

# A New Beginning for New Members



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A practical guide to Christianity, and what we believe as a local church.

**New Harvest Church**

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## **Table of Contents**

**Welcome**

**The Vision**

**What We Believe...**

**...About the Bible**

**...About Jesus**

**...About Salvation**

**...About Baptism**

**...About the Gifts of the Spirit**

**...About Speaking in Tongues**

**...About Tithes**

**...About Communion**

**...About Foot Washing**

**What is Pentecostal**

**What is Apostolic**

**What it means to be a member**

**Why regular church attendance is vital**

**How to be used in the Church**

## Welcome

First and foremost, we would like to welcome you to One Way Church. We strive to exhibit the love of Jesus Christ to EVERYONE AND ANYONE. We are a diverse church of believers, which is a picture of the global body of Christ. Come join us!

## The Vision

*We reach the world with the message of the good news of Jesus Christ. The ministry operates in a spirit of excellence. We will proclaim the word of God in an applicable way in order to empower believers in their everyday lives. We are completely committed to the work of reaching the lost, developing believers and bringing glory to the matchless name of Jesus Christ!*

## What We Believe....

### **About the Bible:**

We believe the Bible is the infallible Word of God. We believe that “all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine (teachings), for reproof (rebuke), for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man (and people) of God may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” 2 Timothy 3:16

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing** the word of truth.” 2 Timothy 2:15. Certain distinctions must be made while reading the Bible in order to avoid misunderstanding and improper application. Bible truths are found when we keep our personal agendas, ideas and pre-conceived notions out of the equation.

### **About Jesus:**

We believe that Jesus was God manifested in the flesh. We believe in the Oneness of God (Deuteronomy 6:4). *There is ONE God who revealed himself in 3 different offices (ways). He is the **Father** in His creative work, **Son** in His redemptive work, and the **Holy Spirit** in the Church today! There are 3 “what’s” but there are NOT 3 separate “who’s”. Just as one individual can be a father, a brother, and an uncle at the same time, God’s character cannot be divided, only His manifestations were. Jesus is the eternal God, existing even prior to taking on bodily form by way of a virgin birth (John 1:14, Luke 10:18, 1 Tim 3:16, Matt 1:21). We believe that Jesus Christ embodies the FULLNESS of God (Colossians 2:9). The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all one (John 10:30, John 14:7-11, 26). God relegated all rule, glory and honor to Himself in the office of His Sonship (John 5:22, 23, 27). Jesus’ blood was shed to remove our sins (Heb 9:22) and He was able to identify with the struggles of mankind (Heb 4:15), giving Him the authority to execute righteous judgment and govern the church in love until His glorious return (Matt 28:18).*

### ***About Salvation:***

Salvation = saved or rescued from the penalty and power of sin by putting your faith in Jesus Christ and his *finished work on Calvary* (death, burial & resurrection).

We believe that mankind originally had an upright standing with God, being formed in His own image (Gen 1:27, 31, Ecl 7:29). Man (Adam & Eve) took advantage of his free-will within the Garden of Eden, even to the point of disobedience to God by eating of that which was forbidden (Gen 3:6). From then on, a sinful nature corrupted man and reigned within their hearts and minds. God had warned man that eating of the forbidden fruit would bring forth death (Gen 2:17). Sin breeds both spiritual and physical death (1 Cor 15:56, James 1:15). The law, which was given to Moses by God was perfect in essence but it only showed man his inadequacies and inability to live up to the righteous demands of God on his own, therefore bringing about condemnation. This system of laws and sacrificial offerings proved to be futile and unable to give atonement for sin that could permanently satisfy God's yearning to re-establish fellowship with man. In turn, God took on the form of flesh in order to become that perfect sacrifice to remove the penalty and power of sin on man (1Tim 3:16, Phil 2:7-8). We're saved **by truly believing** that Jesus Christ went to the cross and died for our sins (John 3:16-18, Ephesians 2:8, 1 John 5:11-13). Having **faith** in His finished work at Calvary is the **only** thing that brings about salvation, not our works or the things we do (Eph 2:9, Galatians 2:16). We do works **because** we are saved, not to be saved. True faith will bring about works/outward evidence or else it is a dead faith (James 2:17, Eph 2:10). The Holy Spirit comes into our hearts at the time of conversion (Gal 4:3-6). Among many other reasons, the Holy Spirit is given to **believers** as a seal of authenticity and as a promise that Jesus Christ is coming back for those that are His (Eph 1:13-14). The revelation of salvation was given to us by the Apostle Paul; this was known as "justification (righteousness) by faith" but was also endorsed by Peter (Acts 15:9, 11). Other scriptures on salvation can be found (Titus 2:11, Romans 4:14, Galatians 3:26, 1Cor 1:21).

