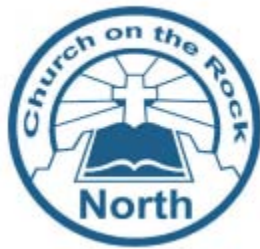


# GETTING CONNECTED



*“Now you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you are also being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”*

*Ephesians 2:19-22*

## THE GOAL FOR THIS COURSE:

The goal of this four-part foundations course is to encourage you to develop a vibrant connection and commitment to your \_\_\_\_\_, your church \_\_\_\_\_, your \_\_\_\_\_, & your \_\_\_\_\_.

Therefore, we encourage everyone to make a commitment to:

\_\_\_\_\_ - Becoming a disciple - growing in relationship with Christ and His Word.

\_\_\_\_\_ - Belonging to Christ and a church family.

\_\_\_\_\_ - finding a place and way to serve and minister to others within the family of God.

\_\_\_\_\_ - Participating in missions and evangelism efforts locally and globally.

## OUR MISSIONS STATEMENT

From these four commitments, we have developed a four-part mission statement to help us easily remember and walk out the call of God for each of us as committed members of Church on the Rock North.

“We’re called to **GATHER**, We’re called to **GROW**, We’re called to **GIVE**, and We’re called to **GO**”

## OUR FOUR COMMITMENTS

In scripture, commitments were made between men, as well as between God and man. We call these commitments covenants. God was the originator of covenants.

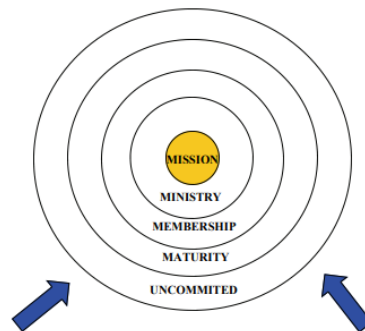
In English the word “covenant” signifies a mutual understanding between two or more parties, each binding himself to fulfill specified obligations; a legal contract; a binding agreement; a written agreement.

It also refers to a solemn agreement to do or not to do a certain thing.

Today our society is inundated with a spirit of covenant breaking. The divorce rate is one sign of this spirit's influence in America.

COTRN boldly encourages every member to become a covenant keeper.

# OUR FIVE CIRCLES OF COMMITMENT



COTR North's objective is to keep people moving toward the center of this diagram into active ministry by encouraging personal spiritual commitments.

## 1. THE MATURITY COMMITMENT...

is a commitment to the \_\_\_\_\_ necessary for spiritual growth.

*"Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* 2 Peter 3:18

## 2. THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT...

is the commitment to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

*"You are members of God's very own family...and you belong in God's household with every other Christian."* Ephesians. 2:19

*We are all parts of Christ's body, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other and need all the others."* Romans 12:4, 5

## 3. THE MINISTRY COMMITMENT...

This is a commitment to discovering and using your God-given gifts and abilities in \_\_\_\_\_ God and others.

*"God has given each of you special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other..."* 1 Peter 4:10

*"There are different kinds of service to God...together you form the Body of Christ and each of you is a necessary part of it."* 1 Corinthians. 12:5 & 27

## 4. THE MISSIONS COMMITMENT...

This is a commitment to \_\_\_\_\_ the Good News with others.

*"...you will be My witnesses...to the ends of the earth."* Acts 1:8

*"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have..."* 1 Peter 3:15

## Why Do We Have These Covenants?

WE BECOME WHAT WE ARE \_\_\_\_\_ TO.

# CONNECTING TO GOD



*“Jesus said unto them, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No  
one comes to the Father except through Me.”*

*John 14:6*

## CONNECTING TO GOD

### THE SIN PROBLEM

The Bible teaches that we are all natural born \_\_\_\_\_ and as a result, \_\_\_\_\_ from God.

