

# APPENDIX E:

## STATEMENTS OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

The Church accepts the Scriptures as the revealed Will of God, the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, and for the purpose of maintaining general unity; adopts these Statements of Fundamental Truths and Doctrine.

Section 1. The Scriptures Inspired - The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to man, the infallible rule of faith and conduct, and is superior to conscience and reason, but not contrary to reason (2 Tim. 3:15 17; 1 Peter 1:23 25; Heb. 4:12).

Section 2. The One True Godhead - The triune Godhead is comprised of three (3) separate and distinct personalities, The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit, who are eternally self existent, self revealed and function as one entity. Jesus Christ, who is God manifested in the flesh, is the second member of the Godhead, coequal and co eternal with The Father and The Holy Spirit.

Section 3. Man, His Fall and Redemption - Man was created good and upright, for God said, "Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness". But, man, by voluntary transgression, fell and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ the Son of God (Genesis 1:26 31, 3:1 7; Romans 5:12 21).

### Section 4. The Salvation of Man

(a) Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. On the cross Jesus Christ became sin and sickness providing both salvation and divine healing for all mankind (Psalm 103:3), being justified freely by His Grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. For by grace we are saved through faith. "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation" (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 10:8 10).

(b) The Evidence of Salvation. The inward evidence to the believer of his 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. "And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us." (1John 3:23); ... while you are waiting for these things to happen and for him to come, try hard to live without sinning; and be at peace with everyone so that he will be pleased with you when he returns (2 Peter 3:14 LB).

(c) Faith and Works. Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ and not by human works; however, our works will determine the rewards in eternity (Romans 10:9 1 and II Cor. 5:10).

Section 5. Baptism in Water - The ordinance of baptism by a burial with Christ should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures by all who have really repented and in their hearts have truly believed on Christ as Savior and Lord. In so doing, they declare to the world that they have died with Jesus and that they have also been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47, 48; Romans 6:4).

Section 6. The Lord's Supper "And when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, 'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup" (1 Corinthians 11:24; 25, 28).

Section 7. The Sacrament of Marriage - "Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife...", "...For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife,..." Each man should have his own wife, and each woman should have her own husband.", "Finally the time came for him to marry her." It is our sincere belief that marriage, as ordained by God, is defined as being between one natural man and one natural woman. No other will be condoned or recognized and no other will be performed in any facility owned or controlled by the Church. (Jeremiah 29:6; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Genesis 21:21; Genesis 29:21; 1 Corinthians 7:36, 39; Genesis 2:23-24; Ephesians 5:22-23, 25, 28-29, 31, 33)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Covenant Love as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Covenant Love members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Covenant Love in any capacity, or who serve as members and/or volunteers, agree to and abide by the Statement of Marriage.

Section 8. The Promise of the Father - All believers are entitled to, and should ardently expect and earnestly seek, the promise of the Father, the Baptism in the Holy Ghost 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 8; 1 Corinthians 12:1 31). This wonderful experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 2:38; 10:44 46; 11:14 16; 15:7 9).

Section 9. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit -The full consummation of the Baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is evidenced by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and by the subsequent manifestation of spiritual power in public testimony and service (Acts 2:4; 10:44 46; 19:2, 6; 1:8).

Section 10. Sanctification - The Bible teaches that without holiness no man can see the Lord. We believe in the Doctrine of Sanctification as a definite, yet progressive work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation at Christ's return (Hebrews 12:14; Thessalonian 5:23; 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 3:12-14; 1 Corinthians 1:30).

Section 11. Divine Healing - Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God through the prayer of faith and by the laying on of hands. It is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is the privilege of every member of the Church today (Mark 16:18; James 5:14-15; 1 Peter 2:24; Matthew 8:17; Isaiah 53:4-5).

Section 12. The Church- 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; 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23).

