

A photograph of a church service with a large, diverse congregation. Many people are standing and clapping. The scene is lit with warm, golden light, and there are red poinsettias in the foreground.

NEW MEMBER'S BOOKLET

A GUIDE TO CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

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STUDENT MANUAL



Mission:

Developing Disciples for the Kingdom through *Embracing, Engaging, Equipping, Empowering, and Evangelizing.*

Foundation Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20 (KJV)

“Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 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.”

The New Members Committee of Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion church, under the direction of Dr. Tillett, has revised this New Members Handbook which gives detailed descriptions of the curriculum. Classes are designed for the assimilation of new members into the church by providing instruction in church orientation and doctrine aligned with the A.M.E. Zion Book of Discipline. The course consists of six consecutive weeks of classes for one and one-half hours per session.

Classes are taught by Dr. Tillett and a qualified staff of instructors. Each class session features engaging and innovative activities that will motivate participants to grow in Christ and increase in Bible knowledge.



SIMON TEMPLE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

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Week 1: Session I **Understanding Your Position**

Welcome to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Upon joining Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church you are now a Preparatory member for a period of no less than six (6) months including the successful completion of the specified curriculum for New Members. This period will allow you the opportunity for familiarization with your new church.

During the Preparatory phase of membership, you will receive instruction in the basic rules and beliefs of our denomination. The material in this study guide will assist in equipping you with the knowledge necessary for accepting the right hand of fellowship and admission into Full Connection in the A.M.E. Zion Church.

When you were received as a Preparatory member of the A.M.E. Zion Church, you participated in a ritual and responded to a series of questions. Let us take a moment to review those questions and your responses.

Dearly Beloved:

You have by the grace of God made your decision to follow Christ and to serve him. This decision, we trust, is not based upon any worthiness in yourself, but solely on the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ, and on his death and intercession for us. So that the church may know your purpose, you will answer the questions I will now ask you.

Question: Have you an earnest desire to be saved from your sins?

Answer: I have.

Question: Will you guard yourself against all things contrary to the teaching of God's Word and endeavor to lead a Holy life, following the commandments of God?

Answer: I will endeavor to do so.

Question: Are you determined to reverently commit yourself to things that lead to God's grace in the ministry of the Word, and in the private and public worship of God?

Answer: I am so determined, with the help of God.

For the next six sessions, it is the church's responsibility to train you in the doctrines and laws of our church so that you may make an informed decision to unite in full membership. During this period, the Pastor and your Leader will observe you in order to determine the sincerity and depth of the motives which prompted you to seek church membership, the willingness to observe and keep the rules of our Church, and the correctness of your faith.

Salvation and Our Christian Beliefs

1. **Man is a _____.**

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

Man cannot _____ himself.

“As it is written, there is no one righteous, not even one.” - Romans 3:10

_____ **is the penalty for sin.**

“For the wages of sin is death” - Romans 6:23

2. **Heaven and _____ are free gifts of God to all who receive them.**

“... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- Romans 6:23.

3. **God is _____ and therefore doesn't want to punish us.**

“I have loved you with an everlasting love.” - Jeremiah 31:3

God is _____ and therefore must punish sin.

“... the one who sins is the one who will die.” - Ezekiel 18:4

Sin is man's _____, but God solved man's problem in Jesus the Christ.

“For God so love the world, that he gave his one and only Son,” - John 3:16

4. **Jesus Christ, who is He?**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”
- John 1:1

Jesus Christ, what did He do?

“... while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” - Romans 5:8

5. **How do I receive the free gift of God? _____**

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. - Romans 10:9; Ephesians 2:8

6. What is saving faith?

Faith is the key that opens the door to heaven. Many people have only _____ faith and mere _____ faith, but these are not saving faith.

Saving faith is _____ in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. It means resting upon _____ alone and what He had done rather than upon what you or I have done to get into heaven.

“They replied, Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.” - Acts 16:31.

7. Receiving Jesus Christ today will change your destiny forever.

Now let us pray a prayer of salvation: Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. Forgive me for my sins and help me to turn from them and follow you. I have been trusting in my own good works, and myself, but now I place my trust in you. I want you to come in and take over my life right now. I confess that you are the Lord and I receive you as Master of my life. I believe you died for me, and that God raised you from the dead. I now accept you as my own personal Savior and your free gift of Eternal life. I am not worthy of it, but I thank you for it. Amen.

My name is _____

My birth date is _____

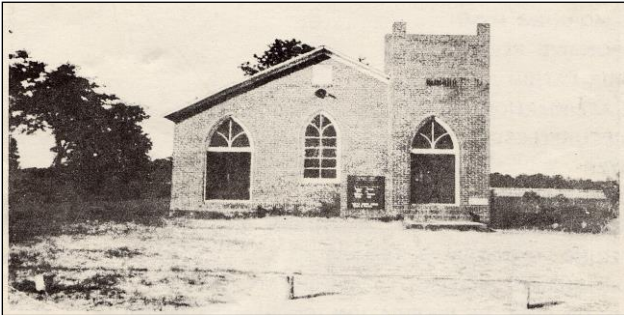
My birthplace is _____

The date of my new Spiritual Birth is _____

The place of my new Birth in Christ Jesus _____

Week 2: Session II *Church History*

Beaver Creek A.M.E. Zion Church –1974



Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church – 2005



The A.M.E. Zion Church encompasses all of the United States, Canada, the Caribbean Islands, England, Africa, India, and South America under the supervision of twelve (12) elected Bishops. The Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District of which we are a part includes the Central North Carolina, Cape Fear, North Carolina, and Albemarle Conferences, the Virgin Islands, and South Africa. Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church is a member of the Fayetteville District, Central North Carolina Conference.

Through the years the A.M.E. Zion Church has provided educational opportunities for young people by establishing schools on a secondary as well as college level. Full-time educational programs continue to be offered by Livingstone College and Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, NC; Clinton Junior College in Rock Hill, SC; Lomax-Hannon Junior College in Greenville, AL; and the A.M.E. Zion Community College, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa.

Note: The word African was used to denote that the descendants of Africans would lead the church. This is not intended to suggest exclusiveness. The church seeks to promote racial harmony and does not discriminate. All people regardless of race or ethnicity are welcome.

Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church History

According to a deed dated November 18, 1873, a piece of land was sold by Henry McDonald, signed by Isaac McDonald, Isaac Baker, Thomas McKoy, and Robert Kelly, to Beaver Creek Chapel which became a part of the A.M.E. Zion Church, which was established in 1796 in New York.

In 1887, under the leadership of Rev. M. N. Levy, the antique church bell, which is part of our courtyard today, was purchased.

Rev. E. Johnson was the Pastor in October 1923, when the church building was remodeled with a new top, enlarged altar, new doors, and windows.

In 1937, under Rev. J. Z. Siler, a building fund drive was launched, and a brick church was built. The instability of the structure prompted a new fund drive under the leadership of Rev. J. S. Maynor in the 1950's and continued under Rev. E. H. Beebe with the construction of the first wing of the Education Building. The second wing was built under the administration of Rev. DeWitt Womack, during the period 1968-1973.

During the period 1973-1986 under the leadership of Rev. Cajus B. Howell, a new brick sanctuary was built in conjunction with the wing of the Educational Building. The church's name was changed from Beaver Creek to Simon Temple on November 9, 1976, in recognition of the Black African, Simon Cyrene, who helped to carry the cross of Jesus up to Calvary when Christ became physically exhausted.

