



THE CHURCH OF  
PENTECOST

SPECIAL STUDY ON  
**CORE VALUES**  
AND \_\_\_\_\_  
**RULES OF  
CONDUCT**

**ENGLISH**

Compiled by:  
National Discipleship &  
Leadership Development Committee





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**SPECIAL STUDY ON CORE VALUES  
AND RULES OF CONDUCT**

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*Compiled by  
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The Church of Pentecost  
The National Discipleship & Leadership Development Committee

Printed in Ghana by  
Pentecost Press Limited  
P. O. Box DC 803,  
Dansoman-Accra  
Tel: 024 491 6654/020 302 3880

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## FOREWORD

The theme for the year 2023, '*Repositioning the Local Church for Maximum Impact in the Nations*' (1 Thess. 2:19-20 & Col. 2:6-7) represents an intentional effort to strengthen the local church as the centre for mobilising the grassroots and equipping members for the 'possessing the nations' agenda. It underscores the need to empower the local church which is the rear echelon, as the church launches out by the front echelon to possess the nations.

As has been the practice every year, the *Bible Study and Home Cell Manual* reinforces the main points of Vision 2023 and the annual themes by providing outlines for systematic teaching through discussions. In view of this, we shall also dedicate the first three (3) months of our Bible study sessions to study the Rules of Conduct and Core Values of The Church of Pentecost. This aims at strengthening the local church and deepening the CoP brand.

Churches and denominations are known by key distinctive attributes and core values. Over the years, The Church of Pentecost has built a Christ-centred brand with our core values handed to us as a legacy from our forebears. It is evident that this distinctive character of the church has contributed to building a strong church through selfless service, sound teaching, good leadership, evangelism,

sacrificial giving, fellowship and discipline. It thus behoves this generation to know and uphold these time-tested Pentecostal distinctive attributes and core values as we seek to strengthen the local church.

Apart from the use of this manual for the 2023 Bible study, its content should be conscientiously taught to new converts and new members who join our church at any given time. This would ensure that all members, both old and new, would know our distinctiveness and uphold our values and the CoP brand.

The National Discipleship and Leadership Development Committee is highly commended for their dedication to producing these manuals every year in line with the vision of the church and annual themes. It is my hope and prayer that these discussions will further deepen our love for the Lord and The Church of Pentecost, and renew our commitment to pursuing the ideals of our core values with matchless devotion and loyalty. This will ultimately translate into building strong local churches as the base for sending out equipped disciples to transform their spheres with kingdom values and principles.

*Eric Nyamekye (Apostle)*  
*The Chairman, The Church of Pentecost – Worldwide*

## INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The theme chosen by the Chairman and the Executive Council for the year 2023 is *'Repositioning the Local Church for Maximum Impact in the Nations'* (1 Thess. 2:19-20 and Col. 2:6-7). This theme climaxes the five-year vision of the church which seeks to build a church from which members go to possess their nations by transforming every worldview, thought and behaviour with values, principles and lifestyles of the Kingdom of God and thereby turning many people to Christ.

In keeping with the direction of the Chairman and Executive Council, the first three months of the year 2023 shall be dedicated to studying the rules of conduct and core values of The Church of Pentecost. The spirit behind these outlines is to foster understanding and renew interest in upholding and pursuing these rules of conduct and core values of the church.

These outlines form the foundation of the CoP brand and so it is expected that District Ministers would be keenly involved in the Preparatory Classes with the Bible Study and Home Cell Leaders. This is to ensure that the rules of conduct and core values are well explained to reflect the position of the church.



Additionally, the Bible study and Home Cell leaders are to be present at such preparatory meetings as well as study the outline prayerfully and diligently ahead of the class to ensure effective teaching and learning during the Bible Study session.

The script writers, Pastors Joseph Owusu-Boateng, Samuel Acheampong and Emmanuel Asamoah, are commended for their dedication to duty. Again we are indebted to the translation team led by Pastor Alex Anum and the editors, Pastor Henry Sowah Ako-Nai, Pastor George Osei-Asiedu, Pastor Emmanuel Teye Sackitey and Mrs Margaret Addai.

As a committee, we are grateful to God and acknowledge the visionary leadership and unflinching support received from the Chairman, Apostle Eric Kwabena Nyamekye , the General Secretary, Apostle A. N. Y. Kumi-Larbi, and the International Missions Director, Apostle Emmanuel Agyemang Bekoe. All Executive Council Members are duly commended for their commitment to discipleship in The Church of Pentecost. Also, the members of the National Discipleship and Leadership Development Committee deserve commendation for their various contributions to the production of this year's manual. They are;

Pastor Emmanuel Pasteeco Arthur	Secretary
Apostle John B. K. Tawiah	Member
Apostle Samuel Edzii Davidson	Member
Pastor Enock Tawiah Narh	Member
Pastor Eric Kwaku Ansah	LLTS Organiser
Pastor Joseph Owusu Boateng	Member
Elder Eric Atta Sonno	Member

It is our prayer that this manual would contribute to the Repositioning of the Local Church for Maximum Impact in the Nations.

