

Spiritual Example

We will demonstrate our commitment to Christ through our practice of the spiritual disciplines. We will demonstrate our commitment to the body of Christ through our loyalty to God and commitment to His church. And we will demonstrate our commitment to the work of Christ through being good stewards.

A. **Practice of Spiritual Disciplines:** Spiritual disciplines involve such practices.

1. **Prayer** : Through prayer we express our trust in Jehovah God, the giver of all good things, and acknowledge our dependence on him for our needs and for the needs of others (**Mathew 6:5-15; Luke 11:1-13; James 5:13-18**)
2. **Praise God**: Through both private and public period of praise we bless God (**James 5:13**)
3. **Worship God**: True worship is how we live our lives fully to God (**Romans 12:1**). As well as through both private and public period of worship we have communion with Him, and are provided daily with spiritual enrichment and growth in grace (**John 4:23-24; Genesis 22:1-18**).
4. **Confession**: Confession of sin should accompany repentance to receive forgiveness from the Lord. Through repentance and confession of our sins to God we are assured of divine forgiveness (**1John 1:9 to 2:2**). The sharing of our confession with other believers provides the opportunity to request prayers and to bear one another's burdens and to ask for counselling and advice (**Galatians 6:2; James 5:16**).
5. **Fasting**: Through periods of fasting we draw close to God, meditate on the passion of Christ, and discipline ourselves to submit to the control of the Holy Spirit in all areas of our lives. (**Mathew 6:16-18; Mathew 9:14-15**)
6. **Meditation, and Study the Word of God**: Through meditation on and study of the Word of God we enhance our own spiritual growth and prepare ourselves to help, guide and instruct others in scriptural truths (**Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; 2Timothy 2:15, 2Timothy 3:16-17**)
7. **Water Baptism**: Every believer needs to be water Baptised by immersion in the name of the Father and the son and the Holy Spirit. Water Baptism is due and mandatory for those who heard the message, repented, and willing to follow Christ life and commands. (**Mathew 3:13-17; Mathew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Romans 6:3-5; Acts 2:38-39**)
8. **The Lord's Supper and Washing of the Feet**: The subject of communion and Feet Washing both are taught in the New Testament (**Mathew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20; John 13:1-17**) and we observe doing that with the committed workers.

B. **Loyalty to God and Commitment to the Church:** The life of Christian discipleship calls for the fulfilment of our duties to the body of Christ.

1. **Regular meetings**: We are to unite regularly with other members of the church for the purpose of magnifying and praising God and hearing His Word. (**Acts 2:42, 46, 47; Hebrews 10:25**). Sunday is the Christian day of worship. As the Lord's Day, it commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead (**Mathew 28:1**) and should be employed for worship, fellowship, Christian service, teaching, evangelism, and proclamation (**Acts 20:7, 1Corinthians 16:2**).

2. **Financial Commitment**: We are to provide for the financial needs of the church; by the giving of tithes (**Malachi 3:8-12**), and offerings (**1Corinthians 16:2; 2Corinthians 8:1-24; 9:1-15**). Tithes and offering will be collected in the main treasury of the church.
3. **Respect and Submission to those over us in the Lord**: It is our duty to respect and submit to those whom the Lord Jesus has placed over us in the Church (**1Thessalonians 5: 12, 13; Hebrews 13:7; 17**). Our submission must be a manifestation of the spiritual grace of humility (**Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5,6**).
4. **Spiritual Example in Exercising Authority**: Our exercise of authority must be spiritual example rather than as a lord over God's flock (**Mathew 20:25-28; 1 Peter 5:1-3**).
5. **Avoid affiliation with oath-bounded societies**: Such societies may appear to have spiritual character, but by being oath-bound and secretive, they contradict Christian spirituality (**2Corinthians 6:14-18**). Christians must not belong to any body of society that requires or practices an allegiance that supersedes or excludes their fellowship in Christ. We need to void friends and people who are not obedient to the Lord and to His word (**Psalms 1:1; 1Corinthians 15:33; Proverbs 13:20**).

C. **Being Good Stewards**: God has committed temporal blessings to our trust and we need to use them wisely.

- 1- **The simplicity of living**: In the Scriptures, the simplicity of living is honoured, but wasting and carelessness in spending are prohibited (**Isaiah 55:2; John 6:12-13**).
- 2- **The wise use of the resources**: The living of a godly life requires the wise and discipline use of our temporal blessings, including time, talent, possessions and money. These all carried temporal values.
- 3- **The wise use of time**: As good stewards we are able to make the most of our time, (**Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5**). The lazy use of leisure time degrades (**2Thessalonians 3:6-13; 1Timothy 5:13**), but the edifying use of it brings inner renewal. All our work should honour the name of God (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).
- 4- **The wise use of the spiritual gifts**: as good stewards we must use fully our spiritual gifts (**Romans 12:3-8; 1Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 4:9-11**).
- 5- **The wise use of the natural talents**: (**Mathew 25: 14-30**) Three things that hinder us from using our talents effectively: Laziness, Lack of knowledge in God's word, and wickedness (sin).
- 6- **The wise use of money**: As good stewards we must recognise that the wise use of money is an essential part of the Christian's economy of life. Christian should work hard (**Genesis 3:17-19**), tithe their income (**Leviticus 27:30**), spend on themselves and their families (**Titus 3:14**), not to borrow or be in debt (**Proverbs 22:7**), save part of their income (**Genesis 41:34-35; Proverbs 6:6-8**) and share with those in need (**Ephesians 4:28**).