



New Members Orientation Handbook

Welcome!

Congratulations on your decision to unite with Jackson Temple Church.

We have prepared this new member orientation, especially for you. As you continue or begin your walk with the Lord, we want you to have all the information you need to feel comfortable and part of this church. Feel free to download the handbook, make notes and refer to it often.

The entire church family joins me in opening our hearts to you and letting you know how happy we are that you chose this ministry as your spiritual home. As a new member, you will have the opportunity to start new friendships and enjoy Christian fellowship.

Your Humble Servant,

Pastor Jaylon J. Jackson



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LESSON 1.

Jackson Temple Church Overview

Our Vision

The vision of **Jackson Temple Church** is *to be a church that lives by faith, is known for love, and equips Believers for Kingdom work and living.*

Jackson Temple Church is committed to building a community of faith through evangelizing those who are not in a relationship with Jesus Christ or connected to a local church, and through empowering all who are seeking a deeper knowledge of God through the study of His Word.

Jackson Temple Church seeks to build a culture that is inclusive of all of God's people. We are committed to ministering with integrity and with the highest standard of spiritual excellence to ensure that our culturally, economically, educationally, and spiritually diverse members learn how to successfully walk with God and partake of His goodness.

Our Mission

The mission of **Jackson Temple Church** is *to lead people to experience a “God First” life. To save, exalt the Lord, equip the Believer, evangelize the World, and expand the Kingdom.*

Our Core Values

Our core values identify what we consider to be important in our ministry.

- **Prayer** - We believe that prayer is how we communicate with God and is the only way we can be victorious in spiritual warfare.
- **Sound Doctrine** - We believe that the teaching of doctrine is foundational and should be balanced on the historical roots of Christianity that shaped the theology and orthodoxy of faith.
- **Worship** - We believe that God is worthy of worship (praise, service, and giving), and worship spiritually connects us individually and corporately to God.
- **Equipping** –We believe in equipping the people of God with a spiritual lifestyle.

- **Evangelism** - We believe that ministry should reach the entire community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- **Marriage and Family** - We believe that God Biblically established the family and it is His gift to creation.
- **Individual Wholeness** – We believe that singles, widows, and divorced persons should embrace their personal and spiritual pursuit of excellence in life.
- **Integrity** – We believe that integrity reveals character.
- **Excellence** – We believe excellence honors God and inspires greatness.

Our Pastoral Leadership

Jackson Temple Church is led by Pastor Jaylon J. Jackson. Our Pastor serves the church in preaching, teaching, administration, finances, visitations, funerals, weddings, and many other official capacities. Pastor Jackson also appoints ministry and departmental leaders to serve in various areas of ministry to ensure that the needs of our growing congregation are met.

Our Statement of Faith

Since you are new to our church, you may naturally wonder what we believe about our faith. Our ‘statement of faith’ details what we believe about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, God’s love, and God’s judgment. We do not apologize for teaching God’s entire Word - the good stuff and also the tough stuff. So, please read this statement carefully because we want you to be sure you are in the right place.

WE BELIEVE the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God.

WE BELIEVE that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

WE BELIEVE in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in the blessed hope of His visible future return to this Earth to receive to Himself, His blood-bought Church that it may be with Him forever.

WE BELIEVE that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ.

WE BELIEVE that regeneration by the Holy Ghost is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

WE BELIEVE that the redemptive work of Christ on the Cross provides healing of the human body in

answer to believing in prayer.

WE BELIEVE that the baptism with the Holy Ghost, according to Acts 2:4, is given to Believers who ask for it.

WE BELIEVE in the sanctifying power of the Holy Ghost by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life.

WE BELIEVE in the Resurrection of both the saved and lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation.

Our Church Doctrines

Every churchgoer and Believer should know their church doctrine. Our church doctrine details what we believe and provides the theological foundation for our teaching and preaching. Church doctrine covers the key areas of traditional Christian belief, as referenced in the Old Testament and taught, by Jesus and His Disciples, in the New Testament.

THE BIBLE - We believe that the Bible is the Word of God and contains one harmonious and sufficiently complete system of doctrine. We believe in the full inspiration of the Word of God. We hold the Word of God to be the only authority in all matters and assert that no doctrine can be true or essential if it does not find a place in this Word.

THE FATHER - We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Author and Creator of all things. The Old Testament reveals God in diverse manners, by manifesting his nature, character, and dominions. The Gospels in the New Testament give us knowledge of God the “Father” or “My Father”, showing the relationship of God to Jesus as Father, or representing Him as the Father in the Godhead, and Jesus himself that Son (St. John 15:8, 14:20). Jesus also gives God the distinction of “Fatherhood” to all believers when he explains God in the light of “Your Father in Heaven” (St. Matthew 6:8).

THE SON - We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Second person in the Godhead of the Trinity or Triune Godhead. We believe that Jesus was and is eternal in his person and nature as the Son of God who was with God at the beginning of creation (St. John 1:1). We believe that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin called Mary according to the scripture (St. Matthew 1:18), thus giving rise to our fundamental belief in the Virgin Birth and all of the miraculous events surrounding the phenomenon (St. Matthew 1:18-25). We believe that Jesus Christ became the “suffering servant” to man; this suffering

servant came seeking to redeem man from sin and to reconcile him back to God, his Father (Romans 5:10). We believe that Jesus Christ is standing now as a mediator between God and man (I Timothy 2:5)

THE HOLY GHOST - We believe the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, proceeds from the Father and the Son, is of the same substance, equal to power and glory, and is together with the Father and the Son, to be believed in, obeyed, and worshipped. The Holy Ghost is a gift bestowed upon the believer for the purpose of equipping and empowering the believer, making him a more effective witness for service in the world. He teaches and guides one into all truth (John 16:13; Acts 1:8, 8:39).

