



# **New Partners' Orientation Manual**

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## **PASTOR'S WELCOME**

### **WELCOME, NEW PARTNER**

Thank you for choosing True Sanctuary of Praise Church as your place of spiritual growth, worship, and fellowship. The ministry operates on the principles and beliefs set forth in the Bible. We, as a congregation of believers, feel truly blessed each time an individual or family joins our ministry. As Senior Pastor, my wife and I extend our hearts and hands to you as your Shepherds. We pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire you to grow spiritually through this ministry.

We encourage you to take full advantage of our services, and we believe that you and your family will experience meaningful spiritual growth, worship, and fellowship here at True Sanctuary of Praise. Our church is governed by Jesus Christ and the power of His Holy Spirit.

The purpose of the orientation class is to inform and familiarize you with the ministries, policies, and foundational beliefs of True Sanctuary of Praise.

We thank God for you and are looking forward to fellowshiping with you. We believe that God has brought you here for a reason, and your gifts will make room for you within our community. We invite you to engage in one or more of the ministries we have available, as we warmly welcome you to True Sanctuary of Praise!

Blessings,

Apostle Dwayne C. Perry

Prophetess Esther Marcellus-Perry

## THE IMPORTANCE OF CHURCH PARTNERSHIP

### Bible Reference-1 Corinthians 12:4-11

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works <sup>[e]</sup>all in all. <sup>7</sup> But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: <sup>8</sup> for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by <sup>[f]</sup>the same Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

### Fellowship –Hebrew 10:24-25

**24** And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **25** not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

“Fellowship,” koinonia, expresses the idea of being together for mutual benefit shares this idea, saying, “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Two reasons fellowship with other believers is important are because it helps express love to one another and it encourages good works”

### Accountability- Ecclesiastes 4:9-11

**9** Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. **10** For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. **11** Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone?

“Accountability is one of the means God uses to bring about solid growth and maturity with the freedom to be what God has created us for. We are talking about relationships that help believers change by the Spirit of God and the truth of the Word of God through inward spiritual conviction and faith. Being what we are, sheep that are prone to wander, accountability to others is simply one of the ways God holds us accountable to Him. Left to ourselves, there is the great temptation to do mainly what we want rather than what God wants and what is best for others. So, what is meant by accountability? We are talking about teaching, exhorting, supporting, and encouraging one another in such a way that it promotes accountability to Christ and to others in the body of Christ, but never by manipulation or domination”

[://bible.org/series/page/mark-16-accountability](http://bible.org/series/page/mark-16-accountability)

## OUR PURPOSE FOR YOU

We are excited about your partnership and look forward to your contributions toward the vision of True Sanctuary of Praise, which is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

- ❖ We pray that you grow spiritually and develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.
- ❖ We pray that you will use your gift(s) to help fulfill the vision of the ministry.
- ❖ We pray that you get involved with one or more ministries at the church.
- ❖ We pray that you will help spread the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ❖ We pray that you are excited about becoming a part of the ministry.
- ❖ We pray that you believe in the principle of the First Fruit.
- ❖ We pray that you join the ministry Pray Lifeline.
- ❖ We pray that you hold the principles of the Bible near to your heart.

### Prayer:

Lord, let Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, and give me the wisdom and understanding to fulfill Your ultimate plan for my life; in the Name of Jesus the Christ.

We look forward to walking this journey of faith together with you.

Welcome to True Sanctuary of Praise!

## **ABOUT TRUE SANCTUARY OF PRAISE**

True Sanctuary of Praise is a Bible-believing ministry rooted in an Apostolic anointing. We are dedicated to centering our mission on the teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our primary focus is not on titles or positions, but on the transformative and powerful Word of Jesus Christ. As stated in Matthew 10:1, “And when He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.” This scripture serves as a reminder of the divine authority entrusted to us. Additionally, 2 Corinthians 12:12 affirms, “Truly, the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.”

We recognize that we have all fallen short of His perfect plan; however, we believe that each person’s unique gifts and talents are vital for the edification of the body of Christ. Our youth will play a pivotal role in this mission as we empower them to apply Biblical Christian principles in their everyday lives.

At T.S.O.P., we wholeheartedly welcome everyone—parents, children, grandparents, men, women, and singles—and we encourage each individual to discover and embrace their unique roles within our community. We strive to foster an atmosphere where your gifts can be nurtured and put to use for the Lord’s purposes.

We invite you to be active in exercising your gifts unto the Lord, recognizing that your contributions are essential to the growth of our church family and the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Together, let us support one another, strengthen our bonds, and spread the love and teachings of Jesus Christ!

### **Our Mission**

To disciple the unbeliever unto Christ while the follower now conforms to the word of God. This process will be engaged through Apostolic Teaching and Prophetic Intercession that manifest our Lord’s presence.