Section 13. Total Prosperity

- (a) Spiritual. John 3:3, 11; II Cor. 5:17-21; Romans 10:9-10.
- (b) Mental. II Timothy 1:7; Romans 12:2; Isaiah 26:3.
- (c) Physical. Isaiah 53:4, 5; Matthew 8:17; I Peter 2:24.
- (d) Financial. III John 1:2; Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38; II Corinthians 9:6-10; Deuteronomy 28:1-14.
- (e) Social. Proverbs 3:4

Section 14. Blessed Hope - Jesus is coming again to gather all His Saints to Heaven (I Corinthians 15:51-52; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; and II Thessalonians 2:1).

Section 15. The Lake of Fire - Those who have not accepted the redemptive work of Jesus Christ will suffer eternal separation from the Godhead. The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life, shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. This is the second death, the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20; 20:10-15).

Section 16. The Millennial Reign of Jesus - The return of our Lord Jesus Christ with His Saints from Heaven to rule and reign for one thousand years on earth as the Scriptures promised (Romans 11:25, 27; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-7). After this, there shall be a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21).

# APPENDIX F:

## CHRISTIAN LIFE; SCRIPTURAL CONDUCT

Section 1. Personal Ethics - "I can do anything I want to if Christ has not said no, but some of these things aren't good for me. Even if I am allowed to do them, I'll refuse to if I think they might get such a grip on me that I can't easily stop when I want to" (I Corinthians 6:12 LB). "We can always 'prove' that we are right, but is the Lord convinced?" (Proverbs 16:2 LB) "And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you" (I Thessalonians 5:12).

Section 2. Obedience to Law - "Obey the government, for God is the one who has put it there. There is no government anywhere that God has not placed in power. So those who refuse to obey the laws of the land are refusing to obey God, and punishment will follow" (Romans 13:1 2 LB). "Obey the laws, then, for two reasons: first, to keep from being punished, and second, just because you know you should. Pay your taxes too, for these same two reasons. For government workers need to be paid so that they can keep on doing God's work, serving you.

Pay everyone whatever he ought to have; pay your taxes and import duties gladly, obey those over you, and give honor and respect to all those to whom it is due. Pay all your debts except the debt of love for others - never finish paying that! For if you love them, you will be obeying all of God's laws, fulfilling all his requirements. Another reason for right living in this: you know how late it is; time is running out. Wake up, for the coming of the Lord is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:5 8, 11 LB).

Section 3. Family; Household - "Honor your father and mother, that you may have a long, good life in the land the Lord your God will give you" (Exodus 20:12). "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?" (I Timothy 3:5) "Their wives must be thoughtful, not heavy drinkers, not gossipers, but faithful in everything they do" (I Timothy 3:11 LB). "The men you choose must be well thought of for their good lives; they must have only one wife and their children must love the Lord and not have a reputation for being wild or disobedient to their parents. These elders must be men of blameless lives because they are God's ministers. They must not be proud or impatient; they must not be drunkards or fighters or greedy for money" (Titus 1:6 7 LB). "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children" (Titus 2:2 4). "You wives must submit to your husbands' leadership in the same way you submit to the Lord. For a husband is in charge of his wife in the same way Christ

is in charge of his body the Church. (He gave his very life to take care of it and be its Savior!) So you wives must willingly obey your husbands in everything, just as the Church obeys Christ. And you husbands, how the same kind of love to your wives as Christ showed to the Church when he died for her, to make her holy and clean, washed by baptism and God's Word: so that he could give her to himself as a glorious Church without a single spot or wrinkle or any other blemish, being holy and without a single fault. That is how husbands should treat their wives, loving them as parts of themselves. For since a man and his wife are now one, a man is really doing himself a favor and loving himself when he loves his wife. No one hates his own body but lovingly cares for it, just as Christ cares for his body the Church, of which we are parts. (That the husband and wife are one body is proved by the Scripture which says, "A Man must leave his father and mother when he marries, so the two shall be one.") So again, I say, a man must love his wife as a part of himself: and the wife must see to it that she deeply respects her husband obeying, praising and honoring him. Children, obey your parents; this is the right thing to do because God has placed them in authority over you. Honor your father and mother. This is the first of God's Ten Commandments that ends with a promise. And this is the promise: that if you honor your father and mother, yours will be a long life, full of blessing. And now a word to you parents. Don't keep on scolding and nagging your children, making them angry and resentful. Rather bring them up with the loving discipline the Lord himself approves, with suggestions and godly advice" (Ephesians 5:22 31, 33 6:4 LB).

