

In the book of Acts, we see a church that is alive in God's power, doing his work and focused on Him.

“Walking in the fear of the Lord and in comfort of the Holy Spirit the church was multiplied”
Acts 9:31

“They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers” Acts 2:42

In order for us to live in God's power, do his work and be part of his plan, there are several things I expect of you, the members, as your Pastor:

- 1) Regular attendance at weekly service unless you are sick or out of town.
- 2) Find out what your spiritual gifts are and use them in some ministry either inside or outside the Church.
- 3) Take the next sacramental step in the life of the church. (Get baptized or confirmed if not already)
- 4) Give proportionally of income. Tithe or work towards the tithe.
- 5) Take your discipleship seriously. Study.
- 6) Pray to the Lord.

1. Attend Church on Saturday/Sunday unless sick or out of town.

“Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works not neglecting to meet to meet together, as is the habit at some, but encouraging one another.” Hebrews 10:24-25

“All the apostles with one accord devoted themselves to prayer together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus and with his brothers” Acts 1:14

2. Take the next step in your life in the Church. If you are not baptized, then ask to be baptized, not confirmed, then seek confirmation.

“Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” Acts 2:37-38

3. Give proportionally. The Biblical standard is one tenth. If you are not able to do this now, work towards it incrementally.

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and thereby put me to the test says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing” Malachi 3:10

This is the only place in scripture where we are invited to put God to the test. The more we give back to God, the more He gives to us.

4. Take your discipleship seriously; take the steps necessary to learn as a student of Jesus.

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you. 1 Peter 3:15

Blessed is the man...whose delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditates day and night. Psalm 1

Attend classes; read books; talk with other believers.

5. Find out what your spiritual gifts are and use them in some ministry either inside or outside the church.

Now concerning spiritual gifts brethren, I do not want you to be uninformed...now there are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit, and these are varieties of service but the same Lord, and there are varieties of working but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone. 1 Corinthians 12:1-6

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good . 1 Corinthians 12:7

We, though many, are one body in Christ and individually members of each other. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.... Romans 12:5,6

6. Prayer to the Lord.

Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. James 4:8

Pray constantly 1 Thessalonians 5:17

“Prayer is communion with God” Oswald Chambers

Prayer is both to just “be” with the Lord and to learn what His will is.

If we do these basic fundamental things, we will put ourselves in the place of growing as disciples and living the adventurous life of faith God calls us to live.

Yours in Christ,
Allen