grace given to us, which is what He gives us to keep us from sinning. Without commitment from our side, we can end up falling away like the parable of the seeds sown on the path.

Matthew 13:13-23

The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.” 10 The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” 11 He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. 12 Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables: ‘Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. 14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. 15 For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’ 16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. 17 For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. 18 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. 22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. 23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Jesus said to his disciples just before leaving them that they were to go and make Disciples of all nations...teaching them everything that He had taught them in Matt 28:18-20.

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

There is only one chosen, living organism that God has given us in which we can learn all this and it is the Church. Church is the body of believers that are committed to Jesus and being committed and devoted to each other and in turn go out and get the lost saved by preaching the gospel and growing the church. We see this as a living Body spoken of in 1 Cor. 12 of which is overseen, operated and controlled by its head Christ. The first example of Christian Church in the bible is in the book of Acts. The church was birthed in the upper room of Pentecost in Acts 2 where the Holy Spirit was poured out and empowered the disciples.

We see a model of church which NCMI have modelled their whole structure around, it is the safest way of building a church, why because it is the only example we have from scripture from which to build.

So what does this have to do with me as a new believer?

The answer simply is... everything!

The disciples we see devoted themselves to:

- 1 The Apostles teaching
- 2 Breaking of bread
- 3 Fellowship
- 4 Prayer.

These are the four cardinal points in which Front Line People fundamentally meet together corporately for. These are worked out in the following categories

Apostles teaching include: Sunday services, combined meetings, Equips(corporate input from NCMI), Life groups etc.

Breaking of bread: sharing together in communion and sharing meals together building unity, this takes place in our homes or in the church through events like life groups and social meals etc.

Fellowship: this takes form in and out of meeting times; we socialize and interact before during and after our functioning. We love to do life together with our brothers and sisters in the life of church. This simply means we live normal lives in church and we watch movies or sport etc together merely to build strong social bonds. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy... same is true when we merely do church and have no basic relationship together.

Prayer: Then lastly we pray together corporately: this takes its form in weekly prayer meetings where we get together as a church and pray for various things which God lays on our hearts. Also corporate prayer times with other churches combined for the city or the nations.

The key to the success of the Kingdom of God advancing is if we play our part and do what we need to. We need to be devoted to Jesus firstly and secondly we need to remember that Jesus is coming back for the church. It is His bride which needs to be prepared and mature. Jesus will only return once all the people that will come to Christ have been saved. The vehicle that drives the Gospel of salvation and sanctification (Maturing relationship with Jesus) is the church. It is an ever moving and life filled transporter of believers from immaturity to maturity always saving the lost, doomed and cursed into a family unit, secure and serving Jesus and each other. This body of believers grows up and matures and continues the cycle of saving lost souls, raising them up in the ways of Christ through His word and then releasing them to go and make disciples themselves.

Who needs to be committed?

There is no exception both young and old, rich or poor, this applies to us all. Our church's vision fundamentally is to LOVE, SERVE and to CONQUER for JESUS. Devotion to the Lord is firstly personally devoting our entire lives to the Lord, we are no longer our own bosses of our lives but have died to it and now live as a new creation in Christ. We can only get to know Christ by being committed to get into a more intimate relationship with Him. The second part is getting on board with the vision of the local church, we as a church need to know where we are going and how we are going to get there. There needs to be a plan, our plan fits in with NCMI so we don't have a separate vision contrary to the will of God we are a part of the whole. Each church has got to have a specific plan in God to meet the overall vision God has to save all people from the curse of sin and prepare us as a bride for His Son Jesus. Our Local church has a specific vision which doesn't change all the time only it grows as time goes on.

So getting back to who needs to be committed, within the church there needs all hands on deck to make it a success. Also part of our development as a believer is learning to serve one another and in turn loving and serving the world with this gospel. No one should be exempt from serving both Jesus and the body for its ultimate benefit not just our own selves as individual benefiting at the cost of others.

How can I serve at Front Line People?

Your life group leader will fill you in on where you can get serving in the life of the church. You will be required to go to a life group so that we can properly disciple you and help you integrate into church life effectively. If you are not connected to us through life groups we cannot know you well enough to lead you into your preferred future, our Vision is partly to see you mature and walk into your full potential and inheritance in the Lord.

Quiet time (week 5)

How to remain in close relationship with Jesus

Once we are saved our relationship with Jesus is actually up to us. He makes it possible for salvation and hands it to us but we are mere babes and in our infancy we need to be nourished and constantly connected to our Lord. The ironic part of our walk with Jesus is that we actually become more reliant on Him the longer we serve Him.