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST - We believe that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is an experience after conversion and sanctification and that tongue-speaking is the consequence of the baptism in the Holy Ghost with the manifestations of the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-23; Acts 10:46, 19:1-6). We believe that we are not baptized with the Holy Ghost to be saved (Acts 19:1-6; John 3:5). When one receives a baptismal Holy Ghost experience, we believe one will speak with a tongue unknown to oneself according to the sovereign will of Christ. To be filled with the Spirit means to be Spirit controlled as expressed by Paul in Ephesians 5:18-19. Since the charismatic demonstrations were necessary to help the early church to be successful in implementing the command of Christ, we, therefore, believe that a Holy Ghost experience is mandatory for all men today.

MAN – We believe that man was created holy by God, composed of body and soul. We believe that man, by nature, is sinful and unholy. Being born in sin, he needs to be born again, sanctified, and cleansed from all sins by the blood of Jesus. We believe that man is saved by confessing and forsaking his sins and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that having become a child of God, by being born again and adopted into the family of God, he may, and should, claim the inheritance of the sons of God, namely the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

SIN - Sin, the Bible teaches, began in the angelic world (Ezekiel 28:11-19; Isaiah 14:12-20), and is transmitted into the blood of the human race through disobedience and deception motivated by unbelief (I Timothy 2:14). Adam's sin, committed by eating the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, carried with it permanent pollution or depraved human nature to all his descendants. This is called "original sin." Sin can now be defined as a volitional transgression against God and a lack of conformity to the will of God. We, therefore, conclude that man by nature, is sinful and that he has

fallen from a glorious and righteous state from which he was created, and has become unrighteous and unholy. Man, therefore, must be restored to his state of holiness from which he has fallen by being born again (John 3:7).

SALVATION - Salvation deals with the application of the work of redemption to the sinner with his restoration to divine favor and communion with God. This redemptive operation of the Holy Ghost upon sinners is brought about by repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ which brings conversion, faith, justification regeneration, sanctification, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Repentance is the work of God, which results in a change of mind with respect to man's relationship to God. (St. Matthew 3:1-2, 4:17; Acts 20:21). **Faith** is a certain conviction wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, as to the truth of the Gospel and a heart trust in the promises of God in Christ (Romans 1:17, 3:28; St. Matthew 9:22; Acts 26:18). **Conversion** is that act of God whereby He causes the regenerated sinner, in his conscious life, to turn to Him in repentance and faith (II Kings 5:15; II Chronicles 33:12-13; St. Luke 19:8, 9; Acts 8:30). **Regeneration** is that act of God by which the principle of the new life is implanted in man, and the governing disposition of soul is made holy, and the first holy exercise of this new disposition is secured. **Sanctification** is that gracious and continuous operation of the Holy Ghost, by which He delivers the justified sinner from the pollution of sin, renews his whole nature in the image of God, and enables him to perform good works (Romans 6:4;5:6; Colossians 2:12; 3:1).

ANGELS - The Bible uses the term "angel" (a heavenly body) clearly and primarily to denote messengers or ambassadors of God with such scripture references as Revelations 4:5, which indicates their duty in heaven to praise God (Psalm 103:20), to do God's will (St. Matthew 18:10) and to behold his face. But since heaven must come down to earth, they also have a mission to earth. The Bible indicates that they accompanied God in the Creation, and also that they will accompany Christ in His return in Glory.

DEMONS - Demons denote unclean or evil spirits; they are sometimes called devils or demonic beings. They are evil spirits, belonging to the unseen or spiritual realm, embodied in human beings. The Old Testament refers to the prince of demons, sometimes called Satan (Adversary) or Devil, as having power and wisdom, taking the habitation of other forms such as the serpent (Genesis 3:1). The New Testament speaks of the Devil as Tempter (St. Matthew 4:3) and it goes on to tell the works of Satan, The Devil, and Demons as combating righteousness and good in any form, proving to be an adversary to the saints.

Their chief power is exercised to destroy the mission of Jesus Christ. It can well be said that the Christian Church believes in Demons, Satan, and Devils. We believe in their power and purpose. We believe they can be subdued and conquered as in the commandment to the believer by Jesus. “In my name, they shall cast out Satan and the work of the Devil and to resist him and then he will flee (WITHDRAW) from you.” (St. Mark 16:17).

THE CHURCH - The Church forms a spiritual unity in which Christ is the divine head. It is animated by one Spirit, the Spirit of Christ. It professes one faith, shares one hope, and serves one King. It is the citadel of the truth and God’s agency for communicating to believers all spiritual blessings. The Church then is the object of our faith rather than of knowledge. The word “CHURCH” or “EKKLESIA” was first applied to the Christian society by Jesus Christ in St. Matthew 16:18, the occasion being that of his benediction of Peter at Caesarea Philippi

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST - We believe in the second coming of Christ; that He shall come from heaven to earth, personally, bodily, visibly (Acts 1:11; Titus 2:11-13; St. Matthew 16:27; 24:30; 25:30; Luke 21:27; John 1:14, 17; Titus 2:11) and that the Church, the bride, will be caught up to meet Him in the air (I Thessalonians, 4:16-17). We admonish all who have this hope to purify themselves as He is pure.

