

*NewLife Series*  
**EVANGELISM, DISCIPLESHIP, MISSIONS**  
English, Tagalog & Cebuano Versions.

**By Pastor Bien Llobrera**

**BOOK 14**

**NEWLIFE CHURCH PLANTING STRATEGY**

**Lesson 1:**

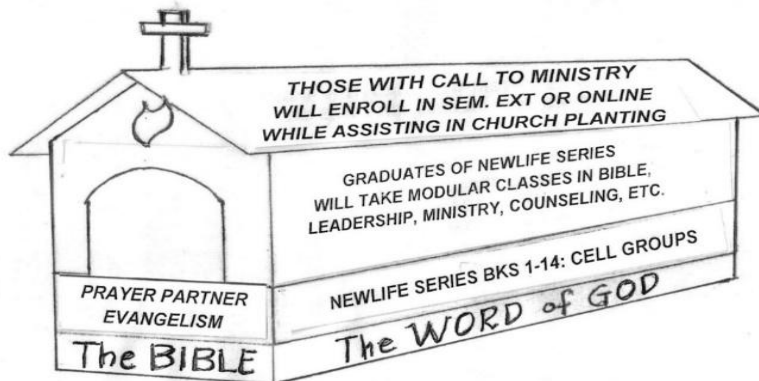
**THE GREAT COMMISSION CHURCH**

Our goal is to plant a Great Commission Church.

What are the characteristics of this church?

Please carefully study the figure below.

*The Great Commission Church* (Matthew 28:18-20)  
WORSHIP, EVANGELISM, DISCIPLESHIP, MISSIONS



**FOUNDATION: WORD OF GOD**

The Bible, the Word of God, is the foundation of the Great Commission Church. We are committed to preaching and teaching the whole counsel of God to produce godly, fruitful, multiplying disciples (Acts 20:27, 32; 2 Timothy 2:2; 3:16, 17).

**WORSHIP**

Leaders and members practice the lifestyle of worship and prayer, following the example of the first Christians (Matt 28:18; Acts 1:14; 6:4; 13:1-3), continually submitting to the ever-present Lordship of Christ and continually seeking the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.

**EVANGELISM**

We are committed to obey continually, intentionally the “GO” of the Great Commission through PPE – Prayer Partner Evangelism. All students at all levels in the NewLife Series Books 1-14 will be organized into Prayer Partners who systematically, regularly share the Gospel to their FRANCO circles of influence (Family, Relatives, Acquaintances, Neighbors, Co-workers/Classmates, Others).

**DISCIPLESHIP**

All members are in cell groups, in which they practice the four basic functions of the church (Acts 2:42); exercise their “one another” ministries”; and they help everyone to complete the NewLife Series (Books 1-14), and to train NewLife graduates to teach the series to others also (2 Timothy 2:2).

NewLife graduates will go on to study modular classes on ministry, leadership, Bible & theology, counseling, etc. Those who receive a divine call to vocational ministry will enroll in seminary extension or online classes, while at the same time participating in church planting projects.

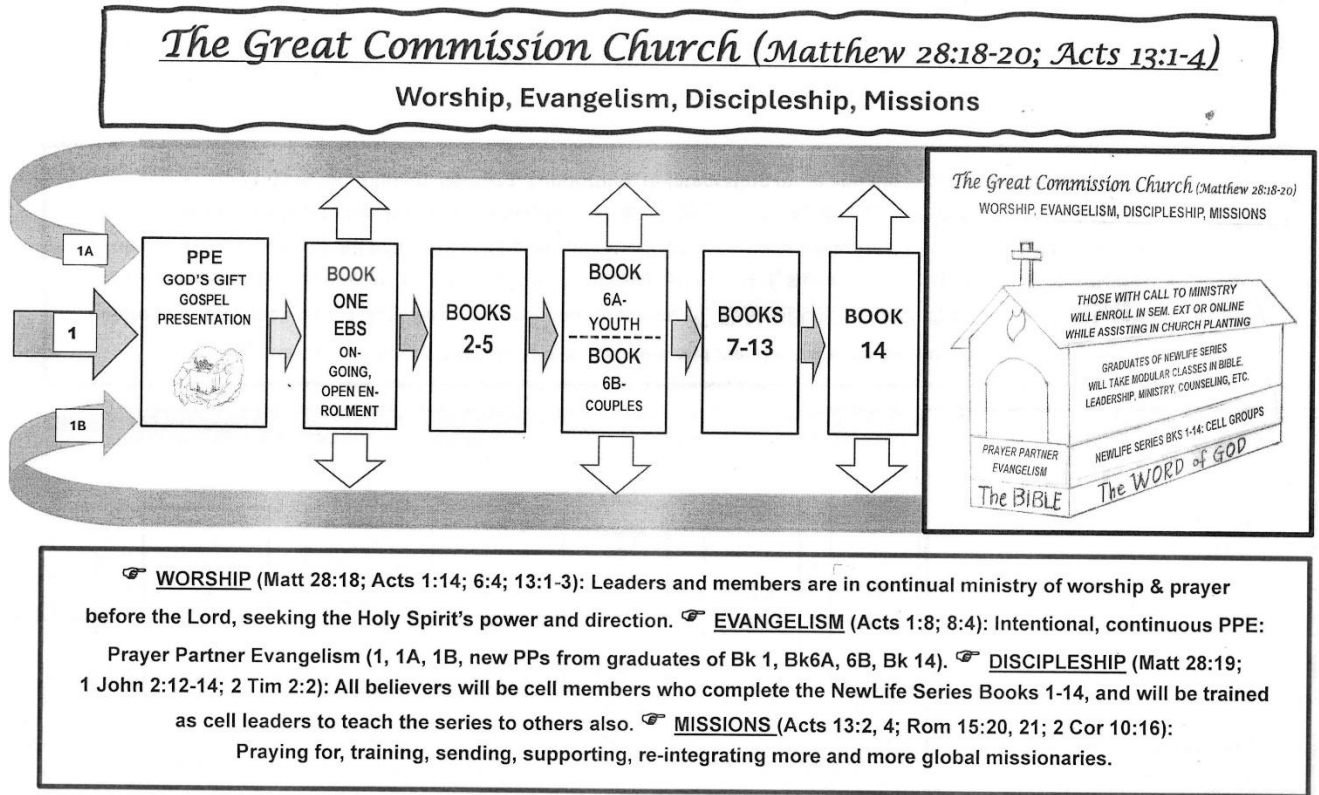
**MISSIONS**

Following the example of Acts 13:1-4, we will discern, confirm, commission and send and support missionaries to their God-given fields. We will also support and assist in the re-integration of returning missionaries.

**THE STRATEGY**

Please carefully study the figure below.

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**INITIAL GOSPEL PRESENTATION**

Prayer Partners will systematically, regularly share the Gospel with their FRANCO, using “God’s Gift” Gospel presentation (Lesson 1, Book 1). Whether or not their friends make a decision, they will encourage them to join an evangelistic Bible study on NewLife Book 1.

**BOOK 1 EBS**

Make sure that there is always an EVANGELISTIC BIBLE STUDY (EBS) group solely dedicated to Book 1. This group will be on-going and will be on an open-enrollment basis; new students may join anytime, no matter what lesson may be the topic of the week. The goal of this EBS group is to help all new students to complete all the lessons in Book 1; in other words, the student may only proceed to Book 2 after completing all the Book 1 lessons.

**NOTE:**

Book 1 graduates will be formed into new Prayer Partners, and they will be encouraged and trained in how to share the “God’s Gift” Gospel presentation with their FRANCO.

**BOOKS 2-5**

Graduates of Book 1 will go on to join a Book 2 Discipleship Cell Group (DCG). This will start their journey towards the goal of finishing the whole NewLife Series.

NOTES:

At the same time that students are studying Books 2-5, they are systematically, regularly implementing their own PPE in reaching out to their FRANCO.

After completing Book 5, the leadership will hold separate trainings for the youth and for couples.

SEPARATE TRAININGS

FOR YOUTH: BOOK 6-A.

FOR COUPLES: BOOK 6-B.

NOTE: Graduates of the special training, who have not previously joined the PPE, will be formed into new Prayer Partners, and they will also be encouraged and trained to share the “God’s Gift” Gospel presentation to their FRANCO.

BOOKS 7-13

Graduates of the special training will go on to complete Books 7-13.

NOTE: While studying Books 7-13, students continue to systematically, regularly implement their own PPE in reaching out to their FRANCO.

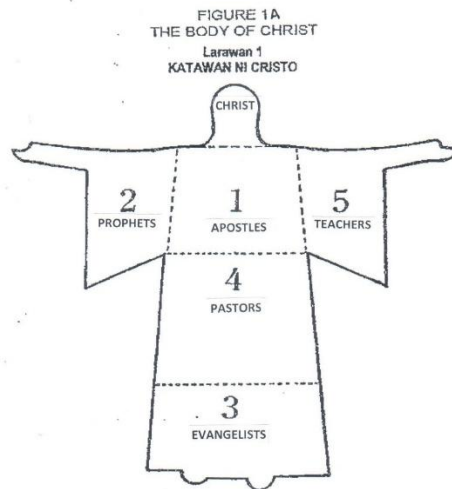
BOOK 14

While studying Book 14, students will be encouraged to discover which area of ministry is God calling them to use their gifts in. Those who feel a calling to vocational ministry will be involved and mentored in church planting (to start new work in another place or among a new target group).

As we have learned from Book 13, there are FIVE BASIC MINISTRIES to which a disciple may be called to serve in the Body of Christ:

- APOSTLES (Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:28). Holy Spirit-given position and ability to lay the foundations of new missions and local churches and to exercise spiritual authority over them. Ex.: Christ (Heb. 3:1; Col. 1:18); Twelve apostles (Luke 6:12-16); missionaries (1 Cor. 3:9-11; 9:2).