### ***About Baptism:***

The Greek word for repent is (metanoeo) *met-an-o-eh-o*, to think differently; turn away from, or reconsider (morally).

*Repentance* should always precede baptism. Simply going down into water will not change an individual's mind-set or heart. We believe baptism is an outward expression of the supernatural change that has happened within the heart of a man or woman at the time of conversion or salvation. The individual has had a change of heart that leads him or her to repentance and to the decision to be baptized. Baptism is the way that the believer symbolically identifies with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5, Galatians 2:20, Philippians 3:10). The individual has made the conscious choice to die out to self (death), be completely submersed in water (burial), and come up from out of the water as a new individual in Christ (resurrection). Sanctification is a process that starts AFTER conversion. Our decisions and outlook on life will change for the better as we nurture our walk with Christ (2 Cor 5:17). Jesus Christ was baptized to "fulfill all righteousness", giving us an example and pattern as to what we should do after conversion. Jesus instructed his disciples to baptize new converts (Matt 28:19). We believe that this public proclamation of our faith should be done in **Jesus** name (Luke 24:47, Colossians 3:17, Acts 2:38, Matt 28:19, Acts 4:12). It's not the ceremony of baptism that saves or

cleanses us but rather what the act represents or points to, an individual's good conscience toward God because of a changed heart through their faith in Christ (1 Pet 3:21).

### ***About The Gifts of the Spirit:***

Concerning the spiritual gifts, in 1 Corinthians chapters 12, 13 & 14, the apostle Paul explains the diversities by the Spirit, the administration under the same Lord, and the operations by the same God. In 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, Paul explains that all the gifts are given by God to "profit" the body and that one gift isn't better than the other. He uses the comparison of spiritual body of Christ to our natural body in 1 Cor. 12:15-17 to convey the message that we all have different roles and functions within the body of Christ. There are nine Gifts: *word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, divers kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues*. Paul never excludes any of the gifts. He does however conclude that if the gift isn't motivated by love than the gift is void or useless (1Cor 13:1-3).

### ***About Speaking in Tongues:***

The Greek word for tongues is "glossolalia". Other tongues (or languages) originated in Old Testament times when God would speak to His people (Jews) through unintelligible languages (languages foreign to them), trying to send them a message OR a warning or of coming judgment. In Greek Culture, ecstatic utterances or stammering lips were taken as signs of divine presence (Isaiah 28:11-12, Genesis 11: 7-9, Deut 28:49-50, Jeremiah 5:15, Ezekiel 3:5-6). Just as the Assyrian foreign language was a sign to unbelieving Jews of coming judgment in Isaiah 28:11-12, so also tongues (languages) were a sign of the truth of Christianity (Acts 10:46) and warning to those who reject its message. This was a fulfillment of what was written in the Old Testament law (1Cor 14:21) and tongues is used as a sign for the unbeliever of God's message (1Cor 14:22).

Jesus said that speaking "new (kainos: freshness) tongues" would be ONE of the signs that believers would display (Mark 16:17). In other words, the messages sent via tongues in the New Testament would be a fresh message from God. In the New Testament, we first find the fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy in the book of Acts on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4). This experience occurred by the work and INFILLING of the Holy Spirit, often referred to as the "baptism of the Holy Spirit". When the tongues of fire split apart and came to rest on each of them, they began to speak in other tongues (foreign languages) as the Holy Spirit gave them the ability to do so. In this case, after hearing all the Galileans speak in tongues (a language foreign to the Galileans), Jews from various nations throughout the world received God's message of the good news because they heard the Galileans speak the "wonderful works of God" in their own languages. This sign was shown to the skeptic Jews as authenticity of the Holy Spirit and it also gave them witnessing power to testify of Christ, fulfilling Jesus prophecy in Acts 1:8. Speaking in tongues is something we get to do as believers but it is only fruitful when understanding and order is applied. The 120 people in the upper room on the day of Pentecost were completely open and surrendered to the Holy Spirit and a miraculous work was performed!

