

A photograph of a large, ancient tree trunk with thick, gnarled roots spreading out over a mossy forest floor. The background is a blurred forest scene with sunlight filtering through the trees.

# ROOTED

**PARTICIPANT NAME:**



**Jeremiah 17:7-8**

**But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.**



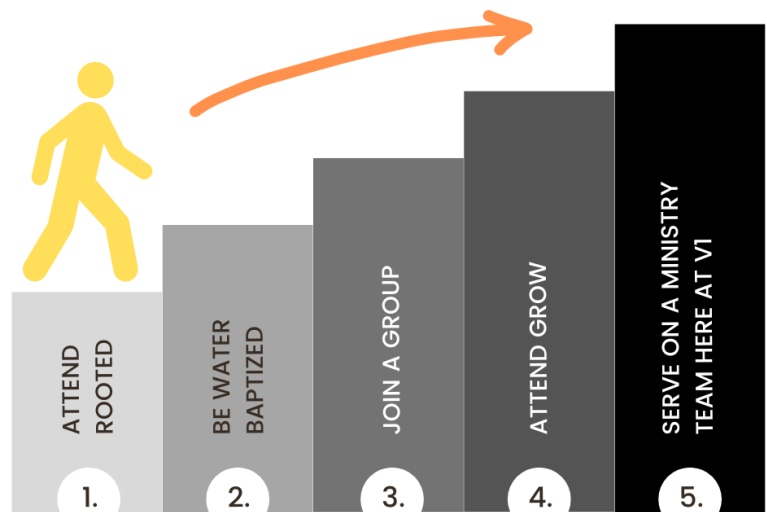
# Welcome to Rooted!

Rooted is as a place to start your faith journey! It is designed for those new to Christianity, Protestantism, or a Pentecostal church experience. Throughout the next three weeks our elder team will lead you through the four core doctrines of our church along with other important teachings about what we believe are foundational truths as you get rooted into your faith in Jesus.

The “Next Steps” program is designed to be a discipleship tool that takes you from your initial decision to follow Jesus all the way to serving in a ministry here at V1. Our “Next Steps” will help you discover your purpose, find your people, and thrive in your place through five intentional steps after your initial decision to follow Jesus. We hope you continue to discover God’s plan for your life as you take your next steps to follow Him!



## Your Next Steps





# WEEK 1 REBORN

Week one is all about learning how we are reborn through salvation in Jesus and how we can demonstrate this decision through the symbolic act of water baptism.

# Salvation Through Jesus Christ

Salvation is deliverance from spiritual death and enslavement by sin. God provides salvation for all who believe and accept His free offer of forgiveness. Mankind's only hope of redemption from the fallen sinful state is through the Blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son's Blood that was shed as Jesus died on the cross: Matthew (chapter 27), Mark (chapter 15), Luke (chapter 23), and John (chapter 19).] (Luke 24:47; John 3:3,16,17; Rom. 8:16; 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8,9; 4:24; Titus 2:11-12; 3:5-7)

As it is written in Luke 24:47, we believe every Person Can Have Restored Fellowship with God Through 'Salvation' (trusting Christ, through faith and repentance, to be our personal Savior). In other words, we can be saved from our sins, not through any good works of our own, but through the saving grace of Christ. To be offered the gift of forgiveness of not only a spiritual death but also of the sin that has enslaved us is what we call Grace.

## 1. What does Grace mean to you, and how do you apply this to your salvation?

- a. Ephesians 2:8-9, Grace is when you have been shown favor or granted something when the giver has no obligation to do so; in this case the gift of salvation.
- b. You receive this gift of salvation through faith, and not by works. One can have faith for their salvation in themselves, but this gift can only be accepted through having "confidence" in Christ.

## 2. If we could earn salvation what would that look like? What issues arise from the belief that you can earn your way into Heaven? Earn a relationship with God?

- a. If you could earn salvation, such as by good works, then maybe if we did more good works, we could earn our way into salvation. There are two issues with this position.
  - i. First what price would this type of salvation cost, and what would we be willing to pay for it? Would our works be compared to others works? This idea of just being good is good enough negates the whole concept of a gift and becomes something for us to brag about.
  - ii. Second, Scripture already rules out the option to purchase salvation, "not of works, lest anyone should boast."