*Samuel Gakpetor (Apostle)*  
*(Coordinator, NDLC)*

## Study 1

# UPHOLDING THE CORE VALUES OF THE CHURCH

**Main Text:** Acts 17:10-15

**Memory Verse:** *And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others – 2 Timothy 2:2.*

### **Introduction**

Core values can be defined as the fundamental beliefs and priorities of an organisation that dictate focus, behaviour and function of various arms of the organisation. Churches and denominations are identified by their core values and other key distinctive attributes.

Over the years, The Church of Pentecost has built a Christ-centred brand with specific core values and rules of conduct. It thus behoves this generation to know and uphold these time-tested core values and distinctive attributes. The core values of The Church of Pentecost include Evangelism, Discipleship, Ministry Excellence, Prayer, Ministry of the Holy Spirit, Leadership, Church Culture, Tithes and Offerings, Holiness, Teaching of the Bible, and Social Development.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What was the distinctive character of the church in Berea?

2. In your opinion, how did the church in Berea inculcate this attribute in their members?
3. Mention some core values of CoP that have made her a shining light in the body of Christ?
4. In what ways have these core values contributed to the church's success?
5. How can we uphold these core values handed to us by our forebears?

### **Conclusion**

The church in Berea was described as possessing a more noble character. This is due to their attitude towards the word of God delivered through Paul. It is obvious that, some painstaking efforts had been expended by leadership and mature members to get the church to that level.

It is important to note that these distinctive attributes contributed to the winning of some Jews and prominent gentiles within the region. Aside the core values of the church, other distinctive attributes such as respect for leadership, sacrificial giving, the involvement of the laity in ministry, strong evangelistic drive, emphasis on holiness, modesty, among other things have brought the church this far. We must, as a matter of necessity, talk about them and also demonstrate same for the younger generation to imbibe them.

## Study 2

### **PERSONAL DEVOTIONS: LET GOD TAKE THE LEAD**

**Main Text:** Psalm 91:1-16

**Memory Verse:** *Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed* – Mark 1:35.

#### **Introduction**

The first rule of conduct for members of The Church of Pentecost emphasises personal devotions. It encourages members to set aside a period daily for a personal quiet time of prayer and meditation on the word (Matt. 6:6, Eph. 6:18-20). Personal devotions (or Quiet time) is about inviting God's presence into your day. It is a time set to be alone with God in the secret place.

In the act of having devotions, the believer comes into God's presence to deepen and strengthen their relationship with God through reading the Bible and meditating on what it says, reading other Christian literature, and spending time in prayer.

#### **Questions for Discussion**

1. How did Jesus practice the discipline of personal devotions? Mark 1:35
2. How does the psalmist describe the one who engages in the discipline of personal devotions? Verse 1

3. What are the benefits of personal devotions to the believer? Verse 3-4, 10-13
4. Share with us how you (and your family) practice personal devotions.
5. What benefits do you derive from personal devotions?

### **Conclusion**

Jesus began His daily activities with devotions early in the morning at a solitary place. This was for Him to live in His Father's presence and to allow Him take the lead in His daily activities. The one who engages in the discipline of personal devotions like Jesus, lives in the shelter of the Most High and finds rest in the shadow of the Almighty. God rescues them from every trap and protects them from deadly diseases, for which no evil will overtake them nor any plague come near their home.

To maintain an effective quiet time, the time period chosen must be conducive, the place must be free from distractions and disturbances. Mobile phones, television sets and other electronic gadgets should not interfere with one's quiet time.

It is also advisable to go before God with a pen and a notebook to record insights and revelations received during the devotions. An effective quiet time produces an effective Christian so maintain an effective quiet time and be an effective Christian. The discipline of personal devotional exercise allows us to stay in top spiritual condition like Jesus.

## Study 3

### REVERENCE IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

**Main Text:** Psalm 95:1-7

**Memory Verse:** *But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way* – 1 Corinthians 14:40.

#### **Introduction**

The rules of conduct of the church comprise a set of biblical values, standards and principles outlining what the church expects from every member. Underlying these rules of conduct is our reverence for God and the need to demonstrate Christlikeness to the world. Reverence can be defined as a gesture or attitude indicative of deep respect for an authority, person or deity. Thus, reverence in the house of God implies proper conduct and fear of God during the fellowship of believers. This is motivated by a sense of God's greatness, exceeding glory and the consciousness of His presence among His people.

When we fail to recognise this fact and act accordingly, the house of God risks being treated with contempt through irreverent acts. Consequently, we may not experience the fullness of God's blessings during church services and fellowship meetings. Today, we shall examine how reverence for God should translate into appropriate conduct during church services.

## **Questions for Discussion**

1. What does it mean to have reverence for the house of the Lord?
2. How should we come before the Lord? Verse 2
3. Why should we come before the Lord with reverence? Verse 3-5
4. What attitudes do you consider inappropriate during church services?
5. How can we show reverence for God during church meetings and devotions?

