

Get Connected to a New Beginning



“The Place For The Total Family”

Membership Information

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Objectives

Membership Session One

At the end of session one, the new member will have knowledge of the following:

- The history of OBF.
- A biblical description of church membership and the true purpose of the church.
- The mission of OBF.
- The structure and components that are used to accomplish the mission.
- The philosophy, environment, and traditions that govern our approach to ministry.
- The process whereby a member can become actively involved in an area of ministry.
- Overview of the various ministries that are offered at OBF.
- What it means to have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Membership Session Two

At the end of session two, the new member will have knowledge of the following:

- What it means to have a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- The importance of scripture as the final authority in the Christian life.
- The relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- The basic mission of the Holy Spirit.
- 23 Doctrinal beliefs as outlined from scripture.

What it means to serve (volunteer) in the Body of Christ.

OBF Church History

Overcoming by Faith Church in Savannah, Georgia originated in the home of Ernestine Dilworth in 1976. For five years, Ernestine Dilworth served as Pastor of Overcoming Faith. On December 17, 1981, Dr. Ricky R. Temple, a graduate of Life Bible College in Los Angeles, California, became the Pastor of Overcoming Faith. Overcoming by Faith has grown from a small home church to one of the fastest growing churches in the Savannah area.

Overcoming by Faith believes in promoting Christ as the priority through the practical and systematic teaching of God's Word. Many souls have been won to Christ and many lives have been changed through this ministry. There is always an opportunity to come and hear the Word with the Overcoming by Faith family on Sundays and during the week.

Pastor Temple can be seen and heard world wide online at rickytemple.tv with video sermons on demand, on our sermon player at overcomingbyfaith.org, the Overcoming by Faith iPhone/iPad app, and on various social media sites such as facebook. He also does a series of radio programs entitled, "*A Practical Chat with Pastor Rick*" that can be heard across the United States.

Overcoming by Faith may have changed numerically, but the focus is still, and will continue to be evangelizing the lost (reaching people), educating those who come (teaching people), elevating as many lives as possible (growing people), and embracing everyone (serving people).

Biblical Look at Church Membership

In *Acts 2:41-47*, Luke records a detailed description of church membership.

The New Living Translation

- ⁴¹ Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church—about three thousand in all.*
- ⁴² They joined with the other believers and devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord's Supper and in prayer.*
- ⁴³ A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.*
- ⁴⁴ And all the believers met together constantly and shared everything they had.*
- ⁴⁵ They sold their possessions and shared the proceeds with those in need.*
- ⁴⁶ They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—*
- ⁴⁷ all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.*

Luke was writing to a great Roman leader named Theophilus (*Acts 1:1-3*) to describe the true purpose of the church. A lot of myths about the church had been circulating and he wanted to set the record straight. In Luke's description of the church, he uses key words to describe how these early members responded to church. This description became common to the church at Jerusalem. Below is a list describing the early church.

The First Members Described (*Acts 2:41-47*)

1. They were **growing**. (v41)
2. They were **joined with other believers**. (v42)
3. They were **devoted personally**. (v42)
4. They were **submitted to teaching**. (v. 42)
5. They were big on **fellowshipping**. (v. 42)
6. They were big on **sharing in the Lord's Supper**. (v. 42)
7. They were big on **prayer**. (v. 42)
8. They were open to the **miraculous**. (v. 43)
9. They **met often**. (v. 44)
10. They **shared their possessions**. (v. 44)
11. They **shared with each other**. (v. 45)
12. They **met in each other's homes**. (v. 46)
13. They **shared meals with great joy and generosity**. (v. 46)
14. They **praised** God a lot. (v. 47)

15. They were **growing daily with new converts.** (v. 47)

Biblical Look at Church Membership

(continued)

The early church members had a recruit-to-discipleship approach to church membership. They understood that each new recruit had to be ministered to individually. There was a big connection between the new convert and the establishment of the Jerusalem church. Church membership went far beyond meeting just the spiritual needs, but it also implied a physical and financial relationship.