DIVINE HEALING - We believe in and practice Divine Healing. It is a commandment of Jesus to the Apostles (St. Mark 16:18). Jesus affirms his teachings on healing by explaining to His disciples, who were to be Apostles, that healing the afflicted is by faith (St. Luke 9:40-41). Therefore, we believe that healing by faith in God has scriptural support and ordained authority. St. James’ writings in his epistle encourage Elders to pray for the sick, lay hands upon them, and to anoint them with oil, and that prayer with faith shall heal the sick and the Lord shall raise them.

MIRACLES - We believe that miracles occur to convince men that the Bible is God’s Word. A miracle can be defined as an extraordinary visible act of Divine power, wrought by the efficient agency of the will of God, which has as its final cause the vindication of the righteousness of God’s word. We believe that the works of God, which were performed during the beginnings of Christianity, do and will occur even today where God is preached, Faith in Christ is exercised, The Holy Ghost is active, and the Gospel is promulgated in the truth (Acts 5:15; 6:8; 9:40; Luke 4:36, 7:14-15; 5:5-6; St. Mark 14:15).

Download: [Lesson 1- 30 Biblical Definitions Every Believer Should Know](#)

LESSON 2.

The Bible, Doctrines, and Ordinances

The Bible

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

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

The Bible is *God-breathed*, meaning God spoke it to holy men (prophets, priests, apostles, disciples, and eyewitnesses) who recorded it and passed it down. It was written as a *revelation* from the heart of God to men so we can know who God is, His desires, and His wishes.

- **The Bible** records the lives and actions of flawed men and women, their mistakes, and God’s mercy toward them. The ultimate message of the Bible is the revelation of the living word, Jesus Christ.
- **The Bible** contains prophesy, poetry, history, stories, promises, and doctrine. It consists of 66 books, the Old Testament & New Testaments, was written by over 40 authors in 3 languages, and spans approximately 1,800 years, of human history.
- **The Bible** was given by God to humanity as a guide to faithfulness, salvation, holiness, and a path to eternal life.
- **The Bible** provides proof of God’s existence; spiritually and historically. It is the *living* Word of God that is divinely empowered to change the reader through its spiritual truth and reality.

Why and How to Study the Bible?

We study the Bible because it is the only book that tells the story of God, and describes who he is, and how he works, in and through His creation.

- **Read it.**
“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)
- **Study It.**
“... receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” James 1:21 (NKJV)
- **Memorize It.**

“Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You.” Psalm 119:111 (NKJV)

- **USE It.**

The Doctrine of the Trinity

The Doctrine of the Trinity explains WHO God is. God is *life* (living energy and power), God is *self-existent* (not dependent on anyone/thing else for His existence), God is *immutable* (unchanging) and *unlimited* by time or space. God is ONE – Unity-the first and the last; besides me there is no other.

He is one God, having three distinct persons that function in perfect unity.

The Father

God the Father created all things and planned the redemption of his people from all eternity (Genesis 3:14–15; Ephesians 1:3–12). The One through whom the Son and Holy Spirit are sent.

The Son

God the Son accomplished that redemption on the cross (Romans 3:21–24; Galatians 3:13–14 Eternally with God from the beginning.

- The Word made flesh.
- Born of a virgin.
- Lived a perfect, sinless life.
- Died on the cross for the sins of the world, to redeem the world back to God.
- Was raised to life three days later, overcoming sin and the grave.
- “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 (NKJV)
- Sits at the right hand of the Father, interceding on our behalf.

The Holy Ghost

God the Holy Spirit applies the benefits of that eternal redemption to all believers (John 3:5–8; Titus 3:4–7).

- Was present from the beginning

- Isn't a force or energy; it is the Lord.
- "...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (2 Corinthians 3:17).
- Has emotions, can be grieved, and releases joy.
- The third member of the Trinity.

One God, three distinct persons, living in eternal community together fulfilling the divine mysteries of the Godhead that we are recipients of.

The Doctrine of Salvation

Why Do We Need Salvation?

- We are born sinful and self-serving. The wages of sin are death and leave us destined for hell. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* John 3:16 (NKJV)
- Jesus came without sin, went to the cross, and bore on his body the penalty for our sins and the sins of the world all because of God's love. Jesus did it to save us from ourselves, our sins, hell, and the judgment we deserve. *"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."* John 3:17 (NKJV)
- When Jesus died, He said: "It is finished," meaning the bill has been paid. Reconciled and rescued! Taking broken things and redeeming them to their original place and position.

What Happens When We Are Saved?

No matter how sinful we are, we can all be rescued and brought back to our original standing with God through Jesus. When we receive this gift of salvation, our sins are completely forgiven, and the Holy Spirit takes residence in our hearts and gives us new hearts. We are reconciled with God no longer slaves destined for hell; our names are now written in the Lamb's book of life. Heaven is our home, and we will no longer die spiritually, although we die physically. Therefore,

- We have been saved (past & present) – (Romans 8:24; Ephesians 2:5, 8)

- We are being saved (present) – (1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 2:15)
- We will be saved (future) – (Romans 5:10; 13:11; 1 Peter 1:13)

How Do I Become Saved?

It's not by our best efforts, but by the grace and through receiving the gift of God offered through Jesus Christ.