## **Conclusion**

In recent times, much concern has been raised regarding the attitude some Christians exhibit during church services. Addressing this issue is crucial because, collectively, our attitude of honour, respect, and full participation can either inhibit or create the right atmosphere for the manifestation of the power of God when we meet as children of God. God is present when we meet and this must inform every behaviour we put up during church meetings, be it presbytery, home cell, Bible study, congregational worship, etc. Engaging in casual conversations, jesting, coarse joking, watching videos on phones, checking up messages on social media platforms, chewing gum, among others, should be avoided during church services and personal devotions.



In our corporate and cultural settings, we observe rules, regulations and etiquettes. Much more, the gathering of the saints must be accorded the highest form of reverence. Such attitudes include paying attention, participating in congregational worship and praise, keeping the church environment tidy, waiting for service to end before leaving, among others.

## Study 4

### EVANGELISM, THE CHRISTIAN'S PRIME DUTY

**Main Text:** Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16

**Memory Verse:** *He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation – Mark 16:15.*

#### **Introduction**

Evangelism is to proclaim Jesus Christ and communicate His message of salvation. It is telling people simply and clearly what God says concerning His Son Jesus Christ and what He has done for all; ultimately it is to lead sinners to accept Jesus as the Lord and only Saviour of the world. This is the prime duty of every Christian – to share their faith after conversion – and it is done with urgency because the souls of people are at stake.

It is for this reason that The Church of Pentecost has evangelism as the first of her core values and fundamental driving force in their operations to help win more souls into the Kingdom of God, towards fulfilling the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20).

#### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What is the prime duty of every Christian?
2. Who is a sinner and how can they be saved? Verse 16
3. How should Christians pursue this prime duty? Verses 19 and 20

4. Personally, how have you pursued evangelism as a prime duty? Share with us
5. Suggest ways to improve on your evangelistic drive to win more sinners for Christ.

### **Conclusion**

Sinners are those who have not confessed Christ as their Lord and personal Saviour, and are wallowing in sin. As Christians share the post-conversion experiences of their faith, sinners who believe in the gospel and are baptised are saved (Mark 16:16). Christians must pursue their prime duty of engaging in evangelism in an aggressive manner like the army, for the word 'Go' (in Matthew 28:19) implies aggressive warfare.

In going, Christians must preach the Good News, baptise and teach new converts for them to be nurtured in the Lord. In addition, they must pray for lost souls, visit them regularly, support them in kind where necessary, and among others, win them for Christ.

## Study 5

### ENTERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

**Main Texts:** Psalm 100:2-5

**Memory Verse:** *Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name –* Psalm 100:4.

#### **Introduction**

One of the great opportunities we have as believers is to gather together in the presence of God. In His presence, we have the chance to hear from Him through the preaching of His word, and to commune with Him in prayers. We also offer Him praise and worship through songs that celebrate His goodness and faithfulness in our lives. Such Christian gatherings in God's presence, when done regularly, enhance our fellowship with Him and one another. It is for this reason we are admonished not to forsake our meeting together as believers (Heb. 10:25).

In today's study, we shall consider the attitude we must put up as we come into the presence of God for worship and fellowship.

#### **Questions for Discussion**

1. How are we to serve the Lord? Verse 2
2. Discuss who we are to God, and who He is to us, according to verse 3.

3. In view of who we are to God, and who He is to us, what should be our attitude as we gather in His presence?
4. Why is it needful for us to come before God with a heart of thanksgiving and praise? Verses 4 and 5
5. In your opinion, does the attitude of members of your Assembly during church service express deep reverence for God? Give reasons for your stance.

### **Conclusion**

As a rule of conduct, members of The Church of Pentecost are expected to come into every church meeting with a heart of deep reverence for the Lord. As we enter, we are to pray fervently for an encounter with God, and listen attentively to the preaching of His word (Eccl. 5:1). It is also required that members give praise from a grateful heart, and worship God in the beauty of holiness (Psalm 118:27-29). It is only with such an attitude that we shall enjoy the best of every church service we attend.

## Study 6

### ENGAGING IN WORK THAT GLORIFIES GOD

**Main Texts:** 1 Corinthians 10:23-24; 31

**Memory Verse:** *So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God* – 1 Corinthians 10:31.

#### **Introduction**

Work is any activity involving mental or physical effort done to achieve a purpose or result. In the context of today's study, however, 'work' refers to anything we do (as a profession or an occupation) in order to earn income. In The Church of Pentecost, there are rules of conduct intended to regulate the behaviours of members. Among these is the charge that 'A true child of God should not deal in items known to be detrimental to the spiritual, mental and physical health of others, e.g. alcohol, cigarettes and narcotic drugs. We shall discuss the reason for these rules and how we can encourage one another to obey.

#### **Questions for Discussions**

1. How do you understand the statement, 'All things are lawful, but not all things are helpful' in the context of the work we choose to do as Christians? Verse 23a
2. Mention any business or work that may be lawful in your society but not helpful to your relationship with God as a Christian. Explain.