Section 4. Control - ". For a man is a slave to whatever controls him" (II Peter 2:19 LB). "Even if we believe that it makes no difference to the Lord whether we do these things, still we cannot just go ahead and do them to please ourselves; for we must bear the burden of being considerate of the doubts and fears of others of those who feel these things are wrong. Let's please the other fellow, not ourselves, and do what is for his good and thus build him up in the Lord" (Romans 15:2 3 LB).

Section 5. Adultery; Immorality - "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). ". try hard to live without sinning; and be at peace with everyone so that he will be pleased with you when he returns" (II Peter 2:14 LB). "You shall not commit adultery. But I say: Anyone who even looks at a woman with lust in his eye has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:27 28 LB).". Don't fool yourselves. Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshipers, adulterers or homosexuals will have no share in his Kingdom....."(I Corinthians 6:9 LB). "But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat" (I Corinthians 5:11 LB).

Section 6. Drunkenness; Drugs - “This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious and won’t obey; he is a worthless drunkard. Then the men of the city shall stone him to death. In this way you shall put away this evil from among you, and all the young men will hear about what happened and will be afraid” (Deuteronomy 21:20 21 LB). “...envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God” (Galatians 5:21 LB). “Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (I Cor. 6:10 LB). “Don’t drink too much wine, for many evils lie along that path; be filled instead with the Holy Spirit, and controlled by Him” (Ephesians 5:18 LB). “For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags” (Proverbs 23:21).

Section 7. Homosexuality/Transgendered - “You shall not lie with a man as with a woman; it is an abomination” (Leviticus 18:22). “...God let go of them and let them do all these evil things, so that even their women turned against God’s natural plan for them and indulged in sex sin with each other. And the men, instead of having a normal sex relationship with women, burned with lust for each other, men doing shameful things with other men and, as a result, getting paid within their own souls with the penalty they so richly deserved. So it was that when they have God up and would not even acknowledge him, God gave them up to doing everything their evil minds could think of. Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness and sin .....” (Romans 1:26 29). “Don’t you know that those doing such things have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don’t fool yourselves. Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshippers, adulterers or homosexuals will have no share in his Kingdom. ... “(I Corinthians 6:9 10).

Statement of Authority For Matters of Faith and Conduct - The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality and all proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Covenant Love Church’s faith, doctrine, practice and discipline, our Board of Directors is Covenant Love Church’s final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application.

# APPENDIX G: OUR BELIEFS

## *Marriage*

We at Covenant Love Church believe in the sanctity of marriage as an exclusive and sacred union between one man and one woman as described in Scripture. The first marriage was created for the purposes of procreation, companionship, and dominion over creation, in keeping with the covenant relationship God himself established with his own creation (Genesis 2:15-24). Marriage is rooted in God's plan for creation. Genesis 1:27 says "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Genesis 2:23-25 adds, "The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man.' Bible clearly teaches that God instituted marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman with Adam and Eve. Genesis 2:24 states: "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh."

This "one flesh" union is the merger (or re-merger) of two integral parts (one male and one female) united physically, mentally and spiritually by a life-long marital covenant. The husband and wife "are no longer two, but one," Jesus said, and he added, "What God has joined together, let man not separate" (Matthew 19:6).

