

DISCOVERING CHRISTIAN MATURITY

C.L.A.S.S. 201



Adapted for SonRise Bible Church by Dustin Largent
from class by Pastor Rick Warren

Christian Life And Service Seminar

WELCOME TO DISCOVERING SPIRITUAL MATURITY #201

We're glad you signed up! This class is the second of SonRise Bible Church's four basic classes. Since these classes build on each other, you must first attend Discovering Church Membership #101 before taking this class.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLASS:

" that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured." Col. 4:12b (NIV)

"¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ." Eph. 4:14-15 (NIV)

THE FOCUS OF THIS CLASS:

We will focus on the **Basic Habits** every Christian needs to develop in order to grow to spiritual maturity. This class will ...

- Equip you with the **skills** you need to begin these habits
- Explain the **tools** you need to continue these habits.

WHAT IS "SPIRITUAL MATURITY"?

"¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." Eph. 4:13 (NIV)

Spiritual Maturity is BEING LIKE CHRIST .

"²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters." Romans 8:29 (NIV)

FACTS ABOUT SPIRITUAL MATURITY

1. IT'S NOT AUTOMATIC

"¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness."

Heb. 5:12-13 (NIV)

2. IT IS A PROCESS

"¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever!" Amen. 2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)

3. IT TAKES DISCIPLINE

"train yourself to be godly." 1 Tim. 4:7b (NIV)

UNDERSTANDING DISCIPLESHIP

1. Believers are called DISCIPLES.

2. Being a disciple involves being DISCIPLINED.

3. The mark of a disciple is CROSS BEARING.

4. How often am I to do this? DAILY.

"²⁷ And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:27 (NIV)

"²³ Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23 (NIV)

5. What is involved in "cross bearing"? WHATEVER IT TAKES to give Christ first place in my life!

HABITS OF A DISCIPLE

HOW CAN I BECOME A DISCIPLE? Develop DISCIPLINE HABITS .

"... You have **put off the old self** with its **HABITS**, and have put on the new self ... which God is continually renewing in his own image, to bring you to a full knowledge of himself." Col. 3:9-10

DEFINITIONS OF "HABIT": (Webster's II Dictionary)

"A continual, often unconscious inclination to do a certain activity, acquired through frequent repetition."

1. **TIME WITH GOD'S WORD** - "If you **continue in my Word**, then you are my disciples indeed. And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32
2. **PRAYER** – "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." John 15:7-8 (NIV)
3. **GIVING**
³³ In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples. Luke 14:33 (NIV)
4. **FELLOWSHIP**
³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34-35 (NIV)

CLASS OUTLINE

SESSION ONE:

- Introduction: Spiritual Maturity and Habits
- Using Your Sword (Bible)
- The Habit of A Daily Time With God

SESSION TWO:

- The Habit of Prayer: Talking with God
- The Habit of Giving: Giving Back to God
- The Habit of Fellowship: Enjoying God's Family
- How to Start And Maintain Good Habits

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS

That I will COMMIT to the habits necessary for spiritual maturity.

"I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness." Rom.6:19 (NIV)

USING YOUR SWORD

(The Word of God)

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Eph. 6:17 (NIV)

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Tim 3:16-17 (NIV)

HOW TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

"Faith comes from **hearing** the Word of God." Rom. 10:17

Ways to Hear God's Word

The Bible on tape, Church services & studies, Sermon tapes, Radio/TV teachers

PROBLEM: We forget 95 % of what we hear after 72 hours.

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR HEARING

1. Be ready and eager to hear God.

(Jesus) "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Luke 8:8

"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psalm 119:103

2. Deal with attitudes that prevent hearing God (Luke 8:4-15)

"Consider carefully how you listen ..." Luke 8:18

- **A Closed Mind:** Is fear, pride or bitterness preventing me from hearing God?
- **A Superficial Mind:** Am I really serious about wanting to hear God speak?
- **A Preoccupied Mind:** Am I too busy and concerned with other things to concentrate on what God has to say?

3. Confess any sin in your life.

"... Get rid of all moral filth and humbly accept the Word..."

James 1:21

4. Take notes on what you hear.

"We must pay more careful attention to what we've heard, so that we do not drift away!"

Heb. 2:1

5. Act on what you hear!

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

²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

James 1:25 (NIV)

HOW TO READ GOD'S WORD

³ *Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.* Rev. 1:3 (NIV)

How often should I read God's Word? DAILY.

