

## Introduction: Walking with Christ and Getting Involved in the Church

Today's session focuses on two essential aspects of the Christian life: walking with Christ and becoming an active participant in His Church. As we conclude the New Members' Class, we'll explore the practical steps to grow spiritually and find your place in the body of Christ.

### Part 1: Walking with Christ

#### Bible Reading: The Foundation of Faith

The Bible is God's Word and the foundation of our faith. It is His primary way of speaking to us, teaching us, and guiding us. Psalm 119:105 says: 'Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path' (NKJV).

#### Practical Steps:

- Set aside a specific time each day to read Scripture.
- Start with the Gospels, such as John, or consider spending time in Proverbs or the Psalms.
- Use a study Bible for context and explanations.
- Memorize key verses to meditate on throughout the day.

#### Prayer: Connecting with God

Prayer is our lifeline to God. Philippians 4:6-7 encourages us to 'be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God' (NKJV).

#### Practical Steps:

- Begin with praise and thanksgiving.
- Be honest and specific in your prayers.
- Spend time in silence to listen to God.
- Keep a prayer journal to record requests and answers.

#### Worship: Honoring God

Worship is a lifestyle of adoration, surrender, and devotion to God. Jesus said in John 4:24: 'God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth' (NKJV).

#### Practical Steps:

- Participate in corporate worship on Sundays and during the week.
- Worship daily through singing, meditation, and gratitude.
- Serve others as an act of worship.
- Align your life with God's Word as an act of obedience.

#### Fellowship: Growing Together in Community

Fellowship provides encouragement, accountability, and opportunities to grow together in faith. Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us to 'consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together' (NKJV).

#### Practical Steps:

- Join a small group or Sunday school class.
- Build relationships with mature believers.
- Intentionally reach out to those who may feel isolated.
- Participate regularly in church events and ministry opportunities.

## Part 2: Getting Involved in the Church

### The Role of the Church in Your Growth

The Church is God's design for spiritual growth, community, and mission. Ephesians 4:11-12 explains that leaders in the Church are given 'for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ' (NKJV).

Through the Church, you will:

- Receive sound biblical teaching.
- Find opportunities to serve and grow.
- Build accountability and support through relationships.
- Participate in God's mission to share the gospel and make disciples.

### Finding Your Place in the Church

Every believer has a unique role within the body of Christ. First Corinthians 12:18-20 reminds us: 'But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased' (NKJV).

#### Practical Steps:

- Pray for God's guidance in discovering your gifts.
- Reflect on your passions and skills.
- Step out in faith and begin serving in small ways.
- Seek input from trusted believers and mentors.

### Engaging in Church Activities

West Angeles offers numerous opportunities for involvement, including Sunday school, 'Through the Bible,' youth programs, outreach ministries, and more. By participating, you not only grow personally but also help others experience the love of Christ.

#### Practical Steps:

- Attend events regularly to build relationships and strengthen your faith.
- Volunteer for a ministry that resonates with your gifts and passions.
- Commit to lifelong learning through workshops and training programs.

### Next Steps

1. **Explore Ministry Opportunities.** Review the attached document listing ministries where you can get involved.
2. **Volunteer Needs.** Are you interested in becoming a volunteer? A meeting will be held in January to provide details and discuss areas of need.
3. **Stay Connected Online.** Visit [westa.org](https://westa.org) to view livestreams, access the church YouTube channel, and see all upcoming West Angeles events.
4. **Contact Us.** Stay connected with Dr. Wilfred Graves at [wgraves@westa.org](mailto:wgraves@westa.org). For general inquiries, email [hello@westa.org](mailto:hello@westa.org) or call (323) 733-8300.
5. **Baptism Opportunities.** If you have not yet been baptized, be on the lookout for announcements about upcoming baptism opportunities.
6. **Prepare for Orientation.** A New Members Orientation is coming soon.