



PILLARS

OF THE CHRISTIAN WALK

PURSUING GOD THROUGH SPIRITUAL
DISCIPLINES

REPENTANCE

What does it mean to “repent?” How do we do it? We know from scripture that we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Those of us who are in Christ began our relationship with Him by admitting that we need to be saved from our sin. Knowing, then, that we still sin, how do we make repentance a regular part of our life?

In Psalm 139:23-24, David says, “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!” David is asking God to make him aware of any “grievous ways” (the Hebrew word means “idol”) in his life. Like David, we should ask God to reveal anything in our lives that we are holding onto as more important than what He would want for us. Also, we should agree with God about what sin He reveals in our lives; that is true confession. Turning from that sin and allowing God to change us is true repentance.

In Galatians 2:20, Paul says “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.” A life lived in repentance and in accordance with God’s desires will look like Jesus. It is not our own power that makes this possible, however. It is God’s grace that allows us to follow him more closely. “He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5).

In what areas of your life is it more difficult to trust God right now? Do you ever feel that it is harder to talk to God because you’re ashamed of the sin in your life? What sin is in your life that God desires for you to bring to him? Remember, 1 John 1:9 says “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

NEXT STEPS

- Each day, ask God to make the sin in your life clear to you. Confess where your life has looked different than a life lived in accordance with His will. Ask God to help you turn from attitudes, thoughts, and behaviors that aren't what He desires, and instead lead you into a life that looks more like the image of Jesus.
- Have someone in your life with whom you are comfortable sharing your struggles. Ask them if they would be willing to pray for repentance in your areas of weakness. James 5:16 says that one way we are healed from our sin is to confess our sins to one another, and pray for each other.
- On Tuesday, June 21st at 7pm, we will be holding what we are calling a "sacred assembly" in our sanctuary. We ask that all of our church family would attend this service as they are able, as we come together to focus on our individual repentance, our repentance as a church, and seek God's face in prayer. We will worship through song and scripture, and pray earnestly that God would continue to show us his grace in the coming years here at Faith Church.

PRAYER

“Lord, teach us to pray.” (Luke 11:1)

This was the request of one of Jesus’ disciples after he saw Jesus had finished praying privately. It’s the heart’s cry of every follower of Jesus who desires to be a man or woman of prayer. It’s not so much knowing how to pray (although that indeed is important) but rather to actually pray, that is, to have the discipline of praying regularly and often.

Jesus’ response was to teach what we now refer to as “The Lord’s Prayer”. It includes the important elements of worship, of praying for God’s will and God’s work on earth, of praying for personal needs, of repentance, and of forgiving others who have wronged us. Every follower of Jesus has learned along the way that our personal prayer life should include all of these elements. The frequency and length of our prayers is an indication of how important it is to us to worship God, to seek God’s will, and to receive His blessings in our lives.

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you.” (1 Samuel 12:23)

These are the words of Samuel the prophet to the nation of Israel. It is good to often think of this verse when we think of our family and the people of our church. There are no better words of encouragement to hear than when someone asks: “how can I pray for you?” We are to pray for our loved ones regularly.

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

NEXT STEPS

- Each day, before leaving for work or getting the kids off to their next thing, take a minute to pray as Jesus taught us to pray by:
 1. Praising God for who He is.
 2. Asking that his will would be done on earth.
 3. Praying for your personal needs.
 4. Confessing sin in your own life, and;
 5. Asking God to protect you from sin as you go about your day.
- Pray with someone on a regular basis. This could be your spouse, your kids, or a friend - maybe even all three. Make it a habit to ask these people how you can pray for them, and pray over those things together.
- Become a part of one of the prayer ministries of Faith Church. See the list below, and visit our information center for more information on how to sign up:
 1. Daily Prayer Chain: Sign up to pray for the requests that come through our communication cards and online forms.
 2. Urgent Prayer Chain: Be one of the people committed to praying over emergency situations with those who have an immediate need.
 3. Epaphras Prayer: Become a part of a group that prays over members of our church, ensuring that our entire church family is prayed for every day.