## 3. What is our responsibility concerning God's offer of salvation?

- a. Our primary responsibility to God's offer of salvation falls directly in trusting in Him to save us. The gift would carry little value if Christ could not deliver salvation. Our faith, which should be understood as having a trust or confidence in the One who is offering the gift. What value would the gift of salvation have if it were I offering it to you?

## 4. What does faith and repentance mean and how does that lead to a conversion?

- a. Repentance is a turning about in one's mind about their own sin and their need to be saved from the consequences of their sins. Faith and repentance are two sides of one coin; both are needed if conversion of one's heart is to be turned towards God.

# Water Baptism

The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Baptism is an outward expression of an inward change. It's a public declaration of how Jesus changed your life. Being baptized shows others that you've decided to follow Jesus and allows them to celebrate this decision with you (Acts 16:31-34).

The act of baptism doesn't save a person; it's a symbol and celebration of salvation (1 Peter 3:21). The power that brought Jesus back to life is the same power Jesus uses to change our lives – and that's worth getting excited about!

## 1. What is the meaning of baptism?

a. Baptism is a way for believers to identify with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, illustrating our new lives as followers of Jesus. Baptism doesn't make you a believer; it shows that you already believe. It is a way of showing on the outside what change has already occurred in your heart.

## 2. Do I need to be baptized again if I have already been baptized?

a. If you haven't been baptized by immersion since you decided to follow Jesus, we want to help you take your next step of being baptized. Once you've taken that step, there's no need to be baptized again. Some people believe they should be baptized again if they have sinned or have committed what they consider a major sin. A look at the New Testament reveals this is not the case. Instead, when we sin as Christians, we are called to confess our sins to God. First John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." When we sin, we do not need to be baptized again. Instead, we confess our sins and seek to live for Him better each day.

## 3. What's the difference between immersing, sprinkling and other ways of baptizing?

a. Baptisms in the Bible were by immersion. The original word for baptism most often referred to being immersed or submerged in water. Jesus was baptized by being immersed in the water and rising out of it (Matthew 3:16, Mark 1:10).

b. Submersion in the water symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Being submersed underwater represents our death to sin and old way of life and being raised out of the water is a picture of how Jesus raised us and gave us a fresh start in life (Romans 6:3-5).

# NOTES



# WEEK 2 TRANSFORMED

Week two is all about learning what “new life” in Christ is all about. We believe that through the Holy Spirit we are transformed with a new life here on earth. This new life is ultimately found in the resurrection of the second coming.



# New Life

God has brought His people salvation in Jesus Christ, a gift that is described throughout the Scriptures as new life. Believers begin a new life when they are born-again by the Spirit (1 Peter 1:3). The process of salvation places believers on the road of faith whereby they become new creations (2 Cor 5:17) and enjoy a new life in Christ (Rom 6:4). Despite that reality, believers wrestle with the old nature and old self. They must seek to put on the new self (Eph 4:24) and to follow the new commandment of Christ (1 John 2:8).

*1Pet. 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...*

## 1. How do we understand mercy as compared to grace?

- a. Some may describe mercy by stating that it is the feeling of compassion or pity towards another. God shows us mercy by relenting from punishing us. Is this how we should understand mercy?
- b. Mercy in this verse could be explained as kindness or concern that is expressed for someone in need but it still is deeper than that.
- c. In the Hebrew text, mercy is expressed as to love tenderly as that of a mother towards her child in the womb.
- d. Because of this great mercy, we are given a new birth into a living hope:
  - i. Hope is understood as looking forward to something with some reason for confidence respecting fulfillment.

*2Cor. 5:17-19 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God*

## 2. What is the process of salvation leading us too?

- a. Reconciliation---the NEW LIFE
  - i. The reestablishment of an interrupted or broken relationship.
  - ii. The ministry of reconciliation
- b. What do we call this process of salvation?
  - i. Sanctification
    1. The process of making something holy: Hebrews 10:10-14

*Lev. 11:44 I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves along the ground.*

ii. New life is the process of becoming holy, set apart, singled out, consecrated to your God.

*Rom. 6:4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.*

## **How Can We Live Our New Life in Christ?**

- a. What does it mean to keep ourselves clean, and how do we do it?
  - i. Recognizing your bondage to sin. You are now able to break free from its mastery over you.
- b. Read Ephesians 4:22-5:16
- c. God's Word is like a mirror that shows us who we are now in Christ (James 1:23). As we put His Word in our hearts, it changes us. We start to see who we are now in Christ, and we are empowered to live out our new life in Christ.