1. The physical needs of each member were met (*Acts 6:1-4*)
2. The financial needs of the members were met (*Acts 4:32-35*).

Without a doubt, the greatest membership anybody can have is one with Jesus Christ. All of us are members of Christ's body if we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior (*Romans 10:9, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13*). Believing in Christ opens the door for us to be forgiven (*Romans 10:9*). Once we are forgiven, we are then members of Christ's spiritual body.

John the Baptist was the first to recruit members for the Kingdom of Heaven.

- ¹ *In those days John the Baptist began preaching in the Judean wilderness. His message was,*
- ² *“Turn from your sins and turn to God, because the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”*
- ³ *Isaiah had spoken of John when he said, “He is a voice shouting in the wilderness: “Prepare a pathway for the Lord’s coming! Make a straight road for him!”* (*Matthew 3:1-3 NLT*)

John the Baptist's message was clear and powerful. He wanted to recruit men for the Kingdom of Heaven. Membership in the Kingdom was John's goal for everyone. He never tried to build a congregation or have devoted followers. In order to understand what John the Baptist was trying to accomplish, we must understand the meaning of the word kingdom.

Here is a biblical definition:

Kingdom defined (Source: *Strong's Greek & Hebrew Dictionary*)

- 1) **Basileia**: royal power, kingship, dominion, rule
 - a) not to be confused with an actual kingdom but rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom
 - b) of the royal power of Jesus as the triumphant Messiah
 - c) of the royal power and dignity conferred on Christians in the Messiah's kingdom
- 2) the territory subject to the rule of a king
- 3) used in the New Testament to refer to the reign of the Messiah

Biblical Look at Church Membership

(continued)

In simple terms, a kingdom is a realm over which a king has power and rule. The kingdom of Heaven is really God invading the world (*John 1:1,14*) and offering men a chance to serve the King. Some responded to the invitation by saying “yes” and others said “no”. Those who said “yes” were willing to submit to become members of a new family with new guidelines and standards. They gathered and formed what is known as the early church (*Acts 2:41*).

Matthew 11:12 admonishes us to forcibly advance the Kingdom.

LIFE Application Points

1. *Acts 2:41-47* provides a description of the characteristics of the early church. Which three characteristics mean the most to you? Why?
2. The early church met the spiritual, physical, and financial needs of each member. How do you think you can help fulfill these needs in the lives of others?
3. Overcoming by Faith’s goal is the same as that of John the Baptist, to recruit members for the Kingdom of Heaven. What does the word kingdom mean to you?
4. What is the difference between being a member of the Kingdom of Heaven and a member of a church?

OBF Mission

Overcoming by Faith Ministries has been called to reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every Bible-believing church has been given this same mandate. Our approach to fulfill this mandate can be summed up in four main areas:

1. Evangelize (Reaching People)

Matthew 28:19-20 declares: ¹⁹ "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, ²⁰ "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." Our primary mission is to win souls for Christ. All of our efforts are centered around this simple, yet important purpose.

2. Educate (Teaching People)

Ephesians 4:11-12 declares: ¹¹ "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Overcoming by Faith Ministries believes in the systematic teaching of God's word. Educating believers chapter by chapter, page by page, and verse by verse helps build a strong biblical foundation. This foundation is very important to understanding our true purpose in the body of Christ.

3. Elevate (Growing People)

Matthew 25:35 declares: ³⁵ "for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in." Overcoming by Faith Ministries is called to elevate the quality of life of everyone we come in contact with. The love we show to our fellowman is a measure of the love we show to Jesus. We are instruments in God's hand that help bring wholeness to the believer's life.

4. Embrace (Serving People)

Matthew 22:37-40 declares: ³⁷ "...You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸ "This is the first and greatest commandment." ³⁹ "And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁴⁰ "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the prophets." We are not only commanded to love God, but we are also told to love our neighbors. The Overcoming by Faith family strives to treat people with respect and dignity. We are called to reach out to all people regardless of our differences. We believe in serving people in a spirit of love that comes from God.