SCRIPTURE

"And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God..." (John 17:3)

Knowing God in a deeper way is the focus of our pursuit of "spiritual disciplines," or what we've also heard called "habits of grace." Of all the disciplines, perhaps the importance of none is more easily understood than studying scripture. After all, if we view the Bible as God's written message to us, then how better to get to know its author than to read what he has written?

Paul wrote to Timothy that "All Scripture is breathed out by God" (2 Timothy 3:16). Peter says, "Men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:21). The things God wants us to know about himself can come through prayer or experiences, but no way is as clear as reading what he has revealed to the writers of scripture.

It is to be noted that the goal, however, is not just to read what God has said, but to know it and live our lives by it. The Psalmist writes, "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11). It is absolutely true that knowing God's word changes the desires of our heart. James says that we are to be "doers of the word," and not just hearers - or in this case, merely readers. It's not sufficient to just read what the Bible says, or even just to know it. God's heart is that we be moved by what he shares with us, and that it might encourage us in our everyday lives to move closer to him in prayer, worship, and dependence.

Is reading the Bible a regular part of your life? Is it something that you enjoy, or is it difficult for you? What are the things that God has shown you through scripture that have been impactful in your walk with him?

NEXT STEPS

- In 1 Corinthians 15:1-3, Paul reminds us that we “stand” on the Gospel, and are “saved” by the Gospel. So whether we are new to faith in Jesus or have walked with him for many years, an account of the Gospel is a great place to dive into God’s word. Commit to reading a chapter of the Gospel of John each day for the next three weeks. It may sound like a lot, but this should only take you about five minutes each day. It may even be helpful to your prayer time to do your reading right before praying.
- Commit to a “read through the Bible plan” to get a fuller picture of God’s message to his people. There are some great Bible-reading plans available through the “YouVersion” Bible app on your smartphone. If you’re not the smartphone-wielding type, visit faithchurch.net or our information center off the main lobby to find a Bible reading plan that best suits your goals and schedule.
- Do your Bible-reading with others. Whether with a friend, community group, spouse, or your entire family, reading the Bible together is a great way to gain greater understanding through the experiences and wisdom of others. For those with children, it will show them the importance of God’s word in your life, and may change theirs.

GIVING

Money is a difficult subject.

This is something Jesus must have known for sure, because roughly 15% of his statements recorded in scripture relate to money and possessions. Why is it so hard for us to give - especially when so much has been given to us?

In the Old Testament law, God's people would give 10% of their wealth as an offering, or tithe, that showed a gratitude for God's provision in their lives. As the early church was coming into existence, the question of whether or not those no longer under the law of Moses (instead being under grace) needed to follow this ancient command.

Paul's response is remarkable. He tells the church at Corinth, "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, **for God loves a cheerful giver.**"

Paul's point is that how much we give and under what compulsion is not the point. Instead, Paul says that giving is an issue of the heart, and that it should be a source of joy in our lives!

Giving away our money as a source of joy? We can all testify to the fact that this isn't always the way that we feel. When we think, however, of our gifts serving the causes of the Kingdom (the spreading of the gospel, the care of the congregation, mercy to those in need, etc.), we can see how our gifts, no matter what size, can impact the work God is doing in the lives of others.

That brings us great joy, indeed.

NEXT STEPS

- If you have never given financially to God as an act of worship, or have stopped giving due to hardships or fear, pray about and purpose to find a first sacrifice you can make. Maybe it's as simple as not eating out once a week, or getting rid of some of those cable channels that nobody really needs. Whatever it is, find what sacrifice you can make that will allow you to step out in faith for the first time (or once again) and support Kingdom-work by giving back to God.
- Take the 90-day giving challenge. Even though the tithe, or an offering of 10% of our income, is an Old Testament principle, it is the Biblical foundation for what the beginning of financial sacrifice looks like in the lives of those who seek to honor God. In Malachai 3:10 we are told, "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." Surely, while every blessing from God isn't financial, we are promised in both the Old and New Testaments that giving brings blessing. So, for the next 13 weeks, we challenge you to prayerfully and deeply trust God and give the "full tithe," or 10% of your income. If at the end of those 13 weeks you feel that God's promise has not been met, simply let us know. Faith Church will return your full tithe back to you, no questions asked. For more info, visit:
www.faithchurch.net/givingchallenge
- If you have been a "cheerful giver" for many years, then we would ask you to pray. Ask God whether he has another opportunity for you to give; perhaps to a missionary, or para-church organization. Maybe he's encouraging you to give a gift to a young family or single-mother you know is in financial need. Also, pray that God would continue to give cheerful and generous hearts to those in the body of Christ, that we all might be reflections of the generous heart of Jesus.

GATHERING

“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)

Going to church isn't always at the top of our list during a weekend, but maybe it should be. We often think about church as a place that has something to offer us, and that's true. What we sometimes miss, however, is that we are there more for what we can give than what we receive.

- **We gather to worship:** Paul instructs Timothy to use public gatherings as a time to worship through the reading of scripture and teaching (1 Tim. 4:13). Our presence is a sacrifice to God, offering our lives that he might move in each of us individually, and as a part of the body of Christ.
- **We gather to give witness:** Psalm 133:1 says “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!” We join together each Sunday morning to declare the common experience of redemption through Jesus Christ. By gathering together, we declare the unity of the body.
- **We gather to encourage one another:** The author of Hebrews says that we gather to encourage each other to love in a greater way and serve in a greater way. In gathering together we build up the body of Christ to love in ways we haven't known before.

And one more thing... when parents attend church together, their kids are nearly 5 times more likely to attend church as adults. By gathering together, we give our children something that will continue to matter all of their days on this earth - and even longer.

NEXT STEPS

- Hebrews 10:25 says we shouldn't stop gathering together. If you are someone who never gathers with the church, or does it infrequently, why might that be? Make a list of the reasons why you may have "forsaken" gathering with your church family. Then, in your prayer time, ask God to help you overcome your reservations and commit to participating in worship with other people who, quite honestly, might feel the same struggle!
- Hebrews also says that one of the reasons we gather together as a church is to "encourage one another." When you come to church, do you make a list in your head about all of the things that annoy you? "The sermon is too long. The music is too loud. The coffee isn't... coffee." This week, before you come to church, pray that God would free you from the distraction of what isn't quite up to your standards, and ask him how you could be an encouragement to someone. Maybe it's stopping by the tech booth to say thanks to the volunteers. Perhaps you'll introduce yourself to a visitor and help them feel at home. However God leads you, keep thinking of ways that God can use you to be the bright spot of someone else's morning.
- Do you know someone who can't gather with the church for worship because of physical limitations or other reasons? Go to them! Ask if you can join them on a Sunday or other day of the week to worship with them in their home. Sing a few worship choruses or hymns, and watch a sermon online. Open your bible and study a passage together. Encourage someone you care about by bringing church to them.

SCATTERING

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

As the early church was devoted to the teaching of the apostles, it was also devoted to “the fellowship.” For many that might be a word that they fly by on the way to the breaking of bread and prayer, but it’s an important concept. What does it mean to be devoted to the fellowship?

Many people think of church as merely an event to attend, but never get deep into “the fellowship” that we see talked about in the book of Acts. The Greek word used here also means “partnership” or “sharing.” We in the body of Christ are meant to be partners in living out our lives.

If we’re honest we’ll admit that life is hard. Each day has its own set of challenges, so it is important to have people to share our days and weeks with; learning from them, caring for them, and being loved by them.

What’s more, our Sundays are spent (for the most part) with people who know Jesus. Monday through Saturday tends to be a different story. We are not only called to be partners in each others lives, but partners in changing the lives of those who don’t yet know Jesus. We are to share in the blessing and burden of being ministers of the gospel in a world that is lost.

Perhaps the word we might use for these deep relationships that go beyond Sunday morning is “community.” Is community important to you? Can you say that you are “devoted” to being a part of a community of others who are pursuing God? Are you willing to open that community up to those who don’t know Jesus?