Tongues in the context of being INFILLED with the Holy Spirit is completely different than exercising or having the "gift of tongues" that Paul mentions in 1Cor 12:10. They are administered or applied in 2

different ways. Speaking in tongues can be done for self-edification (1Cor. 14:2, 14) and can also be used in interpretation (for the edification & understanding of the church, Acts 2:7-8, 1Cor. 14:27). Tongues WITH interpretation and prophecy is more beneficial in church settings because the message God is trying to send is more clear to those that might be unlearned (1 Cor. 14:13, 19). The apostle Paul gives us wise instruction on the order and usage of tongues.

***About Tithes:***

It originated from Gen 14:18-20 when Abram paid his tithe to Melchizedek, king of Salem and High Priest who typified Christ. The tithe is 10% of your gross income. Contrary to some belief, we are not cursed if we don't pay our tithes but we forfeit the abundant blessings and benefits that come along with sowing into the kingdom. Giving is simply a measurement of our faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Some have taken scriptures such as Mal 3:8-11 out of context....God had declared that Israel was under a curse as a nation because of their continued idolatry and failure to bring all of their tithe (grain) into the storage house, which was in the temple. One should never be scared into paying their tithes and offerings, rather encouraged to do so, knowing that everything we've been given came from Him and still belongs to Him. Jesus became a curse for us on the cross (Gal 3:13). Therefore, we are no longer under a curse but under grace. Our obedience in the area of tithes and offering is brought about by our love for Christ (John 14:15, 23). Giving in good measure will see its benefits but giving sparingly gets little in return (2 Cor. 9:6). When Christ has Lordship over your life then sowing back into His kingdom with your finances becomes second-nature.

***About Communion:***

(Matthew 26:17-29 KJV)

(1 Corinthians 11:23-32 KJV)

The first communion took place during the feast of unleavened bread which is also called the Passover. This is important because of the bread and wine that was taken at the time. It gives a clear picture of how and what we are to take in at the communion table.

In regards to "eating of his body", we eat unleavened bread to signify that we recognize that Christ was the only sinless sacrifice, qualifying him to be the bearer of our sins. Symbolically the scriptures instruct us to eat of the unleavened bread during communion. It is due to the fact that leaven signifies sin so therefore the bread is to be unleavened, representing the sinless sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In regards to "drinking of his blood", we drink wine to signify that we recognize His sacrifice, the shedding of His blood on Calvary that took away our sins. Scriptures show that they drank wine because this was the custom during the Passover supper. Also in Paul's first letter to Corinthians in chapter 11 he was frustrated because they were getting drunk from the communion wine and they weren't taking communion reverently. Melchizedek, the King of Salem who typified Christ brought forth bread and wine in Genesis 14:18.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 11 Paul is explaining the order and reason for partaking in communion. First, he takes us back to the Last Supper. Jesus shares with his disciples what is to come in his death on the

cross. Partaking in communion is for His disciples (Christians). Jesus explains that his body will be broken for us (healing). His blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins (removal of sins). Isaiah also says that He (Christ) bore our grieves (sicknesses) and carried sorrows (pains). Isa. 53:4 He tells us to eat and drink and when we do we are celebrating His death (His sacrifice for us). Christ stood in our place and took the punishment that we deserved due to our sinful nature! Because of Christ death, our souls can be reconciled to God: we can live a victorious life through Him. When we don't understand the importance of this, and our need for His sacrifice then we drink his blood (communion wine) "unworthily", and in essence, taking communion in vain. The scriptures tell us to examine ourselves so we can see the need in our lives for a savior and a deliverer. In eating the unleavened bread (his body) and drinking the wine (his blood) you believe that what he did is sufficient for your soul and your physical health. By his stripes you are healed. When he went to the cross there was an exchange: Christ took all of our sin and gave us His righteousness. Our only job is to believe it and live it out. Unlike the Old Testament sacrifices, God was permanently satisfied with the sacrifice of this spotless lamb (Jesus). Taking communion is about faith.

### ***About Foot Washing:***

In the New Testament Jesus washed the disciples' feet at the Passover supper as a way to exemplify the importance of servant hood and unity as a Christian (John 13:4-8). Jesus Christ displayed to us here the significance of humility and servitude no matter what your position in the church! Serving is a large part of being a Christian! Our daily walk should include what we can do for others (Philippians 2:3).

### ***What is Pentecostal:***

Many people wonder, "What is Pentecostal?" Pentecost was the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 3 annual Jewish festivals that were established in the Old Testament. It occurred 50 (pente) days after the Passover (the first of the 3 annual festivals).