*“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you...”* Isaiah 59:2

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* Romans 3:23

*“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Romans 6:23

### THE FREE GIFT

**Christ came to earth to \_\_\_\_\_ us from our sin.**

*“...and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”* Matthew 1:21

**His death was the \_\_\_\_\_ needed for our sin problem.**

*“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified (declared right with God) by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.”* Romans 5:8, 9

**We receive this gift of salvation by \_\_\_\_\_ in His payment on the cross and by \_\_\_\_\_ Him as our Lord.**

*“...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.”* Romans 10:9, 10

According to scripture, when you put your faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross and confess Him as your Lord and the new leader of your life, you are then \_\_\_\_\_.

You are justified, that is declared in right \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

*(Romans. 3:24-26 & 28, 5:1, 1 Corinthians. 6:11, Galatians. 2:16, Ephesians. 2:8,9)*

### THE NEXT STEPS...WATER BAPTISM

Water baptism is an \_\_\_\_\_ expression of an \_\_\_\_\_ work. It is not a requirement for salvation but a \_\_\_\_\_ for all believers.

*“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

*(Acts 2:38, Acts 8:36-39, Acts 10:48, and Acts 19:5)*

To schedule your water baptism, simply stop by the Information Booth in the foyer or here, online, and fill out a simple baptism request form.

## THE NEXT STEPS...HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

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

**Definition - “HELPER” = “PARACLETE” = “one brought along side to help.”**

What is the primary purpose of the Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_ .

*“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”* Matthew 3:11

\_\_\_\_\_ is the baptizer in the Holy Spirit.

“It is easier for a man to breathe without air than for a Christian to live without the Holy Spirit.”

D. L. Moody

## OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY FULFILLED

Read: *Joel 2:28,29, Acts 2:17,18 and Acts 2:38,39*

From these passages, to whom is the Holy Spirit baptism available? \_\_\_\_\_

### FIVE NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

One thing to learn from these five examples is that when someone is baptized in the Holy Spirit there is always \_\_\_\_\_.

### THREE EVIDENCES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 1:8
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Joel 2:28, 29
3. \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 2:13, 10:46, 13:52

### THE ACTION OF RECEIVING

Receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit requires \_\_\_\_\_ on our part. The Action of...

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 2:38
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 11:6

Believe it's \_\_\_\_\_  
Believe it's \_\_\_\_\_  
Believe it's \_\_\_\_\_

The Action of...

3. \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 5:6
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 11:13
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 11:13
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 8:17

### **WALKING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

*“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.” Galatians 5:16*

Living daily under the influence and guidance of the Holy Spirit will enable us and empower us to begin bearing \_\_\_\_\_.

List the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians. 5:22, 23

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

### **STAYING CONNECTED**

As believers and church members, we stay better connected and committed by purposefully growing \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible teaches the importance of consistent spiritual growth plan.

*“...that you may become **mature** Christians and may fulfill God’s will for you.” Colossians 4:12*

*“We are not meant to remain as children...but to grow up in every way to Christ...” Ephesians 4:14, 15*

### **FACTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATURITY**

#### **1. IT IS NOT AUTOMATIC**

*“You have been Christians for a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others, but instead...you need someone to teach you. When a person is still living on milk, it shows he isn’t very far along in the Christian life...He’s still a baby Christian.” Hebrew. 5:12, 13*

#### **2. IT IS A PROCESS**

*“Continue to grow in grace and knowledge of our Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18*

**REMEMBER...THERE ARE NO** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **3. IT TAKES DISCIPLINE**

*“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.” 1 Timothy. 4:7*

Three very important disciplines for all believers that establish spiritual growth and stability are:

1. The discipline of God’s \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The discipline of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The discipline of \_\_\_\_\_.

## THE DISCIPLINE OF GOD'S WORD

*"The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us do what is right. It is God's way of making us well prepared at every point, fully equipped to do good to everyone."*

2 Timothy 3:16,17

### SIX WAYS TO GET A GRIP ON GOD'S WORD

#### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ GOD'S WORD

*"Faith comes by hearing the Word of God."* Romans 10:17

**We improve our spiritual hearing by...**

**A. Being \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to hear God speak.**

*"How sweet are Your words to my taste..."* Psalm 119:103

**B. Confessing \_\_\_\_\_ in our life.**

*"...Get rid of all moral filth and humbly accept the Word."* James 1:21

**C. Taking notes on what \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"We must pay more careful attention to what we've heard, so that we do not drift away."*  
James 1:22