- **PROPHETS** (Eph. 4:11; Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10,28,29). Holy Spirit-given position and ability to fore-tell and forth-tell God's **TIMELY** Word. Ex.: Christ (Matt. 24); John (Rev. 1-22)
- **EVANGELISTS** (Eph. 4:11). Holy Spirit-given position and ability to proclaim the gospel to masses, groups, and individuals. Ex.: Christ (Luke 4:16-21); Philip (Acts 4:4-40).
- **PASTORS** (Eph. 4:11). Holy Spirit-given position and ability to shepherd God's flock in the role of spiritual parent, pedagogue, pattern, and protector. Ex.: Christ (John 10:1-30); Peter and the other elders (1 Pet. 5:1-4).
- **TEACHERS** (Eph. 4:11; Rom. 12:7). Holy Spirit-given position and ability to impart the whole counsel of God (from Genesis to Revelation), God's **TIMELESS** Word, and to apply it to all of life. Ex.: Christ (Matt. 5-7); Priscilla and Aquilla (Acts 18:24-26).



**Lesson 2:**

**WHERE TO BEGIN: PRAYER PARTNER EVANGELISM**

The most practical and the simplest way to begin is by starting the PPE – PRAYER PARTNER EVANGELISM ministry.

**PRAYER PARTNER TEAMS.**

Organize your church members into PRAYER PARTNER TEAMS consisting of two or three members, same sex, about the same age.

LIST PROSPECTS.

Instruct the PRAYER PARTNER TEAMS to list non-Christian persons from their FRANCO (circle of influence):

- FAMILY
- RELATIVES
- ACQUAINTANCES (FRIENDS)
- NEIGHBORS
- CO-WORKERS/CLASSMATES
- OTHERS

PRAY FOR THE PROSPECTS.

The PRAYER PARTNER TEAMS will regularly pray in their personal prayers and as a team for their prospects.

APPOINTMENT, PRESENTATION.

Make an appointment with their prospects one by one, in order to give the initial presentation of the Gospel, “GOD’S GIFT”, to their friends.

To make an appointment, they may tell the prospect something like this, “Can we get together for coffee sometime this week. My friends and I would like to share something important that affects our lives, today and beyond.”

EBS BOOK 1 FOLLOW-UP.

After sharing the initial Gospel presentation, “GOD’S GIFT”, whether or not the friend prays to receive Christ right there and then, be sure to invite him/her to join an EBS (Evangelistic Bible Study). Note: This EBS is on-going, and is on an open-enrolment basis. In other words, in this EBS, Book 1 is studied one lesson per week on a continuous cyclical schedule. After completing the 8 lessons in Book 1, the leader will go back to Lesson 1 in order to teach Book 1 all over again.

This means that a newcomer may join the group no matter what lesson happens to be that week. The goal is for every newcomer to stay in this class for the full cycle until he/she completes all the Book 1 lessons, after which he/she will be encouraged to join the DISCIPLESHIP CELL GROUP, to proceed to study Book 2 and the rest of the NewLife books.

PROSPECT NOT AVAILABLE:

However, if your prospect’s schedule does not allow him/her to attend an on-going EBS, you may continue studying BOOK 1 with him/her on a personal basis. Upon completion of Book 1,

try to integrate him/her into an on-going BOOK 2 cell group. Again, if his/her schedule prevents this integration, you may have to continue teaching him/her BOOK 2 personally, and the rest of the NewLife books as your own schedule allows.

#### NEW PRAYER PARTNERS

Graduates of Book 1 will be organized into new PRAYER PARTNERS. They will be encouraged and trained to share “THE GIFT” Gospel presentation to their own FRANCO, systematically and regularly, as their schedule allows.

At the same time, Book 1 graduates will continue attending the Discipleship Cell Group in order to progress in their spiritual maturity.

#### 2 GOALS OF THE DCG

Two goals of the DCGs (DISCIPLESHIP CELL GROUPS):

Help every new believer to complete the NewLife Series Books 1-14. The NewLife Series is designed to lead every believer through the three stages of spiritual development (SPIRITUAL BABY, SPIRITUAL YOUTH, SPIRITUAL PARENTS), from spiritual infancy to spiritual maturity, as described in 1 John 2:12-14.

Train every disciple as soon as possible to teach someone else the book he/she has just completed. For example, someone who completes (“graduates from”) BOOK 1 will be encouraged, with a prayer partner, to reach out to his/her FRANCO in order to share BOOK 1, beginning with Lesson 1.

Note: By the time the facilitator completes teaching Book 1 to someone else, he/she has also completed his/her Book 2, and is therefore ready to teach Book 2 to the new “graduate” of Book 1. In other words, the facilitator/study leader serves as a “pacesetter”. Someone defined a pacesetter this way: “A pacesetter just needs to be one step ahead of the ones he/she is leading.”

**NewLife Series  
Evangelism & Discipleship  
Books 1-14, Revised & Expanded 2025**

We recommend the NewLife Series Books 1-14 as the basic curriculum for the following reasons:

DEVELOPMENTAL.

It leads the person from evangelism to Christian maturity through the three stages of spiritual growth as described in 1 John 2:12-17: (a) spiritual baby; (b) spiritual youth; (c) spiritual parent.

DO-ABLE.

It uses the method READ TOGETHER. The lessons are self-explanatory, and the leader/facilitator simply will READ TOGETHER with a non-Christian friend or group the lesson for the day. They will read portions alternately.

PASS-ON-ABLE.

As soon as a person “graduates” from NewLife Book 1, he/she will be encouraged to team up with another graduate as prayer partners (same sex, about same age) in order for them to reach out to the people in their “oikos” (circle of influence), using the same simple strategy to READ TOGETHER with their non-Christian friends (individually or as a group) NewLife Book 1, beginning with Lesson 1; and after completing Book 1, go on to study the whole series.

AFFORDABLE.

The NewLife Series Books 1-14 are offered in FREE E-COPY format, upon request from [pastorbien@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbien@gmail.com). You may also download the series from the website. You print the number of hard copies that you need.

HOLY SPIRIT-EMPOWERED, PRAYER-SATURATED.

Most important of all, everything depends on the Holy Spirit’s power (Acts 1:8; Zechariah 4:6). The best materials without the Holy Spirit’s anointing are useless. With the Holy Spirit’s power, the most simple material will be used by God to lead people to faith in Christ and build up believers to maturity. Therefore, everything you do must be saturated in prayer. And make sure that every disciple is taught and trained to live the Holy Spirit-filled life (see NewLife Book 3, Lesson 6; Book 13, Lesson 1).

NOTE TO FACILITATOR/STUDY LEADER:

HOW TO DEAL WITH QUESTIONS.

RELATED QUESTION.

If the question is related to the lesson, take time to briefly answer the question, IF you believe you have a ready and adequate answer. If you are not sure of the answer, say, “Sorry, I’m not sure of the answer to your question. Let me write it down, and I’ll research it this week, and I’ll give you the answer during our next meeting.” (Be sure to do your research, ask your pastor or spiritual leader to help you formulate an answer.)

UNRELATED QUESTION:

If the question is NOT related directly to the lesson, say, “That’s a very good question. Let me write it down and I will give you an answer at our next meeting.” (Be sure to do your research, ask your pastor or spiritual leader.)

**Lesson 3:**

**A-B-C OF THE GREAT COMMISSION**

Someone has said, we must stop using the old ineffective ABC Strategy of implementing the Great Commission. By these letters he meant the emphasis on:

Attendance  
Buildings  
Cash

We suggest that we go back to the biblical ABC of the Great Commission. By these letters we mean:

ANNOUNCE  
BAPTIZE  
CATECHIZE

These three indispensable actions are clearly contained in the Great Commission as given by the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20:

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> 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.” Amen.

We briefly describe these three actions below. Then we shall proceed to discuss each action in detail.

**ACTION 1: ANNOUNCE**

**OBJECTIVE:**

To announce/proclaim the Gospel adequately and clearly, faithfully representing the genuine offer in the Gospel of salvation as a gift through faith in Christ, from God the Creator, Sovereign, Sustainer and Judge of His creation.

**ACTION 2: BAPTIZE**

**OBJECTIVE:**

To call people to a genuine response to the Gospel in heart-felt repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus, a response publicly demonstrated by submitting to water baptism, to signify the believer's new permanent relationship with the Triune God.

**ACTION 3: CATECHIZE**

**OBJECTIVE:**

After water baptism, believers are nurtured toward spiritual maturity in Christ (John 8:29; 1John 3:4; 1Peter 2:21-23; Galatians 4:19; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27-29; 1Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:22, 23; 2Peter 1:5-8), using the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:15-17), and following the three stages of spiritual growth (1 John 2:12-17).

We shall now go on to discuss each of these three actions in detail.



**A-B-C OF THE GREAT COMMISSION**

**ACTION 1: ANNOUNCE**

**OBJECTIVE:** To proclaim the Gospel adequately and clearly, faithfully representing the genuine offer of salvation as a gift from God through faith in Christ.

At its very core, the Great Commission is the command of the Lord Jesus to ANNOUNCE, to proclaim, to herald the Good News. The announcement has the following characteristics:

1. AUTHORITY.

God is issuing this ANNOUNCEMENT from His throne of authority as the Creator, Sovereign, Sustainer and Judge of all creation. Along with God the Father, the Crucified, Risen and Enthroned Son of God, Jesus Christ, is issuing the same ANNOUNCEMENT from His position of authority over all heaven and earth at the right hand of God the Father. The announcement emanates from the King and is sent through His authorized proclaimers. The king's proclamation is law, and the whole earth must heed its commands and provision, whether they like them or not.

Acts 17:22-31  
Matthew 28:18  
Jeremiah 22:29

## 2. PROPHECY.

The announcement proclaims the fulfilment of the prophecy first given in Genesis 3:15, immediately after the Fall of Adam and Eve into sin, bringing upon all creation the curse of decay and death and slavery to Satan. God promised a Redeemer to be born of the Woman's line, who would deliver humanity and creation from the curse. The Gospel announces the good news that the long-awaited Redeemer had come!