The most notable Pentecost (Acts chapter 2) was the one that occurred 50 days after the Passover (death, burial & resurrection of Christ). This particular Pentecost marked the birth of the Christian church, the day that the Holy Spirit was introduced to and INFILLED those who waited on him, as promised by Jesus in John 10:18-20, 26. Being "Pentecostal" is simply a title given to those who believe in and practice this same experience. Jesus established HIS church on the day of Pentecost and the book of Acts is a major part of its blue print. The essential traits of any institution are seen in the history of its establishment and the church is no exception.

### ***What is Apostolic:***

The term Apostolic refers to anyone or anything that follows the pattern of the apostle's doctrine (teachings). The apostles (disciples) were the 12 that Christ appointed to follow Him and his teachings. The Apostle Paul was converted and called to his ministry on the road to Damascus. Only three of the 12 original Apostles contributed to the New Testament and that was Peter, John and Matthew. Otherwise, the apostle Paul gives doctrine written to us in his many letters to the various churches. The apostle Paul wrote thirteen, arguably fourteen, of the twenty-seven books in the New Testament so it's easy to understand why we apply his teachings to our everyday walk with Christ, especially as it pertains

to salvation (justification by faith). Scripture calls him the “apostle to the Gentiles” and “a teacher of the Gentiles”. Rom. 11:13, 1 Ti 2:7, 2 Ti. 1:11.

***How to be used in the church:***

Being a part of a growing church is a very exciting and fulfilling thing! There are so many things to do in a church and everyone can play a part in something (1 Cor. 12:12-31)! Among many other things, being in the ministry of helps can include anything from cleaning, teaching, driving the church van, feeding the hungry, music ministry or even operating the projector and sound system. Regular attendance is strongly encouraged in order to avoid not meeting the needs within the church. Being a born-again believer and having established a pattern of faithfulness is a necessity in order to be used within the church. Depending on what role you would like to play, some areas might be subject to a background check. Most roles require actual church membership (as defined in the membership section of this booklet). Having humility and understanding the reasons why we serve are keys to having a successful ministry. Christ must be at the center of EVERYTHING we do in order to reach the lost & enhance our relationship with Him. Please be advised that every area of ministry within the church should be performed with a Spirit of excellence. For we serve and excellent God!

***What it means to be a Member:***

1. Being a member of the body of Christ (figuratively) happens at the time of salvation.
2. Being a member of a local congregation/church happens when you have made a decision to assemble with and take part in the operational functions of that local church. Supporting the church with your attendance (fellowship) and finances (tithes) are essential components to your role as a member. As a member, it’s a privilege to invest in God’s kingdom. Failure to do so in any way CANNOT, DOES NOT, WILL NOT & SHOULD NOT prohibit you from attending our church as often as you wish. We’re a family-oriented church who welcomes you with love and open arms!

We encourage you to notify the pastor if you want to become a member of our congregation. You would then have the option of simply allowing us to acknowledge your membership to the church or it can remain unspoken if you wish. Never-the-less, for a good understanding of who we are and what we believe as a Christian church, we recommend you look at the topics outlined in this booklet prior to making this decision.

***Why regular church attendance is vital:***

God is all-knowing! He knows that fellowship and direction is vital to our growth as Christians. That’s why the Apostle Paul instructed us to “forsake not the assembling of ourselves together as some do, especially as that Day approaches (Heb. 10:25). Not to mention the fact that God ordained pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints & the work of the ministry to build us up. Church is where you will receive that leadership and instruction (Eph. 4:11, 12). Scripture also tells us that “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend (Prov 27:17). This points to the fact that coming together with other believers is uplifting to our spirit! The word of God (bible teaching) is our

spiritual food. We would never starve ourselves naturally so why should we do this spiritually? You become mal-nourished when you don't have a steady diet of spiritual food in your life.

A great example of the church coming together is in the book of Acts. On several occasions when they came together God did spectacular things! (Acts 2:1-12; Acts 3:12-13; Acts 4:29-34; Acts 9:31-42)

God gave us all gifts to use in order to help one another. Prayerfully, you will allow Christ to use you for the betterment of others and see Him bless you for your willingness to attend church.

## **SERVICE TIMES**

### **WEDNESDAY**

*Bible Study.....6:00pm – 7:00pm*

### **SUNDAY**

*Worship .....10:00 am – 11:00am*

*The Word! .....11:00 am-12noon*

*Children's Church/ Sunday School.....11:00am – 12noon*

*Nursery.....10:00 am – 12noon*

#### *Children's Church/Sunday School Classes*

*1<sup>st</sup> Grade-5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

*6<sup>th</sup> Grade – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade*