

***Making Disciples
Through the Transforming Power of Jesus Christ
In the Spirit of Excellence!***

Here at Mount Gilead it is our vision, mission, aim and our goal to grow God’s people spiritually, thus making disciples through the transforming power of Jesus Christ. But underlying the great vision of making disciples lies the simple process for movement and progression. In most of our evangelical churches spiritual growth is greatly desired and sought after, but it is often restricted and stifled due to the lack of a clear disciple-making process. And when the disciple-making process is not simple and clear, this leads to spiritual congestion. And believe me, no one really likes congestion.

When **sitting in traffic** and the interstate looks like a parking lot due to a dis-able vehicle ahead, the traveling motorist usually are not happy campers due to the restriction of the flow of the traffic... thus we have traffic congestion.

When our **nasal passages** are stopped up due to a cold or sinus problems, we again are not happy campers due to the restriction of air flow coming through our nasal passages... thus we have nasal congestion.

Well, when we come to the church of the living God, people tend to get connected to God by getting saved... that’s good! Then they get connected in service by joining a ministry... that’s good also! But then they feel that they have arrived, so they just simply sit down.... that’s not good! For when they sit down, we then have spiritual congestion due to the lack of intentional & systematic Bible Study resulting in spiritual growth & maturity. And for certain it is our vision, mission, aim and goal here at Mount Gilead grow God’s people from membership to maturity. But in order for that to happen we cannot allow the congestion to set it before we even get started. So let me introduce to you our simple process for Making Disciples Through the Transforming Power of Jesus Christ in the Spirit of Excellence! Our disciple making process can be summed up in just four words:

Connect	Grow	Serve	Go (Reach Out!)
With an open Heart Mark 12:29-31	Body, Mind & Spirit Romans 12:2	With Willing Hands I Peter 4:10-11	With Ready Feet Matt. 28:19-20
Connect... urges us to worship, pray, fellowship, and relate to others in positive relationships at work, in the home, and in other settings. Spiritual fitness results when we connect with God, with others, and with our church family.	Grow... refers to learning & understanding more about God and His expectations of His people, which comes through Bible study. We grow by applying that knowledge to our daily living.	Serve... describes the work we do inside of the church out of gratitude for what the Lord has done for us. Our church is full of ministry & service opportunities. We serve by using our spiritual gifts, skills, knowledge & passion to glorify the Lord.	Go (Reach Out!)... Moves us outside the church and into the community and the world. Evangelism & Missions are ways to go & reach out into the communities and the world around us with the love and good news gospel in the name of Jesus Christ.

Growing In Grace!

Every born again child of God should desire to grow spiritually. The Bible admonishes us according to **1 Peter 2:2** “*As new born babes desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby.*” And **2 Peter 3:18**, “*But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory now and forever. Amen.*” When we first become saved, we do not immediately become fully grown mature Christians, but we are simply, “*new born babes in Christ Jesus.*” And as new born babes in the Lord we are both admonished and commanded to grow. Although there are times when new born children do not grow for one reason or another, but for most parents it would be terribly alarming to learn that their new born baby is not gaining weight, growing and developing as a normal child should. Likewise, as new born babes we should desire to grow spiritually in the Lord that we may be of great service to God in His Kingdom.

How Then Can A Baby Christian Grow In Grace?

1. **Have a firm assurance of your salvation.** In other words, be sure, be certain that you are saved, born again, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Certainly an individual cannot grow spiritually if he or she has not truly and sincerely by faith given their lives over to the Lord in genuine repentance. Remember, Jesus told Nicodemus “*Verily, verily I say unto you, except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.*” **John 3:3** We are born again when we by faith ask Christ to forgive us our sins, come into our lives and be our Lord and Savior. **Romans 6:23** tells us that “*The wages of sin is death and that the gift, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” Therefore, we are born again when we unashamedly confess Christ, accept His death as payment for our sins, receives His divine forgiveness and commit ourselves to live for Christ as our personal Lord and Savior.
2. **Unite yourself with a local church.** And out of gratitude for your salvation begin to work and serve the Lord with your whole heart. The church is a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ. Christ loved and established the church and gave Himself for it. Likewise, He wants us to love the church and give ourselves to it in faithful and fruitful service. A new babe cannot expect to grow spiritually if he does not obey the Lord’s first command as a Christian - to unite with His church, His body of believers. The new babe should make the church the most important interest in his life. He should faithfully attend the services and as much as possible participate in its activities. *Seek ye first the Kingdom and His righteousness and all these other things shall be added unto you.* **Matthew 6:33**

3. **Cultivate your devotional life through daily prayer and Bible reading and study.** The Bible is God's Word to us. Just as physical food nourishes the physical body, the Word of God nourishes the spirit of man. It is the source of water, milk, bread, meat, light, healing, wisdom, reproof, correction, understanding, knowledge, revelation, instruction and guidance. David said, "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*" **Psalms 119:105** and Timothy says: *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.* **2 Timothy 3:16-17** And then secondly, Pray, fellowship and commune with the Savior. **Luke 18:1** says "*Men ought to always pray and not faint.*" And prayer is simply conversating, talking with God. Pray without ceasing! Pray daily! Pray about everything! Pray as you go about your daily tasks! Always remain in an attitude of prayer. Establish a family altar and have a secret place of prayer in your home. Establish a time, after breakfast, lunch or dinner when all the family is gathered together for Bible reading and prayer. And should you find yourself in a difficult season of distress. Get tough in prayer and **P.U.S.H. - Pray Until Something Happens!!!** Developing our devotional life is critical to our spiritual growth in Christ.