**D. Acting on what \_\_\_\_\_.**

*"Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves, Do what it says."* James 1:22

#### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ GOD'S WORD

*"Happy is the one who reads this book...and obeys what it says."* Revelation 1:3

*"(The Scriptures) shall be his constant companion. He must read from it everyday of his life so that he will learn to respect the Lord his God by obeying all of His commands."* Deuteronomy 17:19

#### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ GOD'S WORD

*"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, handling accurately the Word of truth."* 2 Timothy 2:15

**A great study tool - [www.e-sword.net](http://www.e-sword.net) (It's FREE!)**

#### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ GOD'S WORD

*"Guard My words as your most precious possession. Write them down, and also keep them deep within your heart."* Proverbs 7:2, 3

We tend to remember what is \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 5. \_\_\_\_\_ GOD'S WORD

*"Those who are always meditating on His laws...are like trees along a river bank bearing fruit...they never wither and whatever they do prospers."* Psalm 1:2, 3

Meditation is \_\_\_\_\_ about a Bible verse in order to discover how we can apply it's truth to our own lives.

#### 6. \_\_\_\_\_ GOD'S WORD

*"...Whoever **practices** and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven."*  
Matthew 5:19



## THE DISCIPLINE OF PRAYER

*“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went to a solitary place, where He prayed.” Mark 1:35*

**A daily prayer time will allow you to...**

**1. GIVE \_\_\_\_\_ TO GOD.**

*“Give unto the Lord the glory due His name...” Psalm 29:2*

**2. GET \_\_\_\_\_ FROM GOD.**

*“Show me the path where I should go, O Lord; point out the right road for me to walk...”  
Psalm 25:4*

**3. GAIN \_\_\_\_\_ IN GOD.**

*“Delight yourself in the Lord...” Psalm 37:4*

*“...God’s presence fills me with joy...” Psalm 16:11*

**4. GROW \_\_\_\_\_ LIKE GOD.**

*“For as you know Him better and better God will give you, through His great power, everything you need for living a truly good life...He has promised to save us...and to give us His own character.” 2 Peter 1:3, 4*

## PRAYING LIKE JESUS TAUGHT

**Matthew 6:9-15 - A six-part outline**

**1. PRAISE: I BEGIN BY \_\_\_\_\_**

*“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name...”*

*‘Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise...’ Psalm 100:4*

**2. PURPOSE: I COMMIT MYSELF TO \_\_\_\_\_**

*“Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.”*

Pray for God’s will and purpose to be accomplished in your life, your family, your church, your ministry, your city, etc...

**3. PROVISION: I ASK GOD TO \_\_\_\_\_**

*“Give us this day our daily bread...”*

**The Key: Be \_\_\_\_\_**

*“Don’t worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving; present your requests to God.” Philippians. 4:6*

**4. PARDON: I ASK GOD TO \_\_\_\_\_ .**

*“Forgive us our debts...”*

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:9*

**5. PROTECTION: I ASK FOR \_\_\_\_\_**

*“And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil...”*

**6. PRAISE: I FINISH \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen”*

This prayer should not be considered as a vain repetition but a guideline to follow. You may use the prayer guide provided below to assist you in praying through the model prayer.

## **Six Keys to Praying the Model Prayer** **Matthew 6:9-13**

### **1. “OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME”**

Spend time affirming the Fatherhood of God in your life.

Romans 8:15 - *“...you have received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father.”*

Spend time praising God and appropriating the benefit of His names.

Psalm 100:4 - *“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise...”*

*JEHOVAH - TSIDKENU*

*“Jehovah, our righteousness”*

*JEHOVAH - M'KADDESH*

*“Jehovah, our sanctifier”*

*JEHOVAH - SHALOM*

*“Jehovah, our peace”*

*JEHOVAH – SHAMMAH*

*“Jehovah, our ever present one”*

*JEHOVAH - ROPHE*

*“Jehovah, our healer”*

*JEHOVAH - JIREH*

*“Jehovah, our provider”*

*JEHOVAH - NISSI*

*“Jehovah, our banner”*

*JEHOVAH - ROHI*

*“Jehovah, our shepherd”*

### **2. “YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE”**

Submit yourself, your family, your church, your nation, to the Lordship and will of God Almighty.