## **2. What will my new life look like?**

a. Our new life in Christ is not a set of rules and behaviors that we now try to live up to. It's important to recognize that this new way of living is not simply "behavior modification." Our goal is not to live our lives from a moral checklist, but to submit to disciplines. As you realize this and believe it, your actions will begin to change in accordance with who you know that you are now. As Christ followers we all continue to grow in disciplines of prayer, Bible reading, fellowship, worship, giving, serving, evangelism, and fasting. These are areas that all Christ-followers should strive to continually grow in.

## **The Second Coming of Christ**

All Christians who have died will one day rise from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air. Christians who have not yet died will be raptured or caught up with them, to be with the Lord. Then Christians of all ages will live with God forever. The scriptural truth of the Lord's soon return is "the blessed hope". (Romans 8:23; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Titus 2:13)

There are many views proposed concerning the Second Coming of Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 speaks clearly that the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, and we will be caught up in the air, and live with the Lord forever. Lest we forget who we are as Christians, and the reason we chose this path. Being a Christian is more than just living out some biblical principles; we are a representation of

Christ Himself. Our suffering should draw us closer to the promise of Christ's return, and we should long for that return.

### **1. What would be some reasons why we do not always long for Christ's return?**

a. Jesus urges us to be ready, not living like the five "foolish" virgins who were caught unprepared when the bridegroom returned (Matthew 25:6–10). In this parable Jesus lets us know that when we don't live in expectation of Jesus' return we are foolish.

There are several reasons why we may not long for Christ's return, but many are rooted in self-centeredness. Some people are too comfortable with the life here on earth to long for life after it. Others are wrapped up in business and we don't consider Christ's immanent return and what the consequences of it may be. Some others may like to push it out of consciousness because they would like to ignore the responsibility that it places on believers of Jesus.

What are some other reasons you think this may be?

### **2. What should we be doing while we wait for the Second Coming of Christ?**

a. The return of Christ is always presented in Scripture as a great motivation to action, not as a reason to cease from action. In 1 Corinthians 15:58, Paul wraps up his teaching on the Second Coming by saying, "Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord." In 1 Thessalonians 5:6, Paul concludes a lesson on Christ's coming with these words: "So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled." To retreat and "hold the fort" was never Jesus' intention for us. Instead, we work to spread the Gospel while we can.

The apostles lived and served with the idea that Jesus could return within their lifetime; what if they had ceased from their labors and just "waited"? They would have been in disobedience to Christ's command to "go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation" (Mark 16:15), and the gospel would not have been spread. The apostles understood that Jesus' imminent return meant they must busy themselves with God's work. They lived life to the fullest, as if every day were their last. We, too, should view every day as a gift and use it to glorify God.

A man in a dark jacket and cap walks through a forest of massive, ancient sequoia trees. Sunlight filters through the canopy, creating long shadows on the forest floor. The text 'WEEK 3 EMPOWERED' is overlaid in large white letters.

# WEEK 3 EMPOWERED

Week three is all about understanding the spirit empowered life that God makes available to Christians. We believe that, at the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit takes residence in our heart and because of this we have the “new life” as discussed in week 2. We also believe in the secondary work of the Holy Spirit and that the gifts of the Spirit are for us today.

# Baptism in the Holy Spirit

As described in Acts 1:4,8; following salvation (the act of repentance and placing one's faith in Christ), we believe that the new believer has a special experience; the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This experience serves to empower believers for witnessing and effective Christian service.

All believers are entitled to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and therefore should expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all believers in the early Christian church. With the experience comes the provision of power for victorious Christian living and productive service. It also provides believers with specific spiritual gifts for more effective ministry. The baptism of Christians in the Holy Spirit is accompanied by the initial physical sign of speaking in other tongues (unlearned languages) as the Spirit of God gives them audible expression. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 2:4; 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9; 1 Cor. 12:1-31)

The act of being "Born-Again" is of a spiritual nature. Our connection with God, that was disrupted because of sin, is reestablished through Christ's sacrifice, and the involvement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. When we have been changed inwardly there is a noticeable outward expression. Pentecostals understand the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as an empowering by the Holy Spirit to do the work of the Lord.