- **REPENT:** *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.* (Acts 3:19- NIV)
- **CONFESS:** Admit, own, reveal. *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:9*NIV)
- **ASK:** Jesus Christ to come into your life and be the LORD of your life. (John 1:12-13, Rev. 3:20).
- **FORSAKE:** Quit, give up, and leave entirely alone. Be willing for God to take all desire for sin away from you. *“Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.”* (Isaiah 55:7-NIV)
- **BELIEVE:** That Jesus died to pay for your sins and that he rose again and is alive. *“If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”* (Romans 10:9-NIV).
- **ACCEPT:** God's gift of salvation is FREE! It cannot be earned. *“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—”* (John 1:12-NIV).

Next Steps - *“Wash you, make you clean, put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well...”* (Isaiah 1:16-17) We must cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit.

II Corinthians 6:17-7:1. Don't do anything that will not glorify God (I Corinthians 10:31). Don't try to discover how little Christ will accept but how much (I Chronicles 4:10).

Salvation then, is the process of transformation of a person's nature and relationship with God, as a result of repentance and faith in the atoning death of Jesus Christ on the cross. All humanity needs salvation which is only possible through faith in Christ Jesus. Believers are saved by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-10).

In all of this, we see the grace and goodness of God not to leave us in a state of shattered sin, but to reconcile us back to His original intentions—for us to live in His presence forever and be in a perfect relationship with Him. That’s what it means for you and me to be saved!

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

What Did Jesus Tell Us About the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Jesus said the Holy Spirit would empower all believers. *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”* Acts 1:8 (ESV)

How Can I Receive the Holy Spirit?

This is a gift for you. It is for everyone, and you can have it if you simply ask Jesus to baptize you in the Holy Spirit. If you have not received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit yet, repent and pray that He fills you, just like He filled the disciples with the power of the Holy Spirit. As Christians, we need all the power we can to walk supernaturally in the dynamics of the Holy Spirit, demonstrating the words and the power of the gospel.

What is the Work of the Holy Spirit in a Believer’s Life?

- HE teaches, guides, comforts, intercedes, and possesses emotions, intellect, and will.
- HE enables Christ-like living and victory over sin.
- HE unites the believer with Christ and places him in the body of Christ -which is the church.
- HE ensures we will be used by God to glorify him and advance His Kingdom.
- HE regenerates believers so that we may turn from sin and exercise their faith in Christ.
- HE illuminates our minds and hearts to understand God’s Word, as he produces obedience in us.
- HE creates and inhabits the temples of God (our bodies and the Church).
- HE works to bring about unity in the Church through the manifestation of fruit and gifts.

Church Ordinances

ORDINANCES - *It is generally admitted that for an ordinance to be valid, it must have been instituted by Christ. When we speak of ordinances of the church, we are speaking of those instituted by Christ, in which by sensible signs the grace of God in Christ and the benefits of the covenant of grace are represented, sealed, and applied to believers, and these, in turn, give expression to their faith and allegiance to God. Jackson Temple Church recognizes three ordinances as having been instituted by Christ and is, therefore, binding upon the church practice.*

THE LORD'S SUPPER - The Lord's Supper symbolizes the Lord's death and suffering for the benefit and in the place of His people. It also symbolizes the believer's participation in the crucified Christ. It represents not only the death of Christ as the object of faith which unites the believers to Christ, but also the effect of this act as the giving of life, strength, and joy to the soul. The communicant by faith enters into a special spiritual union of his soul with the glorified Christ.

Why Does the Church Offer Communion?

Communion is a unifying sacrament where we remember our salvation was bought by Jesus alone. It is the centerpiece of our Christian faith. For over 2000 years, the church has taken Communion together to remember what Jesus has done for us on the cross.

What are the Elements of Communion?

The Bread

When we take it, we are reminded of the price paid for our sins and the healing of our body, soul, and spirit. *“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes, we are healed.”* Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV)

The Cup (juice/wine)

Remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and the New Covenant.

The Lord's Supper is an act of RENEWAL

- Renew our covenant relationship with God
- Renew relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ

How Do I Prepare Myself for the Lord's Supper?

- Confess your sins – (1 John 1:9)
- Repent and ask for forgiveness
- Recommit to Jesus – (Romans 12:1)
- Restore broken relationships – (Matthew 5:23-24)

WATER BAPTISM - We believe that Water Baptism is necessary as instructed by Christ in St. John 3:5, "UNLESS MAN BE BORN AGAIN OF WATER AND OF THE SPIRIT." However, we do not believe that water baptism alone is a means of salvation but is an outward demonstration that one has already had a conversion experience and has accepted Christ as his personal Savior.

As Pentecostals, we practice immersion in preference to "SPRINKLING", because immersion corresponds more closely to the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord (Colossians 2:12). It also symbolizes regeneration and purification more than any other mode. Therefore, we practice immersion as our mode of Baptism. We believe that we should use the Baptismal Formula given us by Christ for all "...IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY GHOST." (St. Matthew 28:19).

After the repentance of sin and acceptance of salvation, we believe that you should be baptized as the Lord Jesus commanded. Baptism is significant in that it represents the cleansing from sin that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Water baptism involves immersion in water and symbolically portrays the washing away of our sins.

Why Should We Be Baptized?

- Jesus was Himself baptized.
- Baptism is something Jesus commanded all believers to do. "...Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen." Matthew 28:19-20 (NKJV). It is an act of obedience.
- Baptism is to be completely submerged and immersed in the water; the waters of baptism represent a burial of our sin; coming out of the water represents new life.