NEXT STEPS

- Some people come to church every week, but never build a single relationship within the church family. They come in to a service just after the music has started, and sneak out right before the final prayer is said. If you are a church attender who hasn't seen the need for deeper relationships, ask God to help you find a first point of connection. It could be visiting a Sunday morning class or a mid-week bible study. Maybe volunteering in the children's ministry is a way for you to connect with other volunteers or parents. If you need help finding a point of connection, just let one of our teaching team members know!
- Joining a community group is one of the best ways to build lasting relationships. Many of our attenders come to know their group members as real family, and that's what we should all hope for in the church, right? Community groups give people a place to share their burdens and joys, and lift one another up in prayer. If you want to take that deeper step and join a community group visit www.faithchurch.net/communities or stop by our information center.
- Is your community group functioning as a closed society? Is it only really serving the people already in it? As a group, ask God to help each of you see how you can open your group up; to other believers, to friends and neighbors, even those who don't yet know Christ. Throw parties, have cookouts, and invite your non-Christian friends to be a part of it. Make your community missional by seeking those you can serve, love, and "invite in" as you go about living life together.

DISCIPLESHIP

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19)

Here at Faith Church, our mission statement is “to make more and better disciples, both here and around the world.” We define a disciple as one who seeks to imitate the whole life of Christ by being in communion with God, in community with others, and on mission with Christ.

Notice that our mission statement, which comes directly from Christ’s great commission, talks about two types of disciple-making: “more” and “better.”

We make “more” disciples by pouring into the lives of those who don’t yet know Christ. This can be accomplished many ways, and can be daunting at times. The simplest way, however, to share the gospel with someone is to first have a relationship with them. So we seek to build relationships out of sincere love for our neighbors, co-workers, and friends. We also pray that our lives would be an example of Christ’s love to them (Matthew 5:16), and ask God to give us opportunities to tell them about what he has done in our lives.

Making “better” disciples has to do with our relationship to each other, and how we can encourage one another towards Christ-likeness. One way to think about this is Paul’s relationship with Timothy. Paul “discipled” Timothy and encouraged him in the faith. In turn, Paul encouraged Timothy to “entrust to faithful men” that which he had come to know. Those faithful individuals would then encourage and edify more people who had come to know Christ.

We are called to make both more disciples, and better disciples. Are you in a discipleship relationship? Who has been instrumental in your spiritual growth? Who can you pass that gift along to?

NEXT STEPS

- Have you never been in a relationship that you would consider “discipleship?” Make a list of people you know and respect in their walk with Jesus. Ask one or two of them if they would be willing to walk alongside of you in discipleship, encouraging you in your spiritual walk.
- Is God calling you to disciple others? While you may not have everything figured out, you would be amazed what impact your relationship with Jesus could have on others. When you go to community group, a bible study, or even to work during the week, be mindful of people who are open to growing in their faith, and are open to your experiences. Many discipleship relationships are started by just being willing and available to those we are already around.
- Have you been discipling others? Are you in a discipleship relationship now? Encourage those you are walking with to take what you have given to them and “entrust” it to other believers who may not be as mature in their faith. While we never stop discipling, sometimes that effort includes encouraging those with whom we walk to do the same for others.

SERVING IN THE BODY

One illustration of the free gift of salvation says: If someone offers to give you a free pen, all you have to do is reach out and accept that gift. You would not offer to pay someone for a gift. But you can do one thing, you can say, "Thank you."

How do we thank God for saving us – no good, rotten, miserable sinners as we all are (Romans 3:23) for giving us a totally free pardon from the penalty we deserve for our sins? How are you expressing your gratitude to Him? How is your life a reflection of your thankfulness?

When Moses was instructed by God to build the tabernacle, God gifted certain men with creative gifts to be used in the construction (see Exodus 31: 1-11). He also instructed Moses to use specific family groups in specific ways to carry out the work of the tabernacle; some carried the Ark of the Covenant, some did the work of preparing and presenting sacrifices on the altar, and some were gifted singers and led in worship. In Ezra 3 and 4 we read how Zerubbabel, many years later, led the people who returned from exile in rebuilding the temple, with everyone doing his part in the work. Later Nehemiah lists by name the various individual and families who rebuilt their own sections of the wall of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 3).

In the New Testament we read of some of the gifts the Holy Spirit gives every believer. How has God gifted you, and how are you using those gifts to bless others? 1 Peter 4:10 says "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others..." while 1 Peter 2:5 says "...you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood..." In the structure of Faith Church, which stone are you? What part of Faith Church is weakened when you don't do your part? Which wall is made stronger by your presence?

