

FIRESTARTER



INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO FIRE STARTER

We are glad you've chosen to find out more about Fireplace Church! This class will give you a basic introduction to who we are as a church family. Because our members come from a wide variety of church backgrounds, this class is designed to clearly explain who we are and what we believe.

OUR STORY

In 2010, God began speaking to Pastor Alvin and Charity about planting a church in the Appalachian region of Virginia. At that time they did not have a specific date or location. In 2014, it became clear to the Thomas family that they would be planting in Blacksburg, Virginia. This began a preparation process that included handing off their previous ministry responsibilities as Chi Alpha directors of Longwood University & Hampden-Sydney College Chi Alpha and associate pastor roles at New Life Farmville.

By March 2015, the Thomases were living in Blacksburg and developing new friendships in their new community. Several of the people they met became part of Fireplace Church's launch team. From September 2015 until January 2016, the "Launch Team" met together to pray, to build community, to plan "interest gathering" events, and to implement the vision of Fireplace Church in preparation for launch day, January 31, 2016!

On January 31, 2016 Fireplace Church launched in Kipps Elementary, with 101 people in attendance and several giving their hearts to the Lord. We continued to do set-up church in Kipps Elementary School for two years until we moved to our present location at 416 Alleghany Street, Blacksburg, VA.

THE BASICS FOR THIS CLASS:

"...You are a member of God's very own family... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian."

Ephesians 2:19(LB)

KEY TRUTHS

1. The church is a _____.
2. God expects you to be _____ to a church family.

THE GOAL OF THIS CLASS:

That I will commit myself to _____ and grow in connection with and commitment to the Fireplace Church _____.

How to Get Involved at Fireplace Church

In order to make involvement in Fireplace Church a straightforward and simple process, we have simplified involvement to three words: Encounter, Grow, and Serve.

Encounter: We want people to have an *encounter* with the living God, so we prioritize creating environments for *encountering* the Lord! We offer contemporary, Spirit filled worship, sermons that emphasize an understanding of God's Word and the empowerment of His Spirit, and a children's and youth ministry that is both fun and spiritually impactful. We also have other times set aside to gather to *encounter* the Lord like Kindle Nights (a prayer and worship gatherings) and occasional weekend conferences.

Grow: Our desire is to provide those that attend Fireplace Church with opportunities for *growth* in their discipleship process, as well as creating atmospheres where we can *grow* as a community. Our small group Bible studies are designed to facilitate both real community and discipleship. By meeting in homes and having snacks or meals together, we create a natural atmosphere for community to occur. By studying God's Word together, we learn from each other and gain valuable insight from the perspectives of our fellow group members. To get involved in one of our Small Groups, check out our website for an updated list of our Small Groups! In addition to small groups we also have many fellowship gatherings throughout the year, such as BBQ's, hangouts, game nights, potlucks, and more.

Serve: At Fireplace Church, our Serve Teams are the groups of volunteers that make ministry happen (worship team, ushers/greeters, children's ministry, etc). We feel that it is necessary to allow people to *serve* others by using their gifts and talents in order to fully develop as a devoted follower of Christ. The Serve Teams create a practical opportunity to develop and use your gifting, while serving the body of Christ! You will have an opportunity to explore our various Serve Teams through our FireStarter class.

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT: WHY WE EXIST AS A CHURCH

Fireplace Church's purpose is "Redefining Simple Devotion."

We plan to achieve that purpose by creating a culture that carries out the following four core values.

I. DEVOTION TO JESUS

Simple devotion to Jesus is at the heart of everything we do! We want to continue to grow in His love for us so that we will grow in our love for Him and learn to live for Him in the context of our community, jobs, schools, marriages, and families.

Devotion to Jesus is more than a compartmentalized part of our day, it influences everything about us!