- By being baptized, we are telling the world around us and the Christian community that we are a new creation.

FEET WASHING - Feet Washing is practiced and recognized as an ordinance in our Church because Christ, by His example, showed that humility characterized greatness in the Kingdom of God, and that service, rendered to others gave evidence that humility, motivated by love, exists. These services are held subsequent to the Lord's Supper; however, their regularity is left to the discretion of the Pastor in charge.

Feet washing is a practice that demonstrates humility that helps to cleanse Christians that are affected by living in a world of sin. The main purpose of feet-washing is caring for others, cleansing us in a sin-cursed world, and emulating Jesus in everything we do. As long as there are genuine emotions behind the act, the service to others will bring feelings of humility and empathy, it is a beneficial act for both parties.

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. John 13:14–17 (NKJV)

LESSON 3.

The Role of the Church

The church is the bride of Jesus Christ. The church is also the body of Christ made up of individuals who serve one another through diverse gifts and ministries. The Church is more than shared values, resources, and networking, it is where we demonstrate our growth in Christ and where we have the opportunity and the privilege to be used by Christ.

The Church is more than shared values and resources; it is the living body of Christ, made up of individuals who serve one another through diverse gifts and ministries. (1 Peter 2:5), (1 Corinthians 12:12–27.)

- The Church is a place for giving as well as receiving.
- The Church practices biblical principles and acknowledges God's empowering presence.
- The Church uses effective evangelistic methods and exalts worship.
- The Church teaches spiritual disciplines.
- The Church practices wise administration.
- The Church demonstrates positive leadership.

God calls believers into fellowship with other brothers and sisters in Christ. Believers are told to assemble to encourage each other (Hebrews 10:25). In His instruction to His disciples, Jesus gives us the purpose of the church in what is known as the Great Commission. There He states: *“Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. 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.* (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV).

The responsibility of the Church (Body of Christ) is to spread and share the good news of the gospel throughout the world. To that end members of the church have the privilege of serving God and their fellow man. Some of the basic responsibilities of church members (Christians) in the local body of believers are as follows:

- Just as Christ loved believers - believers are to love one another (the church). There must be love among and between members of the Church. Christ set the example in this area by giving Himself to the Church. We as the church ought to give our time, talents, and resources to the body of Christ. (Ephesians 5:25).
- God desires the worship and praise of His people. The church building is the meeting place where believers assemble to offer worship and praise to God as one. Worship and praise of God are both public and private (Matthew 6:6, Luke 4:16). The church building is the physical location where believers can offer uninterrupted worship and praise to God. (Psalm 95:6, 96:6, 150)
- God calls all believers into service. God has placed within each believer a gift that is to be used to bring Him glory. In service to the church, we are to use those God-given gifts. (Luke 22:21, John 9:4, I Corinthians 10:31, 15:58).
- By adhering to God's commandments believers show their love for God. While no one is sinless, believers should always be striving to remain obedient to the Word of God. (John 14:21, John 15:10, 14).
- We must give financially as God has prospered us. Believers provide the financial assistance needed to support the ministry and sustain the operations of the church. By properly giving to the church, we give to ourselves. How? When believers give to God, He blesses them in return. (Proverbs 3:9, Malachi 3:8-12, Luke 6:38, II Corinthians 9:7).

Serving the Local Church

Does the Bible Say We Have to Serve?

Since we are followers of Jesus, we should follow His example. He lived with one great purpose - to do His Father's will. As Christians, this should be our goal and our purpose as well. Going, doing, giving, helping, witnessing, sharing, and serving are to be significant parts of our daily living.

In 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, the Apostle Paul makes it clear that service in God's Kingdom, for Christians, is not an option. The concept of an inactive church member is a contradiction. Serving is

our response to what God has done for us in Christ and for what He is doing through the Holy Spirit. We should see serving in the church as a privilege and a responsibility. As members of the Body of Christ, we are to connect to where God is calling and empowering us to serve so the ministry of Jesus Christ can be effectively carried out in the local church.

Jackson Temple Church believes that **servicing** in the church is one of the most effective ways to grow and develop spiritually. The church's need for volunteers is an open door for people to connect, and connection to the local church is by far one of the most significant experiences God uses to bring people closer to him.

We have established our church on the following departments and ministries. As our church grows other ministries/departments will be developed to meet the needs of our members. As you consider the ministries here at Jackson Temple Church, ask God through prayer to lead you to a place within His body where He wants you to serve. Each member has a specific role or duty to perform. All members are vital to the body and no one member is more important than another. Through active participation in one or more ministries, you will find that God can do a mighty work in and through you.

Volunteering and Training

At **Jackson Temple Church**, our objective in volunteer training is to make sure the volunteer has the information necessary to become successful. It is very common for new church volunteers to immediately feel that they have made a 'big mistake' by volunteering. They begin to doubt themselves, worry about their past, and realize that they know nothing about the role for which they volunteered.

Training helps new volunteers gain information and builds not only self-confidence but also confidence in the church because of its investment in the members and its eagerness to see everyone succeed.

Ministry Descriptions

If you already know a ministry that you want to serve in, you may complete the **Volunteer Interest Form** on the website and you will be contacted.

The following is a list of our current ministry descriptions.

The Evangelism Ministry is based on biblical strategies designed to win unbelievers to Christ, through church and outreach activities. This ministry helps all believers take advantage of opportunities to make known the message of the gospel to the unsaved.