OBF Map

Overcoming by Faith Ministries has formed what has become known as the “*Map*” to help fulfill our God-ordained mission. The “*Map*” is comprised of an 8-tier support team. Listed below are the various teams and their functions:

1. The Pastor (*the team leader*)

- a. Sets the major goals and objectives
- b. Lays the biblical foundation for the church structure

2. Senior Administrative support team (*the planners*)

- a. Implements the major goals and objectives
- b. Refines and provides executive oversight to the staff, volunteers and leadership teams.

3. Deacons (*the servers*)

- a. Handles the facility needs of the church
- b. Drives the physical machine of the church (i.e. property, upkeep, set up for special-events)

4. Elders (*the helpers*)

- a. Assists the pastor with membership oversight and care
- b. Protects the pulpit and the doctrine of the church
- c. Leads the church spiritually

5. Membership Committees (*the watchers*)

- a. Guards the vision of the ministry
- b. Reviews those who implement the vision
- c. Catches things that are departing from the vision
- d. Recommends policy and procedure changes as they become outdated

6. Paid staff (*the coaches*)

- a. Coaches the support team
- b. Guarantees the support team members have all the tools they need
- c. Does research and performs errands that the support team members are not able to do because of time-constraints

7. Volunteers (*the front-line workers*)

- a. Administers the vision of the church
- b. Recruits and trains other members to pass down the vision
- c. Serves without compensation

8. Outsource staff (*the contractors*)

- a. Helps accomplish specific goals (i.e. carpentry, maintenance, etc)
- b. Valued relationships that are always treated fairly and carefully
- c. Paid fairly and promptly; subsequently, maintaining their business future and insuring a mutually beneficial relationship.

OBF Culture

1. We believe in a well-trained staff that is highly effective.
2. We believe in creating an environment where the corporate wisdom and culture should be reviewed and changed carefully. However, changing the culture, without understanding the consequences, can lead to the recurrence of problems we solved long ago.
3. We believe in openness that does not embarrass or unnecessarily remove the privacy rights of our staff and members.
4. We believe that every staff and volunteer person who serves in a leadership position should be willing to adapt to our cultural approach.
5. We believe we should listen to all ideas that may advance our goals and objectives. Once the request has been weighed, the leadership must be allowed to make the final decision.
6. We believe in honest and loving confrontation when necessary. It should always be done in love and never in the wrong spirit.
7. We believe in the rotation of leadership to ensure the long-term health of any department. Serving two terms is normally the length of time we encourage for most positions. We believe in continual and non-stop recruiting. Posterity (creating descendents) is our top priority. The time we have in these seats of leadership is limited and must be wisely handled.
8. We believe in small groups as a model for every department. Keeping the numbers between ten and twenty is crucial to long-term health. The ability to bond, be educated, mature emotionally, and develop spiritually, is greatly aided in the smaller environment.
9. We believe in the explosive growth models of the book of Acts. But growth in any large religious community should be seen as an assignment to support and help build the smaller communities. The early church started out big but quickly grew small. Jesus modeled a commando style training structure. He took twelve guys and poured His life into them.
10. We believe in restoring those who have failed morally after a season of restoration and root re-development.
11. We believe in the fair and balanced disciplining of children by parents and/or guardian in a safe non life-threatening manner. This discipline must be done within the boundaries of the law and should not be abusive nor bring physical harm to a child.
12. We believe marriage is a sacred, eternal commitment before God. Over the years it has been our experience that for a variety of reasons, good and bad, people too often break this covenant. It is our belief that we must, with patience and love, assist the recovery of those who have had such a traumatic experience.

OBF Culture

(continued)

- 13.** We believe in long-term planning that is thorough and purposeful.
- 14.** We believe in the prosperity of the saints of God while remaining committed that this point of view does not foster greed or a lack of concern about posterity.
- 15.** We believe in advanced training programs that continue to press forward the skill level of our entire staff and volunteer force.
- 16.** We believe in creating opportunities for other ministries to learn from our experiences. If we can help by sharing our experiences, we are more than willing to be open and transparent.
- 17.** We believe in fighting for the things that the gospel says should be our priorities.
- 18.** We believe in living across the ethnic boundaries of comfort.
- 19.** We believe four things should be our main priorities: evangelizing, educating, elevating, and embracing. Reaching the lost is our main job. Making sure we educate believers is our second greatest responsibility. We must also elevate the quality of life of those we mentor and influence in our community. Finally, we must embrace all people with the love of Jesus Christ. Our presence must be seen and felt within the community. We must put the thermometer of our activity in the mouth of the community and always measure high in their assessments. We want the community to burn hot in our lives.

Helps Ministry Process

A required rule for membership is that a new member must agree to a period of service in some area of ministry. Gone are the days of inactive members who have no obligation but to come and hear. We must all participate and help.

Helps Ministry at Overcoming by Faith is any area of volunteer service performed by a member of the Overcoming Faith fellowship. Whether you request to be an usher, sing in the choir or work with children, a Helps Ministry Application must be completed annually.

The Process

1. Complete a **Helps Ministry Application**

Please Note:

- *A Ministry of the Arts Application must be filled out for all Arts Ministries.*
- *Adult Choir Applications are accepted in August and January*
- *All applications are located at the General Information Booth or on the Helps Ministry Table.*

2. Complete an Interview with a Ministry Overseer. The overseer will make an appointment with you.

3. Complete a Helps Ministry Trial Period. (Usually 90 days)

4. Begin in the Ministry

***You will be able to serve in a maximum of two Helps Ministries. ***

Special Note:

- *Background checks are done for Bookstore and Jail Ministries.*
- *National Criminal Background Checks are done for Youth and Children's Church volunteers*

Volunteer Ministries

Evangelism

- College Age Outreach
- Female Jail
- Male Jail
- Psalms (Substance Abuse)
- Youth Detention
- TV Ministry
- Sound Ministry
- Night Shelter

Education

- Workshop Instructor
- Academic Tutor
- Computer Team
- Children's Ministry
- Youth Ministry

Elevation

- Bookstore Volunteer
- Courtesy Crew (Food Service)
- Levites-Facility/Grounds
- Levites-Special Events Moving
- Office/telephone Volunteer
- Parking Attendants
- Ushers
- Community Events

Caring hands

- Home/Hospital Volunteer
- After They're Gone
- Renewed Perspective (Over 60)

Ministry of the Arts

- Music (Band, Choir, Praise Team)
- Dance
- Drama
- Mime
- Clown
- Puppetry

Salvation

(Part A)

One great promise regarding the coming of Christ is that he would “*save His people from their sins*” (*Matthew 1:21*). Jesus offers salvation to everyone, but only those that accept this free gift will enjoy its benefits.

Salvation Defined

- A. To be delivered
- B. To be set free

Misconceptions About Salvation

- A. You must work for salvation.
- B. You must be perfect before you qualify to be saved.
- C. Church membership secures your salvation.
- D. Family heritage secures your salvation.
- E. Water Baptism secures your salvation.

According to *Ephesians 2:8-9*, we are “*saved by grace*”.

Ephesians 2:8-9 “*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*”

The Bible teaches that all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God. (*Romans 3:23*) Jesus died to save us from sin. (*Romans 5:8*)

LIFE Application Points

1. What is the biblical definition of salvation?

2. There are a lot of misconceptions regarding salvation. Prior to your biblical knowledge of salvation, what were some of your misunderstandings?

Salvation

(Part B)

What does the Bible say I must do to be saved?

Acts 16:30-31 "... And brought them out, and said, sirs: what must I do to be saved, and they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.**"

Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt **confess** with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

What do you need to be saved from?

The Power of sin.

Romans 6:20 states that "...when you were the servants of sin, you were free from righteousness." If you are not saved, you are a servant of sin. The only power that can free you from this enslavement is Jesus Christ. (*Ephesians 2:1*)

The Penalty of sin.