Our ministry foundational scripture: (Acts 6:4 AMP)  
 “But we will [Continue to] devote [steadfastly] to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

### **Our Vision**

True Sanctuary of Praise is committed to bringing followers of Christ into true fellowship with Jesus throughout the United States and abroad in foreign territory. We will use our ministry model as a starting place to help educate and mentor partners, leaders, and ministries.

1 Timothy 4:13 AMP “Until I come, devote yourself to public reading [of Scripture], to preaching and to teaching [the sound doctrine of God’s word].”

## **SALVATION: THE FREE GIFT OF GOD**

**Introduction:** Salvation is the free gift of God to mankind, granted by His grace through faith, completely independent of human works. Commonly referred to as “being saved,” salvation signifies deliverance or redemption from sin and its consequences. As we learn from Romans 5:8, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

**The Gift of Grace:** Ephesians 2:5 reminds us, “Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved).” It is solely by God’s grace that we receive salvation.

**The Necessity of Being Born Again:** To receive salvation, one must be born again. The terms “born again” and “saved” are frequently heard in Christian circles and signify the transformation that takes place upon sincere repentance and confession, granting us eternal life.

### **Believe Upon Jesus Christ:**

John 3:18 states, “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

### **Repentance:**

Jesus emphasized the need for repentance when he said in Luke 5:32, “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” In Luke 13:3, He adds, “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

### **Be Born Again:**

In John 3:3, Jesus answered and said unto Nicodemus, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

**Salvation Is Not Earned:** It is crucial to understand that salvation cannot be earned:

Ephesians 2:8-9 states, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” However, verse 10 clarifies, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

This indicates that while we cannot save ourselves through our works, we are called to live righteous lives as a reflection of our faith in Christ. A sincere Christian life cannot align with worldly practices.

**Sanctification: The Growing Process** – Becoming more Christ-like is an ongoing growth process—sanctification. No one achieves perfection upon accepting Christ; rather, we embark on a journey of growth towards holiness.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 expresses this beautifully: “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Timothy 2:22 encourages us to “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

### **Question for Reflection**

Have you asked Jesus Christ to come into your heart?

### **Reference Scriptures**

- Deuteronomy 30:19-20
- Romans 10:9
- Matthew 11:28-30

In conclusion, embrace the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, understanding that it is by grace that we are saved and called to a life that reflects His love and righteousness. Let us enter into this transformative relationship wholeheartedly.

## **DISCIPLESHIP: THE CALL FOR EVERY BELIEVER**

**Introduction:** Discipleship is a fundamental call for every believer in Jesus Christ, rooted in the Great Commission He gave to His followers. It is the task of making disciples, teaching them about the life and teachings of Christ as we model that life ourselves.

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus commands His disciples:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

### **What is Discipleship?**

A disciple is defined as a follower of Christ—someone who not only accepts the teachings of Jesus but also actively participates in spreading the good news. Jesus teaches us the essence of discipleship in Luke 9:23: “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

## **Characteristics of a Christian Disciple**

Being a disciple of Christ involves personal growth, defined by several key elements:

### **Putting Jesus First in All Things**

Mark 8:34-38 emphasizes the need to prioritize our relationship with Jesus over our worldly desires. Disciples must set themselves apart from the world, focusing on Christ and striving to please Him in every aspect of life.

### **Following Jesus' Teachings**

In John 8:31-32, Jesus invites us to abide in His Word, assuring us that true disciples will know the truth. Our obedience to His teachings is a testament of our faith (1 Samuel 28:18), following His perfect example of submission and loyalty to the Father (Philippians 2:6-8).

### **Fruitfulness**

Jesus teaches in John 15:5-8 that our role is not to produce fruit, but to abide in Him. The Holy Spirit produces fruit in our lives as we obey Him. This transformation starts from within us, leading to a change in our thoughts, words, and actions.

### **Love for Other Disciples**

John 13:34-35 highlights that love for fellow believers is an essential trait of being part of God's family (1 John 3:10). Paul's exhortation in Philippians 2:3-5 encourages us to love and consider others, following Christ's humble and selfless example.

### **Evangelism**

The call to make disciples includes sharing our faith and experiences with nonbelievers. Matthew 28:18-20 challenges us to be active in evangelism, regardless of our experience level. New believers often have a vibrant enthusiasm that can inspire others to explore the love of Christ.

### **Reflection Questions**

**Does the Great Commission (making disciples) apply to all Christians or only to those specially gifted for it?**

The Great Commission is a universal command aimed at all Christians. Every believer is called to engage in making disciples, regardless of their comfort or skill level. Each person has unique experiences and insights that can contribute to sharing the gospel and helping others grow in faith, so it is essential that we all partake in this mission.