"I was glad when they said to me, let us go to the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1

"...the Father seeks worshippers... and His worshippers must worship Him in spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24

"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Ephesians 4:11-12

"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly father is perfect." Matthew 5:48

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me." Acts 20:24

Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities...and there are different kinds of service to God (ministry)...All of you together form the one Body of Christ and each of you is a separate and necessary part of it." 1 Corinthians 12:4-5, 27 (LB)

II. REACHING THE LOST

Whether it is reaching members of our community or engaging the foreign mission field, we want to present the life changing Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person we can.

"He said unto them, 'Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe...' Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it." Mark 16:15-20

"But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in...he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, 'God is really among you!'" 1 Corinthians 14:24-25

"Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But who can ask them to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells him?" Romans 10:13-14 (LB)

"You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

- 1. Jerusalem - My City.**
- 2. Judea - My Region**
- 3. Samaria - Others who are culturally different from me.**
- 4. The ends of the earth - My World.**

WHAT CAN I DO?

1. _____.

"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

Matthew 9:37-38

2. _____.

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I. Send me!' He said, 'Go, and tell this people...'"

Isaiah 6:8-9

3. _____.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21

III. EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

We believe that children, youth, and college students are not only the church of tomorrow, but they are also the church of today! Through dynamic children's, youth, and college ministry, we will empower the next generation now!

1. Fireplace Kids (Fireflies- Nursery, Firecrackers- 2-4 years old, Sparks- K-3rd grade, and Blaze- 4th-7th grade) operates upon the core value that no matter a child's age, they can encounter God!
2. Fireplace Youth exists to help teenagers pursue devotion to Jesus and grow in a lifestyle of lifelong discipleship.
3. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries - We are connected to Chi Alpha chapters on both Virginia Tech and Radford campuses. Chi Alpha does an amazing job of engaging students in discipleship on our college campuses.

"Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him." Ps 127:3

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Eph. 6:4

"At that time Jesus said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.'" Matthew 11:25

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" Matthew 19:14

IV. BUILDING REAL COMMUNITY

Real community means more than staring at the back of someone's head on a Sunday morning while we worship together. We will foster a sense of community that extends beyond our Sunday morning experience and see real friendships develop.

One of the most effective ways to experience real community is to get involved in a small group. Some people enjoy a large church because of its focus on others while others want a small, intimate church. We believe that our church must become larger and smaller at the same time.

"You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house." Acts 20:20

Small GROUPS PROVIDE THREE THINGS:

1. A place to _____. *"...yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him."* 1 Corinthians 9:22 LB
2. A place to _____. *"We know what real love is because Christ gave up His life for us. And so we also ought to give up our lives for our Christian brothers and sisters."* 1 John 3:16 NLT
3. A place to _____. *"As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."* Proverbs 27:17

HOW SMALL GROUPS WORK

1. Location groups

Small Groups are located in various places; homes, the church, coffee shops, etc.

2. The Study

Studies will be anything from sermon based discussions, to systematically study God's Word. Either way, it will be a place for sharing your insights together as a group.

3. Becoming a leader

We believe that everyone has areas of strength and gifting that could benefit others. The first step in becoming a Small Group leader is to attend a Small Group. Mention to your Small Group leader your desire for deeper involvement and they will guide in the process.

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH: WHAT WE BELIEVE

“In essential beliefs, we have unity. In non-essential beliefs, we have liberty. In all our beliefs, we show charity.”

I. FOUR ESSENTIAL TRUTHS

1. The _____ is the Word of God.

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right.” 1 Timothy 3:16

“We also thank God continually because, when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it, not as the word of men, but actually as it is, the Word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” 1 Thessalonians 2:13

2. _____ is the Son of God.

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

“For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, ‘The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’ There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them.” Acts 4:11-12 NLT

3. You must be _____.

“When anyone becomes a Christian he becomes a new person inside. The old passes away, a new life has begun.” 1 Corinthians 5:17 LB

Jesus: “If you try to keep your life for yourself, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for me, you will find true life.” Matthew 16:25 NLT

4. Believers can be _____ and _____.

“...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...” Acts 1:8

“...be filled with the Holy Spirit” Ephesians 5:18

“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” Luke 11:13

Our full Statement of Faith is located in appendix one of this book.