Genesis 3:15  
Galatians 4:4

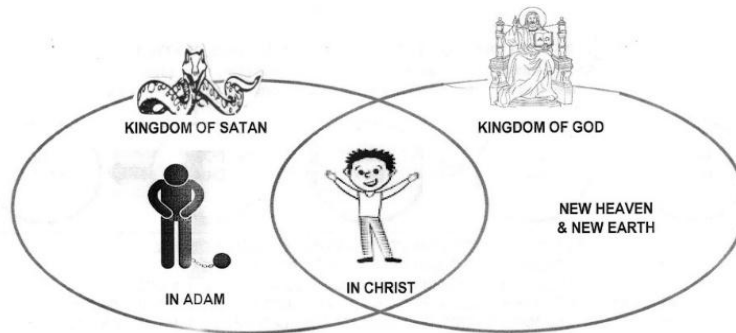
## 3. VICTORY.

The prophecy promised the Redeemer's VICTORY over Satan. Jesus announced the Good News of the Kingdom of God at the start of His earthly ministry.

Mark 1:14, 15:

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

With His Gospel announcement, Jesus launched the invasion of the kingdom of God into the kingdom of Satan. Please study the OVERLAP in the figure below carefully.



CHRIST'S GOSPEL CALL: MARK 1:14, 15:  
<sup>14</sup> . . . Jesus **came** into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,  
<sup>15</sup> And **saying**, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand:  
 REPENT ye, and BELIEVE the gospel.

This overlap represents the present status of the Kingdom of God covering the period between the first and second comings of Christ.

### FIRST COMING.

At His first coming, He launched the invasion of the Kingdom of God into the Kingdom of Satan. On the cross Christ, the Seed of the woman, and Satan engaged in mortal combat (prophesied in Genesis 3:15). Satan succeeded “bruising” the heel of Christ by killing Him physically, not realizing that Christ’s death actually resulted in “bruising” (crushing) his head, dealing him a complete and permanent defeat and giving Christ total victory as proven by His resurrection three days later. Christ’s death paid for all the sins of the world, thus removing Satan’s only basis for keeping sinners in bondage. As long as divine justice was not carried out, Satan in a sense could “blackmail” God and prevent Him from releasing the prisoners. Once sin was fully punished through the death of the Substitute, God was free to release the prisoners; Christ’s death also defeated and disarmed Satan and removed him from the position of authority over the world which he had illegally stolen from Adam and Eve when they sinned.

Colossians 2:13-15:

<sup>13</sup> And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; <sup>14</sup> Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; <sup>15</sup> And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

The overlap means that Christ now actually reigns over all creation, albeit in a spiritual, invisible manner

Ephesians 1:19-23:

<sup>19</sup> And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, <sup>20</sup> Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> Far above all principality, and power,

and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: <sup>22</sup> And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Matthew 28:18: And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

However, the overlap also means that Satan and his hosts are still allowed in the meantime to continue their work of opposing God and His people, but their power is limited to lies and deception.

In His sovereign wisdom, God has planned still to use Satan and his hosts to train and discipline His people. In fact, Satan is now a defeated foe. Though still a roaring lion, his fangs have already been pulled out.

That's why God has given to His people TRUTH as the most effective weapon against Satan's lies. That's why the Gospel is called "word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation":

The primary assignment of the Great Commission is to proclaim to all peoples of the world the Gospel truth. What truth?

- The truth that all the sins of the world have been paid for.
- The truth that Satan, the slave master, has been defeated and his prison doors have been busted and wrenched off their hinges.
- The truth that people are now free to walk out and return to God with the guarantee of full pardon, reconciliation and adoption!

Ephesians 1:13:

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.

John 8:32: And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

#### 4. MERCY.

Please study again the figure above. The overlap indicates that the kingdom of God has two aspects: (1) the present, often called the "already"; and (2) the future, often called the "not yet". At His Second Coming, Jesus will make the NOT YET a full visible reality.

Before the Second Coming, Christ is truly ALREADY enthroned as King of kings and Lord of lords, albeit in an invisible, spiritual manner.

At this time, Christ presents Himself as a gracious and patient Conqueror proclaiming pardon to all slaves of the defeated enemy. Christ is not forcing anyone, but rather, THROUGH THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL, He is patiently giving people the freedom to make their decision, whether to remain with Satan, the defeated slave master, or to transfer their allegiance to Christ by receiving Him as Savior and Lord. When they put their faith in Christ, their connection to the old humanity under Adam is terminated and they are incorporated into the new humanity in union with Christ. Obeying Christ's command in water baptism powerfully symbolizes this absolute and radical transfer which is accomplished all by grace through Christ's death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:1-4).

Christ is issuing His Gospel call from His position as victorious King of kings and Lord of lords. He is absolutely NOT like the misrepresentation of Him shown in a popular picture (not sure if it's still popular) displayed above the jeepney driver, a Christ picture that looks very effeminate, helpless, and with almost tearful eyes, with a caption above which reads: "I am counting on you!"

No! Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords now! He announces to the whole world, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and in earth!" He is patiently and tenderly calling upon you to make your choice, to stay loyal to Satan and his kingdom, or to transfer your allegiance to Christ and become an obedient citizen of God's kingdom!

#### 5. URGENCY.

The urgency springs from the fragility and unpredictability of human life.

Proverbs 27:1:

James 4:14

Romans 2:4, 5:

The urgency of the long-suffering (but eventually terminal) offer of God's grace. In addition, there's the fact that the more you delay responding to the offer of pardon, the more guilt and punishment you store up against yourself.

Genesis 6:3:

2 Corinthians 6:2:

Romans 3:

The urgency of Christ's imminent return to bring in the day of judgment. Christ warned that He would come when you least expect Him. On top of that, you do not know when death will suddenly come knocking.

Acts 17:30, 31:

Revelation 22:20:

Proverbs 27:1:

James 4:14:

#### 6. HOLY SPIRIT-EMPOWERED.

One more characteristic of the Gospel ANNOUNCEMENT that merit strong emphasis (certainly there are many other characteristics) is that it must always be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Zechariah 4:6 and Acts 1:8 teach that the power of the Holy Spirit is the one indispensable requirement both for holy living and fruitful service.

Before disciples are sent forth to announce the Gospel, make sure that they are fully instructed and mentored in the Holy Spirit-filled Life. (NewLife Book 3, Lesson 6; NewLife Book 13, Lesson 1)

#### RE-EVALUATING OUR GOSPEL PRESENTATIONS

The above characteristics of biblical GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT demands that we must re-evaluate the popular Gospel presentations used today.

#### WATERED-DOWN VERSIONS.

Majority of so-called evangelical Christians seem to have reduced the message of the Gospel to the following watered-down versions:

- “Hell Fire Insurance”. This presentation offers Christ as primarily a Savior from hell, by merely repeating the so-called “Sinner’s Prayer”. This presentation says very little about the change of life that must happen as a result of genuine faith in Christ.
- Easy Believe-ism. This presentation is closely related to the “Hell Fire Insurance” presentation. The emphasis is on assuring the person of eternal life merely because of praying the “Sinner’s Prayer”. This presentation offers Christ as Savior whom a person may receive first, in order to be assured of going to heaven. As far as following Christ as Lord, that doesn’t affect the guarantee that you will go to heaven when you die. Accepting Christ as Lord is supposedly part of the Christian growth, which may follow immediately or later. The result is this presentation produces many converts who claim to be Christians but who continue to live like non-Christians.
- Happiness & Self-Fulfillment Plan. The Christ offered by this presentation is one who will enable you to find happiness, self-fulfillment and success in this life. Christ will become your spiritual Guide, your ever-available Helper in order to have a better marriage, better home and family life, be a better athlete, business man, actor, or whatever your career may be.

- Health-Wealth-Prosperity Gospel. This presentation goes even much farther than the previous one. Christ is presented as a Santa Claus or Magic Genii of the Lamp to grant all your wishes for health, wealth, and prosperity. He'll give you a Mercedes instead of a pick-up truck, a mansion instead of a modest 3-bedroom house.
- One-size-fits-all, one-and-done Gospel Presentations. A common characteristic of the above-mentioned presentations (and all others like them) is that they are designed to be "one-size-fits-all, one-and-done" Gospel presentations. And they are all presented like high pressure sales talk with the one aim of bringing a person to see the "one big benefit" that Christ will bring into their lives for the low price of praying the "Sinner's Prayer", equivalent to signing on the dotted line at the bottom of the sales contract. The attraction is to get the "one big benefit" of avoiding hell and being sure of heaven, while you may continue living in the old way as usual like everybody else. The only "premium" you need to pay is attend church on Sunday, give something to the offering plate, and maybe read a little from the Bible and pray a little prayer everyday. And if you're a little motivated, you may attend a Bible study intended to help you grow in your Christian life, but there is no pressure to be serious about it.

#### BIBLICAL GOSPEL PROCLAMATION.

In biblical Gospel proclamation, we must always remember the following realities:

#### INITIAL PRESENTATION.

Of course, we always begin with an initial presentation, when we seek to make connection with a specific audience and discover a point of entry for the Gospel in our conversation with them. Some characteristics of the initial presentation:

(a.1). AUDIENCE POINT OF INTEREST. Note the different approaches Jesus used with Nicodemus (John 3) and with the Samaritan woman (John 4).

(a.2). CORE GOSPEL TRUTHS. The core Gospel truths are mentioned, for example, in 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Romans 10:9, 10; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 10:34-43.

(a.3). INVITE TO FURTHER STUDY. After the initial Gospel presentation (whatever tool you may use), always seek to invite the person witnessed to, to attend a regular EBS (Evangelistic Bible Study).

#### GOSPEL: SALVATION BY GRACE ALONE THROUGH FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE.

This is the rock foundation of Gospel proclamation: Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

Romans 1:16, 17  
Ephesians 2:8-10  
John 14:6  
Acts 4:12

PROCESS OF EVANGELISM.

We must follow the clear biblical picture and model. The Word of God is the SEED OF LIFE. God commissions us to be FARMER GOSPEL SOWERS, who follow one over-arching principle (Luke 8:11; 1 Corinthians 3:5-8; 2 Timothy 2:6; Isaiah 55:10, 11):

GOSPEL SHARING IS A PROCESS, NOT A ONE-AND-DONE PRESENTATION.

The process involves five stages:

PLOWING

SOWING

WATERING

WEEDING

HARVESTING.