Romans 6:23 states that "**the wages of sin is death [eternal separation from God], but the gift of God is eternal life [living forever with God] through Jesus Christ our Lord.**" The price for sin has been paid in full, but you must receive God's payment. (*John 3:16*)

What steps do you take to get saved?

1. You must **ACCEPT** the fact that you are a sinner and you need God. (*Romans 3:10, 23; Galatians 3:22*)
2. You must **BELIEVE** (trust, rely on and cling to) on the finished death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. (*Romans 10:9; Acts 4:12*)
3. You must **REPENT** of your sins and turn your life totally over to Christ. (*Acts 17:30-31*)

What happens after you are saved?

1. Your sins are forgiven (*Hebrews 10:17*). This forgiveness results in your sanctification (*John 17:17, 19*), justification (*Romans 5:1*), and cleansing (*1 John 1:9*).
2. You are born again (*John 3:3*) and you become a new creature in Christ. (*II Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20*)
3. You become a member of the kingdom of God. God is now King of your life. (*Colossians 1:13*)
4. You are sealed with the Holy Spirit. (*Ephesians 1:13*)

Salvation

(Part B continued)

Now that you are saved through the acceptance of Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, what should you do?

1. You should get involved in a good Bible-teaching church so that you can grow spiritually.
(1 Peter 2:2)

(Note: No matter how excited you are now, you need to plant yourself in a good Bible-teaching church somewhere so that your excitement will grow into spiritual maturity.)

2. You should get baptized in water. Water Baptism is commanded by Jesus to publicly declare that you have died to sin and have risen to walk in a new life with Christ.

Romans 6:3-4 “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by Baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the Glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life.”

3. You should win others to Christ.

Proverbs 11:30 “...and he who wins souls is wise.”

LIFE Application Points

1. Why is believing and confessing important in declaring your salvation?
2. The Bible declares that you must accept that you are a sinner, believe on Jesus Christ, and repent of your sins in order to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. At what point in your life did you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior? Describe your experience.

The Authority of Scripture

One central key to the Christian Faith is the teaching of the scriptures. It is important to understand the origin of scripture. The Bible is a library of books containing God's inerrant Word. God's Word can be fully trusted and does not need to be interpreted outside of its context or original language. Without the Word, the believer has no foundation or source of knowledge to understand or support his faith.

The Bible is inspired by God and inerrant.

II Timothy 3:16 states that, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness."

The Bible must be interpreted properly.

II Peter 1:20-21 states, "But know this that no prophecy of Scripture is of one's own interpretation, for prophecy or Scripture never came by the will of many, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

In our culture, it has become very common for groups to depart from the reliability and the importance of the Scripture. We encourage members to familiarize themselves with the series on Cults offered in our tape library.

LIFE Application Points

1. Where in scripture is it revealed that "*All scripture is inspired by God*"? Why is this important truth in Christianity?
2. Why is it important not to have your own interpretation of scripture?
3. Do you believe it is important to base your decisions on the word of God. Why?

The Trinity

The doctrine of the Trinity has always been viewed as one of the most difficult doctrines in the Scriptures. In simple language, the doctrine explains that God has manifested Himself to mankind in three Persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. The term “Persons” is chosen to describe the Trinity for lack of a better term. We find great difficulty in describing our God in human language. How could it be possible to describe such omnipotence with mere words! In short, we have listed an outline that will at least guide you to a simple explanation of this very important teaching.

The Father is called God

Matthew 6:9-10 “Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven...”

The Son is called God

Hebrews 1:8 “But to the Son He says: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.”

Hebrews 1:5-6 “For to which of the angels did He ever say: You are my Son, today I have begotten You? And again: I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son? But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says “Let all the angels of God worship Him.”

John 5:16-18 “So the Jewish leaders began harassing Jesus for breaking the Sabbath rules. But Jesus replied, “My Father never stops working, so why should I?” So the Jewish leaders tried all the more to kill him. In addition to disobeying the Sabbath rules, he had spoken of God as his Father, thereby making himself equal with God.”