From 1986-1988, Rev. George Miller served as Pastor and a church sign was placed in front of the church. Reverend James Sloan was appointed to Simon Temple in 1987. The installation of the cross, vestments for the pulpit, and the acolytes were organized under his leadership.

Reverend Franklin L. Rush was appointed to Simon Temple in November 1990. In May 1991, the church mortgage was liquidated. When we celebrate our Annual Homecoming, we are following a tradition he initiated in 1991. The Education Building was completely renovated, a new dining hall erected, and the parking lot was paved. A piano, an organ and a house were purchased. Approximately 175 members joined under Rev. Rush's leadership. For the first time in the history of the church, Simon Temple hosted the Annual Conference in the fall of 1994.

The landscaping was completed, and an additional house was purchased in the fall of 1995. Two church vans were purchased. In 1999, our Children's Development Center was officially christened. The Center's mission was to provide quality childcare while helping children grow intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Our "Meals on Wheels" program was organized and remains an outstanding success. The hot meals are delivered five days a week to homebound people and those that are less fortunate.

During the fall of 2001, Bishop George E. Battle, Jr. placed the leadership responsibility of Simon Temple in the capable hands of Reverend Brian R. Thompson. He found a firm foundation here and continued to build pride and joy while seeking His face, grace, and favor. Over 1,000 souls have been led to the Lord and more than 3,500 have joined the church under his leadership.

With the mission in mind, Simon Temple successfully completed physical improvements to the facilities. These included paving the portion of the parking lot to the left of the new sanctuary, additional computers for effective kingdom work, and the installation of a technologically advanced sound system. These improvements aided Simon Temple in hosting its first women's conference in September 2002. The first men's conference was held in June 2003.

The purchase of a 47-passenger bus has enabled us to travel to accompany our Pastor and First Lady to their various out-of-town engagements. Due to the explosive growth of the church from 2002 to 2006, we added three hundred (300) seats to our sanctuary to accommodate seating seven hundred and fifty (750) persons. We added an office suite for the Pastor and his office staff. In addition, we included a bookstore, steward/trustee room and an office for the First Lady of our church. This was a million-dollar construction project.

After our expansion this really opened the floodgates and within two years, we had to transition from two to three services. These services took place at 7:30 am, 9:15 am, and 11:00 am to accommodate the

enormous growth. Additionally, to accommodate the demands of our members, the birthing of numerous ministers occurred. Our First Lady, Reverend Felica R. Thompson, developed the 'Women's Ministry' that was an essential part of our growth. Also, during this time, the debut of our 'Wings of Eagles Ministry' television broadcast was launched. We were on cable and network television three times per week, and we broadcast our 11:00 am service weekly on 1600 AM WIDU Radio.

We progressed by the grace of God and brought back the vision that God gave Pastor Thompson, which he had shared with the congregation in November 2001. Pastor Thompson stated that there would be a mega-church on this property to accommodate all the members that would flock to the church. Pastor also shared with us that we would own the ten-unit strip mall beside the church, the vacant seven acres adjacent to the church, as well as the homes that surrounded the church. Today, God allowed the manifestation of the vision, and we own all that was shared in the vision.

Preparation for our new sanctuary began in April 2009 and ended in April 2014. This journey included the removal of homes, clearing of the landscape, and the groundbreaking ceremony.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held on July 11, 2010. Bishop Richard K. Thompson's message was "When There is an 'I' Moment In Your Life!".

The construction of the sanctuary began on March 6, 2013, and the dedication service was held on May 4, 2014. Reverend James M. Sloan and Reverend Franklin L. Rush were in attendance and participated in the dedication service. "The Church Under Construction" was an inspirational sermon preached by Bishop Kenneth Monroe. One could reflect on the day's events by thinking about Psalm 122:1, 'I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord.' Through setbacks, disappointments, trials, and prayer, we worshipped in our new 30,000 square foot, 1,500-seat sanctuary on Easter Sunday morning of 2014.

After serving twenty-one years as Sr. Pastor at St. Paul's A.M.E. Zion Church in Trenton NJ, Rev. Dr. Keith D. Tillett received his pastoral assignment during the November 2022 Central NC Annual Conference as the new pastor of Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion church, by The Right Bishop Kenneth Monroe. "I am a servant that is here to serve. I want people to see Simon Temple making a difference in the lives of God's people," said Pastor Tillett.

On Sunday, August 28, 2023, Pastor Tillett, the congregation of Simon Temple, and the community gathered to give thanks and honor unto the Lord God Almighty for 150 years of continuous Christian Ministry. During this service Pastor Tillett, with his Preacher Steward, Brother Willie Meeks, presented Financial Team Leader, Soberina Traywick of M&F Bank with a \$223,527.96 check. These monies were donated by the dedicated members of the Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church.

Church History

Explanation of the A.M.E. Zion Symbol



Our church now has a logo that speaks of God and the heritage of the Christian faith, laced with the Black Church's salient history and doctrine of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

The Triangle representing the Godhead: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, called the Holy Trinity, form the equilateral triangle.

The Triangle Ecclesiastical Color – Sign of the mood of the church festival. Within recent years the interpretation of black has changed to encompass a texture of the whole life – all colors blended, melted together – joy, sadness, struggle, faith, hope and finally life eternal.

“V” – symbol of Victory. The “V” can be seen and represents a church born victoriously under the leadership of James Varick, our First Bishop 1750-1827, “V” also for Varick.

The Latin Cross – one of the most accepted symbols for Christianity the world over. The plain cross is empty for He is not here, He is risen victoriously.

The Red Cross – used with power, love, glory, and honor is associated with our Lord's Passion, suffering and the Christian's zeal.

A – African - refers to our African background in black suggesting the cradle of civilization from whence came all races, colors, and creeds.

M – Methodist – refers to the doctrine about God and Christ to which we adhere. It is green, the universal color of growth, progress, and hope.

E – Episcopal – means that we are a church overseen by Church Fathers called Bishops. Purple denotes kingly authority in Godly judgment, the union of love and pain in humility.

Z – Zion – God's Holy Hill stands for our branch of Methodism which is a separate entity from our sister churches like African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.), Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.), and Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Churches. True to God “True Blue” is symbolic of heaven and sincerity.

Liturgical Colors and What They Symbolize

White – The symbol of light, faith, purity, innocence, virginity, divinity and of angels. Used during the festivals of our Lord and their seasons such as Christmas, Easter, and the celebration of Holy Communion.

Red – The symbol of fire, blood, zeal, love, youth, fervor, and of sin and its atonement. Used during festivals of the church, such as Pentecost and Thanksgiving.

Green – The symbol of fidelity, hope, immortality, growth, life, and nature. Used during times when no other special color is ordered.

Violet – The symbol of penitence, humility, suffering, renewal, and our Lord’s passion. Used during Lent.

Purple – The symbol of royalty and our Lord’s advent. Used during Advent.

Black – The symbol of mourning and death. Used for Good Friday and days of humiliation and prayer. Violet is often substituted for Black.

AFRICAN

1. Question: What class of people organized the Zion Church?

Answer: _____ members of the first Methodist Episcopal Church in New York.

2. Question: Why did they withdraw from that church?

Answer: That they might better enjoy _____ and do more to save their fellowmen from sin.