3. Identify factors that should influence your selection of a business or job as a Christian. Verses 24 and 31
4. Why should Christians be mindful about the kind of work or profession we choose?

### **Conclusion**

In the passage read, Paul intimated that though we may be free to make choices, some of these choices may not help the cause of the Christian faith. As Christians, our primary concern and focus in the marketplace must not be on our own rights and the income we wish to earn for a living. We must consider what honours God and is most beneficial to others in their relationship with God. If the kind of work we do keeps people away from God and has the potency of destroying their spiritual, mental, emotional and/or physical wellbeing, then we must consider quitting and searching for another. This we must do for the sake of our own salvation and for the salvation of others.

## Study 7

# CHURCH DISCIPLINE IN THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST

**Main Text:** 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

**Memory Verse:** *Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness* – Hebrews 12:10.

### **Introduction**

Church discipline can be defined as the process of correcting sinful behaviour among members of a local church body. The purpose is to protect the image of the church (Matt. 5:13-16), restore the sinner to right walk with God, and help habitually sinning saints to escape eternal judgement. Thus, the fair and honest directing of disciplinary measures in every facet of administration and operations among the clergy, laity, and membership is crucial for the success of every church. Today, we shall examine the purpose and other modalities for church discipline in The Church of Pentecost.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What was the nature of the immorality in the Corinthian church and how did Paul react to it? Verse 1-3
2. According to Paul, why was it necessary for the church to discipline the erring brother?



3. What offences or behaviours attract sanctions in The Church of Pentecost?
4. What are some of the disciplinary actions in The Church of Pentecost?
5. How important is church discipline for the erring member and corporate image of the church?

### **Conclusion**

The leadership of the church in Corinth had failed to discipline a brother who was having sexual affair with his father's wife. Consequently, Paul rebuked the church and maintained that disciplining the brother was necessary to check the spread of that behaviour. He compared sinful act to the working of yeast in dough. The practice of church discipline makes our witness of the gospel credible to unbelievers. It helps the offender to repent of their sins and turn to God in righteousness. It also engenders orderliness and compliance with church policies which are crucial for church growth and discipleship.

Offences that warrant disciplinary sanctions in the CoP include falling into open sin, divorcing a wife or husband, marrying more than one wife/husband, adultery, disrespect to church authority at any level, practicing and promoting homosexuality or any perverse sexual behaviour, embracing or spreading false doctrine, habitually visiting questionable

places, etc.

Some disciplinary sanctions in the church include public rebuke, suspension, demotion, downgrading, and revocation of ordination by the appointing authority. In extreme cases, an offending member/officer may be excommunicated from the church by the Executive Council on recommendation of the Area Executive Committee. In meting out discipline to any erring person, it is important to duly clarify the issues at stake. The person may be called and engaged on the matter before announcing it to the church. Even when the discipline has been meted out, it is important that the church demonstrate love to the member until they have been restored.

## Study 8

### **PREACH THE GOSPEL WHEREVER YOU GO!**

**Main Text:** Acts 8:1-8

**Memory Verse:** *Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went* – Acts 8:4.

#### **Introduction**

God orders the steps of the righteous (Ps. 37:23). He intentionally and strategically positions them for His purpose; to preach the gospel wherever they find themselves so that sinners will come to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The Early Church realised this in their moments of intense persecution, and capitalised on it to engage in cross-cultural, mission-oriented evangelism. In other words, the disciples left their comfort zones to preach the gospel wherever they went.

God opens doors for members of The Church of Pentecost to travel to other towns, cities, and countries. This, He does, for a purpose – to position them to preach Christ in their new locations so that all nations and people will hear the gospel. This is exactly what Philip and the believers did when they left Jerusalem for the regions of Judea and Samaria.

#### Questions for Discussion

1. Why did Philip and the other believers leave Jerusalem?  
Verse 1

2. How did the believers preach the gospel? Verse 4
3. Describe how Philip engaged in evangelism and the resultant impact of his ministry? Verse 5-8
4. How are you preaching the gospel where God has currently placed you?
5. What challenges are you facing in preaching the gospel and how do you intend to overcome them?

### **Conclusion**

A great wave of persecution swept over the church in Jerusalem, and all the believers scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. The believers preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went, in obedience to the Lord's command, to reach out to all nations and tribes. Philip, especially, went to Samaria and preached Christ to them with accompanying miracles such as healing of paralysis and the lame, and casting out evil spirits as the Samaritans listened intently to him. There was great joy in the city as a result of his ministrations.

As Christians, we must remember that God has strategically put us at our current locations (workplaces, schools, towns, cities, or nations) to extend the love of Christ to sinners. With prayers and prudent measures, we must overcome all the challenges keeping us from spreading the gospel, so that the reason for which God has placed us at our present locations would be fulfilled.