## **What can you do to help this church move toward a culture of discipleship? What would you need to change to do this?**

To foster a culture of discipleship, consider initiating small groups focused on biblical study and accountability, creating opportunities for mentorship, and encouraging open discussions about faith. Personal commitments to engage more deeply in prayer, outreach, and acts of service can also set an example for the congregation. Changes might include embracing vulnerability in sharing your faith journey, prioritizing community, and fostering an environment where everyone is encouraged to grow and disciple others.

## **Reference Scriptures**

Matthew 28:16-20

## **Conclusion**

Discipleship is an essential part of the Christian faith. It involves a commitment to follow Christ faithfully, embody His teachings, and share His love with others. Every believer is called to participate in this process of making disciples, reinforcing the vital role of community, love, and evangelism in fulfilling the Great Commission. Let us strive to embody these principles and encourage one another in our journeys of faith.

# **THE IMPORTANCE OF BAPTISM**

Baptism holds significant importance in the Christian faith for several reasons, each pointing to its profound spiritual symbolism and its call to obedience. Let's explore the importance of baptism through its biblical foundations and implications for believers.

## **Symbolism of Christ's Burial and Resurrection**

Baptism symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When a believer is immersed in water, it represents being buried with Christ, as Paul writes in Romans 6:3-4:

"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore, we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

This act signifies the believer's identification with Christ—dying to one's old self and being raised to new life in Him. It encapsulates the transformative power of God's salvation, illustrating that just as Christ overcame death, believers can experience new life through Him.

## **Act of Obedience**

Baptism is fundamentally an act of obedience to the command of Jesus. In Mark 1:9, we see Jesus Himself being baptized, not because He needed repentance, but as an example for us to follow. His baptism signifies humility and submission to the Father's will. Similarly, believers are called to be baptized as a response to their faith in Christ:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

While baptism itself does not save, it is an essential step of obedience that reflects a believer's commitment to following Christ.

## **Public Declaration of Faith**

Baptism serves as a public declaration of one's faith in Christ. It is a testimony to others regarding the change that has occurred within a believer's heart. As stated, during baptism, a person openly proclaims, “I confess faith in Christ; Jesus has cleansed my soul from sin, and I now have a new life of sanctification.” The act of baptism reveals a community aspect of faith, where believers support and celebrate the new life of their fellow believers.

## **Unifying Believers**

Baptism also emphasizes the unity of the body of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 12:13, the Apostle Paul speaks about the collective experience of being baptized into one body:

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

This highlights that regardless of background or status, all believers are unified in Christ through the act of baptism.

## **Assurance of Salvation**

While baptism is not a prerequisite for salvation, it does affirm and validate the believer's decision to follow Christ. As stated in 1 Peter 3:21:

“There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

This verse emphasizes that baptism symbolizes a good conscience before God, demonstrating a commitment to live in accordance with His will as an expression of faith and trust in Christ's redemptive work.

## **Conclusion**

Baptism is vital in the life of a believer as it symbolizes identification with Christ, represents obedience to His commands, acts as a public declaration of faith, fosters unity among believers, and provides assurance of salvation. It is an outward expression of the inward transformation that occurs when one places their faith in Jesus. In considering baptism, believers are reminded of their new identity in Christ and their call to live in alignment with His teachings, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

### **Reference Scriptures**

- Romans 6:3-4
- 1 Peter 3:21
- 1 Corinthians 12:13
- 1 Corinthians 6:11

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF A PRAYER LIFE**

Prayer is a foundational aspect of a believer's relationship with God. It is our way of communicating with our Creator, expressing our spiritual needs, and deepening our connection with Jesus Christ. Reflecting on one's prayer life is crucial, as it can reveal much about the state of one's faith and relationship with God.

### **What is Your Prayer Life Like?**

In evaluating your prayer life, consider the following aspects:

#### **Frequency and Consistency**

How often do you engage in prayer? The Bible encourages us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). A consistent prayer life is essential for maintaining a close relationship with God. Regularly setting aside time for prayer helps to strengthen this relationship and keeps us spiritually alert.

## **Sincerity and Humility**

Are your prayers sincere and humbly offered? As you approach God, it's important to recognize His sovereignty and holiness. In Hebrews 4:14-16, we are reminded to come boldly to the throne of grace, but with a humble heart, seeking mercy and grace in our times of need.

## **Openness and Honesty**

Do you bring your genuine feelings, struggles, and confessions to God in prayer? A healthy prayer life involves being open with God about our sins and shortcomings, as highlighted in Proverbs 28:13. This confession leads to freedom and forgiveness.

## **Faith and Expectation**

Do you pray with faith, trusting that God hears and answers your prayers? Hebrews 11:6 states that we must believe that God exists and rewards those who diligently seek Him. Your expectancy in prayer reflects your faith in God's power to act in your life.