### **3. “GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD”**

Pray for God’s provision over you, your family, and your church. Be specific. Be tenacious. Believe it is God’s will to prosper you!

### **4. “FORGIVES US OUR DEBTS, AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS.”**

Ask God to forgive you of any sin. Set your will to be a forgiver.

### **5. “LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL”**

a. Put on the whole armor of God in prayer. Ephesians 6:10-18

- put on the belt of truth

- put on the breastplate of righteousness

- put on the ready shoes of the gospel of peace.

- take up the shield of faith.

- take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

b. Pray a hedge of protection over yourself, your family & your church.

### **6. “FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER, AMEN”**

Close your time in prayer by returning to the place of praise and worship. Praise is the language of faith over all your prayers!

## THE DISCIPLINE OF FELLOWSHIP

*“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage each other.” Hebrews 10:25*

### WHY IS FELLOWSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

#### 1. WE \_\_\_\_\_ IN GOD’S FAMILY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.

*“Let us do good to all people, especially to those who **belong** to the family of believers.” Gal. 6:10*

*“You are a member of God’s very own family...and you **belong** in God’s house with every other Christian.” Ephesians. 2:19*

*“So in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member **belongs** to all others.” Romans 12:5*

*“The Christian who is not committed to a group of other believers, for praying, sharing and serving, so that he is known, as he knows others, is not an obedient Christian. He is not in the will of God. However vocal he may be in his theology, he is not obeying the Lord.” -Dr. Ray Ortland-*

#### 2. WE NEED TO \_\_\_\_\_ OTHERS TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

*“Let us think of one another and how we can encourage each other to love and good deeds.” Heb.10:24*

#### 3. WE NEED \_\_\_\_\_ TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

*“People learn from each other just as iron sharpens iron.” Proverbs 27:17*

*“Everyday...keep encouraging one another so that none of you is hardened by the glamour of sin.” Hebrews. 3:13*

#### 4. CHRIST IS \_\_\_\_\_ WHEN WE FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER.

*“For where two or three have come together in My name, I am there, right among them.”*

Matthew 18:20

#### 5. THERE IS GREAT \_\_\_\_\_ WHEN PEOPLE PRAY TOGETHER.

*“Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven.” Matthew. 18:19*

#### 6. FELLOWSHIP IS A \_\_\_\_\_ TO THE WORLD.

*“My prayer for them is that they will be of one heart and mind...so that the world will believe you sent Me.” John. 17:21*

#### 7. WE ARE \_\_\_\_\_ TO EVERY OTHER CHRISTIAN.

*“God has given you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other...” 1 Peter 4:10*

The phrase “one another” is used \_\_\_\_\_ times in N.T. Here’s a few... **Serve** one another, **Accept** one another, **Forgive** one another, **Greet** one another, **Honor** one another, **Submit** to one another, **Encourage** one another, **Teach** one another...

Hebrews records \_\_\_\_\_ important “Let us” instructions. “Let us labor...Let us hold fast...Let us come boldly...Let us go on...Let us draw near...Let us lay aside...Let us run...”

Ephesians 2 & 3 has \_\_\_\_\_ very important references to “us”.

*“...blessed us...chose us...predestined us... He made us...made known to us...His grace abounds toward us...greatness of His power toward us...He loved us...raised us...kindness toward us...”*

**A simple quick overview of the Bible reveals the vital necessity of the \_\_\_\_\_ church in every believer’s life.**

## MY SPIRITUAL MATURITY COMMITMENT



**As a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of Church on the Rock North, I commit myself to...**

- **A daily time with God**      A personal prayer & devotion  
Mark 1:35
- **A regular study time**      A personal growth plan  
1 Timothy 4:13-16  
2 Timothy 2:15
- **A faithful attendance**      Attending Sunday & Wed.  
Hebrews. 10:25
- **A heart for fellowship**      Building relationships  
Acts 5:42

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Signature

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Date

*“Take the time and trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit.”*  
1 Timothy 4:7