

Welcome to Jubilee Membership Class #201-1 DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL MATURITY (Part #1)

We're glad you signed up! This class is the second of JCCIGT's four basic classes. Since these classes build on each other, you must first attend Discovering Church Membership #101 before taking this class.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLASS:

*"... that you may **become mature** Christians and may fulfill God's will for you." Col. 4:12b (Ph)*

"We are not meant to remain as children ... but to grow up in every way into Christ..." Eph. 4:14-15 (Ph)

THE FOCUS OF THIS CLASS:

We will focus on the **Four Basic Habits** every Christian needs to develop in order to grow to spiritual maturity. This class will ...

- Equip you with the **skills** you need to begin these habits.
- Explain the **tools** you need to continue these habits.

WHAT IS "SPIRITUAL MATURITY"?

"...In the unity of common faith, and knowledge of the Son of God, we arrive at real maturity - the measure of development which is meant by 'the fullness of Christ.'" Eph 4:13(Ph)

Spiritual Maturity is TO BE LIKE JESUS

*"For from the very beginning God decided that those who came to him ... **should become like his Son...**" Rom.8:29(LB)*

FACTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATURITY

1. IT'S NOT AUTOMATIC

"You have been Christians for a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others, but instead ... you need someone to teach you ... When a person is still living on milk, it shows he isn't very far along in the Christian life ... He's still a baby Christian!" Heb. 5:12-13 (LB)

2. IT IS A PROCESS

*"**Learn** to be mature." Prov. 8:5 (GN)*

*"**Continue to grow** in the grace and knowledge of our savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18 (GN)*

3. IT TAKES DISCIPLINE

*"Take **the time and the trouble** to keep yourself spiritually fit." 1Tim. 4:7b (Ph)*

*"**Discipline** yourself for the purpose of godliness." (NASB)*

UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP

1. Mature believers are called **DISCIPLES**

2. I cannot be a disciple without being **DISCIPLINED**

3. The more disciplined I become **THE MORE GOD CAN USE ME**

4. The mark of a disciple is **CROSS-BEARING**

(Jesus) *"Anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:27*

5. How often am I to do this? **DAILY**

(Jesus) *"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross **daily**, and follow me."*

Luke 9:23

6. What is involved in "cross bearing"?

WHATEVER IT TAKES to give Christ first place in my life!

FOUR HABITS OF A DISCIPLE

HOW CAN I BECOME A DISCIPLE? Develop **THE HABITS OF A DISCIPLE**

*"... You have **put off the old self** with its **HABITS** and have put on the new self... which God is continually renewing in his own image, to bring you to a full knowledge of himself." Col. 3:9-10*

1. TIME WITH GOD'S WORD

*"If you **continue in my Word**, then you are my disciples indeed. And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32*

2. PRAYER

*"If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, then you will **ask for anything you wish**, and you shall have it ... in this way you become my disciples." John 15:7-8 (GN)*

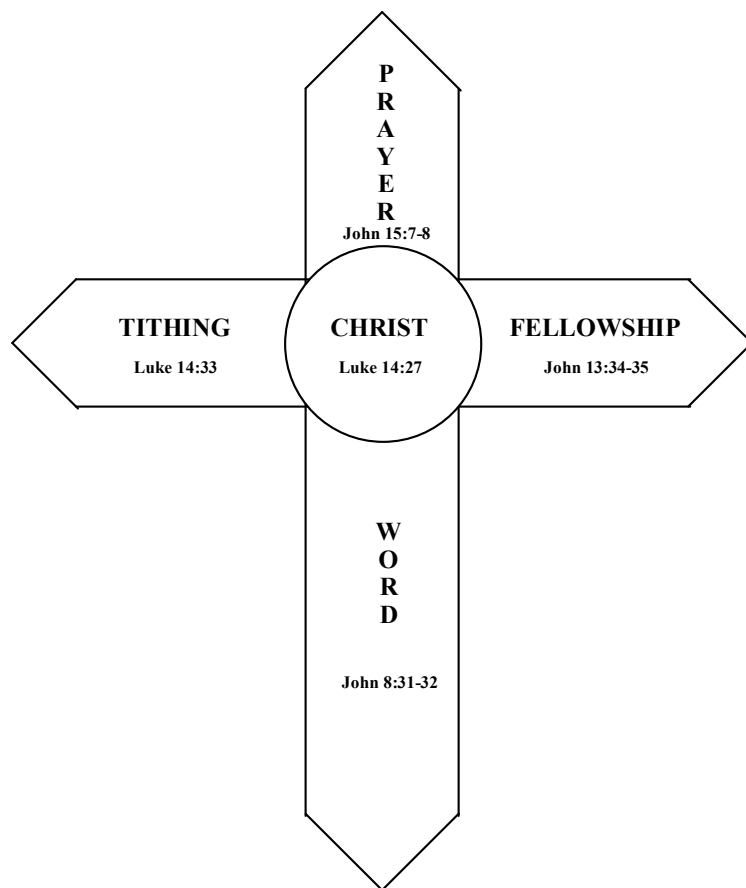
3. TITHING

*"None of you can be my disciple unless **he gives up all of his possessions.**"* Luke 14:33 (JB)

*"The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always **put God first** in your lives."* Deut. 14:23 (LB)

4. FELLOWSHIP

*"Love each other just as much as I love you. Your **strong love for each other** will prove to the world that you are my disciples."* John 13:34-35 (LB)



DEFINITIONS OF "HABIT": (Webster's II Dictionary)

"A continual, often unconscious inclination to do a certain activity, acquired through frequent repetition."

"An established disposition of the character."

"Sow a thought, reap an act.

Sow an act, reap a habit.

Sow a habit, reap a character.

Sow a character, reap a destiny."

"A customary practice"

CLASS OUTLINE

SESSION ONE:

- **Introduction: Spiritual Maturity and Habits**
- **How to Get a "Grasp" On Your Bible**
- **The Habit of a Daily Time with God**

SESSION TWO:

- **The Habit of Prayer: Talking with God**
- **The Habit of Tithing: Giving Back to God**
- **The Habit of Fellowship: Enjoying God's Family**
- **How To Start and Maintain Good Habits**

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

That I will COMMIT to the habits necessary for spiritual maturity.

"In the past you voluntarily gave your bodies to the service of vice and ... the purposes of evil. So now give yourselves to the service of righteousness - for the purpose of becoming truly good." Rom.6:19 (Ph).