3. Question: Why then is the word “African” attached to the rest of the title of the church?

Answer: The church is controlled by _____ of Africans in the interest of humanity, regardless of race, color, sex, or condition.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL

1. **Question: What is a Methodist Episcopal Church?**

Answer: _____

2. **Question: What is peculiar to that form?**

Answer: The election and consecration of _____ to perform certain duties.

ZION

1. **Question: What is the name of the church to which you belong?**

Answer: The African Methodist _____ Zion Church in America.

2. **Question: What is the name by which the first church belonging to the connection was called?**

Answer: _____ Church.

3. **Question: Why did the Founders call their first church Zion?**

Answer: To distinguish it from all other _____ or societies organized for religious worship.

HISTORY OF THE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

1. **Question: When was the first A.M.E. Zion Church organized?**

Answer: The church was organized in the year _____.

2. **Question: Who were the Founders?**

Answer: _____ Varick, Abraham Thompson, June Scott, Francis Jacobs, Peter Williams, William Miller, and William Hamilton.

3. **Question: Who was the first Bishop of the A.M.E. Zion Church?**

Answer: James _____.

Week 3: Session III

Baptism and the Baptismal Covenant

- The Apostles' Creed
- The Articles of Religion



Baptism and the Baptismal Covenant

Question: Why should I be baptized?

1. To follow the examples set by _____.

“...at that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.” (river)” – Mark 1:9

2. Because Christ _____ it.

“Therefore, go 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

3. It demonstrates that I really am a _____.

“... and his entire household believed in the Lord; ... and were baptized.” – Acts 18:8

Question: What is the meaning of Baptism?

1. It illustrates Christ's _____ and resurrection.

“Christ died for our sins.... he was buried... and that he was raised on the third day...”
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

2. It illustrates my _____ as a Christian.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here. - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Baptism does not make you a believer; it shows that you already believe.

Baptism does not “save” you; only your faith in Christ gives you salvation.

Baptism is like a wedding ring; it is the outward symbol of the commitment that you made in your heart. “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith.”

– Ephesians 2:8

Question: What are the modes of Baptism?

We baptize by _____, _____, and _____.

As an individual believer, you determine which mode of baptism you will choose.

Question: When should you be baptized?

As soon as you have _____.

“Those who accepted his message were baptized... that day...”

– Acts 2:41.

When an individual who has previously been baptized as an infant or has been baptized in another evangelical church, unites with our church he or she does not need to be baptized again; however, it is important that one understands and agrees to the promise contained in the _____.

APOSTLE'S CREED:
A Historic Declaration of What We Believe

1. I believe...

We start believing when we come to a/an _____ conclusion that something is true.

2. in God...

When we walk about belief in God, we are not just saying we believe that He _____.
_____ . - Hebrews 11:6

3. the Father...

In the Old Testament, the idea of God as Father is related to His identity as _____.
_____ . - Malachi 2:10

4. Almighty...

God's majesty [almightiness] is evident in creation, _____, and grace.
- Psalm 91:1-2

5. Maker of heaven and earth...

Contrary to the theory of evolution, we believe that God made _____.
- Genesis 1:1

6. and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord...

Belief in God means nothing if you do not believe that Jesus is His Son and that you make Him your _____.
- John 5:17-23.

7. who was conceived by the Holy Ghost...

We believe in the Immaculate [free from sin] _____. - Luke 1:31-35

8. born of the Virgin Mary...

We believe that the _____ Mary gave birth to Jesus.
- Matthew 1:18-25

9. suffered under Pontius Pilate...

It was Pilate who sentenced Jesus to be _____.
- Mark 15: 6-15

10. was crucified, dead, and buried.

_____ soldiers crucified Jesus. – Matthew 27:27-31.

He died _____. – Matthew 27:27-50.

His body was placed in a _____. – Matthew 27:57-60.

11. The third day He arose from the dead.

Jesus _____ from the dead just as He said that He would.

- Luke 24:46.

12. He ascended into heaven...

Jesus was seen rising up into the _____. – Acts 1:9

13. and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty...

Jesus is on the right of God because it is a position of _____. – Mark 16:19

14. from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead...

Jesus will return to judge the _____ and _____ - II Timothy 4:1

15. I believe in the Holy Ghost...

The Holy Ghost is a _____. I John 1:9

16. the Holy Catholic Church...

Catholic means _____ all believers everywhere, **the church universal, God's church.** – Galatians 3:26-28.

17. the communion of saints...

Communion means _____. – Acts 2:44

18. the forgiveness of sins...

If we _____ our sins, God will forgive us. I John 1:9

19. the resurrection of the body...

The body and the soul will be resurrected for _____.

– I Corinthians 15:13-42.

20. and life everlasting.

Believe and _____ everlasting life. – John 3:16

ARTICLES OF RELIGION

1. Of Faith in the Holy Trinity

There is _____ God in _____ persons.
- Jeremiah 10:10; I John 4:13-16

2. Of the Word, or Son of God, who was made Very Man

Jesus was _____ and _____.
- John 1:1-3, 14; John 16:28

3. Of the Resurrection of Christ

Jesus _____ from the dead.
- Matthew 28:1; 1 Cor. 15:12-28

4. Of the Holy Ghost

The Holy Ghost is _____.
- Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 3:17

5. The Sufficiency of the Holy Scripture for Salvation

The _____ contains all that is necessary to salvation.
- 1 Timothy 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:15.

6. Of the Old Testament

The Old Testament is not contrary to the _____; for both in the Old and New Testament everlasting life is offered to mankind by Christ.
- Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:27,44

7. Of Original or Birth Sin

Man is born _____.
- Romans 5:12, 19

8. Of Free Will

Man _____ choose God for himself.
- John 15:5

9. Of the Justification of Man

Man is considered just only by _____ in Jesus Christ.
- Romans 3:28; Ephesians 2:8-9

10. Of Good Works

Good works cannot _____, but those who are saved will do good works.
– Romans 3:20; Titus 3:5

11. Of Works of Supererogation

There is no such thing as _____ and _____ when working for God.
– Luke 17:10; Job 22:3

12. Of Sin after Justification

We may depart from _____, and fall into sin and by _____ of God rise again and _____ our lives.
– Jeremiah 3:22, Mark 3:28-30

13. Of the Church

The local church is a group of _____ who assemble for worship, fellowship, training, and ministry.
– Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11-12

14. Of Purgatory

“Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.” Anything else is _____ to the Word of _____.
– Matthew 4:10; Mark 2:7

15. Of Speaking in the Congregation in such a Tongue as the People Understand

One should not _____ or administer the _____ in an unknown language without interpretation.
– Acts 2:5-11

16. Of the Sacraments

We observe only two Sacraments: _____ and _____ in which Jesus participated.
– Matthew 26:26; 28:19

17. Of Baptism

Whoever _____ and is _____ will be saved.
– Mark 16:16; John 3:5

18. Of the Lord's Supper

We believe the _____ and _____ are only symbols of the body and blood of _____.

- Luke 22:19-20

19. Of Both Kinds

All _____ have a right to partake of both elements.

- I Corinthians 11:26, 28; Matthew 2:27

20. Of the One Obligation of Christ Finished Upon the Cross

Jesus' death _____ the need for ritualistic sacrifice.

- Hebrews 9:28, 10:26; Romans 6:9,10.

21. Of the Marriage of Ministers

Ministers in the A.M.E. Zion Church are _____ to marry.

- I Corinthians 9:5; Matthew 8:14

22. Of the Rites and Ceremonies of Churches

_____ in observing rites and ceremonies is permitted; however, inappropriate behavior should be rebuked.

- I Corinthians 14:26; 1 Peter 2:16

23. Of the Rulers of the United States of America

We must be subject to _____ authorities.

- Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1,3-4

24. Of Christian Men's Good

Each person has the right to own what he will; but should give to the _____.

- I John 3:17; Matthew 5:42

25. Of Christian Men's Oaths

We should not _____, rather affirm.

- 1 Samuel 20:17; 2 Corinthians 1:23

Week 4: Session IV

FIVE 'SHIPS' OF THE CHURCH

- **Worship**
- **Leadership**
- **Discipleship**
- **Stewardship**
- **Fellowship**



“Worship is or lifestyle, Praise is what we do”

What Does it Mean to Worship?

The word "worship" occurs 188 times in the King James Bible. (A Word Study by Nate Wilson)
<http://www.natewilsonfamily.net/worship.html>

Worship is relational. It begins with preparation to be acceptable to the One we are worshipping. The only way we can be acceptable before God is for Him to turn our hearts toward Him, forgive our violations of His law, and place the righteousness of Jesus upon us. Worship also involves coming into the presence of the One we are worshipping. It began in Genesis when God actually came to meet the Patriarchs, but in the time of the Old Testament King and Prophets, worship was centered in the temple of Jerusalem. A pivotal point was reached in John 4 when Jesus told the woman at the well, "The hour is coming, when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father... when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth."

The focus of worship moved from the temple in Jerusalem to the throne in heaven when Jesus ascended to heaven. Now when we worship, we spiritually join the worship of our God in heaven, and we look forward to an acceleration of worship in the end times when God will receive the worship He deserves from everyone.

Worship is also meant for every time. In the Old Testament, worship/sacrifices were offered every day, morning, and evening, as well as in regular weekly, monthly, and annual cycles. There are also some practical considerations to worship. Because the term literally means to bow down to the ground, we should consider doing this when we worship. The purpose of this is not to follow a prescribed way of worship but rather to seek to show honor to the God we worship. Finally, Biblical worship involves giving gifts. In worship we offer ourselves and all that we have to our God. May God guide us to worship Him as He deserves and as He desires.

"And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is filled with His glory. And the post of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke," Isaiah 6:3,4.

"When the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory,"

Psalms 102: 16.

Worship is born in the heart of the believer as he begins to look to the Father as his source and not to himself or man. This is what happened with the prophet Isaiah 6:1 of his book. When King Uzziah died representing the spirit of man; Isaiah looked towards heaven, and he saw something; he saw the Lord. At this point in his life and the life of the nation of Israel, he knew that their only hope was in God. So he looked in the direction of heaven, where He who reigns is Lord, and is always in perfect control of every situation even death. This revelation of His Lordship will be revealed to anyone in reality if the Lord is really looked to continually in one's darkest hour, and every hour.

True worship begins in our heart as we look to Him in dependency. It is then that He is revealed to us as He revealed Himself to Moses in Exodus 34:6, "And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed. The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth." This revelation of the nature of God is a true revelation of His glory, His revealed character in which He desires to impart into our nature. By way of becoming a consuming fire to us to purge the chaff of our old nature. This is the true burden and desire of the Lord for His Church in this hour. But before this can happen in His Body in our day, we must first learn to walk in this "way" to Him.

Some scripture references to worship:

(Psalm 66:4) All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing the praises of your name.

(Psalm 81:9) You shall have no foreign god among you; you shall not worship any god other than me.

(Psalm 86:9) All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name.

(Psalm 95:6) Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;

(Psalm 96:9) Worship the LORD in the splendor of his^[a] holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.

(Psalm 132:7) Let us go to his dwelling place, let us worship at his footstool,

(Psalm 138:2) I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your unfailing love and your faithfulness, for you have so exalted your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame.

REFLECTIONS:

1. How is worship relational?

2. What does the statement “True worship begins in our hearts” mean?

3. What does John 4:23-24 tell us about worship? _____

4. In what ways can we worship the Lord in giving? _____

LEADERSHIP



**The Right Reverend Bishop Mildred Hines First woman Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
1955-2022**

“Leadership is the capacity to influence others through inspiration, motivated by passion, generated by vision, produced by a conviction, ignited by a purpose”.

~ Dr. Myles Munroe

The Apostle Paul understood this: “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ” ([1 Corinthians 11:1](#)). The Christian leader is one who follows Christ and inspires others to follow Him as well. Our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ is the perfect example of the epitome of leadership. Christ, our Chief Shepherd, lead the flock, fed the flock and restored the lost flock. He was a nurturer, a protector, a comforter and a lover of His flock.

The Christian leader is also a feeder and a nourisher of the sheep, and the ultimate “sheep food” is the Word of God. Just as the shepherd leads his flock to the lushest pasture so they will grow and flourish, so the Christian leader nourishes his flock with the only food which will produce strong, vibrant Christians.

In Christian communities, pastors of the church are often referred to as the shepherd, because of the calling and anointing on their lives to lead the people of God by the Holy word of God to experience the Kingdom of God on earth.

Pastors, being the senior leaders of the church, assume the responsibility of developing leaders within the body. Just as Christ developed leaders among His group of disciples, the pastor does like wise. Our pastor Rev. Dr. Tillett follows the example set by Christ to develop leaders at Simon Temple. He is passionate about the Word of God and about the people of God growing in their understanding of God’s word. He is humble, loving, knowledgeable and exemplifies Christ-like leadership as he leads by example.

With that said, what characteristics should be displayed by one aspiring to be a leader

Leading by Example

Characteristics of a Christian leader

- ***Humility***

“Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ” ([1 Corinthians 11:1](#))

The leader who truly fears God is deeply humble. God opposes the proud leader but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6). Because the humble leader is quick to repent and confess sin, the presence and favor of God marks his leadership (Isa. 57:15). The leader must surrender his will and sense of significance under the sovereign hand of God, knowing that he cannot serve God as though God needed anything (Acts 17:24; Job 41:11). The humble leader is not afraid to work himself out of a job. The humble leader does not view himself as indispensable and without replacement. He knows God alone promotes and demotes leaders.

One of the most powerful displays of humility can be found in John 13:5-7.

⁵ *After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

⁶ *He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”*

⁷ *Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”*

- ***Integrity & Ethics***

Good leaders practice and value integrity.

Congregants place a considerable amount of trust in their church leaders, who are in a position to exercise power and authority. It’s essential for a church leader to stay true to their personal and professional code of integrity; to live in a manner befitting the position and to practice what they themselves preach. Church leaders must remember that trust is something that must be earned by maintaining personal integrity as they lead others to grow in

character. As we read in the First Epistle to Timothy, “Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers” (1 Timothy 4:16, ESV). <https://www.gcu.edu/blog/theology-ministry/top-qualities-christian-leader>

- **Love**

“This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you” (John 15:12; see also John 13:34–35)

The Christian faith is infused with the light of love. Church leaders should remember that love of God and their fellow humans is the force that should drive their every decision and behavior. By embracing this principle of **Christian Leadership**, church leaders can strive to keep their motives pure.

- **Motivational/Encouraging**

Instead of misleading or exploiting people, good leaders motivate others.

Christ motivated his disciples: He appealed to them to “be sons of your Father in heaven” and, “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Matthew 5:45,48).

- **Accountable to the Word of God**

The Apostle Paul wrote several letters to Timothy defining his role as the leader of the church. In his teachings, Paul focused on the importance of following the word of God and being above reproach.