## Study 9

### THE CHURCH AS A SPIRITUAL HOME

**Main Text:** Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:4-5

**Memory Verse:** *So, you are not foreigners or guests, but rather you are the children of the city of the holy ones, with all the rights as family members of the household of God – Ephesians 2:19 (TPT).*

#### **Introduction**

A home is a safe haven which provides the right atmosphere for holistic growth and development as well as opportunities for self-expression. The Church is a spiritual home for the 'called out'. It is a community of believers – people who have confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

In view of this, one of the rules of conduct of The Church of Pentecost encourages us to make the church our spiritual home, love the brethren with brotherly affection and, if possible, contribute to the needs of the saints (Acts 2:46). Today, we shall discuss how we can contribute to making the church a spiritual home for members.

#### **Questions for Discussion**

1. Why is the Church identified as a spiritual home?
2. Why are we (Gentiles) no longer strangers and foreigners in the Church? Verses 19 and 22

3. What is the ultimate goal for our calling into God's spiritual home? Verse 5
4. How does fellowship contribute to church growth and discipleship?
5. Practically, how are you playing your part as a member of God's spiritual home?

### **Conclusion**

The Church is made up of individuals who have repented, confessed Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, and live according to the dictates of the scriptures. Accordingly, members of this spiritual home, (the local church) are expected to avail themselves for regular spiritual nourishment. Therefore, we must not be in the habit of staying off church meetings without any just cause. More so, members should see themselves as brothers and sisters, irrespective of their race, ethnicity, and family background.

In view of this, we are expected to offer one another opportunity to grow in Christlikeness and also express our God-given talents, spiritual gifts and divine mandates. No one should make the church gathering an unpleasant experience for another person.

As much as possible, we should express the love of Christ within the family by supporting one another in times of financial need, bereavement, incapacitation, or sickness. Fellowship is not only necessary in hard times. Everyone needs the fellowship of the brethren to survive in a world hostile to believers.

## Study 10

# OFFERING SACRIFICIAL SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

**Main Text:** Ezra 3:7-10

**Memory Verse:** *Do everything without grumbling or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation – Philipians 2:14.*

### **Introduction**

One of the core values of The Church of Pentecost is for every assembly to be self-supporting. For this to happen, members are taught to provide sacrificial services to the church. Church history abounds with good examples of sacrificial services offered without any expectation of any financial rewards. These sacrifices helped to make the church effective and relevant in terms of numbers, congregations and impact on society.

In The Church of Pentecost, mention can be made of officers and members who have from time to time offered sacrificial services to the church. These services include undertaking evangelistic outreaches with personal resources, offering labour services for building of places of worship and mission houses, donation of properties and monies, among others. In the passage read, we observe how sacrificial services and free will offerings, contributed to the rebuilding of the temple.

We shall discuss ways by which we can uphold this distinctive attribute for the current generation and posterity.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. How did those from exile support the rebuilding of the temple? Verse 7, Ezra 2:68
2. Which categories of people were involved in rebuilding the temple? Verses 8 and 9
3. How does sacrificial service facilitate discipleship and church growth?
4. What are some of the benefits of offering sacrificial service to the church?
5. How can we deal with the hindrances to personal sacrificial services in recent times?

### **Conclusion**

It is obvious from the discussion that offering services in God's vineyard without expecting financial rewards is a legacy we must guard jealously. The exiles gave wholeheartedly and freely, offered labour services for the rebuilding of the temple. While we commend and uphold the importance of technical and skilled service, as the case may be, for a local church, we should the more make every effort to stress the role sacrificial service plays in promoting the Kingdom business.



Many have sold property to push the kingdom business. Others have offered their very lives to plant churches on hard grounds which have gloriously spawned many other local churches. Some continue to help with their skills and talents in creating the right atmosphere for church services.

Our fulfilment should spring from seeing God's agenda of saving nations come to pass with or without financial rewards as the peculiar arrangements and conditions may be. Being chosen as a vessel through which God's agenda on earth is fulfilled is enough blessing. Ministry is multifaceted, diverse and demanding such that, paying everyone involved in transforming our spheres with Kingdom values would be impossible. For this reason voluntary service should be encouraged at all levels.

## Study 11

# **SPEAK WELL OF GOD'S CHURCH AND LEADERSHIP**

**Main Text:** Numbers 16:1-5, 12-15, 28-33

**Memory Verse:** *And now, friends, we ask you to honour those leaders who work so hard for you, who have been given the responsibility of urging and guiding you along in your obedience. Overwhelm them with appreciation and love!* – 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (MSG).

### **Introduction**

Reverence for God must translate into how we respect leadership and speak about the Church. In the rules of conduct of The Church of Pentecost, we are advised not to speak disrespectfully or unkindly about the church during casual conversations. Instead, we must channel all grievances and concerns we may have to the appropriate authority for explanation or redress. Today, we shall discuss the dangers of speaking ill of the church and leaders, and also learn about the appropriate ways of seeking redress when we have grievances.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. Why did Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On dishonour Moses and the Church? Verse 3

2. What were the consequences suffered by those who dishonoured Moses and the Church? Verse 31-33
3. Why should we speak well of the church and her leaders?
4. What are the appropriate channels for seeking redress in the CoP?
5. How can we make use of these channels?