¹⁹ *It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees*

Deut. 17:19 (NIV)

SUGGESTIONS

Read it systematically.

Take Notes. Read and meditate on what you read.

Read it in different translations.

For reading: NIV, New Living Translation, New Revised Standard Version.

Underline or color code key verses. Choose a reading plan and stick with it.

If I read approximately 15 minutes a day, I can read through the Bible once a year.

STUDYING GOD'S WORD

"Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Acts 17:11 (NIV)

"Be a good workman ... **Know what His Word** says and means." 2 Tim. 2:15

The difference between reading and studying the Bible is that you TAKE NOTES when you study.

The secret of effective Bible study is knowing how to ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR BIBLE STUDY

Study Bibles:

- Good Personal Study Bible:
"The Life Application Bible" (Tyndale)
- Good Topical Study Bible:
"Thompson Chain Reference Bible - NIV"
- Easy to Understand Bible:
"The New Living Translation"
- TOOLS:** Maps, Good Concordance, Chain-Reference

IV. HOW TO MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD

***"Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye.
3 Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart."** Pr. 7:2-3 (NIV)*

BENEFITS OF MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

1. It helps me **resist** temptation.

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Ps 119:11 (NIV)

2. It helps me make **wise decisions**.

"Your word is a lamp for my feet a light on my path." Ps. 119:105 (NIV)

3. It strengthens me when I'm under **stress**.

"Remember your promise to me; it is my only hope." Ps. 119:49 NLT)

4. It **comforts** me when I'm sad.

*"When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart's delight,"
Jer. 15:16a (NLT)*

5. It helps me **witness** to unbelievers.

*"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,"
1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)*

HOW TO MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

"but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. "
Ps. 1:2-3 (NIV)

Meditation is FOCUSED THINKING about a Bible verse in order to discover how I can apply its truth to my own life.

WHY MEDITATE ON SCRIPTURE?

1. It is the key to becoming like Christ. God speaks to us through His Word!

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate^[a] the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

2 Cor. 3:18 (NIV)

2. It affects prayer.

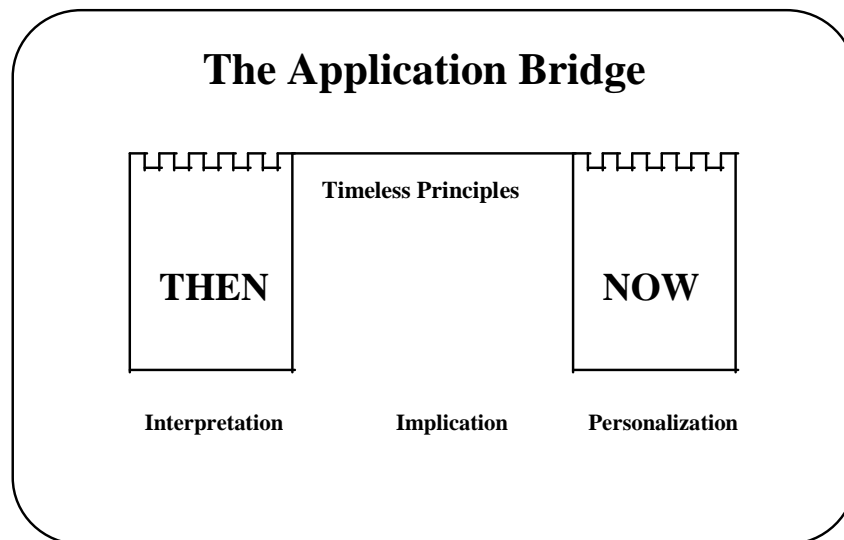
"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you."

John 15:7 (NIV)

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." James 1:22 (NIV)

HOW TO APPLY SCRIPTURE



1st Question: What did it mean to the original hearers?

2nd Question: What is the underlying timeless principle?

3rd Question: Where or how can I apply this principle?

THE HABIT OF QUIT TIME

(Daily Time With God)

But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

James 1:25 (NIV)

HOW TO HAVE A QUIET TIME

DEFINITION: A quiet time is a daily time I set aside to be alone with God to get to know Him through the Bible and prayer."

I. WHY A QUIET TIME IS IMPORTANT

Your time alone with God should be the top priority in your schedule for five reasons:

1. We were CREATED to have fellowship with God.

"So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." Gen. 1:27 (NIV)

"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends." Rev. 3:20 (NLT)

2. Jesus DIED to make a relationship to God possible.

"God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Cor. 1:9 (NIV)

3. Personal time alone with God was Jesus' SOURCE OF STRENGTH.

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." Mark 1:35 (NIV)

4. Every person who has been effective in SERVICE for God developed this habit.

Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Paul, etc.