The Media Ministry is the technical branch of our ministry and is organized to make sure that all technical aspects of our worship service are of the best quality. The objective of the Media Ministry is to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our visually-driven, ever-changing world through the use of technology and media, and to equip other ministries of the church to use digital and electronic media as a worship and outreach tool. Through this, we are aiming to enhance the worship experience, communicate with the congregation, extend the congregation beyond the walls of the church, and spread the Gospel message. This ministry not only provides the technical support required for our worship services, but also records various events, teachings, and sermons.

The C.R.E.W. (Christians Ready Equipped and Willing) is our youth ministry and is a young, innovative, and energetic group of youth whose main objective and focus is to become Disciples of Christ. The CREW is comprised of youth between the ages of 12-18. Jackson Temple's youth department is God's *anointed new generation* church. This youth department will transform its participants into stellar adults, for the kingdom.

Women's Ministry The purpose of the Women's Ministry is to clarify the purpose and role of women. The goal of this ministry is to build healthy relationships in the body of Christ and promote spiritual growth, unity, and love.

Church Auxiliaries

These teams (auxiliaries) assist with the church's overall administration and are focused on the needs of the Pastor, church members, and the community.

The Hospitality Auxiliary. These teams support church ministry. Hospitality is a ministry of HELPS that provides assistance at Sunday morning services and special pastoral and church events. The following teams are part of this auxiliary:

Pastor's Aide Team. This team is concerned with the comfort of the Pastor and the older church members, during times of worship. They provide prayer, encouragement, keep track of

the pastor and his family's birthdays and anniversaries, and plan special activities for these events. They also plan the annual Pastor's Appreciation Day and traditional holiday events.

Church Greeters Team. This team is committed to fostering fellowship with men, women, and children and giving the best initial worship experience when entering and exiting, Jackson Temple Church.

Parking Attendants Team. This team directs parking cars and gives warm welcomes and fond farewells, with a smile, to every person attending our services. They serve with joy and excellence as they represent a God of joy and excellence.

The Ushers Board. This team serves as the “first representatives” of Jesus Christ, for the worship service, and are the spiritual ambassadors for the local church. Their goal is to ensure that everyone is seated correctly, that order is maintained during service, and that the worship experience is as comfortable as possible.

If you are unsure of a ministry area at this time, we encourage you to complete the **Spiritual Gift Analysis** on the website. The assessment will offer you some guidance into how God has gifted you and how you can use those gifts to serve the body here at Jackson Temple Church.

Expectations

What You Can Expect from US?

Jackson Temple Church is a ministry where you can **Receive, Grow, and Serve.**

Receive

We are a community where you can **receive** a Word that is transforming and worship that is uplifting. You will receive preaching and teaching that is real, relevant, and relational. *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”* 2 Timothy 3:16-NIV.

Grow

We are a community of believers where you can **Grow** in God's Word and relationship with other believers. *"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding."* Proverbs 4:7-NIV.

Serve

We are a community of opportunities where you can **Serve** through your time, talents, and finances the kingdom of God. *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* Ephesians 2:10-NIV.

What We Expect from YOU?

Committed Membership

What is Membership? Membership is a group of like-minded followers of Jesus committed to one another, to the local church, and to God's ultimate plan for His people.

Faithful Attendance in our Worship Services

In our worship of God in the church, we shut out the noise and confusion of the world and listen for God's guidance. Through music, prayers, scripture reading, and the pastors' message, we feel the presence of God. The faithful meeting for worship each Lord's Day is important because the fellowship of and with other Christians will help encourage us to greater Christian devotion and service.

Faithful Participation in Bible Study

The Christian faith is based upon the revelation of and from God that is found in the Bible. The Bible gives us instruction and hope (Romans 15:4), helps us to grow in the Christian life (1 Peter 2:2), and keeps us from sinning (Psalm 119:110). Participation in Bible study is essential to getting a proper understanding of the Scriptures. The essential truths of the Scriptures are open for all to seek the message that God has for us.

Faithful Witness

Service in the name of Jesus Christ should also extend beyond the study classes and worship services. As Christians, we must carry the gospel to those outside the fellowship of the church and serve humankind in every area of need. We cannot be true to our Lord and remain silent about Him. We are dishonest with our family and friends if we withhold from them the best news in the world (Acts 1:8). The greatest work, and the work that pays the largest rewards is to encourage others to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Faithful Stewardship

Every Believer striving for faithful stewardship must acknowledge that God owns everything (Ps. 24:1) and nothing belongs to us. Therefore, it should be easy to honor God with a portion of all he provides for us and to obey the principles of stewardship (ownership, responsibility, accountability, and reward).

[Downloads: Lesson 3-Volunteer Interest Form](#)

LESSON 4.

Spiritual Disciplines & Gifts

Spiritual Disciplines

The Gospels say that Jesus practiced four central disciplines- solitude, fasting, prayer, and service. Spiritual discipline activities help us grow in our love for the Lord. These practices are called ‘disciplines’ because these are things, we may not be doing regularly but must now commit to INTENTIONALLY making them a priority in our routine. This is a challenge for us all, however, the benefits of incorporating these disciplines depend entirely on us. We simply get out of it- what we put in. If we want God to show up in our lives, open closed doors, bless us and give us favor everywhere we go – then we must OBEY his word, get in a relationship with him, and live so we can say “I am a friend of God”.

What is a Spiritual Discipline?

