

## City Life Track – Part 2



(Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION<sup>®</sup>. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.) Portions of this outline are used by permission of Church of the Highlands.



## **UNDERSTANDING BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY**

*“And for an entire year they met with the church and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” Acts 11:26*

Before followers of Jesus were called “Christians”, they were known as disciples. As disciples, we develop a deep relationship with Christ through:

### **1. Bible study and prayer (Class 1)**

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching ... and to prayer.” Acts 2:42*

### **2. \_\_\_\_\_**

*“They devoted themselves to...fellowship.” Acts 2:42*

### **3. \_\_\_\_\_**

*“Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the Apostles.” Acts 2:43*

### **4. \_\_\_\_\_**

*“They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need” Acts 2:45*

Last week we talked about: Salvation, Baptism, Prayer and the Bible  
What’s Next?

## **FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS**

*“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another.” Hebrews 10:25 (GN)*

Firstly, it is important to make a habit of meeting with God’s family because if we truly want to grow as Christians, making a habit of fellowshiping with other believers, hearing the Word of God, and worshipping the Lord are the perfect places to begin.

*GAL 6:10 – “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”*

### WHAT DOES FAMILY GIVE US?

1. *The need to be* \_\_\_\_\_
2. *The need to* \_\_\_\_\_
3. *The need to be* \_\_\_\_\_

**WE DON'T** \_\_\_\_\_ **CHURCH WE** \_\_\_\_\_ **THE CHURCH.**

**Illustration:** If this building burnt to the ground, city church Halifax still exists because we exist.

Jesus is committed to the church (*you and I together*):

*“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” (Ephesians 5:25)*

As the church, we are called to be different. We are called to be in the world but not of it (John 17:15) And this is difficult to do without the support and accountability of a committed community of believers.

We live in a time in Canada where people don't like making commitments.

- Don't want to make commitments at work
- Don't want to make commitments in relationships

But Commitment defines who can be \_\_\_\_\_ on – *to serve, to give, to contribute, to support, to grow, to love, to forgive and to celebrate.*

- Every team has a roster and every school an enrollment.
- Membership identifies our family – where we belong.

The Family of God cultivates and nurtures your \_\_\_\_\_.

*James 5:16 “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”*

You can only be accountable when you’re committed. Commitment builds faith and trust in each other. And how many times have you heard someone say, “I don’t trust anyone?”

By God’s design, it will also lead you to finding or fulfilling your \_\_\_\_\_, something you can’t do without a church family. Why? Because we’re all connected to one another.

*“All of you together are the one body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it” (1Cor. 12:27 LB).*

We help each other fulfill \_\_\_\_\_. I can’t be me without you. You can’t be you without me – and the others around you.

## **SMALL GROUPS**

At City Church we want to increase our small groups to encourage people’s spiritual growth throughout the week.

God never intended for us to go through life alone. But the enemy wants you to! Throughout the Bible, we see the importance of being in community. In fact, authentic life-change happens in the context of relationships.

At City Church, we believe our church must grow LARGER and SMALLER at the same time. LARGER because new people are making decisions to follow Jesus, and SMALLER via small groups so that you can personally connect with people in faith, not just in the large group Sunday Worship experience, but throughout the week. *“They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” Acts 2:46-47*

- Friday Bowling
- Saturday Master Builders

(NOTE: These examples are “free market small groups)

There are three main types of small groups.

1. Home Groups
2. Service Groups
3. Special Interest groups.

PEOPLE NEED CHRISTIAN \_\_\_\_\_!

- Yes, there will be Bible studies
- Yes, there will be services and special service times
- But we need small groups that help people connect to the church family with “building relationships” as the centre purpose.

AS LEAD PASTOR I WILL BE TALKING MORE ABOUT SMALL GROUPS AS PART OF THE VISION OF CITY CHURCH IN THE NEAR FUTURE

1. THERE IS A GOD
2. THERE IS AN \_\_\_\_\_

The devil wants to divide us and make us \_\_\_\_\_.

- Fight over scripture
- Fight over music
- Fight over the color of the walls...
- Fight over anything really....

## **ILLUSTRATION: STRANGE BUT TRUE STORY**

*Former pastor Eric Daniel Harris, age 37, pled guilty to the November 1996 arson that burned down the Kentucky Missionary Baptist Church in Arkansas.*

*According to a federal prosecutor, Harris said he did it because "there was a division among church members, and they needed a project to unify them."*

The devil wants to divide... because when the Body of Christ, God's Family is in **ONE ACCORD**, that's when **the Holy Spirit does amazing things**.

***"They were in \_\_\_\_\_" (Acts 2:1).***

It was after they were in ONE ACCORD in the SPIRIT that they went and preached in the streets and people were saved... and that day is known as THE DAY OF PENTECOST!

IF GOD WANTS TO GIVE YOU A BETTER LIFE, HOW DOES THAT HAPPEN?  
HOW DO I SEE MY LIFE AND WHO I AM CHANGE?

What's Next?

Let's talk about the Holy Spirit.