High-level commitment and grace under pressure are usually expected of most church leaders. They need to be held responsible and accountable.

- **Wisdom**

Godly **wisdom**. If we can understand God's perspective and know his heart, we will be better leaders and make wise decisions. Paul says that a leader must be "temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to **teach**, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle.

- **Servant**

Servant-leaders devote their time to uplifting, caring, and providing teaching to their members. Servant leadership is about pouring your strengths and love into others. Even though Jesus was God in human form, He humbled Himself to serve His disciples. This act of service showed His humility and love for His followers

Reflections:

1. As a leader in the church, one should have high levels of integrity and adhere to honesty, moral and ethical principles Y/N

2. A leader in the church must be a motivational speaker.
Y/N

3. A leader lets people know that he/she is humble.
Y/N

4. If a good leader leads by example, who or what example does he/she follow?

_____ Can you give a scripture to
support your answer?

_____.



DISCIPLESHIP

BEING A GODLY MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.

SUBJECT: HOW YOU CAN HELP YOURSELF AND FAMILY MEMBERS GROW SPIRITUALLY

1. The following are scriptural founded disciplines that Jesus Christ used to help His disciples grow to spiritual maturity:
 - a. Spend time with the Master.
 - b. Live in the Word.
 - c. Pray in Faith.
 - d. Fellowship with Believers.
 - e. Witness to the World.
 - f. Minister to Others.
2. In order to follow through on these disciplines, we must first deny self.
 - a. And He said to all, If any person wills to come after Me, let him deny himself **[[a]disown himself, [b]forget, lose sight of himself and his own interests, [c]refuse and give up himself]** and take up his cross daily and follow Me **[[d]cleave steadfastly to Me, conform wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying also]** (**Lk. 9:23**) (**AMP**).
 - 1) We grow spiritually by abandoning the “It’s all about me” mentality.
 - ❖ Must be born again (**Jn. 3:3**) (**Rom. 10:9-10**).
 - ❖ Deny any self-centeredness that could hinder the sincere humility and faith God desires (1 Pet. 5:6).
 - ❖ Renew the mind (Rom. 12:2).

**SPEND TIME WITH THE
MASTER**

- b. Jesus said, “I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing” (**Jn. 15:5**).

- **Spend Time with the Master** daily by making Jesus your first priority.
- **Scriptural Example:** *And in the morning, long before daylight, He got up and went out to a deserted place, and there He prayed (Mk. 1:35).*
- **REASONS FOR SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS**
 - To know God through fellowship with Him.
 - To receive direction and guidance for daily decisions.
 - To bring needs before God.

LIVE IN THE WORD

- c. “Jesus said to those Jews who had believed in Him, If you abide in My word [hold fast to My teachings and live in accordance with them], you are truly My disciples; And you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free” (**Jn. 8:31-32**).
- **Living in the Word** is the way to have Christ living in you.
 - We will not grow spiritually, unless we regularly partake of the Word of God and obey it. “Man shall not live and be upheld and sustained by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God” (Matt. 4:4).
 - Living in the Word is done by hearing, reading, studying, meditating and memorizing verses of our Bibles regularly. (**Jn. 14:26**) (**Joshua 1:8**)
 - Taking notes from sermons in order to apply them to our lives.
 - Attending Sunday Worship Service, Bible Study, Sunday school weekly and completing the Master Life Discipleship Program.

PRAY IN FAITH

- d. Jesus said, “If you live in Me [abide vitally united to Me] and My words remain in you and continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you” (**Jn. 15:7**).
- This is done by “**Praying in faith.**” (**Mk. 11:24**)
 - Practice asking God for things that are in line with His will. (**1 Jn. 5:14-15**)
 - God’s will is found in God’s word. (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**)
 - God refuses to grant His approval of any prayer that is not in agreement with what He desires. (**James 4:3**)

- Praying in faith consist of:
 - ✓ Approaching God with **thanksgiving** and **praise**. (Ps. 100:4)
 - ✓ **Confessing** our sins before God is asked of anything. (1 Jn. 1:9)
 - ✓ Make your **request/petition** known to God. (Phil. 4:6)
 - ✓ Practice **interceding** on behalf of others. (Jn. 17:9-26; 1 Tim. 2:1)
 - ✓ Always close your prayers in “**Jesus**” name and not in “**His**” name. (Jn. 14:13-14).
 - ✓ Acronym to help remember the elements of prayer is “A.C.T.S” = Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

FELLOWSHIP WITH BELIEVERS

- e. Jesus said, “I give you a new commandment: that you should love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too should love one another. By this shall all [men] know that you are My disciples, if you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves] (Jn. 13:34-35).
- a) Jesus commands that we practice “**Fellowshipping with other believers.**” The following are actions that we should practice and encourage our family members to display so that all people will know that we follow Jesus:
- Practice living in peace with our fellow Christians.
 - Practice reconciliation with those who trespass against you and those you trespass against.
 - Practice loving people so that others know that we are Christians.

WITNESS TO THE WORLD

- f. Jesus said, “When you bear (produce) much fruit, My Father is *honored* and *glorified*, and you *show* and *prove* yourselves to be *true followers* of Mine” (Jn. 15:8).
- I. Jesus commands that we “**Witness to the World.**” This can be done through the following Christian practices:
- Practice regularly praying for lost persons by name.
 - Practice sharing your testimony with others when a God given opportunity arises.
 - Practice sharing the plan of salvation with those who are open to hearing it.
 - Practice following up with those persons that you lead to Christ.

MINISTER TO THE WORLD

- g. Jesus said, “No one has greater love [no one has shown stronger affection] than to lay down (give up) his own life for his friends” (**John 15:13**).
 - a) We show ourselves to be followers of Jesus when we “**Minister to others.**”
 - b) We have a responsibility to minister to others.
 - c) We are dealing with family members and people with real issues.
 - d) Become familiar with the scriptures so that we can provide others with the word of God that deals with their specific challenge.
 - e) Recommend you purchase the “Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling 3rd Edition at Lifeway for \$12.99.
 - f) The following are ways we can “**Minister to others.**”
 - **Serve** Christ by serving Him in the local church.
 - Encourage **tithing** at your local church.
 - Practice doing kind deeds for persons less fortunate monthly.

References

All Scriptures are taken from the Amplified Version Bible.

Willis, Avery T. Jr., & Moore, Kay. *The Disciple’s Cross: MasterLife*. (Nashville, TN: Adult Ministry Publish

REFLECTIONS:

1. What does it mean to “live in the word”?

2. How can we spend time with the Master?

3. What are principles of praying in Faith?

4. How can you be a witness to unbelievers?



Stewardship

Brothers and Sister in Christ,

We, as the Pastor and members of Simon Temple, have always and will always be governed by the Word of God. We are willing and cheerful givers to the Kingdom of God as we serve as members of the body of Christ. We understand the Spiritual principal of giving not receiving, but to be obedient to the Word of God. Malachi 3:8-10 says: ***Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.***

Tithing has and will be a Spiritual principal we will follow as members of the Kingdom as well as the Body of Christ! As your Pastor, I ask you to look closely at the scripture of Malachi chapter 3. It says tithes and offerings. An offering is over and above a tithe and is included within the spiritual principle of giving. I am asking each member to stand with me and sow in the kingdom through the following offerings:

a. Ministry of Kindness

This is an offering received by the church weekly to distribute to those who find themselves less fortunate, those in hardship situations, to the hungry, homeless and the sick. This is a spiritual mandate by God which we follow at the Temple. The Bible says in **1 John 3:17** - ***But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?***

b. Kingdom Support

In the past we received General Claims and Quarterly Conference funds. We will no longer receive General Claims or Quarterly Conference funds. You must understand that we are a part of a Connectional Church which means that even though we are one church "Simon Temple" in Fayetteville, NC, we stand with our brothers and sisters in AME Zion Churches all over the world which makes us a Kingdom Connection.