FIREPLACE CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Believers who invest their hearts, time, families, and finances in the building of a local church deserve to have confidence in church leadership. People are looking for leaders who conduct themselves with integrity and respect when making decisions that affect their lives.

1. GUIDED BY _____

The pastors refer to the pastoral staff team led by the Senior Pastor. This team oversees the day-to-day ministry and operations of the church. These staff pastors serve the congregation and are responsible for the development of the spiritual life of the church. All pastors are responsible to model a Godly lifestyle, provide a prayer shield for the members, defend and protect the integrity of the church, pray for the sick, mediate disputes, counsel, and represent the church to the community.

2. STRENGTHENED BY _____.

The Overseers are denominational leaders and pastors of respected congregations who love Fireplace Church and its pastor and are willing to provide spiritual protection to the church. They may be called in to help in accountability matters relating to the Senior Pastor.

3. CHURCH FINANCES

“A tithe of everything you produce belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.” Leviticus 27:30

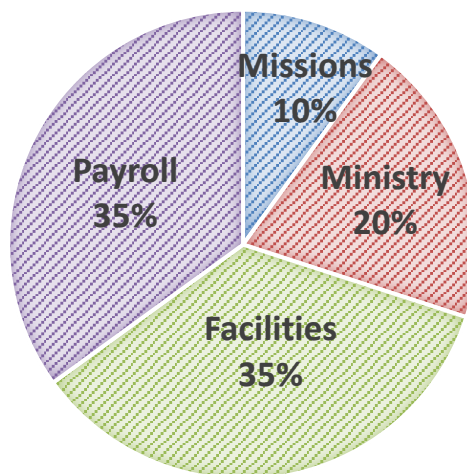
At Fireplace Church we practice tithing for the support of Christ’s Body, the church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the Biblical standard of giving. For more information on tithing, see Appendix: 2.

Many people love to give to God, but need to have confidence in the methods and purposes used by organizations to which they give. Therefore there are a great number of people willing to give if they are able to see honesty, integrity, and genuine spiritual values reflected in the lifestyles of their church leaders. The giving of tithes and offerings is worship to Jesus Christ and is an expression of the relationship between the individual giver and the Lord. Funds are not “income only,” they are worship, and must not be considered as a business transaction, but as an expression of gratitude toward God.

At Fireplace Church, we have a Stewardship Team that not only provides an extra layer of accountability, but they also use their gifts to steward church’s resources. One of their responsibilities is to assist in the proper allocation of funds within our percentage based budget.

PERCENTAGE BASED BUDGET

■ Missions ■ Ministry ■ Facilities ■ Payroll



OUR HOPE FOR YOU

I. THE NEXT STEPS

1. Become a member of Fireplace Church
2. Complete FireStarter
3. Join a Small Group.
4. Serve on an Serve Team.

II. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

The difference between “attenders” and “members” can be summed up in one word:

_____.

An Attender is a _____.

A Member is a _____.

At Fireplace Church we recognize the need for a formal membership. We ask you to commit to membership for 4 reasons:

1. A Biblical Reason: Christ is committed to the church.

If Jesus is committed to the church, then we, as His followers, should be committed to the church.

“...Christ loved the church, and he gave his life for it.” Ephesians 5:25

2. A Cultural Reason: It is an antidote to our society.

We live in an age where very few want to be committed to anything...a job...a marriage, etc. This attitude has even produced a generation of “church shoppers and hoppers.”

Membership swims against the current of America’s “consumer religion.” It is an unselfish decision. Commitment always builds character.

3. A Practical Reason: It defines who can be counted on.

Every team must have a roster. Every school must have an enrollment. Every business has a payroll. Every army has an enlistment. Membership identifies our family.