We will suggest one proven method of remaining in Him like John 15, Quiet time.

Someone once told me about this term when I was just saved and I had no idea what they were talking about... I thought it was some sort of funny meditation... in a sense it can be but it takes on many forms.

Firstly as its name suggests it is about quieting ourselves before God and waiting on him as the word suggests those that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength and not grow weary..

Isaiah 40:31

31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Waiting on the Lord is often waiting for Him to communicate with us...Yes, communicate. Often when we have had a full day and night living in this busy life we are filled with thoughts and worries. This takes our focus off true meditation on the Lord and His Word. This time we set aside helps us to again get our focus and attention back on the source of our joy and life.

So how do we have a typical quiet time?

There are no specific methods that are better than others however there are some elements that are essential.

Some include

1 Gods Word.. as God told Joshua to meditate on His word day and night and never let it depart from him. we too need to learn his word by reading the Bible. Part of our quiet time should be spent reading scripture. Reading scripture is fine but it is dead if it is just reading. When we read His word it needs to become alive and active in changing our lives. This is only possible through the work of the Holy Spirit, it shapes and moulds us if we allow it to.

2 The Holy Spirit...the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is the one who draws us to Jesus, he is the one who Jesus spoke of that He would send to us in His absence when He ascended to be with God. He will teach us all things, the Word tells us so we need to be listening and asking the Holy Spirit to lead us.

John 14:26

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you

Having these two essential ingredients we have the potential to have a meaningful time with the Lord.

The Holy Spirit teaches us what scripture means and brings the wisdom and understanding of scripture. He makes the words of the bible become living and active; yes as weird as it sounds the Word of God becomes alive as it activates our hearts to change and yield to the Will of God. The word is the promise and prophecy of God it is a promise in that what is told in it past present and future either has happened or will happen. We can stand on His word as a promise. God is not a liar and will always do what He says He will do. His YES is a guarantee and His NO is also so.

The Word of God has contextual meaning...this means that the author had a specific intention as he was inspired by God to write what he did. We need to know contextually what was the authors intention for that specific intended audience. We also know that not only was it created for them, if it were we would not have the books here for us to read. God intends for us all to live out our lives in righteousness. The stories of the bible are life lessons to us due to the fact that man and his nature doesn't change only our circumstances do... meaning that our weaknesses are the same and our short fallings don't change until the Lord reveals our sin to us and brings a solution.

We need to know and understand the bible contextually, many have written commentaries such as Matthew Henry and others. Guides on understanding the bible and its meaning are extremely helpful as we study God through reading His word. Study bibles also help us learn the meaning of scripture such as NIV Study Bible. The Word of God is likened to a sword that cuts to the heart, it is a weapon against the devil and his works. It comforts us when we are weak like in the Psalms. It guides us in making life decisions so if used correctly it becomes a daily manual in which we draw from for our entire life needs.

Quiet time can take the form of:

1 Prayer: confession of sin, praising God and asking Him for our needs

2 Asking the Holy Spirit to speak to us and reveal to us through scripture what God expects of us

3 Reading scripture: it is helpful to start with the New Testament, it helps us understand salvation and introduces us to our saviour Jesus Christ. Start maybe with the Gospels for this. Once we understand forgiveness and salvation we can read the Old Testament with an understanding of it pointing toward our salvation it shows us what is wrong and right and the New Testament gives us a means to accomplish its requirements through Grace.

4 Worship: we are naturally made to worship something and before we were saved it would take the form of spending tremendous time giving our attention to the thing we worship... like an idol (television, computer, xbox etc. what we yield to becomes our object of worship). We need to get into a routine of worshipping God by spending time with Him, praising Him by either singing, adoration in our words to Him... confessing His magnificence or dancing, shouting, playing an instrument etc. We should firstly worship Him alone and learn how, as well as corporate worship when we get together and sing songs together.

So when should we have a quiet time?

There is no law stating when we should do this... this in itself can become lifeless if it is just a forced discipline. However to get into routine we have to go through the hard yards of getting self discipline... it is a fruit of the Spirit. Starting our projects off correctly help us complete correctly, right? It is good to start your day off with the best planner or helper - the Holy Spirit. Early risers were men mentioned like Joshua and Jesus. Starting on the wrong foot can cause unnecessary hurdles so try starting your day with Jesus. And the bible says God is the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. The best is to start and end your day with God. Try to vary it, some have better quiet times at night when all is done. Try all and see which works for you and your walk with Jesus.