Spiritual disciplines are derived from the gospel, found in Scripture, and are sufficient for knowing and experiencing God, and for growing in Christlikeness.

Spiritual disciplines are activities that help you grow in your love of the Lord and engage your heart, soul, and mind with Him. *They are not attitudes, character qualities, graces, or fruit of the Spirit.* Spiritual disciplines include:

- **Prayer** – enables a two-way conversation with God.
- **Study** – involves getting into the Word and getting the Word into your life through reading, writing, memorization, speaking, singing, etc.
- **Fellowship** – meeting with a group of like-minded believers for mutual encouragement and accountability.
- **Worship** – involves gathering corporately or worshiping privately, to give praise, honor, and glory to God and show thankfulness for his goodness.
- **Giving** – Biblical giving (tithing) and personal giving (offerings) demonstrate our obedience and thankfulness to God for his blessings.
- **Fasting** – Jesus expected His followers to fast, and He said that God rewards fasting. In the act of fasting, we humbly deny the flesh to focus on and glorify God, become more in tune with His Spirit and go deeper in our prayer life.

Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are supernatural empowerments, given by the Holy Spirit, to the followers of Christ so that they can do the work of building up the body of Christ, that is, the church, and extend the Kingdom of God throughout the world.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,.. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (ESV)

Why Did God Give Us Spiritual Gifts?

The gifts of the Spirit were given “*for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect [complete, mature] man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ . . . speaking the truth in love, [that we] may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ*” (Ephesians 4:12–13, 15).

How Do I Know I’m Operating in My Spiritual Gift?

Spiritual gifts are given to Believers only! They are not talents that may be inherited, or abilities developed through education, personal experiences, etc. God has given each of us tools with which to serve in ministry. We can serve in the areas of our natural talents, learned abilities, and spiritual gifts.

- **Natural talents** are abilities that are part of who you are – that are innate. We are born with them. (Psalm 139:13-16a; Jeremiah 1:4-5; Galatians 1:15).
- **Learned abilities** are the result of our informal, and formal education and personal experiences. They are learned either by our observations, by trial and error, or by being taught by someone else. Sometimes they overlap with our natural talents. (Exodus 35:30 – 36:2).
- **Spiritual gifts are God-given abilities of a particular spiritual nature and/or a spiritual purpose.** They may or may not overlap or coincide with natural talents or learned abilities. Spiritual

gifts are the primary channel by which the Holy Spirit ministers through believers to build the church.

Why Is It Important for Believers to Know Their Spiritual Gift(s)?

- Knowing your spiritual gift helps you understand God's will for your life.
- Knowing your spiritual gift helps you understand how the Holy Spirit works through you.
- Knowing your spiritual gift helps you know what God has not called you to do.
- Knowing your spiritual gift relieves you from serving out of duty.
- Knowing your spiritual gift fills a deep inner need.
- Knowing your spiritual gift builds unity among Christians.
- Knowing your spiritual gift equips you to fulfill God's purpose for your life.
- Knowing your spiritual gift adds to your self-acceptance.

What Are Some Characteristics of Spiritual Gifts?

- Everyone has at least one spiritual gift.
- No one has all of them, not even most of them.
- Some spiritual gifts may be given at baptism and will follow you throughout your life.
- Other spiritual gifts are given because of a need at a particular time.
- Gifts may be sought after but require a need in the community of faith.
- Gifts are given not to the individual, but to the church through the individual. They are resources given by God to the people of God to accomplish what God wants to be accomplished in the world.

What Are the Types of Spiritual Gifts?

Leadership (Rom. 12:8)

Teaching (1 Cor. 12:28)

Wisdom (1 Cor. 12:28)

Discernment (1 Cor. 12:10)

Shepherding (Eph. 4:11)

Evangelism (Eph. 4:11)

Service/Helps (1 Cor. 12:28)

Administration (1 Cor. 12:28)

Knowledge (1 Cor. 12:28)

Prophecy (1 Cor. 12:10, Rom. 12:6)

Exhortation (Rom. 12:8)

Faith (1 Cor. 12:9)

Apostleship (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11)

Mercy (Rom. 12:8)

How Do I Discover My Spiritual Gift(s)?

What kind of ministry do you enjoy the most and shows the most fruitfulness? That probably indicates where spiritual gifts are operating in your life. If you enjoy teaching and find that people are edified through your teaching ministry, the Holy Spirit has likely given you a gift of teaching. If you find that the Lord puts people in your path who are ready to surrender their life to Christ, you probably have a spiritual gift of evangelism. If you enjoy inviting people to your home, either for a meal or to stay, you probably have a gift of hospitality.

There are “tests” available that might indicate your spiritual gifting. **However, some of them measure what a person’s natural talents and preferences are, rather than truly identifying one’s spiritual gifts.** These inventories also focus on experience and are not always a good indicator of what the Holy Spirit might lead us into in our future ministry.

A better way of confirming a person’s spiritual gifting is through the local congregation and its leadership. What do the leaders and the local body think that you do best that contributes to the welfare of the congregation? That is probably your spiritual gift. A person does not need to announce or advertise his/her spiritual gift. The local congregation will recognize and validate genuine spiritual gifts as the gifted person’s ministry contributes to the building up of the local church body. Of course, this requires the individual believer to step out in faith and obedience to God’s Word. The gifts of the Holy Spirit operate through obedient and faith-filled disciples.

NOTE: If you are interested in taking a spiritual gifts test, we have one you can download.