The Bible says, we are many parts, but **one** Body. In our Kingdom connection of churches, we elect national leaders such as Director of Evangelism who represent and support the work of the whole AME Zion Church. We have a national publishing house which produces our Sunday

School literature, and our Connectional newspaper called The Star of Zion. We have many colleges and universities such as Livingston College, Salisbury, NC; Hood Theological, Salisbury, NC; Lomax-Hannon College, Greenville, AL; Clinton Junior College, Rock Hill, SC; AME Zion University in Monrovia, Liberia, Africa, and many more that are owned and operated by the AME Zion Church. We also have mission churches and field mission workers deployed all over the world to include Africa, St Croix, and India, who do the work of the Lord. Each AME Zion church is asked to make a contribution to help support these efforts as well as many others that we might see God's will fulfilled on earth as it is in Heaven; therefore I ask every adult member to support by giving an offering of \$50.00 yearly, youth ages 13-18 \$15.00 yearly and (ages 18-25) if you are single and in college, that we might through our giving further the work of Christ. The Bible says in *Romans 15:1 - We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*

REFLECTIONS:

1. Giving to God reminds us of who He is, who we are, and what our relationship should be to the things He has allowed us to _____ in His name.
– Deuteronomy 16:16-17
2. Giving should be an outward material expression of a deep _____ commitment.
– II Chronicles 31:4-5; Nehemiah 10:37-39
3. Giving should be done with a _____ heart and an attitude of joy. – II Corinthians 9:7
4. Giving should not be done for the expressed purpose of _____ something in exchange. – Acts 8:18-20
5. Giving should never be done to _____ others. – Matthew 6:3
6. The value of the gift is not determined by the _____ but by the spirit in which the gift is given. – Mark 12:41-44
7. The tithe, which literally means “_____”, was first mentioned with regards to Abraham. – Genesis 14:20
8. In addition to the tithe, there are other _____ mentioned in the Old Testament. – Deuteronomy 14:22-29
9. The Church at Macedonia actually _____ for the opportunity to give. – II Corinthians 8:1-4
10. Failure to tithe is equated with stealing from _____.
– Malachi 3:8

Remember it is our duty to give based on the Biblical doctrines of giving; however, we at Simon Temple will not judge, we teach principles of giving. If you choose not to give you are accountable to God.



The word fellowship denotes participative sharing and mutual encouragement towards Christ. It can often be a forgotten part of the spiritual disciplines of a believer, but it is so important that as God’s people we continue to spur one another on towards Him each day through true biblical fellowship.

In Acts 2, we get a beautiful picture of what fellowship looked like in the early church. At the beginning of this chapter, the Holy Spirit comes and then Peter preaches an epic sermon of the gospel. <https://raisingeverydaydisciples.com/what-is-true-biblical-fellowship>

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common.”
Acts 2:42-44

Here at Simon Temple, we enjoy many opportunities for fellowship with various ministries’ events. Fellowship provides members with a chance to develop relationships and share our lives with one another. Good fellowship fosters positive connectivity in membership. We are often blessed by our state-of-the-art Culinary Ministry with an array of refreshments ranging from simple snacks to a variety of culinary delights including hors d’oeuvres as well as culturally diverse dishes.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”
Hebrews 10:24-25

REFLECTIONS:

1. Why is fellowship important to a member?

2. What opportunities are available for fellowship at Simon Temple?

3. Is Fellowship biblical? Y N

4. What scriptures support Fellowship?

Week 5: Session V Get Understanding



• Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are meant to help you walk in the will of God and serve the people around you.

<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/spiritual-gifts.html>

The origin of spiritual gifts can be traced back to the Holy Spirit's work in the life of a believer. [Acts 1:8](#) says: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you". These gifts are a manifestation of God's grace and divine empowerment. They are bestowed upon believers as a result of their faith in Jesus Christ and their connection to the body of believers.

As a new member you will likely be asked to participate in one or more of the Church's ministries. It is important to understand that one can only be effective when working in a ministry for which he/she has been gifted and called by God to be involved. This lesson is designed to help you identify your gift(s) so that you may participate in an appropriate ministry.

1. A spiritual gift is a _____ or an _____ that enables each Christian to perform a function in the body of Christ with ease and effectiveness.

2. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to all _____.

– I Corinthians 12:7-11

3. Spiritual gifts are listed in the following passages:

- I Corinthians 12:8-10
- I Corinthians 12:28-30
- Romans 12:6-8
- Ephesians 4:11
- I Peter 4:11

You are eligible to work in the church on voluntary boards and clubs upon completion of your new member's class.

On the following page is a Spiritual gifts survey. The Spiritual Gifts survey is a tool that could be used to help you identify possible areas of giftedness. Your answers are aligned with characteristics of specific spiritual gifts.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS SURVEY

DIRECTIONS:

This is not a test, so there are no wrong answers. The *Spiritual Gifts Survey* consists of 80 statements. Some items reflect concrete actions; other items are descriptive traits; and still others are statements of belief.

- Select the one response you feel best characterizes yourself and place that number in the blank provided. Record your answer in the blank beside each item.
- Do not spend too much time on any one item. Remember, it is not a test. Usually, your immediate response is best.
- Please give an answer for each item. Do not skip any items.
- Do not ask others how they are answering or how they think you should answer.
- Work at your own pace.

Your response choices are:

- 5—Highly characteristic of me/definitely true for me
 - 4—Most of the time this would describe me/be true for me
 - 3—Frequently characteristic of me/true for me—about 50 percent of the time
 - 2—Occasionally characteristic of me/true for me—about 25 percent of the time
 - 1—Not at all characteristic of me/definitely untrue for me
-

- _____ 1. I have the ability to organize ideas, resources, time, and people effectively.
- _____ 2. I am willing to study and prepare for the task of teaching.
- _____ 3. I am able to relate the truths of God to specific situations.
- _____ 4. I have a God-given ability to help others grow in their faith.
- _____ 5. I possess a special ability to communicate the truth of salvation.
- _____ 6. I have the ability to make critical decisions when necessary.
- _____ 7. I am sensitive to the hurts of people.
- _____ 8. I experience joy in meeting needs through sharing possessions.
- _____ 9. I enjoy studying.
- _____ 10. I have delivered God's message of warning and judgment.
- _____ 11. I am able to sense the true motivation of persons and movements.
- _____ 12. I have a special ability to trust God in difficult situations.
- _____ 13. I have a strong desire to contribute to the establishment of new churches.
- _____ 14. I take action to meet physical and practical needs rather than merely talking about or planning to help.
- _____ 15. I enjoy entertaining guests in my home.
- _____ 16. I can adapt my guidance to fit the maturity of those working with me.
- _____ 17. I can delegate and assign meaningful work.
- _____ 18. I have the ability and desire to teach.
- _____ 19. I am usually able to analyze a situation correctly.
- _____ 20. I have a natural tendency to encourage others.
- _____ 21. I am willing to take the initiative in helping other Christians grow in their faith.
- _____ 22. I have an acute awareness of the emotions of other people, such as loneliness, pain, fear, and anger.
- _____ 23. I am a cheerful giver.