NEXT STEPS

- Looking for an easy way to dip your toe into the water of serving as a part of your church family? Take advantage of one of our “first serve” opportunities. Without making a long commitment, you can experience what it’s like to serve on our welcome team, be a part of tech ministry, or any other number of volunteer opportunities. Just fill out a “first serve” card, and someone from the ministry or ministries you selected will contact you.
- At Faith Church, it takes more than 110 volunteers every week to make Sunday morning a success. Children’s and Student ministries, worship team, greeters; there are literally dozens of ways you can help fill needs by serving. That’s why we desire for our church to have a Sunday morning lifestyle of “Attend One, Serve One.” Having two services is a great opportunity for more flexibility in attending worship and inviting others. It also, however, creates a great need for people who are willing to step up and serve in both big and small ways. We would ask you to prayerfully consider choosing to “Attend One, Serve One” as a part of your Sunday morning experience. It will make a huge difference in your morning, and in the life of the church as well.
- Do you know someone who would be great serving alongside you? Invite them to be a part of the ministry that you’re a part of! Serving in the body is a great way to meet new people, but it’s also a great way to spend time with those with whom we’re already close. We’ve had brothers and sisters working cameras, husbands and wives in the nursery, and best buds playing guitar on the same stage. If you know someone who has a gift that they could use to serve others, invite them to “Attend One, Serve One” with you.

SERVING OTHERS

Have you noticed that more and more large corporations are making a big deal out of their charitable works in their communities – sponsoring weekends where corporate employees are working alongside of others to clean up neighborhoods and watersheds, etc. Why do they spend money and resources to do this? Why do they encourage their employees to give of their time in this way? At least part of their motivation is to help the community know about them – to gain name recognition.

As the church – the body of Christ – we too need to have an outward focus. Motivated by Christ's love which lives in us, we have an even better reason to look for ways to improve our neighborhoods and help those who are less fortunate. God tells me I'm to love my neighbor as much as, in the same way as, I love myself (Lev. 19:13, Matt. 19:19). In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus makes it clear that this doesn't mean only my next door neighbor! What would it look like in our lives, if we really did treat our neighborhood, our community, in the same ways that we would like to be treated?

Jesus left His Spirit in each believer so that the light of His Presence could be spread around the world. We are the light of the world; light shines best in dark places. In what dark, sad, or lonely place could you serve this week for the purpose of shedding the light of Christ's love? Could you give someone a drink of cold water? Mow someone's yard? Help someone with a house project? Bring someone a meal?

We are the light of the world... a light shouldn't be hidden, but should be visible, so that the whole area around it is lit up – set aglow – so that "men may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

NEXT STEPS

- What could you do to brighten the life of someone in your neighborhood? Pray about it. Ask God for ideas, then step out and do one thing: offer to mow a lawn, take a meal to a new family, take time to visit an elderly neighbor. Whatever it is, seek to share the love of Jesus through kindness.
- There are many organizations our church has partnered with where service opportunities are plentiful. Hands Against Hunger, Matthew 25 Ministries, crisis pregnancy centers, Neighborhood Fellowships, and more. Contact Dick Lehman or Rebecca Buckalew in the church office to find out about the many ways you can serve others through the existing relationships of Faith Church.
- Serving others is something that all people can get behind. Whether you are mowing a neighbor's lawn, or shipping food with Hands Against Hunger, invite your friends or neighbors to take part with you, so that they can see the good grace of Jesus in your actions, and take part in that as well.

SHARING THE GOSPEL

You'll recall that, in a previous week, we talked about making "more and better disciples." Sometimes, though, it's difficult to take part in making "more" if we don't feel particularly gifted in sharing the gospel with others. It's true that God has equipped some people in remarkable ways to share Jesus, often seeming effortless in their building of relationships and in their ability to communicate the gospel. All of us, however, are called to make disciples, and all of us who are in Christ are capable of sharing the truth of God's grace with others.

In 1 Peter 3 we read, "in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you."