5. You cannot be a HEALTHY Christian without it!

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matt. 4:4 (NIV)

HOW TO BEGIN A DAILY QUIET TIME

1. SELECT A SPECIFIC TIME.

The best time to have a quiet time is when I am AT MY BEST !

Whatever time you set, BE CONSISTENT.

2. CHOOSE A SPECIAL PLACE.

"Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him."

Luke 22:39 (NLT)

IMPORTANT VERSE

"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 (NIV)

THE PROBLEM OF DRYNESS

Sometimes you will feel like you're not getting anything out of your quiet time.

Never judge your quiet time by your FEELINGS.

Possible Causes of Spiritual Dryness

1. Disobedience to God.
2. Rushing your quiet time.
3. Getting in a rut.
4. Not sharing insights with others.

3. BEGIN WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

4. FOLLOW A SIMPLE PLAN

Gal. 6:9 (NLT)

A PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

"Father, I realize that I was created to have fellowship with you. Thank you for making this privilege possible through Jesus' death. I know that daily fellowship with You is to be the most important thing in my life. I now want to commit myself to spending at least some time every day with you in a quiet time of Bible reading and prayer. I'm trusting in your strength to help me be consistent. In Jesus' name, Amen."

THE HABIT OF PRAYER

(Talking to God)

Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.
Romans 12:12 (NLT)

HOW TO REVITALIZE YOUR PRAYER LIFE

I. APPROACH PRAYER WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDE.

⁵ "When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. ⁶ But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

⁷ "When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating their words again and again. ⁸ Don't be like them, for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! Matthew 6:5-8 (NLT)

-BE REAL.

-DON'T TRY TO IMPRESS GOD OR OTHERS.

II. USE THE MODEL JESUS GAVE US - The Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:9-15)

BEGIN BY EXPRESSING LOVE TO GOD.

⁹"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name

ALIGN YOUR DESIRES WITH GOD'S DESIRES. I commit myself to do God's will

¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

ASK GOD TO PROVIDE FOR MY DAILY NEEDS.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

What needs can I ask God for? All of them. Be specific.

ASK GOD TO FORGIVE YOUR SINS AND FORGIVE OTHERS.

¹² And forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

a. **Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your sin to you and confess it to God.**

b. **Make it right with others when necessary.**

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. Matt. 5:23-24 (NIV)

PRAY FOR PROTECTION.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'

HOW PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

¹² Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. ¹⁴ Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come." Daniel 10:12-14 (NIV)

THE HABIT OF GIVING

(Giving Back to God)

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

2 Cor. 9:6-8 (NIV)

HOW MY GIVING REVEALS MY SPIRITUAL MATURITY

⁷ But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

2 Cor. 8:7 (NIV)

WHY GOD WANTS ME TO GIVE 7 Benefits to My Life

1. GIVING MAKES ME LIKE GOD.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16 (NIV)

2. GIVING DRAWS ME CLOSER TO GOD.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matt.6:21 (NIV)

3. GIVING STRENGTHENS MY FAITH.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him and he will make your paths straight."

Pr. 3:5-6 (NIV)

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

Pr. 3:9-10 (NIV)

4. GIVING IS AN INVESTMENT IN ETERNITY.

Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.

¹⁸ Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. ¹⁹ By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

1 Tim 6:18-19 (NLT)

5. GIVING BLESSES ME IN RETURN.

"The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."

Prov.11:25 (NLT)

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT TITHING

WHAT IS TITHING?

"Tithe" means "a 10TH part"

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A "TITHE" AND AN "OFFERING"?

- A "tithe" is giving FIRST 10TH of my income.
- An "offering" is anything I give IN ADDITION my tithe.

WHY SHOULD I TITHE?