- _____ 24. I spend time digging into facts.
- _____ 25. I feel that I have a message from God to deliver to others.
- _____ 26. I can recognize when a person is genuine/honest.
- _____ 27. I am a person of vision (a clear mental portrait of a preferable future given by God).
I am able to
communicate vision in such a way that others commit to making the vision a reality.
- _____ 28. I am willing to yield to God's will rather than question and waver.
- _____ 29. I would like to be more active in getting the gospel to people in other lands.
- _____ 30. It makes me happy to do things for people in need.
- _____ 31. I am successful in getting a group to do its work joyfully.
- _____ 32. I am able to make strangers feel at ease.
- _____ 33. I have the ability to plan learning approaches.
- _____ 34. I can identify those who need encouragement.
- _____ 35. I have trained Christians to be more obedient disciples of Christ.
- _____ 36. I am willing to do whatever it takes to see others come to Christ.
- _____ 37. I am attracted to people who are hurting.
- _____ 38. I am a generous giver.
- _____ 39. I am able to discover new truths.
- _____ 40. I have spiritual insights from Scripture concerning issues and people that compel me
to speak out.
- _____ 41. I can sense when a person is acting in accord with God's will.
- _____ 42. I can trust in God even when things look dark.
- _____ 43. I can determine where God wants a group to go and help it get there.
- _____ 44. I have a strong desire to take the gospel to places where it has never been heard.
- _____ 45. I enjoy reaching out to new people in my church and community.
- _____ 46. I am sensitive to the needs of people.
- _____ 47. I have been able to make effective and efficient plans for accomplishing the goals of
a group.
- _____ 48. I often am consulted when fellow Christians are struggling to make difficult
decisions.
- _____ 49. I think about how I can comfort and encourage others in my congregation.
- _____ 50. I am able to give spiritual direction to others.
- _____ 51. I am able to present the gospel to lost persons in such a way that they accept the
Lord and His salvation.
- _____ 52. I possess an unusual capacity to understand the feelings of those in distress.
- _____ 53. I have a strong sense of stewardship based on the recognition that God owns all
things.
- _____ 54. I have delivered to other persons messages that have come directly from God.
- _____ 55. I can sense when a person is acting under God's leadership.
- _____ 56. I try to be in God's will continually and be available for His use.
- _____ 57. I feel that I should take the gospel to people who have different beliefs from me.
- _____ 58. I have an acute awareness of the physical needs of others.
- _____ 59. I am skilled in setting forth positive and precise steps of action.
- _____ 60. I like to meet visitors at church and make them feel welcome.
- _____ 61. I explain Scripture in such a way that others understand it.
- _____ 62. I can usually see spiritual solutions to problems.
- _____ 63. I welcome opportunities to help people who need comfort, consolation,
encouragement, and counseling.
- _____ 64. I feel at ease in sharing Christ with nonbelievers.

- _____ 65. I can influence others to perform to their highest God-given potential.
- _____ 66. I recognize the signs of stress and distress in others.
- _____ 67. I desire to give generously and unpretentiously to worthwhile projects and ministries.
- _____ 68. I can organize facts into meaningful relationships.
- _____ 69. God gives me messages to deliver to His people.
- _____ 70. I am able to sense whether people are being honest when they tell of their religious experiences.
- _____ 71. I enjoy presenting the gospel to persons of other cultures and backgrounds.
- _____ 72. I enjoy doing little things that help people.
- _____ 73. I can give a clear, uncomplicated presentation.
- _____ 74. I have been able to apply biblical truth to the specific needs of my church.
- _____ 75. God has used me to encourage others to live Christlike lives.
- _____ 76. I have sensed the need to help other people become more effective in their ministries.
- _____ 77. I like to talk about Jesus to those who do not know Him.
- _____ 78. I have the ability to make strangers feel comfortable in my home.
- _____ 79. I have a wide range of study resources and know how to secure information.
- _____ 80. I feel assured that a situation will change for the glory of God even when the situation seems impossible.

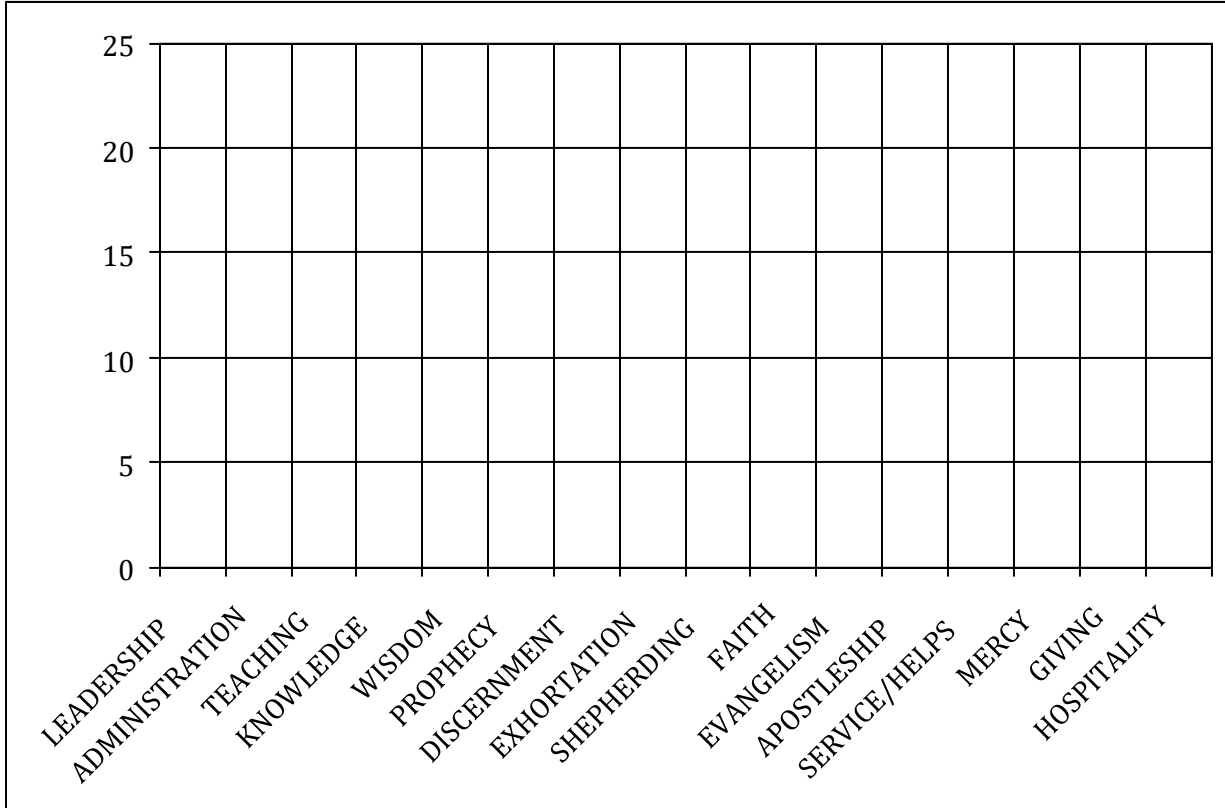
SCORING YOUR SURVEY

Follow these directions to figure up your score for each spiritual gift.

1. Place in each box your numerical response (1-5) to the item number which is indicated below the box.
2. For each gift, add the numbers in the boxes and put the total in the TOTAL box.

LEADERSHIP	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 6		Item 16		Item 27		Item 43		Item 65
										TOTAL
ADMINISTRATION	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 1		Item 17		Item 31		Item 47		Item 59
										TOTAL
TEACHING	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 2		Item 18		Item 33		Item 61		Item 73
										TOTAL
KNOWLEDGE	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 9		Item 24		Item 39		Item 68		Item 79
										TOTAL
WISDOM	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 3		Item 19		Item 48		Item 62		Item 74
										TOTAL
PROPHECY	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 10		Item 25		Item 40		Item 54		Item 69
										TOTAL
DISCERNMENT	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 11		Item 26		Item 41		Item 55		Item 70
										TOTAL
EXHORTATION	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 20		Item 34		Item 49		Item 63		Item 75
										TOTAL
SHEPHERDING	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 4		Item 21		Item 35		Item 50		Item 76
										TOTAL
FAITH	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 12		Item 28		Item 42		Item 56		Item 80
										TOTAL
EVANGELISM	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 5		Item 36		Item 51		Item 64		Item 77
										TOTAL
APOSTLESHIP	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 13		Item 29		Item 44		Item 57		Item 71
										TOTAL
SERVICE/HELPS	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 14		Item 30		Item 46		Item 58		Item 72
										TOTAL
MERCY	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 7		Item 22		Item 37		Item 52		Item 66
										TOTAL
GIVING	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 8		Item 23		Item 38		Item 53		Item 67
										TOTAL
HOSPITALITY	+		+		+		+		=	
		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>		<u> </u>
		Item 15		Item 32		Item 45		Item 60		Item 78
										TOTAL

GRAPHING Your PROFILE



1. For each gift place a mark across the bar at the point that corresponds to your TOTAL for that gift.
2. For each gift shade the bar below the mark that you have drawn.
3. The resultant graph gives a picture of your gifts. Gifts for which the bars are tall are the ones in which you appear to be strongest. Gifts for which the bars are very short are the ones in which you appear not to be strong.

Now that you have completed the survey, answer the following questions thoughtfully.

The gifts I have begun to discover in my life are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- After prayer and worship, I am beginning to sense that God wants me to use my spiritual gifts to serve Christ's body by _____.
- I am not sure yet how God wants me to use my gifts to serve others. But I am committed to prayer and worship, seeking wisdom and opportunities to use the gifts I have received from God.

Ask God to help you know how He has gifted you for service and how you can begin to use this gift in ministry to others.

As a new member you will likely be asked to participate in one or more of the Church's ministries. It is important to understand that one can only be effective when working in a ministry for which he/she has been gifted and called by God to be involved. This lesson is designed to help you identify your gift(s) so that you may participate in an appropriate ministry.

1. A spiritual gift is a _____ or an _____ that enables each Christian to perform a function in the body of Christ with ease and effectiveness.

2. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to all _____.
- I Corinthians 12:7-11

3. Spiritual gifts are listed in the following passages:

- I Corinthians 12:8-10
- I Corinthians 12:28-30
- Romans 12:6-8
- Ephesians 4:11
- I Peter 4:11

You are eligible to work in the church on voluntary boards and clubs upon completion of your new member's class.

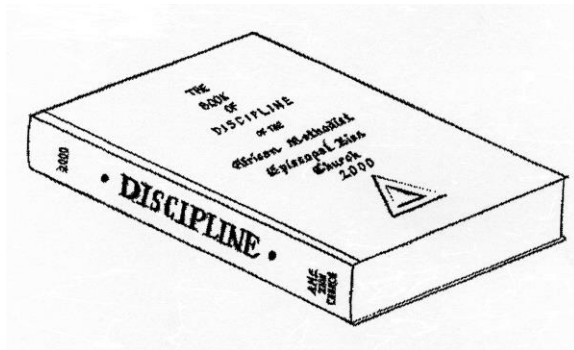
Listing of the Spiritual Gifts:

Teaching Helping
Prophecy Administration
Service Mercy Leadership
Encouragement Faith Giving
Evangelism

Match the gift with the appropriate description:

1. The gift of _____; one who accepts the goals others have set and works to help the group reach those goals.
2. The gift of _____; the ability to help (inspire, motivate by words or deeds) other Christians to live out their faith in practical ways.
3. The gift of _____; the desire and ability to present the news about death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ to unbelievers so that God's spirit can move in their hearts, resulting in their acceptance of Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord.
4. The gift of _____; the ability to be certain that God is going to act (is acting) even when there is no concrete or visible evidence.
5. The gift of _____; the special concern for the financial and material needs of others, especially Christians, which is expressed through generous and timely contributions.
6. The gift of _____; the ability to support others with regular and willing assistance in the *little* often overlooked, but important things.
7. The gift of _____; the ability to lead members of the group with foresight and to care for their spiritual needs, as well as maintaining order in meetings and the accomplishment of tasks.
8. The gift of _____; the ability to sympathize with hurting people. People with this gift translate their sympathy into cheerful actions and expressions.
9. The gift of _____; the ability to sense the material and emotional needs of others and the willingness to meet those needs in the best interest of the people.
10. The gift of _____; the ability to explain knowledge, especially knowledge of the truth, to others so that they better understand what they believe concerning beliefs and actions.
11. The gift of _____; the ability to speak the Word of God in application to individual situations, exposing evil and bringing words of hope and comfort.

Week 6: Session VI
A Member in Full Connection
of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church



Any member in full connection is not to move from one AME Zion Church to another without a certificate of transfer. If a member does not keep up the financial obligations his/her name shall be stricken from the roll placed on Probation and dropped after due process.

Each member must:

Attend unto the means of grace. (Attend church and give to the support of the church on a regular basis.)

Live the good life and not sow seeds of discord.

Keep the Church Law (follow the Discipline).

Uphold and live its Doctrines. (Our rules in accordance with the Bible.)

Do good to all people including self-body and soul.

Support the Church in every way including wills, bequeathments.

Be loyal to God and to your local church.

Beware of joining too many organizations. Join what you can reasonably support well.

Be an effective member, not a defective one.

Always try to better yourself with learning my attending the various leadership training schools and institutes.

When assigned a task, do it. Stick with it. This is your duty.

Congratulations! After you have completed your six (6) classes, your mission of service, and upon the recommendation of your Pastor and Class Leader, you will be given the opportunity to become a full member of our church. You not only become a member of the local church, but you also become a member of the larger body of the church known as the A.M.E. Zion Connection. As a member in full connection, you will enjoy all the rights and privileges of such membership. In order to experience the full benefits of this great church, you are strongly encouraged to participate at all levels of the church – Local, District, Conference, Episcopal and Connectional.

Complete the following statements:

My Episcopal Area: _____ Episcopal District

My Bishop _____ Right Reverend, Presiding Prelate

My Conference _____ Annual Conference

My District _____ District

My Presiding Elder _____ Presiding Elder

My Local Church _____ A.M.E. Zion Church

My Pastor _____ Pastor

My Class Number _____ Class #

My Class Leader _____ Class Leader's Name

Your Signature _____

Date _____



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Assimilation & Fellowship

- Meet your church leaders (via video)
- Assignment of class leaders
- Introduction of various church auxiliaries (via video)
- Fellowship with refreshments!



meet & greet



How to stay connected with us:



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