Two men united in marriage remain two men, and two women united in marriage remain two women, however, a husband and wife united in marriage create something new - a "one flesh" union. This marital oneness reflects the oneness of God, and as the oneness of God creates new life, marital oneness has the potential to create new life through children (new men and women). In Matthew 19:4-5, Jesus reaffirms this: "He answered, 'Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one'?" Jesus also blessed a marriage celebration between a man and a woman with his presence and his first public miracle, thereby affirming the traditional definition of marriage as a cornerstone of every culture and community. (John 2:1-11) We believe marriage was God's divine idea which is the highest standard for marriage. As a divine institution, marriage is not open to human renegotiation or revision. Scripture affirms that marriage has one meaning, which is marriage sanctioned by God between one man and one woman.

## ***Bible Study***

Prayer and Bible study are essential tools for communicating with God. Where prayer serves as our primary way of speaking to God, Bible study serves as our primary method of listening to Him. Christians believe the Bible is the Word of God. It contains the mind of God and His will for each one of our lives. The Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, so the man and woman of God may be complete, and thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

One of the most important tasks in beginning your Bible study is to find a translation that you can easily understand. The New Living Translation (NLT) and The New International Version (NIV) are among the most popular translations for new believers. They come in Life Application Study versions that give you historical and literary context to aid in an accurate interpretation. For those experienced in the faith, the NKJV, NASB, ESV, and Amplified Bibles are very popular translations. They come in various study versions for word studies with rich and literal translations. For those who are tech savvy and prefer to use a Bible app, Olive Tree, e-sword and Logos are great resources. It's like having a library at your fingertips!

### ***Where do you begin? Four tips to begin your Bible study:***

1. Pray first! Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what you need to gain from each portion of scripture.
2. Do not get discouraged! Bible study is a life-long process. Try different methods until you find the right one for you.
3. Take notes! Write down questions you may have while reading, and document any revelations that the Holy Spirit gives you.
4. Take action! Allow the scripture to change you. Put the Word into practice. Bible study is more than gaining knowledge. Your goal is to know, do and be the Word.

## ***Worship***

As we spend time in prayer and the Word of God it is equally important to quiet ourselves in worship to listen, adore and submit our hearts to God. Private worship, although private in practice, reveals itself in public in the way we live, love and have community. The word “worship” actually means “to bow or kiss toward” and has many expressions. Those expressions may be singing to God, bowing our posture, journaling, music, silence, fasting and singing in the Spirit. It is a time to come humbly before God to acknowledge He is supreme and is Master over our hearts and lives, and we are submitted to His will. (Psalms 95:6) It is important that times of worship are not forced or done as a religious duty, but in peace and simplicity

before God. Come as you are, in trust that the blood of Jesus opens the door for you to draw close to God, opening your heart to receive His love and express your love, gratitude and adoration to Him. (Hebrews 4:16)

It is vital we understand that private worship is more than singing or music. It is the surrender of our lives in trust and obedience, living the truth of God's Word (Romans 12:1). The Lord, Himself, said He would rather have righteousness than the noise of song, music or religious sacrifice. (Amos 5:22-24) We know our worship in private is making a difference when our hearts become more sensitive to the voice of God and His Word in obedience.

## ***Christian Character***

Christian character is a description of who we are and what we are called to be in our entirety as a believer. It is not just a personality or a disposition. Character goes beyond having integrity or honesty. It includes a living, growing relationship in Christ which produces a great combination of the fruits of the Spirit. Character is aligning our lives so our behavior is Christ-like. This alignment produces "the fruit of the Spirit," found in Paul's letter to the Galatians, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)

How do we develop Christian character? We develop our Christian character by controlling our thoughts (Philippians 4:8), practicing Christian virtues (2 Peter 1:5-8), guarding our hearts (Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 15:18-20), and keeping good company (1 Corinthians 15:33).