Every Gospel sharing, done under the Holy Spirit's leading and in His power, is always successful in that one of these aspects is always accomplished each time.

There will be times when we do not see this person again. But we must remember that it is God who watches over His Word that was sown in his/her heart. He will bring people and circumstances that will water that seed to bring that seed to germination and fruition in His own way and time.

At other times we're surprised that the person responds positively in faith immediately after what we thought was a one-time presentation on our part. Be sure of this, someone else sowed the Word long before you met this person; God gave you the rare privilege of gathering the harvest of what others had sown and watered before you came along (John 4:35-38).

Now let's look at some practical ways in how we can do these aspects FARMER EVANGELISM.

PLOWING

**OBJECTIVE:** As in farming, the objective of this stage in evangelism is to break up the soil in order to prepare it to receive the seed. Preparation includes the awakening of interest in spiritual things on the part of the unbeliever. Then the interested unbeliever will be encouraged to join an EBS (Evangelistic Bible Study) Group where he/she will be exposed to more teaching about the Gospel.

#### FRANCO LIST.

First, make a FRANCO LIST of people within your circle of influence. Start praying regularly for them, that the Holy Spirit will prepare their hearts to receive a word of witness from you. Then, begin by PLOWING the soil of their hearts by sharing with them specially designed simple evangelistic tracts (see below). Here's how to do a FRANCO LIST.

- FAMILY – Immediate family members with you in your home;
- RELATIVES – Relatives who are accessible to you by walking, transportation, phone, social media.
- ACQUAINTANCES – Friends who are accessible to you by walking, transportation, phone, social media.
- NEIGHBORS – People immediately living around you in the four directions (east, west, north, south) and those within your block.
- CO-WORKERS/CLASSMATES
- OTHERS – People you meet or have connection with during the usual course of daily life.

#### PRAYER PARTNER.

Second, have a PRAYER PARTNER (same sex, similar age and spiritual maturity).

Have a regular prayer time together for mutual sharing of God's Word and for prayer over your respective FRANCO LIST.

Make sure your relationship with God is clear (1 John 1:3-9; Romans 12:1, 2; Ephesians 4:20-24). Always ask for the filling and empowering of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18).

Begin the process of PLOWING (described below).

#### EVANGELISM STAGE 1: PLOWING

Your primary tool for PLOWING is NewLife Book 1. This is a series of studies on the Gospel, viewed from different perspectives.

You give the initial Gospel presentation by using Book 1, Lesson 1: GOD HAS A GIFT FOR YOU.

Make an appointment with your prospect and READ TOGETHER with him/her Lesson 1.

Whether or not your friend makes a decision right there and then as a result of your initial Gospel presentation, make sure to INVITE him/her to attend a regular Evangelistic Bible Study (EBS) group, in which he/she will continue studying Book 1.

NOT READY. If, after the GIFT Gospel presentation, your prospect is not ready to join the EBS group, keep praying for him/her and keep inviting him/her to attend the EBS Group.

The work of PLOWING is always on-going with the rest of the people on your FRANCO LIST. You keep adding more names to your list. And you keep giving the GIFT Gospel presentation to your prospects. The work of PLOWING never stops!

EVANGELISM STAGES 2, 3, 4, 5:  
SOWING, WATERING, WEEDING, HARVESTING

The EBS group is where you do the next stages of SOWING (teaching the truth), WATERING (further clarification of the truth), WEEDING (dealing with questions and objections), HARVESTING (leading to a clear step of faith). As the new prospect is given time exposure to the Gospel, the SEED of God's Word is being sown, watered, cleared of weeds, and, by the grace of God, the Word will germinate, grow and bear fruit that's ready to be harvested.

The EBS group is a continuing evangelistic study, in which the lessons in Book 1 will be studied one lesson a week in a cyclical manner. In other words, after completing the last lesson, the leader will go back and teach Book 1 all over again, starting with Lesson 1.

Joining the EBS group is via OPEN ENROLMENT. In other words, a new prospect to whom the initial Gospel presentation THE GIFT has been given, will be encouraged to join the EBS group anytime, whatever lesson the group may be studying at the time. For example, if the new prospect joins at Lesson 4, he/she will stay with the EBS group to complete the cycle in which he/she will have gone through all 8 lessons in Book 1.

When a new prospect "graduates" from Book 1, he/she will be strongly encouraged to proceed to join a DISCIPLESHIP CELL GROUP (DCG) when he/she will start his/her discipleship journey starting with NewLife Book 2.

## BAPTISM

When a person shows clear evidences of having experienced the new birth, he/she is then challenged regarding taking the next step of following the Lord in water baptism.

BAPTISM will be more fully discussed in the next lesson.



**Lesson 4:**

**A-B-C OF THE GREAT COMMISSION**

**ACTION 2: BAPTIZE**

**OBJECTIVE:**

To call people to a genuine response to the Gospel in heart-felt repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus, which results in union with the Triune God.

The Great Commission as given in Matthew 28:18-20 reads:

**KING JAMES VERSION:**

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

<sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

<sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

We may read the Great Commission as consisting of 3 Commands:

- Command #1: Make disciples (Announce/Proclaim the Gospel)  
Remember: We covered this in ACTION 1: ANNOUNCE (review above).
- Command #2: Baptize into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Command #3: Catechize – Instruct in all that Jesus commanded and taught.

Below, we shall discuss this ACTION 2: BAPTIZE.

We must recover the absolute importance of this command of our Lord Jesus. The attitudes of modern Christian churches and individuals may be classified into three groups:

- NECESSARY FOR SALVATION: Baptism is a requirement for salvation.
- IMPORTANT BUT NOT SALVIFIC: Baptism is not necessary for salvation but it is a command that must be obeyed and the meaning of which must be recovered.
- OPTIONAL: Baptism is not necessary for salvation or discipleship and obedience to the physical rite may be optional.

We believe that the second attitude toward Baptism is the correct biblical teaching. Action 2 of the Great Commission is absolutely important as a command of the Lord Jesus, which must be obeyed. But we must obey this command with the correct biblical understanding of its meaning.

#### WHAT BAPTISM IS NOT

First, we must be clear that water baptism is NOT necessary for salvation.

The absolute proof is the case of the repentant thief on the cross; the Lord Jesus assured him of salvation apart from water baptism (Luke 23:43).

Some baptized persons will prove to be unsaved. Simon the Magician provides the clearest example in the Book of Acts (Acts 8:9-24). During the time of the apostle John, many baptized believers proved they were not truly saved because they eventually fell away (1 John 2:19).

#### WHAT BAPTISM IS

Second, we must emphasize that water baptism is IMPORTANT as a public testimony of a person's faith in the Lord Jesus. Baptism fulfills the test of genuine faith laid down by the Lord Jesus and by the Holy Spirit through the inspired writing of the apostle Paul. True faith is a response of full trust in Christ for salvation in the heart, but true faith must also be expressed by a public mouth confession of one's commitment to live the new life style of being a disciple of Christ.

Matthew 10:32, 33:

<sup>32</sup>“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. <sup>33</sup>But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

Romans 10:9, 10:

<sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

NOTE: Along with water baptism, the Lord Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper to serve as constant reminders of the truths of the Gospel that Jesus died for our sins, that He rose again from the dead, and that He is coming again.

#### BAPTISM DURING THE TIMES OF THE APOSTLES.

From the very beginning of the New Testament Church, on the day of Pentecost and in the years while the apostles lived and ministered, baptism was the initial step of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Believers were baptized on the day they believed. In the case of the first three thousand believers on the day of Pentecost, their baptism also marked their automatic incorporation into the local body of believers (Acts 2:37-42; 8:5-12; 10:44-48).

#### BAPTISM AFTER THE APOSTLES PASSED AWAY

As the Gospel spread more widely to other parts of the world, believers from different religious and cultural backgrounds needed fuller and clearer instruction in the faith and in the meaning of baptism. Hence, a course of pre-baptismal instruction developed to prepare new converts for baptism. One popular course was called "The Didache". Below is a description from Google:

Didachē is a Greek word that means "teaching". It is also the name of a Christian manual, or "church order", that is considered one of the most important literary remains of early Christianity. The Didache manual's full title is "The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles", consisting of 16 short chapters which cover topics such as:

- Morals and ethics
- Church practice
- Christ's Second Coming
- Baptism
- Fasting
- Daily prayer
- Eucharist

#### BAPTISM IN MODERN TIMES

Today, with the proliferation of Christian denominations along with pseudo-cultic Christian sects, baptism has become a subject of debate and confusion. Hence, evangelical churches who claim faithfulness to biblical orthodoxy find it even more necessary to give INSTRUCTIONS FOR BAPTISMAL CANDIDATES AND NEW MEMBERS. Such instructions must include truths to know BEFORE baptism and truths to know AFTER baptism.

TRUTHS BEFORE BAPTISM

Before baptism, there must be solid instruction in the salvation truths contained in water baptism.

DIVIDING LINE.

Baptism is an absolute DIVIDING LINE between two relationships.

The old relationship (with Adam, the First Representative) is permanently dissolved; the new relationship (with Christ, the Second Representative) is eternally established:

The believer is BAPTIZED “INTO” the name of (incorporated into Union with) the Father, Son and Holy Spirit through Christ. The baptized believer enters a permanent relationship with God.

- UNION WITH CHRIST.

Just as in Union with Adam we suffered with him full condemnation, even so in Union with Christ we now receive the free gift of full salvation. Our baptism is the symbol of our complete transfer from Adam to Christ.

Romans 5:12-17:

1 Corinthians 1:30, 31:

- FAMILY OF GOD.

The new believer is born again and is adopted into God’s family.

“You are my people, I am your God; You are my sons and daughters, I am your Father.”

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

Romans 8:15-17

1Peter 2:9, 10

The new believer is included in full KOINONIA (sharing) of life and possessions with the Triune God.

1John 1:3;

1Corinthians 1:9

2Corinthians 13:14

- KINGDOM OF GOD.

The new believer is transferred from the kingdom of darkness under Satan into the kingdom of light under Christ; from the kingdom of Satan to the kingdom of God; from the earthly and temporal to the heavenly and eternal.