### **Conclusion**

Korah, Dathan, and Abiram dishonoured Moses and by extension, 'the church in the wilderness' by inciting a rebellion against them. They thought that Moses was abusing them; he was making himself greater than the rest of the Lord's people who had been set apart by the Lord, forgetting that God had chosen him. Their abusive statements against Moses and the Church led to their untimely death, along with their households and all their followers who were standing with them. When we speak ill of the church, we discredit her in the eyes of 'sinners' and children alike. Later, it becomes difficult to win these groups of people due to the bad picture we have painted about the church to them.

The grievance procedure for the church should be adhered to in order to avoid this pitfall. The channels for seeking redress include the Local Presbytery, District Executive, Area Executive, and the Executive Council of the church.

## Study 12

### DISCIPLE-MAKING IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

**Main Text:** Acts 2:42-47

**Memory Verse:** *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer – Acts 2:42.*

#### **Introduction**

Understanding the Church's structure for disciple-making is crucial to fulfilling the Great Commission. The local church offers the best platform for the teaching, prayer, modelling, life-on-life relationships, counselling and mentorship. Altogether, these activities help to transform the new convert to the point where they embody Christ-likeness in all aspects of life.

In pursuing this agenda, the primary role of the local church is to equip her members and leaders to contribute wholeheartedly to the mission of disciple-making (Lk. 4:18, 19; Eph. 2:10).

In this lesson, we will look at the church's approach to discipleship in the local church while examining the Vision 2023 provision concerning discipleship in the local church.

## **Questions for Discussion**

1. How did the early church approach disciple-making?  
Verse 42
2. What was the result of this approach? Verse 43-44
3. Briefly explain the structures for disciple-making in The Church of Pentecost?
4. How does mentoring and modelling contribute to effective discipleship?
5. How can these structures be made more effective in your local church?

## **Conclusion**

The Church of Pentecost has structures with distinct roles that work in synergy to ensure that the discipleship needs of the young and old, male and female, converts and mature members are met. The discipleship structures include the New Converts' class: It provides a safe nest for the new convert to learn, grow, ask questions, and form new relationships without feeling intimidated.

Home Cell: a group of members (normally 8-15) living within the same community who meet for prayer, worship, fellowship, evangelism and community transformation.

Bible Study Groups: a permanent small group in the church which meets weekly (except on Lord's Supper Sundays) at a specified place in the church for Bible study to deepen their understanding of God and His Word.

The New Members' Class guides new members to know the church's tenets and also provide a roadmap for their assimilation into the local church. The Disciple-makers' Group is a group made up of all leaders of the discipleship groups led by the Pastor.

They are to meet at least once a month with the view to equipping the disciple-makers to be effective in leading their groups. Overall, these structures represent a strategy to intentionally move members from the level of new converts to become fully mature and thoroughly equipped members fit for every good work. All officers and church members must be involved and committed to the process of disciple-making in the local church.

## Study 13

# TREATING LEADERS OF THE CHURCH WITH HONOUR

**Main Text:** Philippians 2:24-30

**Memory Verse:** *Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you – 1 Thessalonians 5:12.*

### **Introduction**

One of the ways by which the Lord Jesus is building His church (as He promised in Matthew 16:18), is giving her leaders – Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers – to equip the believers for works of service through prayer and the teaching of the Word (Eph. 4:11-12). To enhance this agenda, other mature believers are also called into lay leadership positions as Elders, Deacons, and Deaconesses, to assist in the work of ministry in the local churches.

They serve voluntarily without any remunerations. In view of the heavenly calling they have received, and the roles they play in helping to sustain the growth of the church, leaders must always be treated with honour. This is a core practice of The Church of Pentecost that all members should strongly uphold.

To treat someone with honour is to obey, respect, revere, speak kindly to, and think well of them. Leaders of The Church of Pentecost, at all levels, deserve much honour for

their sacrificial services which help the church to pursue her mandate of making disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20).

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. How did Paul describe Epaphroditus? Verse 25
2. Discuss how Epaphroditus risked his life for the work of Christ. Verses 27 and 30
3. How do leaders of today's church risk their lives for the sake of the Kingdom business?
4. How was the church in Philippi expected to treat Epaphroditus? Verse 29
5. Share some practical ways by which church leaders can be treated with honour.

### **Conclusion**

Paul described Epaphroditus as a brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier and a messenger of the Philippian church, who risked his life for the work of Christ while Paul was under arrest in Rome. Today, there are still many leaders who make significant sacrifices for the church; they expend much of their time, strength and financial resources towards her sustenance.

As Paul recommends in our main text and memory verse, we are to appreciate their services and treat them with honour. Practically, this can be done through phone calls, visitation, giving of gifts and showing of respect, among others.