## **1. How can a new believer in Christ effectively live the way Christ has asked us to live?**

- a. Romans 8:1 speaks about living according to the Spirit, as opposed to living in the flesh. Look at it as saying living according to your truth or God's Truth. Only through the Spirit of God can we know Truth. Living through the influence of the Holy Spirit we can be pleasing to God.
- b. Faith and repentance are important for us to stay connected to the influence of the Holy Spirit.

## **2. If God is going to empower you with spiritual gifts are there any requirements of the believer? Is maturity a condition? What would maturity in a Christian look like?**

- a. Paul speaks about the Gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12; the purpose of the gifts is for the benefit of the whole body of Christ for acting out God's will. But, before we can speak about receiving the power of the Holy Spirit, the gifts of the Spirit, it is more important to speak about the Fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-26. By possessing these inward traits, we are keeping in step with the Spirit.
- b. A mature Christian is one who is dying to their desires and passions of the flesh, their own will. They are choosing to follow the will of the Lord, and the desires He gives to them.

## **3. Why wouldn't God want to empower a Christian who wasn't mature?**

- a. Imagine giving great power to a child. This child has no control over their thoughts or feelings and is quite immature in many ways. This child could do great harm with power, and it would be very irresponsible for someone to give a child such power. Rather, this child should be taught how to be mature and in control of themselves. Paul says in Gal 5:26, "Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other." In other words, put away the childish behavior.

# Divine Healing

As Christians, there are certain privileges awarded to us that others who do not serve God may not have access. One of these privileges is having the ability to go before our Lord to ask forgiveness of our sins, and to ask for healing from the effects of our sins. Our hearts, soul, mind, and body are affected by natural causes and spiritual causes. These ailments can be a direct result of our actions or at no fault of our own. We ought to leave the causation up to God, and how He chooses to heal us from it.

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers. (Isa. 53:4,5; Matt. 8:16,17; James 5:14-16)

The epistle of James captures the real heart of divine healing. In Chapter 5:13-16 states: "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working."

In the sickness, praying, praising, in the requesting of healing, in the anointing, in our faith, and our repentance the heart and mind of the believer is always postured towards God. He is our everything, and in Him we trust Him for the result.

## **1. What kind of sicknesses affect us as individuals, as a Christian, and as a Church?**

a. There are sicknesses of the heart, soul, mind, and body. There is a tendency to concentrate solely on sicknesses that affect the body. The imprisonment of sin and the effects it has on our soul is far greater than any physical ailment. The corruption of sin also corrupts our way of thinking. Romans 12:2 tells us to renew our corrupt mind.

## **2. How should we approach God with our request for healing?**

a. James 5:13 tells us to seek the prayers of the elders in the church, and the prayer offered in faith will make them well. We are to humble ourselves to God and to each other. We should remember that God gives spiritual gifts to those in the church for the benefit of the church. Keep in mind that God knows what we need and when we need it.

## **3. What expectations can we place on God for healing?**

a. Expectations are not the same as demands. We can expect to have the privilege to go before God with our request, but we certainly cannot demand He do something. This is where trusting His will is most important. We can expect His will done.

b. As mentioned previously, physical healing is often emphasized as the most important. God is deeply concerned about the condition of your heart, soul, mind, and body for the purpose of staying in a healthy relationship with Him. Ask God to show you a perspective of healing that emphasizes maintaining connection with God.

#### **4. What expectations can we place on ourselves concerning our request for healing, and our relationship with God?**

a. Knowing what God will do is difficult to determine. Understanding why God chooses to do certain things over others is not for us to always understand. We should embrace God's sovereignty and thank Him for it. Because God is above all, and knows all, we should place our trust completely in Him even when we don't understand. It does not mean it will be comfortable but the alternative to not trusting is devastating to our being.

#### **5. How should we respond when our requests do not seem to be answered?**

a. This might be one of the toughest questions out there. Why did that person get their prayers answered and mine did not? Why did that person get healed or not die, and the person I loved did not get healed? Did I lack faith or not do enough so that God would see my request? The real question is, "why am I suffering?"

We have a hope that one day we all will receive the inheritance of dwelling with Christ in eternity. We already have the gift of salvation, and our lives are a testimony to God's saving grace; God gives us a promise that the suffering we have all experienced will one day come to an end. Christ will be returning to us in the same way He ascended into heaven, in a personal and bodily return.

## **NOTES**