4. **Make Christian Fellowship a priority.** Develop and cultivate close friends and relationship with other Christians who will serve to encourage and strengthen you in your faith. Visit their homes and invite them to visit your home. And you will find that such fellowship will be rich and oh so blessed. Furthermore, such fellowship will be a great source of strength and encouragement for you in resisting temptation and growing strong spiritually. *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.* **Acts 2:42**

5. **Separate Yourself from the Negative Influences of the World:** *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.* **2 Corinthians 6:14-18** Beloved, the world is a system of thought, attitudes and beliefs that is contrary to the Word of God. For instance, the world would encourage us to be hateful and vengeful towards our enemies, but the God's word instructs us to love our enemies and to pray for those who spitefully use us. Yes, as Christians we've been called to march to

the beat of a different drummer, whose name is Jesus Christ. Therefore, we should seek to separate ourselves from everything that is against God and is contrary to the will of God for our lives. And as long as we hold on to worldly things, our growth in the Lord will be stunted. And we certainly don't want that.

6. **Use your spiritual gifts and talents for the Lord.** Every child of God has been given one or more gifts by the Spirit to use in the Kingdom of God. It may be your ability to speak, to sing, to administrate, to show compassion, to usher, to teach, to organize, or to keep the peace. But whatever your gift may be please know that the church needs that gift in operation to reach it fullest potential in Christ. Therefore, dedicate yourself and your gifts and abilities to be used to the glory of God. *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.* **1 Corinthians 12:7**

7. **Win Others To Christ.** The greatest work in the world is winning souls for the Kingdom of God through the power of God's Spirit. Every Christian should actively seek to bring others to Christ. This work of evangelizing saves souls from the fires of hell, brings eternal joy on earth and in glory, and it certainly stimulates our Christian growth. And in seeking to win the lost for Christ always pray and ask God to lead and guide you as you witness for Him. Pray daily for lost persons in your family, among your friends, personnel on your job and of course in your neighborhood or community. As you are lead by Lord, speak with them about the spiritual lives and where they stand with the Lord. Then tell them about your relationship with the Lord and why it means so much to you. The apostle Paul used this method. Every where he went he shared his testimony of his glorious and miraculous conversion. And when someone agrees to receive Christ, don't wait to bring them to church, but rather pray with them at that very moment to receive Christ. Lead that person to unashamedly confess Christ openly and then invite them to join Church. This work of evangelism will give you the greatest joy ever know to mankind.

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STEPS TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

(From the Open Bible)

The following is a list of steps through which each person must go in order to be saved. The list also includes several items required after salvation which are necessary for its “up-keep.”

1. **REPENT.** Turn around. Change your mind. *“Except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish.”* **Luke 13:3**

2. **RECEIVE HIM.** You need the Savior. Accept Him. *“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.”* **John 1:12**

3. **REGENERATION FOLLOWS.** This is what God does for you. This is the New Birth - a miracle of Spiritual life performed by the Holy Ghost. *“Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”* **John 1:13, see also John 11:25**

4. **REJOICE PUBLICLY.** Make your testimony for Christ. *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* **Romans 10:9,10, see also Matthew 10:32.**

5. **REQUEST WATER BAPTISM.** *This is an outward testimony to an inward transaction. “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”* **Mark 16:16**
 Baptism with believing is useless. As Christians we receive baptism because we are saved, not in order to be saved. *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 newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.* **Romans 6:4-7**

6. **READ THE WORD.** The Word of God is the source of our faith. *So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.* **Romans 10:17** *“These things I have written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye have eternal life, and that ye*

may believe on the name of the Son of God.” **1 John 5:13** also **Romans 10:17** and **Psalms 119:105**

7. **REACH GOD IN PRAYER.** Prayer is conversation with God. Life is sustained by union and communion. Always remember that God hears us when we pray. The Bible declares that, “*The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and that His ears are open unto our cry.*” **1 Peter 3:12** “*And this is the confidence that we have in Him that if we ask anything according to His will He heareth us; and if we know that He heareth us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.*” **1 John 5:14-15**

8. **RELATE YOUR EXPERIENCE TO OTHERS.** You maintain strength by exercise. *8 When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. 9 Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. 10 Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live? Ezekiel 33:8-10 see also 2 Kings 7:9, Acts 1:8*

9. **RESIST THE DEVIL.** Temptation is not sin. It is yielding to temptation that is sin. *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry. 1 Corinthians 10:13-14*
Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7 And always remember that if we should sin we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:15-16* *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

10. **RESTITUTION.** Your guilt is gone, and you can convert your influence for good. “*...if accusation, I restore him fourfold.*” **Luke 19:8** “*And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God and toward men.*” **Acts 24:16**

11. **RENDER TO GOD THAT WHICH IS GOD’S.** Start tithing your income immediately. *8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. 9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. 10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. 11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. 12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the*

LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:8-12 38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. Luke 6:38
See also **2 Corinthians 9** and **1 Corinthians 16:2**

12. **REGULARLY ATTEND CHURCH, SUNDAY SCHOOL, BIBLE STUDY AND PRAYER SERVICE.** Associate yourself immediately with God's people. Be faithful in your church membership. "*And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day...*" **Luke 4:16** *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:25*