The Lord is pleased when His children grow in character and sometimes trials are used to strengthen our character. "We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope" (Romans 5:3-4). It is the Lord's purpose to develop character within us. Men and women of character will set a good example for others to follow, and their godly reputation will be evident to all (Titus 2:7-8).

Christian character is not something that we can produce on our own. The fruit of the Spirit is never the result of our efforts to modify our own behavior, it is the progressive work of the Holy Spirit as He reproduces His character in us.

Over a period of time, we begin to act more like Jesus. His word "prunes" away those attitudes and actions that are inhibiting our growth as Christians, and we begin to bear fruit.

His character becomes evident in our lives as we fellowship with Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts. Remember, God has not left us to change ourselves into His image. He does that; all that we are asked to do is be diligent about developing a close relationship with Him, and yield to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. (Philippians 1:6)

## ***Community***

We have embraced the phrase, “Doing life together.” The heart behind this goes far beyond attending a Church service twice a week to hear an inspiring message or to sing a few songs. “Doing life together” happens when a group of people are driven to fulfill a common vision or purpose through a unity of effort. This is not a Covenant Love idea, this is a God idea. He is a relational God and He enjoys doing life with us and seeing us do life with each other.

Community goes way beyond a bunch of superficial, fleeting, surface level relationships [acquaintances]; rather it captures the idea of real, genuine, and rewarding relationships. It is our father’s heart that we know each other in an intimate way. The Word is clear, He desires for us to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12:15). God wants us to be more than friends and casual acquaintances; He wants us to be the family He intended.

Community has never happened on accident. If we are going to live in community, we must be intentional in the area of relationships. That’s why relationship is a big part of who we are and what we do at Covenant Love Church.

Family is the deepest level of connection because it is based on God’s unconditional love. Family [community] goes beyond friendship and the occasional involvement, because it requires commitment, accountability, and vulnerability. Family is where you “do life together.”

As members of the family of God, we should never wonder if we belong, if we have value, or if anyone cares. It is the will of God that we should all be confident that we are known, loved, cared for and accepted! That is exactly what community does. It helps move people from the uncertainty of superficial relationships, to genuine God-centered relationships. We encourage you, don’t settle for façade, don’t stop at friendship, become family! That’s where growth happens.

We don’t want to be a group of people that TALKS about community, we want to be a group of people that LIVES it!

## ***Gifts of the Spirit***

In the book of 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul discussed the manifestation of spiritual gifts in both public and private settings. One of Paul’s primary goals in writing these instructions was to prevent or eliminate divisions in the church caused by misunderstandings about the gifts of the Spirit. He stressed that these gifts were given to bring us together, not to divide us. These gifts are not intended to exalt human beings, but to minister to the needs of people by the power of the Holy Spirit. These gifts do not belong to any one person or group, they are given for the benefit and edification of the whole body of Christ.

God the Father works all of these gifts and offices together for the good of the body of Christ and the effective evangelization of the world.

Each believer should earnestly desire to be used in these special ministry gifts, but the gifts are not given to bring glory to the individual, but to the Lord Jesus Christ.

All of the gifts reside in every believer because the Spirit Himself resides in believers, but they are manifested as the Spirit wills.

To understand the gifts of the Spirit, you must remember that these are special manifestations given at the time and place of God's choosing.

We will look at the gifts in a different order than they appear in scripture, and divide them into three groups. The order in which the gifts are listed in the Bible does not indicate that some are more important than others.

## ***Power Gifts***

Power gifts demonstrate the omnipotence of the Almighty God. They release His power to help hurting people, and to demonstrate that Jesus is alive, and Jesus is Lord.

**The Gift of Faith** - The gift of faith is an impartation of confidence and assurance that enables the believer to trust God without any doubt in the face of any circumstance. Every believer can and should develop faith through intimate relationship with God, but there are times when we all come to the limit of our ability to believe. It is at these moments that God might impart a gift of faith. The gift of faith empowers the believer to trust for something in his or her own life or to exercise faith for a miracle for someone else. The gift of faith and the working of miracles or gifts of healings will often flow together.