Colossians 1:13  
Colossians 3:1, 2  
Galatians 1:4  
Philippians 3:20, 21

#### TRUTHS AFTER BAPTISM

At baptism, believers are incorporated into the LOCAL CHURCH in which they will be regularly reminded and instructed regarding the applications and implications of water baptism in their life of discipleship. Details of these reminders and instructions will be discussed more fully in PART THREE: CATECHIZE.

- New Life in Christ

Baptism permanently plants the believer in the realm of new life in UNION WITH CHRIST in His death, burial, and resurrection. There is absolutely no going back to the old life of sin in Adam.

Romans 6:1-11  
Colossians 2:11, 12  
Ephesians 2:4-6  
2 Corinthians 5:17

- Spiritual Growth

Baptism launches a believer on a life-long journey of growth toward spiritual maturity and fruitful ministry in this life and finally culminating in full Christ-likeness at the Second Coming of Christ.

Colossians 2:6, 7  
Ephesians 4:11-16  
2Timothy 3:15-17  
1John 3:1-3

- Partnership: Co-laborship.

Baptism makes the believer a co-laborer with God in His one great work of the Great Commission.

John 15:1-16  
John 17:15-23  
1 Corinthians 3:5-1

#### A LIFE-TIME MEMORIAL

All that we've been saying about baptism above leads to this conclusion:

We must perform BAPTISM AS A LIFE-TIME MEMORABLE EVENT for the new believer.

Setting aside the different views in the manner of water baptism, evangelical churches must make sure that, as part of full and genuine obedience to Christ's command, baptism must be done in such a way that baptism is a spiritual milestone experience that a believer will always look back to as an unforgettable spiritual demarcation line. To make baptism such a milestone, three things must characterize it:

#### SOLID BAPTISMAL INSTRUCTION.

This may be done in two phases:

Before baptism, instruction on the basic meaning of baptism is given.

After baptism, fuller instruction is given about baptism and church membership.

Alternatively: Your church/group may choose to give a full course on baptism and church membership to baptismal candidates BEFORE the day of baptism.

BAPTISMAL SERVICE FULLY SUPPORTED BY THE LOCAL CONGREGATION. The baptismal service must be held by and witnessed to by the local congregation to assure the new believer that he/she is accepted, supported, and loved by the family of God.

POST-BAPTISMAL INCORPORATION AND PARTICIPATION. The newly baptized believer must be properly welcomed into the local family of believers and made an active participant in the all-around life of the local church family as described in Acts 2:41, 42.

Such a memorable baptismal experience prepares the young believer for PART THREE.



**Lesson 5:**

**A-B-C OF THE GREAT COMMISSION**

**ACTION 3: CATECHIZE**

**OBJECTIVE:**

To nurture believers toward spiritual maturity in Christ:

Using the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:15-17);

Following the three stages of spiritual growth (1 John 2:12-17),

In the context of three relationships: one-on-one, small group, and big congregation (Act 9:10-17, 26; 11:25, 26; Acts 2:46; 20:20);

In order for them to multiply and replicate to the fourth generation (2 Timothy 2:2).

**DOCTRINAL FOUNDATION:**

The doctrinal rock foundation of discipleship and disciple-making will remain by GRACE alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Teaching disciples to obey all that Jesus commanded must always be motivated and empowered by GRACE. Christian discipleship is not imposing again a LAW that believers must obey in their own power.

Rather it is teaching and training them to live a life of faith and obedience by grace in full dependence and cooperation with the Holy Spirit who is continually working into their life the character of Christ while at the same time manifesting that character on the outside as fruit of the Spirit. True discipleship is the branch constantly abiding, continually staying connected to the

Vine, such that all the resources from the Vine flow fully, freely, unhindered to the branch resulting in fruit. Please carefully study the following scriptures:

John 15:1-16

Colossians 1:17-29

Philippians 2:12, 13

1Corinthians 15:10

## CATECHIZE

The Lord Jesus commissioned His disciples “. . . teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20).

Actually He commissioned them to TEACH THEM TO OBSERVE (obey, put into practice) all His commands. Christ’s commands are specifically contained in the four Gospels, but they also in principle contained in the whole counsel of God, in “all the inspired scriptures” as recorded in the Written Word of God, the book we call the BIBLE which we have today (2 Timothy 3:16).

For the task TEACH, the first century Christians used an equivalent word: CATECHIZE.

CATECHIZE, from the Greek KATECHEO, to teach orally. The student is called the CATECHUMEN. The book containing the teachings is called CATECHISM. Since the early years of Christianity, this course of instruction was traditionally given to prepare new believers for baptism and for church membership.

But for our purposes in the present study which we call the A-B-C OF THE GREAT COMMISSION, we describe the action to CATECHIZE as the process of teaching, training, molding and equipping of believers toward spiritual maturity following the 3 SPIRITUAL STAGES OF GROWTH described in 1 John 2:12-17, utilizing the scriptures as the main content of teaching (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

The chart below shows the two key elements of ACTION 3: CATECHIZE:

**GOD’S WORD.** The Bible, God’s inspired written Word, contains the whole counsel of God which believers must know and do in their relationship with God, with others, and with God’s creation. The Bible is the primary textbook and manual of the disciple-maker.

**3 STAGES.** The top portion of the chart below shows what believers will be taught at their respective stages of spiritual growth.

First, let me give credit where credit is due. My late mentor, the Navigator missionary, Mr. Gene Tabor, originally designed a model which he called the “Focus Chart”. This chart highlighted the needs and issues which the ministry of disciple-making must “focus” on at every stage of the

spiritual journey. When I began to serve as a pastor at the First Baptist Church of Cavite City, I adapted and expanded this chart to fit the local church situation. Mr. Tabor’s basic ideas are still retained, but I have developed and added to them truths and insights from my own studies and from the actual ministry of making disciples in the church context.

I call my version A DEVELOPMENTAL & BIBLICAL APPROACH TO DISCIPLEMAKING.

DEVELOPMENTAL: It follows the three developmental stages of spiritual growth described in 1 John 2:12-14. This is the upper portion of the chart, dealing with the DISCIPLES.

1 JOHN 2:12-14

BIBLICAL: It follows the ministry focus points described in 2 Timothy 3:15-17. This is the lower portion of the chart, dealing with the DISCIPLE MAKER.

A BIBLICAL & DEVELOPMENTAL MODEL OF DISCIPLEMAKING By Bien A. Llobrera, based on Gene Tabor's "Focus Chart"						
3 STAGES OF GROWTH (1 JOHN 2:12-17)					GOAL	
<b>DISCIPLE</b>	SPIRITUAL BABY Focus: <i>Security</i> Key: <i>Faith</i> Arena of Conflict: <i>Basic Needs</i> Major Temptation: <i>Lusts of the Flesh</i>		SPIRITUAL YOUTH Focus: <i>Victory</i> Key: <i>Hope</i> Arena of Conflict: <i>Values</i> Major Temptation: <i>Lusts of the Eyes</i>		SPIRITUAL PARENT Focus: <i>Quality</i> Key: <i>Love</i> Arena of Conflict: <i>Relationships</i> Major Temptation: <i>Pride of Life</i>	MATURE IN CHRIST (Eph. 4:12, 14-16; Col. 2:6-7)  BEYOND THIS LIFE PERFECT LIKE CHRIST (Eph. 4:13; Rom. 8:29-30)
	REPROOF	CORRECTION	TRAINING	EQUIPPING		
	DOCTRINE (TEACHING)					
	GOSPEL (SALVATION)					
<b>DISCIPLEMAKER</b>	WORD OF GOD (BIBLE) – 2 TIMOTHY 3:15-17					

**THE ALL-ENCOMPASSING IMPORTANCE OF GOD’S WORD**

The foundation of our ministry is the WORD OF GOD. No question about this. Without the Bible, we have no ministry.

Our bedrock foundation is the relationship between God and His Word. After about 50 years of ministry, I feel more and more amazed as I look at these bedrock foundational truths. Consider the following:

THE WORD IS IN THE VERY NATURE OF THE TRIUNE GOD (John 1:1)

GOD CREATED EVERYTHING WITH HIS WORD (Genesis 1:1-3; Psalm 33:6; Hebrews 11:3; John 1:1-3).

The creative Word is the Person of Christ.

GOD SUSTAINS EVERYTHING WITH HIS WORD (Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:15-17).

The sustaining Word is the Person of Christ. Scientists keep talking about the law of entropy that is at work in the whole universe. This law says everything tends to chaos and disorder, and our universe by now should have disintegrated and all matter should have dissipated into the void of space. And yet they haven't; something is holding together the universe; that's why the so-called laws of nature remain consistent. What is keeping the universe from exploding or imploding?

It's not a what, it's a WHO, the Word Jesus Christ.

GOD WILL JUDGE EVERYONE IN THE END WITH HIS WORD (John 12:48).

THROUGHOUT HISTORY GOD HAS COMMUNICATED TO PEOPLE (SPECIALLY WITH HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE) WITH HIS WORD.

Jeremiah 7:25: Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them. (14:15; 26:5; 29:19; 35:15; 44:4).

Zechariah 1:5, 6:

<sup>5</sup>Your fathers, where are they? and the prophets, do they live for ever? <sup>6</sup>But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.

Isaiah 55:10, 11: <sup>10</sup>For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: <sup>11</sup>So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

GOD SENT HIS SON THE DIVINE WORD INTO THE WORLD TO BECOME THE LIVING WORD, WITH SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENT TO DELIVER GOD THE FATHER'S WORDS TO HUMANITY (John 1:14; John 12:47-50; John 17:8).

Notice in John 12:47-50 the special emphasis of Jesus on the Father's assignment to Him to deliver the Father's Word. Then in John 17:8 notice how He summarized the successful

accomplishment of that assignment in these words: “For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them . . . .” Mission accomplished!

We may say that Jesus had a two-fold assignment: (1) During His life, He delivered the Father’s Word; (2) In His death, He obeyed the Father’s Word regarding His atoning death on the cross. He totally lived and died only for one thing: to obey the Father’s Word.