One of the things we often miss about sharing our faith is that it's not always a sales pitch or a presentation. While God still uses airplane conversations and knocks on doors, it is very true that God uses our lives to bring about conversations and questions. Those conversations and questions lead to opportunities to speak about what God has done in our lives. When we share our story, we're really sharing his story.

It's important to be able to communicate the gospel effectively. Knowing that sin separates us from God and that the blood of Jesus restores our relationship with him, and being able to speak boldly about that truth is meaningful. What will often make sharing our faith easier, however, is living a life that demands a question about why we are who we are. It is in that context that our "defense" will take the form of a witness.

Pastor and evangelist, Greg Laurie, once wrote that "this message God has given us was meant to be shared, not hoarded. You were blessed to be a blessing." Let us seek to bless others in the way we have been blessed.

NEXT STEPS

- Think of someone you know who you would consider an “evangelist” (just a big word for a person who talks about Jesus to others). Ask them to share stories with you about their experiences in sharing the gospel; both positive and negative. You might be surprised to learn that they weren’t always as gifted as they seem. Ask them to pray for God to move your heart towards sharing your faith.
- Make a list of people who are in your life who don’t know Christ. Make a point of praying for those people often. Also pray that God would make your life one way for them to get a glimpse of who he is. Pray that God would create opportunities for spiritual conversations between you and others.
- If you are a “practitioner” in this area, consider taking someone under your wing. Share your experiences with them, pray for them, and talk about their story. Encouraging someone in their ability to share Jesus with others is one of the greatest blessings you can pass on to another follower of Jesus.

BAPTISM

“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.” (Romans 6:4)

Baptism can be a confusing subject. People come from different denominations and traditions, and that often leads to different understandings of what baptism truly accomplishes. For the individual who is new to faith in Christ, it can be even more difficult to discern exactly why baptism is important.

Jesus tells his disciples to baptize those who accept him. Peter tells the crowds to “repent and be baptized.” Throughout the book of Acts, we see that “those who received his word were baptized.” It’s obvious that baptism plays a major role in the life of the believer, but what is the role?

Simply stated, baptism is a public expression of an inward change. Symbolizing our sharing in the death and resurrection of Jesus, baptism announces to the world that we have decided to follow him, and have been raised to walk in the newness of life.

While baptism doesn’t save us (only faith in Christ can do that), baptism is a command that should be obeyed by all who have accepted Christ as their savior. Just as Jesus was obedient to the Father in death, we are called to obedience in baptism. This action isn’t just for us, however. Baptism is an opportunity to publicly declare that you are a member of God’s family. It’s a chance to tell your church family that you are now a partner in the gospel, and a fellow heir of the Kingdom. It’s a declaration of dependence on God and accountability to each other.

Baptism isn’t what makes you a Christian, but it’s meant to be the first declaration that God is making all things new in your life.

NEXT STEPS

- For all of our topics in this series, we have had three levels of engagement to grow in our relationship with God through spiritual disciplines. For this week, there is only one.

If you have decided to follow Jesus, but have not been baptized, pray that God would give you the boldness to step out in faith and be baptized. While this doesn't accomplish the saving work of grace (that has already been accomplished for those in Christ), it declares publicly that you have decided to walk with Jesus, and that you are now a part of God's family.

PILLARS

OF THE CHRISTIAN WALK

Those of us who are in Christ have been saved by his grace, not by anything we did to accomplish our salvation (Titus 3:5). Nevertheless, being called into a relationship with Jesus affords us the opportunity to pursue Him even as he pursued us.

There are many things we see in scripture, some people call them “spiritual disciplines,” that show us how we can pursue a closer relationship with God by the things we do. Whether it be the study of scripture, prayer, giving, worshipping with other believers, sharing the gospel, or any other number of things, we are encouraged to pursue these pillars of the Christian walk as we live out our lives here on this earth.

Because we are all at different stages in our walk with God, each of the devotions in this book include three stages of engagement. So whether you’re a proven prayer warrior or someone just learning to pray like the disciples did, we hope you’ll join us throughout this series as we take a look at spiritual disciplines, in “Pillars of the Christian Walk.”



faith church
www.faithchurch.net