**The Gifts of Healings** - The gifts of healings bring a cure to all forms of sickness, disease, injury and infirmity without any natural treatments or human skill. In the Greek text, both the word "gifts," and the word "healings" are plural in every scripture that pertains to this powerful gift. We can only speculate that these gifts are described in the plural because there are so many different types of healings. The same Greek word is used to describe the ministry of Jesus as He cured demoniacs, paralytics, those with handicaps, the dumb, the blind, the deaf, the lepers, the woman with the issue of blood, and many others.

**The Working of Miracles** - The word "miracle" in the Bible describes a specific event that defies the natural order of nature. Everything that God does is a miracle, but the gift of the working of miracles refers to a spontaneous act of God's power that interrupts or supersedes the physical laws of the universe.

The phrase "working of miracles" means that the believer will be a conduit for the explosive power of God which will result in amazing, staggering wonders and dramatic, miraculous events being wrought on earth. Remember, these are not works that we exercise personal faith for, they are acts that occur by God's choosing.

## ***The Revelation Gifts***

Revelation gifts are gifts that reveal the heart and mind of God to the believer. These gifts bring information from the Holy Spirit to the believer that cannot be received from the physical senses.

**The Word of Knowledge** - The word of knowledge is the revelation of facts from the mind of God to the believer. In this manner, a Christian can know information that they have never applied themselves to learn through natural means. These facts may pertain to things past, present, or future. This knowledge will sometimes protect someone from a dangerous situation. At other times, a word of knowledge helps us to pray or minister to others more effectively.

**The Word of Wisdom** - The word of wisdom is a spontaneous, supernatural revelation of God's plan by the Holy Spirit and purposes concerning a specific situation. While the word of knowledge is the revelation of facts, the word of wisdom is the revelation of how to correctly apply knowledge. A good definition of the term "Godly wisdom" is the correct and timely application of the truth. Since the Holy Spirit can give us wisdom concerning spiritual or natural things, a word of wisdom may direct you to apply a natural fact in a new or more effective way. God cares about every aspect of His children's lives, and He will give His wisdom freely concerning anything that concerns you.

**The Discerning of Spirits** - The discerning of spirits is the supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of the presence or influence of spirits affecting people, situations, or places. This discernment does not come from analysis of the facts, but through the inward witness of the Holy Spirit. Discerning of spirits includes recognizing the activities of the Holy Spirit, as well as those of demonic spirits. Like all the other gifts, the discerning of spirits is a spontaneous gift from God in a specific time of need. Please take note that the gift of discerning of spirits has nothing to do with recognizing faults in other people--that is called a critical spirit. (Acts 16:16-18)

**The Spoken Gifts** - The spoken, or utterance gifts, bring forth the mind and heart of God in order to bring edification or correction to the Body of Christ. We also find the gifts of tongues in its private, devotional role, bring a new depth to the worship and prayer life of the New Testament believer.

**The Gifts of Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues** - Since these two gifts are so closely related, we will review them together. The gifts of tongues and interpretation of tongues are unique to the church age. They are the only two gifts of the Spirit that are never seen in the Old Testament.

The Bible tells us that when we speak in unknown tongues our minds are unfruitful. Even the person who does the speaking does not understand the message without interpretation. Both private and public manifestations of tongues are words spoken by the believer as the Holy Spirit gives them utterance. Our natural reasoning is bypassed, ensuring the purity of the message.

The scriptures describe both a corporate manifestation that should always be

accompanied by an interpretation, and a private, devotional manifestation that need not, but can be interpreted.