GOD GAVE US HIS WRITTEN WORD. THE INSPIRATION, INSCRIPTION, COLLECTION, AND PRESERVATION OF THE BIBLE ARE MIRACLES IN THEMSELVES (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 1 Corinthians 2:13; Deuteronomy 31:9; Jeremiah 36:27-32; John 20:30, 31; 1 John 1:1-4; Luke 1:1-4; 2 Peter 3:15, 16; Revelation 1:19; Matthew 24:35).

#### GOD’S WORD AND MINISTRY

GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US HIS WRITTEN WORD (Luke 1:2; Acts 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Timothy 3:15-17).

GOD SAVES AND BUILDS UP PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD.

Luke 24:44-47  
ACTS 8:4, 14, 25  
ROMANS 10:8, 17:  
1 PETER 1:23-25  
1 PETER 2:2:  
ACTS 20:32:

#### CHART & KEY SCRIPTURE

2 TIMOTHY 3:14-17: <sup>14</sup> But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, <sup>15</sup> and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for <sup>[c]</sup>instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God m

So, here we hold in our hands this book called the Bible, which is nothing less than the Word of the living God. This is no ordinary book; it is the most powerful book in the whole universe. We are mandated to teach the whole book, all that’s written in it.

Deuteronomy 29:29: The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.

Matthew 28:20: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Acts 20:27: For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

## STEP BY STEP

But we teach God's Word step by step:

- First, for SALVATION: THE GOSPEL

We must have a firm grasp of the Gospel. We must have a PANORAMIC VIEW of what the Bible is all about; and in the context of that panoramic view, we will understand the Gospel more clearly.

WHOLE GOSPEL. We must not stop at presenting the CORE TRUTHS of the Gospel. We must continue on to instruct believers in the WHOLE GOSPEL.

ROMANS. Providentially, the Holy Spirit inspired one specific New Testament book to teach the whole Gospel, namely, Paul's letter to the Romans.

THE FOUR GOSPELS. In tandem with the Book of Romans, we must seek to impart to believers a mastery of the four Gospels in order to grow in the grace and knowledge of and love for the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18; John 17:3).

STORY OF REDEMPTION. The Gospel is actually the theme of the whole Bible. The Gospel is the Story of Redemption from Genesis to Revelation, consisting, like a cosmic drama, of four acts:

Act 1: Creation

Act 2: Fall

Act 3: Redemption

Act 4: New Creation

## ESSENTIAL GOSPEL DOCTRINES

In the initial studies of the Gospel message, the following essential doctrines need to be mentioned/explained (if only briefly, as these will be discussed more fully in later studies on discipleship):

Perfect creation by God in the beginning

Creation of humans in the image of God

The nature of temptation and sin

The fall of Adam and Eve into sin and the consequences

The first promise of a coming Redeemer

The Redeemer: His human virgin birth in the world, His perfect life, ministry, atoning death on the cross, burial, resurrection, ascension, exaltation, present high priestly ministry, His Second Coming.

Truths involved in Christ's atoning death: God's love and justice; the seriousness of sin; God's wrath; substitutionary sacrifice; propitiation; redemption; justification; regeneration; reconciliation; adoption.

The Gospel call to repentance and faith.

A person's response to the Gospel call (positive or negative) and consequences

Evidences of a genuine positive response to the Gospel call

Baptism: importance and meaning

Three tenses of salvation: Justification, Sanctification, Glorification.

- Second, for SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

DOCTRINE/TEACHING – to give positive instruction in the truth;

REPROOF – to stop us when we stray from the right path;

CORRECTION – to lead us back to the right path;

TRAINING – to keep us going on the right path;

EQUIPPING – to furnish us with resources for victorious life and fruitful service.

NOTE: In actual preaching or teaching, some or all of the above applications of God's Word may be used as the needs and situations of our hearers may require

DOCTRINE/TEACHING.

The ultimate goal is to teach the WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD, all that God has revealed (from Genesis to Revelation) that's necessary for life in relationship to God, to others, and to His creation.

But we must begin with BASIC DOCTRINES such as the following:

Truths about the Bible  
Truths about God  
Truths about Christ  
Truths about the Holy Spirit  
Truths about the Trinity  
Truths about Man  
Truths about Things  
Truths about Angels  
Truths about Satan and Demons  
Truths about Sin  
Truths about Salvation  
Truths about the Church  
Truths about Last Things

Thus far we have given an overview of the bottom portion of our chart, which deals with the DISCIPLEMAKER.

We will now look at the top portion of our chart.

TOP PORTION OF THE CHART  
THE DISCIPLE

We now turn to the top portion of the chart, which deals with the DISCIPLE. Our key scripture for the disciple is 1 John 2:12-14 (please carefully study these verses).

Three stages of spiritual growth are pointed out in this scripture: children, young men, fathers, which we have described in our chart as:

SPIRITUAL BABY

SPIRITUAL YOUTH

SPIRITUAL PARENT

As you can see, key characteristics of each stage are mentioned. In our succeeding lessons we shall look closely at these characteristics.

The main point about these characteristics is that they indicate needs and issues that we, as disciple-makers, should focus on. The needs and issues at each stage must be resolved before we can expect the disciple to move on to the next stage.

The next point about these characteristics is that we must always be moving forward toward the goal. Discipleship is a spiritual journey that has a definite goal. Actually, the goal is in two stages:

GOAL IN THIS LIFE: MATURE IN CHRIST

GOAL BEYOND THIS LIFE: PERFECT LIKE CHRIST

Obviously, as disciples and as disciple-makers the best and highest we can hope to attain spiritually is to become mature in Christ. Perfection in Christ-likeness will come at the Second Coming of Christ. The challenge for all Christians is to never stop short of the goal of full maturity in Christ in this life. The believers in Corinth were firmly warned against remaining spiritual infants (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

The Hebrew Christians were challenged to go on to perfection (Hebrews 6:1).

The apostle Paul exemplified the right attitude that all disciples must have regarding spiritual growth (Philippians 3:12-14).

What does Christ-like maturity in this life look like? Please carefully study the following scriptures, then list some of the important characteristics of maturity indicated in these verses.

John 8:29

1John 3:4

1Peter 2:21-23

Galatians 4:19

Galatians 2:20

Colossians 1:27-29

1Corinthians 13

Galatians 5:22, 23

2Peter 1:5-8

Ephesians 4:11-16 cp. Hebrews 11:39

NOTE:

Based on Ephesians 4:11-16, there are two things about Christ-like maturity that we must always hold together in balance: the individual dimension and the corporate dimension.

- Every individual believer must maintain his/her personal relationship with God and his/her own spiritual disciplines of faith and obedience;
- At the same time, all believers must function together in harmony, unity and synchrony with one another, always motivated and guided by truth and love, in order to receive from Christ the Head all they need to grow to maturity as one Body in Him.

In this life, the mature Church is constantly an ideal set before believers to work to achieve and to maintain. At the Second Coming of Christ we shall be glorified not merely as individual believers but together as the Body of Christ and as the Bride of Christ. Hence, in this life we must strive not only for individual spiritual maturity but for the maturity of the whole Church.

1Corinthians 1:10:

Philippians 2:1-4:

Ephesians 5:25-27:

Revelation 19:6-8:

#### DIAGNOSTIC, PROGRESS CHART

Our chart, therefore, helps us in two ways: as a diagnostic tool, and as a progress chart.

As a diagnostic tool, the chart shows us areas of weaknesses and deficiencies in a disciple's spiritual development that must be remedied.

As a progress chart, it shows us the distance we have travelled and the distance that we still have to travel.

Christian workers often complain that their disciples are not growing, and they blame the believers for their lack of growth. In fact, the blame lies with the workers. They are not attending to the needs and issues of the baby Christians; it is no wonder these are weak and sick and stunted. In the natural life, if a baby is weak, not growing and sick, you don't blame the baby. You make sure that the baby is properly fed and cared for. Growth will naturally come with proper feeding and care.

Again, the apostle Paul is our model disciple-maker, regarding his attitude and care for his disciples. Let's note his attitude toward God, toward himself, and toward the believers (1 Thessalonians 2:4-12; Galatians 4:19; Colossians 1:27-29; Philippians 2:17).

#### CATECHISM CURRICULUM

A most effective way to CATECHIZE is through the use of a CATECHISM.

WARNING!

Avoid like the plague the itch to change curriculum whenever something “new” comes out in the market. Adopt a definite, standard curriculum and stick with it perennially; if and when improvements or corrections are necessary, write supplementary lessons to make these adjustments. But always stick with the basic curriculum.

As already mentioned above, a CATECHISM is a specially designed course of study which contains all of the essential truths of the Christian faith which all members of the local congregation needed in order to live as God’s holy people in an ungodly world.

Churches that trace their roots to the Protestant Reformation have designed catechisms which usually contained the following four core statements of the Christian faith:

The Apostles Creed  
The Lord’s Prayer  
The Ten Commandments  
Instructions regarding Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

But, as explained above, our “CATECHISM” is a COURSE OF DISCIPLESHIP STUDIES, which we call NEWLIFE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY GUIDE. This course is FOUNDATIONAL, not terminal; it is a requirement for all members of the church for them to learn personally and, later, to regularly teach it to others as well. Graduates of this course will be encouraged to go on to more advanced courses in Bible and ministry. Below is the outline of the NewLife Series.

NewLife Series  
EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP

By Pastor Bien Llobrera



SPIRITUAL BABY

BOOK ONE  
BABY RIGHT HAND: THE GOSPEL

1. Thumb: God's Love
2. Pointing Finger: Man's Problem
3. Middle Finger: Christ is the Answer

4. Ring Finger: Christ's Invitation
5. Little Finger: Man's Decision
6. Palm: The Christian's Assurance

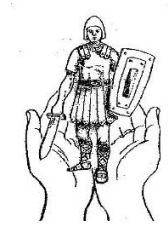
Plus:

EVANGELISTIC BIBLE STUDIES  
FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

#### BOOK TWO

#### BABY LEFT HAND: NEEDS OF A SPIRITUAL BABY

1. Thumb: Prayer - I
2. Pointing Finger: Word of God - I
3. Middle Finger: Forgiveness
4. Ring Finger: Family of God
5. Little Finger: Testimony
6. Palm: Indwelling Holy Spirit



#### SPIRITUAL YOUTH

#### BOOK THREE

#### YOUTH LEFT HAND: NEEDS OF A SPIRITUAL YOUTH

1. Thumb: Prayer - II
2. Pointing Finger: Word of God - II
3. Middle Finger: Cross
4. Ring Finger: Body of Christ
5. Little Finger: Witnessing
6. Palm: Holy Spirit-Filled Life

#### BOOK FOUR

#### BAPTISM AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

#### NOTE:

People, previously baptized at another church, who have joined our church are still required to complete Book 4.