The Spirit is called God

Acts 5:3-4 “But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land?...Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God.”

LIFE Application Points

1. The Trinity does not imply that God is not unified. The word is simply used to describe how God manifested Himself to mankind in three Persons. Describe these three Persons.

The Holy Spirit

In the mind of Jesus, the Holy Spirit plays a very crucial role in our eternal destiny, so much so that he said, *“Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against (or resist by speaking evil) the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.”* (Matthew 12:32)

The Holy Spirit Described

He is a person, not a force or a thing.

John 14:16 “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.”

John 16:7 “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you, but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”

The Basic Mission of the Holy Spirit

1. To help us. (John 16:7)
2. To convict us. (John 16:8)
3. To teach us righteousness. (John 16:8)
4. To teach the reality of judgment. (John 16:8)
5. To guide us. (John 16:13)
6. To be the voice of Christ in your life. (John 16:13)
7. To tell you things to come. (John 16:13)
8. To make available the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2, I Corinthians 12,14)

There is much to say about the ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is our intent in this church to expose you to the wonderful gifts the Holy Spirit gives that can revolutionize your life. We especially want you to experience the joyful experience of *“speaking in other tongues.”* To many this has been a very confusing and difficult aspect of the Holy Spirit’s work to explain, but remember the words of Paul the Apostle in *1 Corinthians 14:18, “I speak with tongues more than you all.”*

1 Corinthians 14:2 “For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men, but to God, for no one understands him; however in the spirit he speaks mysteries.”

1 Corinthians 14:39 “Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.”

LIFE Application Points

1. Where in scripture is the Holy Spirit described as a Helper? In your life, how has the Holy Spirit helped you?
2. Describe three basic missions of the Holy Spirit.

23 Doctrinal Basics

Our Foundation [1-5]

- 1. The Holy Scriptures**
We believe the Bible is God-inspired. (*2 Timothy 3:16, 17*)
- 2. The Eternal Godhead**
We believe God is Triune: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (*2 Corinthians 13:14*)
- 3. The Fall of Man**
We believe that man was created in the image of God, but that by voluntary disobedience he fell from perfection. (*Romans 5:12*)
- 4. The Plan of Salvation**
We believe that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us, signing the pardon of all who believe on Him. (*John 3:16; Romans 5:8*)
- 5. Salvation Through Grace**
We believe that we have no righteousness and must come to God pleading the righteousness of Christ. (*Ephesians 2:8*)

Our Life [6-8]

- 6. Repentance and Acceptance**
We believe that upon sincere repentance, and a whole-hearted acceptance of Christ, we are justified before God. (*John 1:9*)
- 7. The New Birth**
We believe that the change that takes place in the heart and life at conversion is a very real one. (*2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20*)
- 8. Daily Christian Life**
We believe that it is the will of God that we be sanctified daily, growing constantly in the faith. (*Hebrews 6:1*)

Our Duty [9-11]

- 9. Water Baptism**
We believe that baptism by immersion is an outward sign of an inward work. (*Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:1-4*)
- 10. The Lord's Supper**
We believe in the commemoration of the Lord's Supper by the symbolical use of the bread and juice of the vine. (*1 Corinthians 11:24, 25*)
- 11. Baptism of the Holy Spirit**
We believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is to endue the believer with power and that His incoming is after the same manner as in Bible days. (*Acts 1:8, 2:4, 1Cor14:4, 18, 39; Eph1:13*)

Our Connection [12-13]

- 12. The Spirit filled Life**
We believe that it is the will of God that we walk in the Spirit daily. (*Ephesians 4:30-32*)

13. The Gifts and Fruit of the Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit had gifts to bestow upon the Christian; and that we should show spiritual fruit as evidence of a Spirit-filled life. (*1 Corinthians 12:1-22; Galatians 5:22*)

Our Standard [14]

14. Moderation

We believe that the experience and daily walk of the believer should never lead him into extremes of fanaticism. (*Philippians 4:5-6*)