The most prevalent use of tongues is in private, devotional manifestation. A Spirit-filled believer can pray or worship in this personal prayer language at any time. This prayer language comes forth as the individual believer yields to the influence of the Holy Spirit and speaks as the Spirit gives the utterance. The private manifestation of tongues enables the believer to pray the perfect will of God in any situation, even though their own understanding of the situation is incomplete. It is perfectly acceptable for Christians to use this private prayer language in public without interpretation, as long as they pray quietly to God. This kind of prayer is to God, and edifies the individual. It is not intended to be a message to a group or to benefit the assembled congregation, therefore, it needs no interpretation. However, it is possible to ask God to give you the interpretation of your private prayer language so that your mind will understand what has been prayed. (1 Corinthians 14:4-5, 14-19, Romans 8:26, Jude 20)

The corporate manifestation of tongues is a spontaneous public message in tongues that is given as the Spirit wills to edify the entire assembly. This manifestation should be accompanied by interpretation so listeners might be edified. This message is usually a message from the Holy Spirit to the congregation. This message may bring correction, edification, guidance, information, or it may simply speak of the nature or works of God. Since the message comes from the Holy Spirit, it will always accomplish some aspect of His ministry, as described by Jesus in John 14-16. A message from the Holy Spirit will always agree with scripture, bear witness with the Spirit Who dwells in us, and glorify Jesus Christ. Any Spirit-filled believer can be used to deliver a message in tongues or an interpretation of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12:7, 11; 14:5-13)

The gift of interpretation of tongues interprets the content of the message in tongues into a language understood by the hearers. An interpretation is not necessarily a word-for-word translation; it may be longer or shorter than the message in tongues. A message in tongues may be interpreted by the person who gave the message or by another person. Paul seems to equate tongues and interpretation with prophecy as a gift that benefits the whole congregation.

**Prophecy** - The gift of prophecy is a message from the Holy Spirit in a language known to both the speaker and the hearer. This is a spontaneously inspired message, not a prepared sermon or study. Prophecy is given to bring edification, exhortation, and comfort to the congregation. Prophecy is not a private or secretive gift; it is given in public so that it can be judged according to God's Word by those who hear it. (1 Corinthians 14:3-6, 29-32)

All of the gifts of the Spirit are given to the church for the benefit of all. In any corporate gathering where believers are open and willing to be used of God, these gifts can be manifest. Our part is to wholeheartedly seek God Himself, not any specific manifestation of the Spirit. As we seek His presence, He will manifest

Himself in the manner of His choosing.

## ***The New Man***

2 Corinthians 5:17

...“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”

We are on a journey, walking out of our old man, into the new man. This is also known as the process of sanctification [the process of becoming Christ-like in nature]. The old man is who we were before we received Jesus as our Lord and Savior. The new man is the new nature of Jesus Christ that we receive when we are born again. When we get saved, our old man & nature have passed away and we receive a new nature. Nature is what comes natural to us.

## **Old Nature vs. New Nature**

Where lying came naturally, now truth comes, where lust was prevalent, purity now reigns. Where it was in our nature to take, we are now givers.

The moment we are born again, we receive the nature of Christ. However, we don't automatically start operating out of that nature to the fullest. The Bible says that as a man thinks, so he is. That's why we must learn how the new man thinks! The only way to change our way of thinking is through the Word of God. We also have to change the way we see ourselves. The Bible is full of what we call “positional truths”. A positional truth is a truth that declares who we are because of what Christ has done. It is something we become at the very moment we are born again. For instance, we ARE the righteousness of Christ even when we don't feel righteous (2 Corinthians 5:21). We have son-ship just as Jesus has son-ship (Galatians 3:26). It is God's desire that we begin to see ourselves as those truths declare, and that those truths would become our reality. When we begin to accept these as truths about ourselves, we can begin to act accordingly. Romans 12:2, Ephesians 4:22-24

## ***Generosity***

When we speak about generosity with believers, it encompasses more than giving money. This likens the condition of our hearts to the same attitude our Father has, which He displayed in John 3:16, “For God so loved the world He gave...” This is an expression of His faith and love He has toward us. It is also demonstrated in the first Law of Prosperity, the one constant in the earth manifested in seed-time and harvest. We as His children should desire to have the same generous heart as our Father. Within the church, we are taught about the grace of giving and receiving.