New believers must complete this course in preparation for baptism.

The Importance of B-A-P-T-I-S-M

Believe

Accept

Prove

Testify

Instruct

Stewardship

Membership

BOOK FIVE

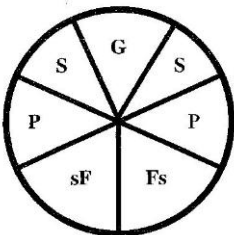
BASIC BIBLE TRUTHS

- 1. Palm: TRUTHS ABOUT THE BIBLE
  - 2. Thumb: TRUTHS ABOUT GOD
  - 3. Pointing Finger: TRUTHS ABOUT CREATION
  - 4. Middle Finger: TRUTHS ABOUT SIN AND SALVATION
  - 5. Ring Finger: TRUTHS ABOUT THE CHURCH
  - 6. Little Finger: TRUTHS ABOUT LAST THINGS
- Plus: Bible Survey: Old & New Testaments

NOTE: AFTER COMPLETING BOOK 5, INSERT SEPARATE STUDIES

BOOK SIX-A:  
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

CHI UPSILON  
DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING FOR YOUTH



When a person receives Christ as Savior and Lord, this commitment is symbolized by superimposing the letters CHI (X) and UPSILON (Y) on the circle of life; this divides the circle of life into SEVEN AREAS. These seven areas are represented by the letters G – S – P – FS – SF – P – S:

GOD  
SELF  
PARENTS  
FRRIENDS  
SPECIAL FRIEND  
PURPOSE  
SUCCESS

BOOK SIX-B:  
FOR MARRIED COUPLES & ENGAGED SINGLES  
F. A. C. T. S. OF LASTING LOVE & MARRIAGE

Book 6-B is designed for:  
Couples Bible Study;  
Engaged Singles Bible Study;  
Pre-Marital Counseling.

F. A. C. T. S. is an acronym for the following important ingredients or components of a lasting love and marriage:

Foundation  
Aceptance  
Communication  
Teamwork  
Satisfaction and Success

BOOK SEVEN  
YOUTH RIGHT HAND: KEYS TO VICTORY

1. Thumb: Body
2. Pointing Finger: Mind
3. Middle Finger: Emotion
4. Ring Finger: Will
5. Little Finger: Armor of God
6. Palm: The Exchanged Life



SPIRITUAL PARENT

BOOK EIGHT

DISCIPLEMAKING: FILIPINO CONTEXT

Filipino Personality Hand

The Filipino Heart

Palm: Family

Thumb: “Utang na Loob”

Pointing Finger: Social Acceptance

Middle Finger: Social Mobility

Ring Finger: Benefactor-Hero Complex

Little Finger: Closeness to God

Character Hand

Thumb: Self-Image (Pls see Book 6-A, Lesson 2)

Pointing Finger: Parents ((Pls see Book 6-A, Lesson 3)

Middle Finger: Friends (Pls see Book 6-A, Lesson 4)

Ring finger: Love, Courtship, Marriage, Christian Family

Little Finger: Time, Work, Money

Palm: Success, Life Goals, Convictions

Special Article

Homosexuality: A Bible Perspective

BOOK NINE

PARENT LEFT HAND: NEEDS OF A SPIRITUAL PARENT

1. Thumb: Prayer - III
2. Pointing Finger: Word – III (See Book 5)
3. Middle Finger: Stewardship
4. Ring Finger: Bride of Christ
5. Little Finger: World Mission
6. Palm: Gifts of the Holy Spirit (See Book 12)

BOOK TEN

PARENT RIGHT HAND: FOUNDATIONS FOR MINISTRY

1. Thumb: The Spirit in Ministry
2. Pointing Finger: The Word in Ministry
3. Middle Finger: Prayer in Ministry
4. Ring Finger: Modeling in Ministry
5. Little Finger: Trials in Ministry
6. Palm: Goal & Process of Ministry

BOOK ELEVEN  
THE BOOK OF ROMANS

BOOK TWELVE  
36 FOUNDATIONAL SALVATION TRUTHS

BOOK THIRTEEN  
SPIRITUAL GIFTS:  
DISCOVERING, DEVELOPING, DEPLOYING

1. Four Wonderful Truths
2. What are Spiritual Gifts?
3. Gifts for Serving
4. Gifts for Teaching
5. Gifts for Leading
6. Basic Ministries
7. Developing and Deploying your Gifts
8. Affirming Your Gifts and Ministry
9. Barnabas: Model Disciple & Disciple-maker

BOOK FOURTEEN  
NEWLIFE CHURCH PLANTING STRATEGY

**Lesson 6:**

**A-B-C OF THE GREAT COMMISSION**

**ACTION 3: CATECHIZE  
(continued)**

Let's look our developmental chart again.

A BIBLICAL & DEVELOPMENTAL MODEL OF DISCIPLEMAKING By Bien A. Llobrera, based on Gene Tabor's "Focus Chart"						
DISCIPLE	3 STAGES OF GROWTH (1 JOHN 2:12-17)				GOAL	
	SPIRITUAL BABY Focus: <i>Security</i> Key: <i>Faith</i> Arena of Conflict: <i>Basic Needs</i> Major Temptation: <i>Lusts of the Flesh</i>	SPIRITUAL YOUTH Focus: <i>Victory</i> Key: <i>Hope</i> Arena of Conflict: <i>Values</i> Major Temptation: <i>Lusts of the Eyes</i>	SPIRITUAL PARENT Focus: <i>Quality</i> Key: <i>Love</i> Arena of Conflict: <i>Relationships</i> Major Temptation: <i>Pride of Life</i>			
DISCIPLEMAKER	REPROOF	CORRECTION	TRAINING	EQUIPPING	MATURE IN CHRIST (Eph. 4:12, 14-16; Col. 2:6,7)	BEYOND THIS LIFE PERFECT LIKE CHRIST (Eph. 4:13; Rom. 8:29-30)
	DOCTRINE (TEACHING)					
	GOSPEL (SALVATION)					
	WORD OF GOD (BIBLE) – 2 TIMOTHY 3:15-17					

NOTE: Some portions of this lesson have been discussed in previous lessons. Going over them again will help in fixed the truths more firmly in our awareness.

FOUNDATION

1. We describe this approach to Christian teaching and preaching as biblical and developmental.
2. Biblical because it takes all Scripture (the Bible) as the source and basis of teaching and preaching (2 Timothy 3:1-17).
  - (a) The Word of God in the Old Testament: Genesis 1; Joshua 1:8; Deuteronomy 11:18-28; Psalm 1:1-3; 19:7-11; 33:6; 119:9-11, 89, 105, 130; Isaiah 55:10-11; Jeremiah 1:4-12; 23:29-29; Ezekiel 37:1-14; Zechariah 1:5-6.
  - (b) The Word of God in the New Testament: Matthew 24:35; Luke 24:44-47; John 1:1, 14; 6:63; 12:47-50; 17:6-8, 17; Acts 8:4; 20:32; Ephesians 6:17; Colossians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 4:12-13; James 1:21-25; 1 Peter 1:23-25; Revelation 19:11-16.

3. Developmental because it proposes a teaching and preaching program that aims to meet the developmental needs of a Christian as he/she progresses through the three stages of spiritual growth as described in 1 John 2:12-14.

(a) The teacher/preacher's unchanging aim is to help hearers to grow intentionally and consistently from the first stage to the third stage in order to arrive at the ultimate goal of full maturity in Christ.

(b) The teacher/preacher must know at what stage of development the hearers are in and know what needs on the part of the hearers the lesson/sermon aims to meet.

#### SIX AREAS OF TEACHING AND PREACHING

4. The Bible is the divinely inspired guide for a Christian disciple's faith, purpose, and practice, especially in six areas: Salvation; Doctrine; Reproof; Correction; Training; Equipping. Our teaching and preaching may emphasize one of the six areas in a particular lesson/sermon, but in the same lesson/sermon all six areas may be touched in some way (2 Timothy 3:15-17).

(a) Gospel: Salvation – to show non-Christians the way of salvation.

#### NOTES:

Later, whatever area of truth you may be teaching/preaching on to believers, always in some way (shorter or longer) bring in the Gospel truth of salvation by grace through faith. Avoid teaching/preaching Bible truth as a moral code of conduct that believers must do in order to continue to win God's favor in any form. Rather, teach/preach obedience to Bible truth as a believer's love and gratitude response to God's free gift of salvation (1 John 4:19, NKJV). Equally important, teach/preach that obedience to Bible truth is possible only in full dependence upon the enabling grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit (Philippians 2:14; 1 John 5:2-5).

You must have a full and firm experiential grasp of the core truths of the Gospel as expounded in Paul's letter to the Romans (review Book 11).

(b) Doctrine – to teach the believer what truths to believe; to show the believer the right road to travel.

(c) Reproof – to warn believers when they go off in the wrong direction; to stop them from continuing in the wrong direction.

(d) Correction – to show believers how to get back to the truth and back in the right direction.

(e) Training – to train believers to stay on the right road and to keep them going in the right direction.

(e) Equipping – to equip believers with the knowledge, skills, character qualities, and resources for life and ministry.

## TEACHING AND PREACHING

5. Teaching is imparting the TIMELESS WORD or the whole counsel and revelation of God from Genesis to Revelation in a step-by-step systematic manner.