REMEMBER – these tests measure more what a person’s natural talents and preferences are, rather than truly identifying one’s spiritual gifts. These inventories also focus on experience and are not always a good indicator of what the Holy Spirit might lead us into in our future ministry. A better way of confirming a person’s spiritual gifting is through the local congregation and its leadership.

Download: Lesson 4-Spiritual Gifts Analysis @ www.giftstest.com (optional)

LESSON 4.

Christian Stewardship

Generosity and Giving

What is God Talking About When He Calls Us to be Generous?

God is exceedingly and extravagantly generous with His grace, kindness, provision, and His gifts. Because we want to become like the God we worship, we need to realize that He wants us to be generous just like He is generous to us.

“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.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (ESV)

Why Does God Ask Us to Give?

1. It changes other people’s lives.
2. It changes our lives: We realize God is in control and we become stewards of what He has put into our lives. You are a steward, a manager. God has entrusted you with talents, time, resources, and money.

Generosity starts in our hearts and isn’t just about finances: It’s about our time, our talents, and our treasures. He is talking about matters of the heart, not matters of the hand.

How Can We be Generous With All That We Have?

- **With our time:**
We can mentor others with our time, investing our time and talents into others’ lives for the gospel.

- **With our talents:**

No matter your design and how you're gifted (i.e. - organizational, administrative, creative, etc.), God has given you talents and gifts. If you use those talents for only earthly things, your reward will only be in the earthly realm, temporal.

- **With our treasures:**

When we choose to be like God and invest our time, talent & treasure into eternal things (i.e. - people, kingdom-building aspects, endeavors, etc.) we're taking temporal things, translating them, and exchanging the currency of this world for eternal currency and reward.

There is a reward awaiting us, in the age to come, as a result of how we invest our time, talents, and treasures, in our world today.

Biblical Stewardship

Tithes

God has a plan for the financing of the work He has ordered the Church to perform – through tithes and offerings. Tithing is a practice of obedience in returning 10% of your income to God. Originally, the tithe was given to the temple in the form of produce or livestock since this was the only real income the people had. As society shifted to a monetary exchange system, the tithe began to be paid in currency.

- Tithing is first mentioned when Abraham presented a tithe to the Priest-king of Jerusalem, Melchizedek. (Genesis 14:18-20).
- Abraham's grandson, Jacob, pledged to offer to God a tenth of all that God would bless him with (Read Genesis 28:20-22). What was his 3-fold expectation?

God's presence - "If God will be with me"

God's protection - "will keep me in the way that I go"

God's provision - "will give me bread to eat and raiment to put on"

Old Testament - In Malachi 3:1-4 we have a prophecy that the Lord will come and teach people how to live righteously and in a manner that is consistent with God's will. The fact is then stated that Israel has robbed God by not bringing the tithe to Him.

- Those that were disobedient regarding tithing were condemned with a curse from God. (Malachi 3:8-9). Those that are obedient in tithing are blessed by God in return. According to Malachi 3:10-12, the benefits of tithing are:

Increase

Blessings

Protection

New Testament - Some argue that since we are under grace in the New Covenant, that tithing should not be the responsibility or obligation of the contemporary church. This is erroneous thinking when in fact tithing is first mentioned in Genesis, which is 430 years before the Law.

Jesus Taught Tithing - In Jesus Christ, Malachi's 3:1-4 prophecy is fulfilled. Jesus taught in Matthew 23:23 that acceptable living includes the tithe and the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith. For the Christian, tithing is a practice of obedience, faith, and worship given in recognition of the blessings that God has given to us.

The tithe is our starting point; it's the minimum we should give. We believe in God's plan for everything, and we believe that every member of the church should be a tither, bringing to the Lord a tenth of their income. If all members were tithers, God's plan of finance would meet all of the financial needs of the church.

Offerings

I Corinthians 16:2 teaches that believers are to give "as God has prospered," us. This scripture teaches giving above and beyond the tithe. Consider the tithe as the seed you "owe" and offerings as the seed you "sow" for increase or toward an expected need or outcome, through your faith. Offerings are voluntarily given above the tithe. Offerings bring in the overflow of the abundance of whatever you need from God. It's not always money. It can be health in your body, better relationships, peace of mind, etc.

Why Is It Important to Have the Right Attitude When Giving?

Giving begins with what you decide. Whether it is your attitude, whom you will give to, and what you give, it's about your personal decision. You should not give if:

- You have to fuss about giving.

- If you are angry about giving.
- If you are giving worrying about how you are going to survive.
- If you are feeling manipulated or taken advantage of.

Three Things to Keep in Mind When Giving:

1. You are giving to honor God. Although our giving goes to Jackson Temple Church, we don't give to a church, we don't give to the pastors. We give our offerings to honor God. Giving is about a relationship. It shows that we love and trust God and that we truly recognize Him as Lord over our lives.
2. Your giving must be willing (2 Cor 8:12, 9:7). The amount doesn't matter, it's your attitude, your willingness. *God loves a cheerful giver;* whose heart is in his giving. It is your decision what you should give.
3. Your standard of giving raises your standard of living (2 Cor 9:10-11). When you have a willing heart and mind to give, God will make sure to supply you with money to give. Not only that, but He will also increase what you give and then enlarge the harvest you receive from it.



YES, YOU DID IT!!!! You have completed the JTC-New Member Orientation.
Don't forget to download, complete, and email back the **Orientation Evaluation Form.**

Welcome to the Jackson Temple Church family! God Bless you!