At Covenant Love, we have two methods of generosity to the church; one is

the tithe and the other is offerings. The tithe is a tenth, or the first fruits of all our increase. When we give this to the Lord says we honor Him (Proverbs 3:9-10). Some might say, "if this belongs to the Lord why doesn't He just keep it in the first place?" One reason is there is no show of honor if we don't give to Him. When we give to the Lord it is an expression of our faith and our trust in Him as our source and our supply. By the world's standards, it is like giving part of your life to the Lord. Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also." Even the world knows if we really love and trust God, we will take joy in giving to Him.

From back when Abraham honored God with his first fruits until today, men of God have always received the material portion and the Father receives the attitude of the heart. When tithes and offerings are given in to the local church, the money will be used to win souls to the Lord, and to do the work of the ministry. The Apostle Paul says it best in Philippians 4:17, "not that I desire a gift; but I desire fruit that may abound to your account (in Heaven). That means all the lives that have been born again or changed by the preaching of the Gospel.

The Father blesses our generosity. 2 Corinthians 9:6 says, "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." The key to that is the attitude of our heart. We need to have a heart like he speaks of in verse 7, "for God loves a cheerful giver." We serve a God of faith and He is looking for our faith and trust in Him as our source and our supply. Our Father desires us to be blessed as His children. This principle of sowing and reaping applies to every area of life. If you need love, sow love, if you need finances, then sow finances. Know that every seed produces after its own kind. God the Father blesses the seed you sow (not what you intend to sow).

### ***Personal Prayer***

The Bible states that all believers are in the family of God, and He wants us to intimately know Him and His son Jesus. God considers us to be in relationship with Him when we fellowship with Him, allowing Him to come into our lives and simply talk to us as to a dear friend.

Everything we'll ever be able to do or accomplish for God and His people comes directly from the quality of our relationship with God! Philippians 4:6, 7 says "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Prayer is a continuous running dialog we have with God throughout the day.

To a true Christian who really wants to grow, change, and become everything God has destined for them to be, prayer is essential. Prayer is as essential to a Christian as breathing is to a human. The truth is, the longer we stay in relationship with God,

the more sensitive we are to His voice and we learn to depend on Him more for guidance and direction. When we spend time studying God's Word and spend time in His presence through prayer, the natural result will be growth and success in your life. When we come into alignment with everything God wants us to do in our life, you will have a greater influence and impact wherever you go! We will truly be men and women of God who love Him, love people, and will serve and impact our world!

## ***Evangelism***

When Jesus left this earth, He gave the disciples a command in Matthew 28 and Mark 16 to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

When you made the decision to make Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior, you started a new life with God. With this new life as a born again believer, the same command made to the disciples has been given to you; to go, preach the gospel, and make disciples. Being a Christian is more than a title you claim, it's something you live by and share with others; in the same manner evangelism should become an essential characteristic of your life! As the body of Christ within Covenant Love, our desire is to love God, love people, and serve our world. This is not something that only happens within the walls of church, but reaches out into every aspect of your life. Jesus shares an example in Matthew 25.

The two greatest commands that Jesus gave us were to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and to love our neighbors as ourselves. The motivations for reaching out to the lost are not so that you can simply say you are doing good things for your community, or so that you can please God, or fulfill your Christian duty. Your motivation behind everything you do is love; love for God, and love for others. Jesus was driven by love and compassion to serve those who were like sheep without a Shepherd while He was here on earth, and if your drive to serve others is fueled by anything different, you've missed the point.

Your goal should be to go beyond merely believing the theology of the fact that 'God so loved the world'; and begin to live it out. When we come together as the body of Christ and begin to go into the world to preach the gospel and make disciples with the right view of people, and the right motivation of love, we will make an incredible impact in our world!