4. A Personal Reason: It produces spiritual growth.

The New Testament places a major emphasis on the need for Christians to be accountable to each other for spiritual growth. You cannot be accountable when you’re not committed to any specific church family.

III. FIREPLACE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

Having received Christ as my Lord and Savior and being in agreement with the values and ideas presented in the FireStarter class, I now feel led by the Holy Spirit to unite with the Fireplace Church family. In doing so, I commit myself to God and to the other members to do the following:

1. I will protect the unity of my church...

...By acting in love toward other members

...By refusing to gossip

...By following the leaders

"So let us concentrate on the things which make for harmony, and on the growth of our fellowship together."

Romans 14:19 (Ph)

"Live in complete harmony with each other - each with the attitude of Christ toward each other." Romans 15:5 (LB)

"Have a sincere love for your fellow believers, love one another earnestly with all your hearts." 1 Peter 1:22 (GN)

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs..." Ephesians 4:29

"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be no advantage to you."

Hebrews 13:17

2. I will share the responsibility of my church...

...By praying for its growth

...By inviting the unchurched to attend

...By warmly welcoming those who visit

"To the church...we always thank God for you and pray for you constantly." 1 Thessalonians 1:2

"Go out into the country...and urge anyone you find to come in, so that My House will be full." Luke 14:23 (LB)

"So warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified." Romans 15:7 (LB)

3. I will serve the ministry of my church...

...By discovering my gifts and talents

...By being equipped to serve by my pastors

...By developing a servant's heart

"Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you..." 1 Peter 4:10 (Ph)

"God gave...some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so that the body of Christ may be built up..." Ephesians 4:11-12

"Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ...who took on the very nature of a servant..." Philippians 2:3-4, 7

4. I will support the testimony of my church...

...By attending church and small groups faithfully

...By living a godly life

...By giving regularly

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."
Acts 2:42

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together...but let us encourage one another." Hebrews 10:25

"But whatever happens, make sure that your everyday life is worthy of the gospel of Christ." Philippians 1:27 (Ph)

"Each one of you, on the first day of each week, should set aside a specific sum of money in proportion to what you have earned and use it for the offering." 1 Corinthians 16:2

"A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's, and it is holy." Leviticus 27:30

JOINING A FIREPLACE CHURCH SERVE TEAM

1. Meet with a ministry leader
2. Fill out the Serve Team Membership Application
3. Receive training in the ministry area of your choice to finalize your place on the team

SERVE TEAM DESCRIPTIONS:

Altar Ministry : This team assist the pastor in praying for those responding to altar calls, both for salvation and other prayer needs.

AVL Team : Bring your passion for technology to this team that creates a distraction free environment through audio, video, and lighting.

Community Outreach Team: This team exists to reach outside of the four walls of our church and impact the New River Valley for Jesus! Whether its community service, presence at local events like Steppin' Out, evangelism training and outreaches, partnering with other churches, or ministering to local families through "Parents Night Out" or foster care assistance, this team seeks to help Fireplace Church reach our community.

Events: This group plans and implements special events at Fireplace Church, such as our "Party With The Pastors," special services, and other events outside of the normal Sunday services.

Facilities Team: Put your handiwork skills to use for the Lord! Whether it is cleaning, repairs, parking lot striping, or landscaping, we could use your help in stewarding the resources of our facility.

Guest Follow-up: This team helps connect our first-time guests to Fireplace Church by following up with them and personally welcoming them to our church through handwritten notes and phone calls.

Hospitality: This friendly team loves people and enjoys making them feel at home. They serve by greeting every member and guest as they enter Fireplace Church. This energetic team serves the guests of Fireplace Church with a warm cup of coffee (or tea) and an engaging smile, while assisting at coffee stations, refilling coffee containers, and greeting guests. This team prepares people for a positive worship experience by welcoming guests and assisting with seating, communion, and offering.

Kids Check-in: This unique team focuses on checking children and new families into Fireplace Kids and Preschool/Nursery.