1. Because God **COMMANDED** it.

"One-tenth of the produce of the land, whether grain from the fields or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD and must be set apart to him as holy." Lev. 27:30 (NLT)

2. Because Jesus **AFFIRMED** it.

²³ "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens,^[a] but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things. Matt. 23: 23 (NLT)

3. Tithing demonstrates that God has **1ST IN MY LIFE** .

Bring this tithe to the designated place of worship—the place the LORD your God chooses for his name to be honored—and eat it there in his presence. This applies to your tithes of grain, new wine, olive oil, and the firstborn males of your flocks and herds. Doing this will teach you always to fear the LORD your God Deut. 14:23 (NLT)

4. Tithing reminds me that **EVERYTHING I HAVE** was given to me by God!

Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfill the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath. Deut. 8:18 (NLT)

5. God says that refusing to tithe is **STEALING** from Him!

"Should people cheat God? Yet you have cheated me! "But you ask, 'What do you mean? When did we ever cheat you?' 7" You have cheated me of the tithes and offerings due to me. 9 You are under a curse, for your whole nation has been cheating me. Mal. 3:8-9 (NLT)

6. Tithing gives God a chance to prove **HE EXISTS** and wants to bless you!

"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!" Mal. 3:8-9 (NLT)

7. Tithing proves that I **LOVE GOD** . (Jesus)

"Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. 8 I am not commanding you to do this. But I am testing how genuine your love is by comparing it with the eagerness of the other churches." 2 Cor. 2: 7-8 (NIV)

WHAT SHOULD I TITHE?

The **1ST** part of what I earn, not the **LEFTOVERS**

"Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." Pr. 3:9-10 (NIV)

WHERE SHOULD I GIVE MY TITHE?

WHERE I **WORSHIP**.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house."

Mal. 3:10 (NIV)

GIVING WITH THE RIGHT ATTITUDES

⁶ Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷ You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." I Cor. 9:6-7 (NLT)

•GIVE **EXPECTANTLY**.

•GIVE **GENEROUSLY**.

•GIVE **NOT OUT OF PRESSURE**.

•GIVE **CHEERFULLY**.

•GIVE **SACRIFICIALLY**.

² They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. ³ For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. 2 Cor. 8:3-4 (NLT)

"Father, I know you love me and want what's best for me. I recognize that all I have, or will ever have, comes from you. I am more interested in pleasing you than in having more possessions. I want you to have first place in my life and I am willing to begin tithing as you have commanded. Out of gratitude for all you've done for me, and in expectation that you will continue to provide for me, I commit myself to returning at least the first 10% of all I earn back to you. I want to begin investing for eternity. Help me to remain faithful to this commitment. In Jesus' name, Amen."

THE HABIT OF FELLOWSHIP

(Participating In God's Family)

"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."

Heb. 10:25 (NLT)

WHY IS FELLOWSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

1. I BELONG IN GOD'S FAMILY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.

"So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family." Eph. 2:19 (NLT)

"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

"so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other." Romans 12:5 (NLT)

2. I NEED ENCOURAGEMENT TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." Heb. 10:24 (NIV)

3. I NEED ACCOUNTABILITY TO GROW SPIRITUALLY.

"Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." Gal. 6:1-2 (NIV)

4. I FUNCTION IN CONNECTED TO THE BODY OF CHRIST.

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Cor. 12:27 (NLT)

HOW TO START AND MAINTAIN GOOD HABITS

STEP ONE: DESIRE

You must start with a strong desire. You must be internally motivated. External motivations don't last. If you start only half-heartedly, you will never make it to the success point.

STEP TWO: DECIDE

Begin right now! Don't wait. Don't procrastinate. You don't slide into a new habit. "One of these days" never arrives. You must have a starting point. It's easier to break a bad habit today than it will be tomorrow!

"If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done." Eccl. 11:4 (LB)

STEP THREE: DECLARATION

Announce your intentions publicly. Make a covenant or resolution. The power of a vow is awesome.

"Make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them." Ps. 76:11a (NIV)

STEP FOUR: DETERMINATION

Never allow an exception until the new habit is securely rooted in your life. Each lapse will be fatal. A single slip unwinds many turns at first. Continuity and success at the start is essential. Never be swayed by "just this once". The act of yielding weakens the will and reinforces your lack of self-control. It takes 3 weeks to become comfortable with a new habit and it takes another 3 to 4 weeks (doing it daily) for it to become a part of your life.

STEP FIVE: SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

Whenever you feel the slightest urge or prompting to practice this new habit - DO IT THEN! Don't wait. Seize every opportunity to reinforce your habit. Those feelings will not last, so whenever you feel inclined to perform your new habit, do so!

STEP SIX: TEAM UP

Get a partner who will support you and encourage you. Find someone who is willing to hold you accountable and check up on you especially in the early days before the habit is firmly rooted in your life.

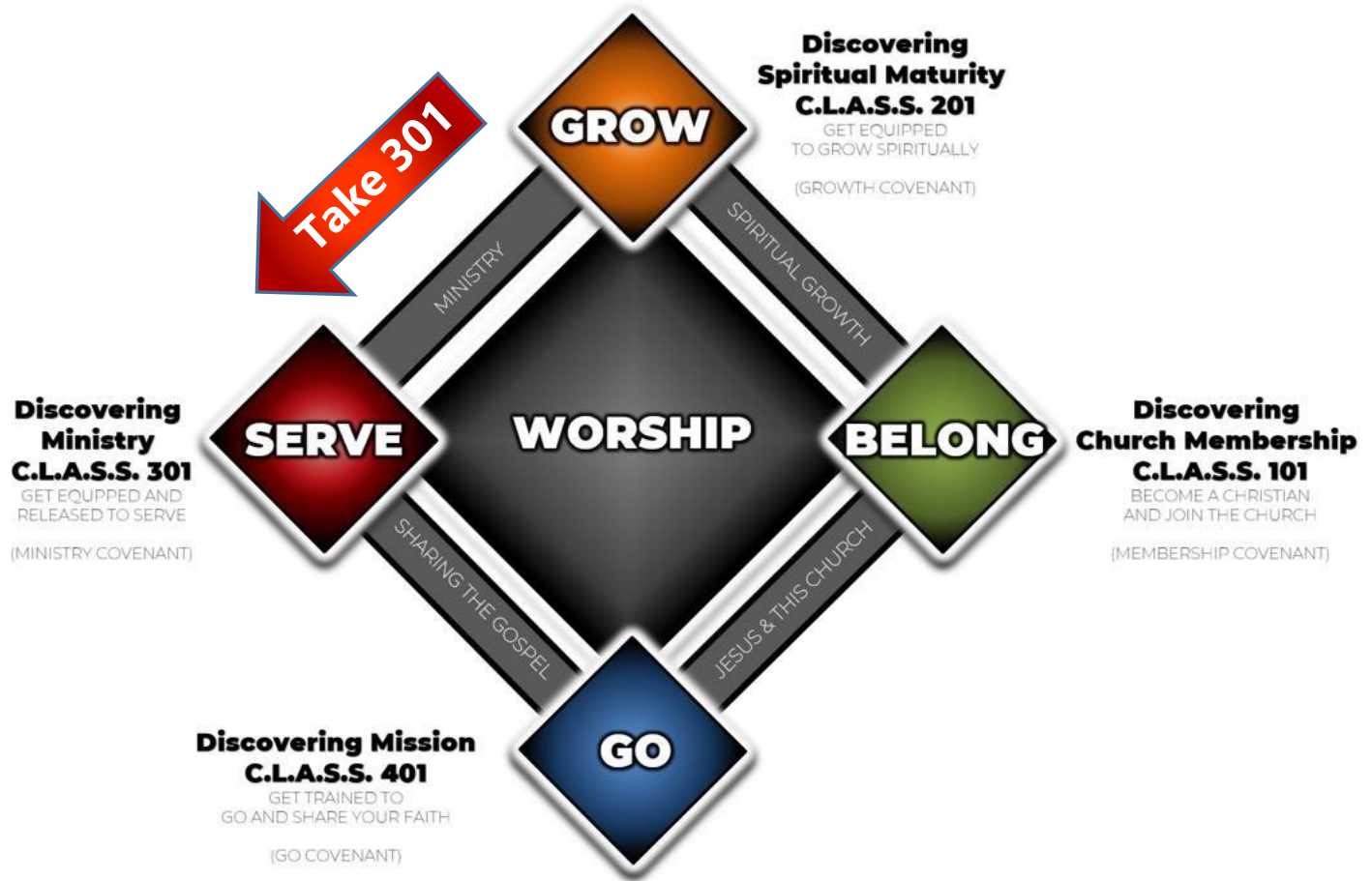
"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: ¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up."
Eccl. 4:9-10 (NIV)

STEP SEVEN: DEPEND ON GOD

Rely on God's power to help you establish the habit. Remember, Satan does not want you to develop habits that help you grow spiritually and make you like Christ so he will do all he can to tempt you, cause you to slip, or discourage you. Pray!

"for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose."
Phil. 2:13 (NIV)

NOW MOVE ON TO THIRD BASE!



C.L.A.S.S. 101:

To lead people to Christ and **MEMBERSHIP** at SonRise Bible Church.

C.L.A.S.S. 201:

To grow people to spiritual **MATURITY**.

C.L.A.S.S. 301:

To equip people with the skills they need for **MINISTRY**.

C.L.A.S.S. 401:

To enlist people to the worldwide **MISSION** of Sharing Christ