## **LIVING A SPIRIT LEAD LIFE**

When we talk about the ministry of the Holy Spirit what does that mean?

The Holy Spirit is God's presence here on earth today that helps us, guides our hearts, and works at transforming us.

- **The Spirit helps us \_\_\_\_\_** (*Romans 8:26-27*).
- **He gives us new \_\_\_\_\_** (*John 3:3-6*). *Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life."*

- **He is our \_\_\_\_\_, and he helps us understand God's word** *(John 14:26).*
- **He lifts up \_\_\_\_\_** *(John 15:26). But I will send you the Advocate - the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me.*
- **He convicts us of \_\_\_\_\_** *(John 16:7-11). And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.*
- **He makes us \_\_\_\_\_ to God** *(Romans 15:16). I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to God, made holy by the Holy Spirit.*
- **He produces the \_\_\_\_\_ of the spirit in us...** *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).*
- **He helps us share our \_\_\_\_\_** *(Acts 1:8). But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*
- **And He lives inside us and Quickens the believer's body at the \_\_\_\_\_.** *(Romans 8:11). The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.*

**THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT AN " \_\_\_\_\_."**

The HOLY SPIRIT is God's presence in your life.

The Prophet Joel said, *"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh..." Joel 2:28.*

## **NEW TESTAMENT**

Peter stated in Acts Chapter 2 "This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel...

Jesus called it "the promise of the Spirit."

In verses 38 and 39, Peter continued to talk about it... he said, ***"This is for you and your children (talking about generations) and to all that are afar off, (other people such as the gentiles), even as many as the Lord our God shall call.***

**\*\* The ARGUMENT... \*\***

**Many people teach that the Holy Spirit is not for today.**

Summary: Many teach that because we have the Bible we don't need the Spirit.

QUESTION: Why would God die for us, then leave us on our own?

ARGUMENT: But He left us the Scriptures!

ANSWER: But its the Holy Spirit who \_\_\_\_\_ the Scriptures to us! (*John 6:63*)

*But God has revealed it to us by the Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11For who among men knows the thoughts of man except his own spirit within him? So too, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 1 Corinthians 2:10-14*

He produces the fruit of the spirit in us... *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).*

Jesus said in *John 14:18 "I will not leave you alone."*

The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ our lives when we can not.

*“For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image.” 2 Corinthians 3:17-18*

- The baptism of salvation confirms that our sins have been forgiven and are under the blood of Jesus. We’re immersed into His Family. *“By one Spirit we were all baptized into one body” (1Corinthians 12:13)*
- Water baptism is a public declaration as followers of Jesus. *(Acts 2:41)*
- And the baptism of the Holy Spirit provides us with the spiritual power to live the Spirit-lead life.

These three experiences reflect the very nature of the Trinity: *“For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one” (1John 5:7 NKJV)*

Not convinced? What’s Next? VERSE 8

*“And there are three that bear witness on earth: The Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.”*

It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that we grow in our faith and live in the freedom we received when we invited Jesus into our life.

*ACTS 19:1-2 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the interior and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” “No,” they answered, “we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”*

The HOLY SPIRIT is the presence and power of God on earth.

God wants us to live a Spirit-\_\_\_\_\_ and Spirit-\_\_\_\_\_ life.

- Tell God you want to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- Let him know you want all the gifts associated with the Holy Spirit.
- You can trust that anything God has for you is good!

ONE OF THE PRIMARY FUNCTIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
IS TO PUT A HOLY SPIRIT IN YOU!

BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT DOESN'T MAKE ME BETTER THAN YOU;  
IT MAKES ME BETTER THAN \_\_\_\_\_.

So many people are exhausted from trying to be a better person. They do everything in their own strength. Instead, invite the Power of God, the Holy Spirit to do a work on the inside.

If you could change yourself, you would have already done it!

- If you want a “better, you” you need the Holy Spirit.
- If you want real lasting change, then allow the Holy Spirit into your life.

**WHERE DO I START?**

Answer: ASK

Jesus said that all we have to do is \_\_\_\_\_, and we will receive the free gift of his presence: “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him” (Luke 11:13)

**PRAYER:**

*Holy Spirit, I welcome You. Thank you for working in me. Holy Spirit, you guided me into salvation and opened my eyes to see Jesus. Now, help me see and hear you more clearly. Help me recognize your movement in my life.*

*I ask you for your help and comfort today. Holy Spirit, I ask that you grow good fruit in my life. I ask for love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*

*Keep me I pray looking to Jesus, walking in spirit and truth and trusting You with my whole heart. I pray that in all things, I would seek Your face, listen to Your gentle promptings and respond to Your still small voice. Help me to live like Jesus and share His love.*

*Teach me how to live a Spirit-led and Spirit-fueled life. In Jesus name, Amen.*

**NOTE: New Believers**

- *When you pray ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you*
- *When you read the Bible ask the Holy Spirit to show you Gods truth*
- *Ask the Holy Spirit to change your heart desires “Live like Jesus, and share His love!”*
- *Ask the Holy Spirit to free you from anxiety and fear.*

Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, *“For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom...”* (2 Corinthians 3:17)