Our Healer [15]

15. Divine Healing

We believe that divine healing is the power of Christ to heal sick in answer to the prayer of faith. (*James 5:14-16*)

Our Hope [16]

16. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe that the second coming of Christ is personal and imminent. (*1 Thessalonians 4:16*)

Our Values [17-18]

17. Church Relationship

We believe it is our sacred duty to identify ourselves with the visible church of Christ. (*Acts 16:5; Hebrews 10:25*)

18. Civil Government

We believe that rulers should be upheld at all times except in things opposed to the will of God. (*Romans 13:1-7*)

Our Future [19-21]

19. The Final Judgment

We believe that all shall stand some day before the judgment seat of Christ; and there receive eternal life or death. (*2 Corinthians 5:10*)

20. Heaven

We believe that heaven is the glorious eternal home of born-again believers. (*John 14:1-3; Revelation 7:13-17*)

21. Hell

We believe that hell is the place of eternal torment for all who reject Christ as the Savior. (*Revelation 20:10, 15*)

Our Assignment [22]

22. Evangelism

We believe that soul winning is the most important responsibility of the Church. (*James 5:20*)

Our Provision [23]

23. Tithes and Offering

We believe that the method ordained of God for the support and spread of His cause is by the releasing of tithes and the giving of free-will offerings. (*Malachi 3:8-10*)

Determined to be a Servant

What Does It Mean to Serve (volunteer) in the Body of Christ?

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

I. Define Serve

1. Vine’s Concise Dictionary – to render any kind of service
2. Webster – to work as a servant; to render obedience and worship to God; to comply with commands or demands of; to work through or perform a term of service

II. Characteristics of a Servant

1. Transparent Humanity *1Corinthians 2:1-3* (*p. 10)
2. Genuine Humility *1Corinthians 2:4-5* (*p.11)
3. Absolute Honesty *1Corinthians 4:1-2* (*p.12)
4. Generously humble before God, turning to Him in absolute dependence (*p. 95)
5. Showing compassion on behalf of the needy and hurting (*p.98)
6. Gentleness – strong within yet controlled without, bringing a soothing graciousness into irritating situations (*p.99)
7. Passionate appetite for righteous (*p.101)
8. Merciful – concern for others in need (*p.106)
9. Pure in heart – the motive of doing the right thing for the right reason (*p.109)
10. Peacemaker (*p.112)
11. Persecuted (*p.116)

III. Misconceptions of a Servant

1. Servants have special powers in themselves (*p.138)
2. Servants don’t struggle with everyday problems (*p.139)
3. Servants are protected against subtle dangers ex. *2 Kings 2, 2 Kings 4:8* (*p.139)

IV. Perils of a Servant

1. Temptations and Reactions (*p.142)
2. Overprotection and Possessiveness (*p.144)
3. Feeling Used and Unappreciated (*p.145)
4. Disrespect and Resentment (*p.148)
5. Hidden Greed (*p.153)

V. Consequences of Serving

1. Suffering for doing what is right (*1Peter 2:20 – 24*)
2. Responding to treatment that is wrong
3. Affliction
4. Confusion
5. Persecution
6. Rejection
7. Coping with consequences – (*p. 191)

Determined to be a Servant

(continued)

VI. The Rewards of Serving 1Corinthians 3:10-14

1. Most rewards are received in heaven, not earth (3:13-14)
2. All rewards are based on quality, not quantity
3. No reward that is postponed will be forgotten

VII. God's Promises to His Servants

1. God's Faithfulness
2. Our Faithfulness
3. Temporal Rewards
4. Eternal Rewards

*This information is based upon the book, "Improving Your Serve" by Charles Swindoll

LIFE Application Points

1. In Mark 10:45, Jesus modeled for us the importance of serving. Do you consider yourself to be a servant? Why?
2. There are many characteristics of a servant written in scripture. Which of these characteristics best describe you? Give an example.
3. Where do you plan to serve in Overcoming by Faith Ministries?