## **Intercession and Community**

Are you including others in your prayers? James 5:14-16 encourages believers to pray for one another, illustrating the communal aspect of prayer. Engaging in intercessory prayer for others fosters a sense of community and compassion.

## **Reflection and Growth**

How has your prayer life evolved? It should be a dynamic aspect of your spiritual walk, leading to growth in your faith and understanding of God's will. John 15:7 highlights the importance of remaining in Christ, promising that if His words abide in us, we can ask what we desire, and it shall be done.

## **Addressing Potential Barriers**

Reflect on any barriers that might hinder your prayer life, such as:

- **Sin and Unforgiveness:** Acknowledge any unconfessed sin in your life, as it can create a barrier between you and God (Isaiah 59:2). Make it a point to seek forgiveness and cultivate a forgiving spirit toward others (Ephesians 4:31-32).

- **Doubt and Lack of Faith:** Consider whether doubt is affecting your prayers. Remember that our faith should be rooted in God's power and willingness to answer. Jesus encouraged His followers to believe without doubt (Matthew 21:21-22).
- **Neglect and Distraction:** If you've been neglecting your prayer life, reflect on the reasons. Opportunities for prayer can be lost to distractions. Set intentional times for prayer to combat this.

## Conclusion

A vibrant prayer life is essential for every believer. It fosters a deeper relationship with God, provides direction, and equips us to face challenges with faith and confidence. Take time to evaluate your own prayer life, seeking ways to enhance your communication with God, remove barriers, and grow in spiritual intimacy. Consider setting specific goals for your prayer life, such as establishing routine prayer times, expanding your prayers to include intercession for others, and reflecting on God's word in your prayers as you seek to align your will with His.

## Reference Scriptures

- Philippians 4:6: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God."
- James 5:14-16: "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."
- John 15:7: "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

## GIVING: THE PURPOSE OF THE TITHE

The practice of tithing—giving a tenth of one's income or increase—has deep biblical roots and serves several important purposes in the life of a believer and within the broader community of faith. Let's explore the purpose of the tithe through scripture and its implications for worship and stewardship.

## Acknowledgment of God's Provision

The tithe serves as a recognition of God's sovereignty and provision in a believer's life. By setting aside a portion of their income, believers acknowledge that all resources ultimately come from God. Deuteronomy 14:22-23 states:

*"You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. And you shall eat before the Lord your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstlings of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always."*

This passage emphasizes that tithing is connected to gratitude and worship, reinforcing the relationship between God and the giver.

## Support for Ministry and Worship

One of the primary purposes of the tithe is to support the work of the ministry and the needs of the church. Numbers 18:20-21 outlines God's instructions to the Levitical priests, who were dedicated to serving in the temple and among the people:

*"Then the Lord said to Aaron: 'You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel. Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting.'"*

This illustrates that the tithe provides for those who dedicate their lives to ministering to others and leading worship.

## Promoting Community and Care

Tithing plays a vital role in fostering a spirit of generosity and care within the community of believers. The resources gathered through tithing can be used for various ministries, outreach programs, and assistance for those in need within the church and the wider community. Deuteronomy 14:28-29 emphasizes this aspect:

*"At the end of every third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates. And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates may come and eat and be satisfied, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do."*

Here, we see a provision for the marginalized and the less fortunate, highlighting that tithing contributes to a healthy, thriving community.

## Encouragement of Faith and Discipline

Tithing encourages believers to develop a habit of giving, which cultivates faith and discipline in their financial stewardship. By committing to give a portion of their income regularly, individuals learn to prioritize their financial decisions and trust God to provide for their needs. As mentioned in 2 Corinthians 9:7, God loves a cheerful giver, indicating that the attitude with which one gives matters just as much as the act itself:

*“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

This reflects a heart of worship and gratitude, reinforcing the spiritual dimension of financial giving.

## Blessings and Spiritual Growth

Lastly, the act of tithing is often associated with blessings and spiritual growth. Many believers find that their commitment to tithing leads to spiritual enrichment and a deeper understanding of God’s faithfulness. Malachi 3:10 speaks to this assurance:

*“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.”*

This scripture suggests that there are tangible benefits associated with faithful giving, further encouraging believers to practice tithing with joy.

## Conclusion

The purpose of the tithe encompasses recognition of God’s provision, support for ministry, promotion of community care, encouragement of faith and discipline, and promises of blessings and spiritual growth. As believers practice tithing with pure motives and cheerful hearts, they participate in advancing the Kingdom of God, supporting the church, and fostering a spirit of generosity within the body of Christ.

## Reference Scriptures

- **Numbers 18:20-32**
- **Deuteronomy 14:22-27**