(a) The goal of teaching is complete Bible knowledge and complete obedience to knowledge attained. There must be on-going Bible studies of all kinds at different levels that aim to lead believers toward mastery of the Bible – Bible survey, Old Testament survey, New Testament survey, study on book-groups (for example, Pentateuch; Poetical Books of the OT; Gospels); studies of individual books; doctrinal studies; step-by-step discipleship Bible study course that will lead a believer through the three stages of discipleship (Baby, Youth, Parent).

(b) Illustrations: Teaching is like the maintenance mechanic doing regular maintenance on a car that's in working condition. Or a cook preparing a balanced food program for healthy people.

6. Preaching is delivering the TIMELY WORD, the message needed by the present situation.

(a) Whereas the teacher progresses systematically from beginning to end, the preacher may be led by the Holy Spirit to take a scripture or truth from anywhere in the Bible and apply it to the need of the hour. Most often, these are topical or textual sermons. Expository preaching is a combination of teaching and preaching in that it deals with a larger unit of scripture (for example, a key chapter treated verse by verse over a period of time, weeks, months, or even years! Usually, expository preaching deals consecutively with a whole book. In the list of spiritual gifts found in 1 Corinthians 12, preaching falls under the gift of PROPHECY, which means FORTH-TELLING the timely word needed at this CURRENT critical hour, and FORE-TELLING about future events that believers need to know in order to be prepared for that COMING critical hour. Today, the Holy Spirit seems most of the time to give the gift of FORTH-TELLING in preaching, explaining and applying truth already revealed and recorded in the Bible (John 14:26). On the other hand, the gift of FORE-TELLING is almost always the wisdom given by the Holy Spirit to understand and interpret prophecy that is already recorded in the Bible (Daniel 12:9-10). But there may be rare occasions when believers will need the Holy Spirit's guidance through the gift of FORE-TELLING (John 16:13; Acts 11:27-30, note Agabus was not expounding any recorded Biblical prophecy).

(b) Illustrations: Preaching is like the trouble-shooter mechanic diagnosing what's wrong with the car when it breaks down and fixing the problem. Or a dietician prescribing a special food plan for a person with specific health needs.

## GOAL

7. The ultimate goal of teaching and preaching is to bring all believers to full maturity in Christ.
  - (a) All teaching and preaching must aim at helping the hearers to apply the truths learned. Truth must enter in through the eyes and ears, into the brain, down to the heart, and out through the mouth and hands and feet.
  - (b) Therefore, teaching and preaching must be empowered by the Holy Spirit, bathed in prayer, and supported by the life example of the teacher/preacher.

## PROCESS

8. The process of becoming like Christ involves growth in three major stages, as illustrated from the developmental stages of physical growth. (I pause to acknowledge my debt to my mentor, Gene Tabor, former Navigators missionary to the Philippines who, as far as I can tell, pioneered this developmental approach.) The treatment below is my version of this approach. My revised NEWLIFE DISCIPLESHIP SERIES is designed to lead a person through the three stages.
9. 1 John 2:12-14 gives three stages of spiritual growth: baby, youth, parent; implied is the need of every stage:
  - (a) BABY needs assurance
  - (b) YOUTH needs victory
  - (c) PARENT needs quality
10. 1 John 2:15-17 reveals the three areas of temptations; 1 Corinthians 13:13 gives the corresponding Christian virtue to combat each area:
  - (a) Lust of the flesh deals with the basic human needs; faith enables the baby Christian to receive God's provisions for those needs.
  - (b) Lust of the eyes deals with a person's value system; hope provides the youth Christian the realistic basis for lasting values.
  - (c) Pride of life deals with relationships; love equips the parent Christian to relate meaningfully and fruitfully with everybody.

11. NOTE: Faith, hope and love are virtues that a disciple learns and exercises at all stages through the Christian journey, but one specific virtue seems to provide a special resource to meet the root issue of the corresponding stage of development. Hence:

To gain victory over the lust of the flesh, a spiritual BABY needs to grow in FAITH;  
 To gain victory over the lust of the eyes, a spiritual YOUTH needs to grow in HOPE;  
 To gain victory over the pride of life, a spiritual PARENT needs to grow in LOVE.

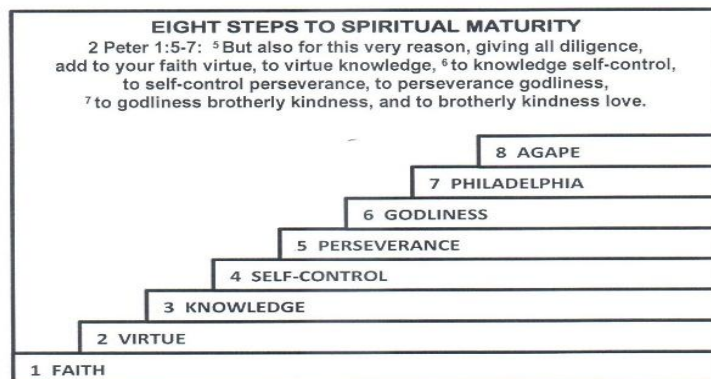
**FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

12. The moral qualities (fruit) of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) are further expressions of the three virtues of faith, hope and love. We may consider the nine-fold fruit of the Holy Spirit as the distinguishing mark of a disciple who has attained close to full maturity at the third stage. The full ripening of the nine-fold fruit will come at the Second Coming at which time perfect maturity in Christ will be attained.

Please review Book 7, Lesson 6: VICTORY IN THE EMOTIONS  
 KEY #3: TRANSFORM YOUR EMOTIONS.

13. We review this lesson in order to bring out these areas of growth that we must regularly emphasize in different situations with audiences of different levels of maturity.

**PETER’S EIGHT STEPS**



14. The 8 Steps to maturity found in 2 Peter 1:5-7 provide further details as to the character qualities that a disciple must develop in order to become a mature, fruitful disciple. Though described as a step-by-step process (as in a ladder), however, we may be learning these different characteristics simultaneously or in combination of two or more at certain seasons of our life.

15. Regarding the levels, we may view them as being experienced in deepening levels as a Christian matures. The levels provided below are only suggestive not exhaustive, and certainly not dogmatic! These qualities and levels may also serve as guides in searching/researching topics for a sermon or Bible lesson.

1. FAITH

- Level 1. Faith for salvation.
- Level 2. Faith for material needs.
- Level 3. Faith for victory over sin.
- Level 4. Faith for fruitful service.

2. VIRTUE

Note: The abridged one-volume Dictionary of Theology of the New Testament comments:

‘In Phil. 4:8 Paul puts it next to “praise” in a series with “what is true” etc., and if the series has mainly a religious ring, what he has in mind is the excellence that the righteous are to maintain in life and death. The same applies in 2 Peter 1:5 in spirit of a secular parallel that might suggest “virtue”, while the only other verse (1 Peter 2:9) the context suggests either “self-declaration” (e.) or “fame” (f.).’ Putting “excellence” & “self-declaration” together, in discipleship growth this means “genuineness”, “sincerity”, “integrity” of commitment as shown in the consistent, continuing exertion of effort toward maturity.

- Level 1. Commitment to Christ’s absolute Lordship.
- Level 2. Surrender of questionable habits.
- Level 3. Striving for excellence in motives, attitudes, thoughts, actions.
- Level 4. Aspiring to accomplish the most with my gifts and opportunities.

3. KNOWLEDGE

- Level 1. Saving knowledge of the Gospel.
- Level 2. Discipleship principles, disciplines, methods, skills.
- Level 3. Firm grasp of the main themes of the Bible and of basic Christian doctrines.
- Level 4. Growing experiential knowledge of God.

4. SELF-CONTROL

- Level 1. Subordinating physical desires to spiritual values.
- Level 2. Denying legitimate pleasures for the sake of discipleship training.
- Level 3. Holy Spirit-controlled appetites – physical, emotional, mental.
- Level 4. Giving up my rights to let God work in His own way and time.

5. PATIENCE

- Level 1. Not complaining when under temptation, trial and persecution.
- Level 2. Bearing with people’s weaknesses, stubbornness, and failures.

Level 3. Sticking with a job until it is done.

Level 4. Waiting for God's will and promises to be fulfilled.

6. GODLINESS

Level 1. Hating sin.

Level 2. Fearing God's discipline.

Level 3. Desiring God's approval and reward.

Level 4. Loving God for Himself.

7. BROTHERLY KINDNESS

Level 1. Not hurting or burdening others.

Level 2. Giving what I can spare.

Level 3. Sharing freely all I have.

Level 4. Building up one another.

8. LOVE

Level 1. Giving up precious possessions to help others' needs.

Level 2. Helping others to advance ahead of me.

Level 3. Living to serve others.

Level 4. Dying so others may live.

LABORERS TOGETHER WITH GOD

Finally, we must remember that the task of the Great Commission and the ministry of making disciples is not a lone-ranger job. We have been called by God to join Him in His work, and that He has called and gifted not just one but many workers to become co-laborers with Him. Each worker has been assigned a specific task to do, but the growth and success ultimately come from God.

As co-laborers with God, we must make sure of two things:

- We must lay the RIGHT FOUNDATION: CHRIST ALONE (1 Cor 3:11).
- We must build with the RIGHT MATERIALS: GOD'S INSPIRED WORD, SPIRIT-EMPOWERED TEACHING, ALWAYS GOD-GLORIFYING (1 Corinthians 3:5-15).
- We must always implement the 2:2:2 MULTIPLICATION STRATEGY (2 Timothy 2:2).

**OUR REWARD**

Next to seeing the Lord Jesus at His Second Coming, the greatest joy that the apostle Paul looked forward to on the last day was to be celebrating with believers he was privileged to help (1Thessalonians 2:19, 20).

The apostle Peter looked forward to that final day of rewarding as well, awaiting all faithful servants of God (1 Peter 5:1-4).

**OUR CONSTANT MOTIVATION**

In our life of discipleship and ministry, by the grace of God we must strive to end with a genuine sense of victory, fulfillment and joy.

Let's so live and serve that at the end, we can say:

With the apostle Paul: “<sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:7, 8).

And with the Lord Jesus: “I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do” (John 17:4).

**All Glory to God!**