## Study 14

### TITHING IS RECOMMENDED BY CHRIST

**Main Text:** Matthew 23:23.

**Memory Verse:** *Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches* – Galatians 6:6 (NKJV).

#### **Introduction**

As we continue with the study on self-supporting attitude as a core value of The Church of Pentecost, we will now discuss tithing. In recent times, tithing as a practice for the church, has come under numerous attacks surprisingly, from supposed Christian churches, groups and individuals. Among reasons given for their actions are that the Old Testament priesthood is no more, and that the New Testament is silent on the practice. Chiefly, they argue that since Jesus did not plainly endorse it, tithing is not to be practiced in the name of Christianity. They, therefore, accuse churches that practice tithing of using unbiblical means to amass wealth. In this study, we shall look at how Jesus Christ in plain language endorsed tithing.

#### **Questions for Discussion**

1. Why did Jesus denounce the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and their colleagues? Verse 23a
2. What do you think Jesus expected the Pharisees and their colleagues to do?

3. Explain the following phrases in Jesus' statement,
  - a. These you ought to have done,
  - b. Without leaving the others undone.
4. How should Christians treat a practice that Jesus so clearly endorses?

### **Conclusion**

Jesus' comment on tithing makes the practice very significant. He recommended its continued practice which gives credence to its relevance to the Church today. His statement in the main text does two things. First it denounces hypocrisy in tithing. Then it recommends tithing within the framework of justice, mercy and faithfulness. Though He endorsed a practice instituted under the Law, the practice was never an endorsement of righteousness by works.

Tithing is not and can never be a substitute to expressing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. The principle of the ancient tithes that ministers of the gospel and objects of benevolence should be provided for by the whole people of God, according to their means, is fully recognised in Scripture as applicable to the followers of Christ. The Church of Pentecost upholds Jesus' position on tithing and has continued to teach its members to practice tithing as an important church growth factor that brings in tremendous blessings to those who practice it faithfully.

## Study 15

### BLESSINGS OF TITHING FAITHFULLY

**Main Text:** Malachi 3:10-12.

**Memory Verse:** *'Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,' Says the LORD of hosts, 'If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it' – Malachi 3:10 (NKJV).*

#### **Introduction**

God's invitation to Israel to return to Him in faithfulness was for their own benefit. Among the signs of genuine repentance was their compliance with paying tithes and offerings as prescribed by God. Israel was to ensure that there was food in God's storehouse. The abundance of food in the storehouse was a sign that the priests would be supported from the tithes as they ministered in the Temple; they would no longer have to look for other means of livelihood.

Yet it required faith on the part of Israel to trust God with a tenth of the resources He had given them. In this study, we shall look at the various ways God promised to bless His people if they turned to Him and paid their tithes faithfully and in faith.

## **Questions for Discussion**

1. What were the Israelites to do to provide enough food in God's storehouse? Verse 10a
2. How would you explain the statement, 'Bring all the tithes into the storehouse'? Verse 10a
3. Identify various ways in which God promised to bless His people for their faithfulness. Verse 10-12
4. Share in brief your personal experience of how God rewards those who tithe faithfully.

## **Conclusion**

To 'bless' means to fill with benefits, either as an end in itself or to make the object blessed a source of further blessing for others. In response to faithfulness on the part of Israel, God will provide rain in season and cause the land to yield its fruits in full strength. This is what God promised to do for Israel if they turned to Him. He would restore the fortunes of repentant Israel; He would drive away the devourers (caterpillars and locusts) that devastated their farms.

Thus, Israel shall enjoy abundance instead of suffer scarcity of food. The prosperity of the land will be a signal to the nations that God was blessing His people because of their obedience to His will. God still promises His children those blessings today.

## Study 16

# LEADERSHIP AS A CORE VALUE OF THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST

**Main Text:** Acts 6:1-7

**Memory Verse:** *Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them – Acts 6:3.*

### **Introduction**

As already stated, a core value refers to a principle, or belief that a person or an organisation strongly holds as being of central importance. It is usually viewed as a fundamental force that influences, drives or guides the decisions and practices of that individual or institution. In The Church of Pentecost, there are several of such values that have, over the years, contributed to our speedy growth. One on which today's study focuses is leadership.

Within our local assemblies, there are Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses. There are also full-time Ministers who oversee the operations of the church in the Districts, Areas and Nations. These leaders play valuable roles in helping the church to fulfil its God-given mission and vision.

### **Questions for Discussions**

1. What was the complaint of the Hellenists (Greek-speaking Jews) against the Hebrews? Verse 1

2. How did the Apostles (the Twelve) resolve the emerging confusion? Verse 3-5
3. Identify qualities that should be looked out for before calling people into church leadership. Verse 3 and Titus 1:5-9
4. How did the appointment of lay leaders to assist in the work of ministry impact the church? Verse 7
5. Why do you think leadership should be considered a core value of The Church of Pentecost?

### **Conclusion**

One of the promises of God, in His covenant with The Church of Pentecost dating as far back as 1931, is to call out people according to His own choice from time to time into leadership positions. Over the years, leadership appointments and callings in the church, both into the clergy and laity, have been based on the apostolic foundation; on character, charisma and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Leadership development is from the local level with members maturing to lead sub-groups, Ministries, Assemblies, Districts and Areas. The phenomenal growth of The Church of Pentecost in all areas of its life can be attributed to the strong leadership force the church continues to enjoy.