Kids Church: This team helps create a place where children are boldly exposed to the love of Jesus. They invest in the lives of children by serving in teaching, small group leadership, worship, videos, and skits.

Media/Content Creation Team: This team creates engaging media, such as slides and videos, as well as engaging content for Fireplace Church's social media accounts.

Men's and Women's Ministry Team: Help coordinate and lead ministry and fellowship events that are specific to the needs of the men and women of Fireplace Church and our community.

Missions Team: This team helps carry the missions vision of Fireplace Church through, communicating with our missionaries, communicating with the congregation on behalf of the missionaries, organizing missions convention, and helping host/bless our visiting missionaries.

New Believer Follow-Up: This team assists the Pastor in praying for those who respond for altar ministry. Altar ministry includes believers who are responding for specific or general prayer, as well as people who are responding to salvation altar calls. This team helps nurture new believers. They assist the new believer in "Next Steps," such as Water Baptism, attending FireStarter, and finding a Small Group to attend.

Pastoral/Family Care Team: Whenever our church family experiences a new baby, a hospitalization/illness, or a death in their family, this team is there with food, gifts, and cards to let them know that the Fireplace Church family cares for them.

Parking Team: This is a fun, rewarding ministry for outgoing people who enjoy being outdoors, look good in a uniform, and enjoy telling people where to go!

Prayer Team: This team of trained intercessors covers the weekend and midweek services. They lead and organize our pre service prayer, intercessory prayer, and Kindle Nights. Join the team that is blazing the trail for God in our city!

Preschool/Nursery: Join this team in leading children into a dynamic relationship with Jesus. Each week children experience Bible Story time, music, crafts, and other hands-on activities.

Small Group Host: Is responsible for hosting a Small Group at their home (or other location). The Host may or may not lead the Small Group, however they are responsible for creating a clean and welcoming atmosphere.

Small Group Leader: The Small Group Leader is responsible for leading the Small Groups discussions, prayer, and coordinating with members of the Small Group. This team is the heart of Fireplace Church, because we believe that real life change happens in the context of relationships. Small groups are the greatest opportunity for you to connect with others, fulfill your passion, and live out a life of ministry.

Stewardship Team: This group plans and implements our church's budget. Bring your accounting skills into Kingdom use!

Worship: This team blazes a pathway for our guests to encounter the Living God. Vocally or instrumentally, the Worship Team allows everyone to use their gifts to serve God and others.

Youth Ministry: This team provides a meaningful environment for Fireplace Youth to grow in their relationship with God and develop godly friendships with peers and mentorship with spiritual leaders.

APPENDIX: 1

FIREPLACE CHURCH STATEMENTS OF FAITH

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct. (2 Timothy 3:15-17, 1 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Peter 1:21)

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 43:10,11, Matthew 28:19, Luke 3:22)

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

His virgin birth, (Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:31, Luke 1:35), His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26, 1 Peter 2:22), His miracles (Acts 2:22, Acts 10:38), His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3, 2 Corinthians 5:21), His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6, Luke 24:39, 1 Corinthians 15:4), His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9, Acts 1:11, Acts 2:33, Philippians 2:9-11, Hebrews 1:3),

4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. (Genesis 1:26,27, Genesis 2:17, Genesis 3:6, Romans 5:12-19)

5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God. Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God, according to the hope of eternal life. (Luke 24:47, John 3:3, Romans 10:13-15, Ephesians 2:8, Titus 2:11, Titus 3:5-7). The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit. (Romans 8:16) The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness. (Ephesians 4:24, Titus 2:12)

6. The Ordinances of the Church

Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. (Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 10:47,48, Romans 6:4)

Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements --bread and the fruit of the vine-- is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4), a memorial of his suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26), and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26, and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4, Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-31)

This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. (Acts 8:12-17, 10:44-

46, 11:14-16, 15:7-9)

With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as:

- an overflowing fullness of the Spirit, John 7:37-39 ,Acts 4:8
- a deepened reverence for God, Acts 2:43 Hebrews 12:28
- an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work, Acts 2:42
- and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost, Mark 16:20

