

## Prevailing Faith International Ministries

### Sunday School Outline - January 5th, 2025

#### Growing up spiritually – 1 Peter 2:1-2

##### Introduction

Welcome to the new year. It is common for people to make resolutions to be better in the new year, however as Christians, the best resolution is to grow spiritually – an integral component to living in the fullness of God's plan for you. There is no limit to your being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ - 2 Cor 3:18. It is God's will for you to grow and become matured. Just as a newborn matures in all the organs and systems of the body, the same principle applies to your spiritual life. Growth indicates the existence of life.

##### What is spiritual growth?

It can be defined as the development of your faith, your understanding of God's ways, your Christlike character and attitude, and your God-given gifts and talents. It must be established that the beginning of your spiritual life starts from the second birth – being born again - John 3: 1-7. The early church provides a pattern in the Scriptures for personal and church growth - Acts 2:42,47.

##### Vital ingredients for spiritual growth

The Holy spirit in your hearts produces the development and transformation. However, you must yield yourselves to Him to work in your lives.

**1. Studying God's word:** The word of God is the food for your soul. It is God's revelation to us. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21. The early church devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles. These teachings were based on the old testament scriptures which was available at that time and their firsthand experience and encounter with the Lord, Jesus Christ which later become the writings of the new testament. This produced great wonders in their lives. Many joined the Way and God wrought great miracles through them.

**Discussion:** Based on 2 Timothy 3:16-17, what does the Word of God offer us?

**2. Prayer:** Prayer is simply communicating with God. It is very vital for your maturity as a believer. It is an intimate fellowship with God where you can relate your deepest desires to God and receive response from the Lord. The Scripture enjoins believers to be persistent in prayer and be watchful always. Luke 18:1–8, Colossians 4:2 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

**3. Fellowship:** The basic message of fellowship is that, alone, we will not function very well but together, we can work together to bring glory to God. Romans 12:4-5, Hebrews 10:25. Fellowshiping help us to edify, encourage and pray for each other. It provides a platform for every believers to manifest their spiritual gifts in love. Staying out of fellowship and isolated from other believers can lead to falling into the hands of the devil. Finally, fellowship is also a vital opportunity to break bread or observe the Lord's supper to remind ourselves that the body of our Lord was broken for us and His blood was shed for us to take away the sins of the whole world. Matthew 26:26-29.

**Conclusion:** Your pursuit for growth in relationship with God supersedes every other forms of adventure. You must be intentional about developing a sturdy faith this year and beyond.

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to grow spiritually as I advance in this year. Amen.

## Prevailing Faith International Ministries

### Sunday School Outline - January 12th, 2025

#### Christian discipleship – Matthew 16:24

##### Introduction

Your faith in Christ Jesus as the Lord and Saviour makes you, His disciple. It is the most exciting journey you will ever undertake as you will discover walking with Jesus as a new adventure everyday. Some days will bring great joy while other days present difficulties. A growing disciple learns how to move through every situation with grace and victory. In this lesson, we will look at what Christian discipleship is and its key dimensions.

**What is Christian discipleship:** Christian discipleship is following and learning the life of Christ. A disciple is a follower of Christ. It involves learning to live according to the principles and values found in the Bible, developing a personal relationship with God, and becoming more Christ-like in thoughts, words, and actions. It is a lifelong journey of being transformed by the Holy Spirit to reflect the character of Christ. Christian discipleship is both a personal and communal journey, aimed at growing closer to God and helping others do the same.

**Discussion:** Based on these scriptures, discuss the transformation that happened to the disciples of Jesus Christ. Mark 3:13-14 and Acts 4:13.

**Dimensions of discipleship:** Discipleship embodies every area of your lives and calls for total submission. Discipleship, at its core, is about making Jesus Christ the center of your lives, allowing His teachings to shape your identity, purpose, and actions. It is a call to live for something greater than yourself, fully devoted to God's kingdom and glory. Luke 9:23-25. These dimensions are overlapped but they are categorized as biblical instruction, life relationships and Christian responsibility. Every area of your life falls into any of the dimensions.

- **Biblical instruction:** This is the foundation of your walk with God, the bedrock where other activities of your life should spring from. Hence, it must be held with utmost priority. You must avail yourself of sound teaching of God's word through the Holy spirit and human leaders that God has called over His flock. John 14:26; 16:13, Ephesians 4:9-16.
- **Life relationship:** This encompasses all of life's relationships – God, believers, unbelievers, family, relatives, neighbours, work/school colleagues, clients, customers and many others. The most important is your relationship with God because it affects your relationship with other people. Love must be the banner of your relationship – love for God and love for others. Matthew 22: 36 – 40, John 11:35
- **Christian responsibility:** Discipleship and service are inseparable aspects of a believer's life. Discipleship shapes the heart, mind, and character of a follower of Christ, while service provides the opportunity to live out that transformation by loving and helping others using the gifts and talents that God has endowed us. Romans 12: 4-8.

**Conclusion:** Christian discipleship is a call to total surrender and transformation, impacting every area of life. It is a lifelong journey of following Jesus, marked by obedience, growth, and a deepening relationship with God. Ultimately, discipleship is about living a life that glorifies God and reflects the image of Christ in all that we do.

**Prayer:** Lord, I receive the grace to be a faithful and healthy disciple. Amen.