## Study 17

### THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Main Texts:** Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4

**Memory Verse:** *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them* – Acts 2:4.

#### **Introduction**

In one of Jesus' last moments with His disciples before His crucifixion, He told them about His return to the Father. On hearing that, the disciples became very sad as they probably wondered how they were going to cope without their Master. Seeing their grief, Jesus exhorted them, saying, 'But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you' (John 16:7).

For Jesus to indicate that it is for the good of His followers that He goes away emphasises the significance of the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is for this reason that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is considered a core value in The Church of Pentecost, and viewed as something of central importance to our growth.

## **Questions for Discussion**

1. Why did Jesus order His disciples not to depart from Jerusalem after His ascension? Acts 1:4-5
2. How were the disciples occupied on the day of Pentecost? Acts 2:1; cf. 1:12-14
3. Describe the physical signs that characterised the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:2-3
4. What happened next when the Holy Spirit came to rest on each of the disciples? Acts 2:4
5. How would you measure and rate the level of emphasis your local church places on the baptism and ministry of the Holy Spirit?

## **Conclusion**

Jesus is now gone (in body) to heaven, but the Holy Spirit He promised to send is with us here on earth. He is here to have fellowship with us, and to help us experience victorious Christian living. Without Him, it would be impossible for the Christian to live to please God. It is for this reason that His ministry is considered as a core value in The Church of Pentecost.

The good news is that, the promise of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is for all (Acts 2:38-39). The only requirement is for one to first become born again through faith in Christ Jesus, and then earnestly and prayerfully ask for the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:9-13).



## Study 18

### THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Main Texts:** John 16:5-8, 12-14

**Memory Verse:** *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth –* Acts 1:8.

#### **Introduction**

The Holy Spirit is an indispensable gift from God the Father. He played a very significant role in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ. For example, Jesus was conceived through the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:26-31, 35; Matt. 1:18-20) and was anointed with Him for His public ministry of preaching and healing (Acts 10:38). He was led by the Holy Spirit, and offered Himself for crucifixion through the Spirit (Mark 1:12, Heb. 9:14). The Holy Spirit has been sent by the Father to help us too. Our knowledge and understanding of His work in our lives is very essential to the value we place on our need of Him.

#### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What was the reason for the disciples' grief? Verses 5 and 6
2. Why did Jesus say it was good for them that He went away? Verse 7

3. In which areas of our lives does the Spirit convict us?  
Verse 8
4. Identify the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Verses 13 and 14, John 14:26
5. How can the ministry of the Spirit become evident in the local church?

### **Conclusion**

The Holy Spirit plays several vital roles in the life of the believer. He convicts of sin by awakening in us the consciousness of our wrongdoings and the need for forgiveness. He also guides us into all truth as we study the word of God. He teaches and helps us to remember all things.

Additionally, He gives us power to witness about Christ – both in words and works, and strengthens us to stand for the Lord (Eph. 3:16). Again, He produces the character of Christ in us, which is popularly referred to as the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22), and also imparts spiritual gifts to us for service in the body of Christ and to the world (1 Cor. 12:7-11).

## Study 19

# EXPERIENCING THE BAPTISM AND DAILY INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Main Texts:** Acts 4:23-31

**Memory Verse:** *After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly – Acts 4:31.*

### **Introduction**

When a person accepts Jesus as Lord and Saviour, they experience regeneration or the new birth (John 1:12-13). After this encounter, the next very important thing that should happen to the new believer is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This baptism is a spiritual experience where the whole being of the Christian is immersed in the Spirit, thereby becoming saturated with His presence and power.

The experience is officiated by Christ Himself, unlike water baptism which is officiated by a minister. It is, however, not enough for the believer to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. We as well need His daily infilling so as to receive fresh strength and new empowering for victorious Christian living each day.

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. Where did Peter and John go after they were released by the rulers and elders? Verse 23

2. What did the believers do when they heard the report of the restrictions the chief priests and elders had placed on Peter and John? Verse 24
3. Mention the signs that occurred after they had prayed. Verse 31
4. How were the disciples impacted by the infilling of the Holy Spirit? Verse 31c
5. In which ways can the baptism and daily infilling of the Spirit be intensified in the local church?

### **Conclusion**

After the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the early disciples of Christ on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4), they experienced repeated infilling. When the believers gathered to pray after Peter and John were released, they were filled afresh with the Spirit as we read from the main text. When Paul converted and became a Christian, Ananias prayed for him to be baptised in the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17). Later, when Paul confronted Elymas the sorcerer, the Spirit filled him anew (Acts 13:9).

To fully enjoy the fellowship, leading and ministry of the Holy Spirit, and to grow consistently in the Lord, we surely need His infilling each day of our lives. To have this continuous experience requires that we make time each day to commune with the Lord in prayer, praise and worship, and to meditate on His word day and night (Josh. 1:8, Ps 1:1-3; Matt. 26:41; 1 Thess. 5:17).

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