8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance. (Acts 2:4)

The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues, but is different in purpose and use. (1 Corinthians 12:4-10, 1 Corinthians 12:28)

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God.(Romans 12:1,2, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, Hebrews 13:12)

The Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." (Hebrews 12:14)

By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:15,16)

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by the faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 6:1-11, Romans 6:13, Romans 8:1,2, Romans 8:13, Galatians 2:20, Philippians 2:12,13, 1 Peter 1:5)

10. The Church and its Mission

The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven. (Ephesians 1:22,23, Ephesians 2:22, Hebrews 12:23)

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by man, to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is

1. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world. (Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19,20, Mark 16:15,16)
2. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13)
3. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son. (Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Corinthians 12:28, 1 Corinthians 14:12)
4. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world. (Psalms 112:9, Galatians 2:10; 6:10, James 1:27)

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in: Evangelization of the world. (Mark 16:15-20), Worship of God. (John 4:23,24), Building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son. (Ephesians 4:11-16) and Meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion. (Psalms 112:9, Galatians 2:10; 6:10, James 1:27)

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers. (Isaiah 53:4,5, Matthew 8:16,17, James 5:14-16)

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the church (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17, Romans 8:23, Titus 2:13, 1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on earth for one thousand years. (Zechariah 14:5, Matthew 24:27, Matthew 24:30, Revelation 1:7, Revelation 19:11-14, Revelation 20:1-6)

This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel, (Ezekiel 37:21,22, Zephaniah 3:19,20, Romans 11:26,27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9, Psalms 72:3-8, Micah 4:3,4)

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to the everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (Matthew 25:46, Mark 9:43-48, Revelation 19:20, Revelation 20:11-15, Revelation 21:8)

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. (2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21, Revelation 22)

APPENDIX: 2

Questions about tithing:

1. What is tithing? "Tithe" means "a tenth part."

2. What is the difference between a Tithe and an Offering?

A "tithe" is giving the first tenth of my income.

An "offering" is anything I give in addition to my tithe.

3. Why should I tithe?

Because God commands it... *"A tenth of all you produce is the Lord's."* Leviticus 27:30

Because Jesus commended it... *"Yes, you should tithe, and you shouldn't leave the more important things undone either."* Matthew 23:23

4. Tithing demonstrates that God has first place in my life.

"The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God in first place in your life." Deuteronomy 14:23 LB

5. Tithing reminds me that everything I have was given to me by God! *"Always remember that it is the Lord your God who gives you the ability to produce wealth."* Deuteronomy 8:18

6. Tithing expresses my love to the Lord.

"Each of you should bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you." Deuteronomy 16:17

7. God says that refusing to tithe is stealing from Him!

"God says 'Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me!' But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' God says 'In tithes and offerings ... Bring your whole tithe to My house.'" Malachi 3:8-10

8. Tithing gives God a chance to prove He exists and wants to bless you! *"Bring your whole tithe to My storehouse. Test me in this" says the Lord, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you won't have room enough for it!"*

9. What should I tithe? The first part of what I earn. *"Honor the Lord by giving him the first part of all your income."* Proverbs 3:9-10

10. Where should I give my Tithe? Where I worship. *"Bring your whole tithe to My Storehouse (Temple)."* Malachi 3:10

11. When should I Tithe? Weekly.

"On the first day of every week, set aside some of what you have earned and give it as an offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn." 1 Corinthians 16:2 LB

APPENDIX: 3

ANSWER KEY

Pg 1: Spiritual Family, Connected, Christ, Family

Pg 3: Pray, Go, Give,

Pg 4 : Connect, Protect, Grow, Bible, Jesus Christ, Born Again, Spirit-Filled, Spirit-Led

Pg 22: Elders, Trustees

Pg 5 : Pastors, Overseers

Pg 5: Commitment, Consumer, Contributor