

# Freedom Church Hillside Foundations 2024



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Greetings from the Senior Pastor	Page 3
Affirmation/Motto/Unity Prayer	Page 5
Discipleship Expectations	Page 6
Chapter One: Salvation	Page 7
Chapter Two: Prayer	Page 9
Chapter Three: Fasting	Page 15
Chapter Four: Praise & Worship	Page 18
Chapter Five: Giving	Page 22
Chapter Six: Spiritual Gifts	Page 28
Chapter Seven: Evangelism	Page 31
Scripture Declarations	Page 33
Know Your Deacon	Page 34
Staying Connected	Page 35

## **GREETINGS FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR**

Welcome to the Family. We would all like to think that it was our decision to join this church. Really, it was the Spirit of God who did the drawing. All we provided was a willingness and an obedience to respond to what He already knew would happen. Wow! Isn't He an awesome God?

With all of us, it is the Lord who makes the difference in the decision. I am delighted and honored that the Lord placed you here in this family and that I have the honor and joy to be your spiritual leader, your pastor and your shepherd. I do not take this lightly. I am committed to your soul's care and your spiritual guidance and nurturing. After all, isn't that what a shepherd does?

You'll soon discover, if you haven't already that I am accessible and available for those times in your life when you may need your pastor – in catastrophes, in illness, and in the death of family members and loved ones. It doesn't matter how much one knows until you know how much one cares. Under my direction, there is a group of deacons (one will be assigned to you according to the first few letters of your last name), an Associate Pastor of Bereavement Care, an Executive Pastor, and a network of caring Freedom family members, who will be there to support you in your time of need.

This book is called Foundations. It will help you to become grounded and familiar with the Word of God as it speaks to your responsibilities to the Lord and the church; and the church's responsibilities to you. You'll learn some basic essentials about the Christian faith and some of how we do things at Freedom Church Hillside. Even if you are new to the Christian faith and the Christian church, I hope the contents of this book will help to refresh and renew our belief and belonging. No two churches are alike; just different with their own unique personalities.

Take time to become familiar with your new family. Ask questions. Make a decision as soon as you can that, “I will join a ministry; I will get on a team.” Ask yourself these questions: “What am I good at? What do I enjoy doing? How will others benefit from my doing it?” It will help you to share your gift or gifts God has given you. Yes, you have at least one, as you will discover after your Foundations journey. And it will also give you a connection to a smaller group within the larger family group. That’s how we stay connected and accountable.

This Foundations Book doesn’t tell it all. It tells enough to get you pointed and started in the right direction, as you enjoy and experience Freedom Church Hillside: REAL PLACE! REAL PEOPLE! REAL GOD!

What a joy that you can now call me “Pastor Smith”. I’ll be talking with you more in person. Get connected. We’ll share how you can do that.

We are slowly resuming some semblance of “in person” ministry after the Pandemic. In the meantime, know that you are counted among the Freedom family members. So **be** one who can be counted on to help Freedom Church Hillside make a difference as disciples of Jesus Christ. Then you will make a difference at home, in the community and in the world.

Welcome Home,

Your pastor,

Rev. Dr. Craig Melvin Smith



**All scripture references are from the New International Version (NIV),  
unless otherwise noted.**

**AFFIRMATION  
(To be memorized)**

At the Freedom Church Hillside, we are free to worship and praise God, follow the Word of God, and flow in the Spirit of God. Here we give God our very best. We pursue excellence as Disciples of Christ involved in bringing the Kingdom of God to earth as it already is in heaven.

**MOTTO**

“Making a Difference as Disciples of Jesus Christ”

**UNITY PRAYER**

O gracious Father, we love You, we magnify You and we lift You. We the disciples of the Freedom Baptist Church live in perfect harmony and full agreement with Your Word. There is no division in the midst of us. Every service is filled with Your love, praise, revelation, knowledge, and power.

Every man, woman and child is fully committed to Your work. We are bold in our witness. Every member of Freedom is a tither, and we live under an open window from heaven. We reign as kings on the earth, and we are doers of Your Word. This church prospers financially, having more than enough for every situation.

We have been redeemed from poverty, sickness and spiritual death. No weapon formed against us shall prosper. Thank You Father for Your blessing upon this church and Your people, and for using us to establish Your Word throughout this earth. Amen.

## DISCIPLESHIP EXPECTATIONS

As a disciple of Christ and a member of Freedom Church Hillside, you are responsible for and expected to:

- Acknowledge, love, honor and serve God with your whole heart as Lord and Savior.
  - Matthew 22:37
- Pray for spiritual growth in your life.
  - Philippians 2:5
- Pray for the leadership of Freedom regularly.
  - I Thessalonians 5:12 - 13
- Read and study the Word of God regularly.
  - Psalm 1:2
- Commit to attending worship services faithfully and regularly.
  - Hebrews 10:25
- Give to support the church.
  - I Corinthians 16:2
- Participate actively in Freedom's ministry.
  - John 9:4
- Allow God to use your spiritual gifts and talents.
  - I Corinthians 12:12
- Treat your brothers and sisters with dignity and respect.
  - Mark 12:31
- Share the good news of Christ with family members, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc.
  - Romans 10:1



**Join Us For SUNDAY SCHOOL**

<u>In-Person Sunday School</u> In The Activity Room	<u>Virtual Sunday School</u> Via Zoom
Every Sunday 9:15am - 9:45am	Every Sunday 9:00am - 9:30am
	Zoom Meeting Link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9991066065">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9991066065</a>
Call In 312-626-6799	Meeting ID: 999 106 6065

## **Chapter One Salvation**

### **What is salvation?**

Salvation is a pardon from the guilt and penalty of sin.

### **Who is salvation a gift from?**

God.

Ephesians 2:8 - 9

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.

### **How does a person get saved?**

By confessing with your mouth and believing in your heart that Jesus is Lord.

Romans 10:9 - 10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

### **Can people get saved through any other way?**

No, the only way a person can be saved is through Jesus.

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

### **What does it mean to be born again? This is captured in Four Spiritual Laws:**

- **Law #1**

Gods loves you and offers a wonderful plan for salvation for your life.

- **Law #2**

Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plans for his life.

- **Law #3**

Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plans for your life.

- **Law #4**

You must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then you can know and experience God's love and plans for your life.

### **Now that I am born again (saved), what should I do?**

- **Be Water Baptized**

Water Baptism is a symbolic representation of an individual's identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:3 - 5

- **Study the Word of God**

The Bible is God's inspired Holy Word. We study and meditate on the Word, so that we can know God intimately, not just know about Him.

2 Peter 1:20 - 21

- **Pray**

Communicate with God everyday through prayer. Matthew 7:7

- **Practice Daily**

Put into practice the teachings about a new life in Christ. James 1:22



## Chapter Two Prayer

### **What Prayer Is:**

Prayer is communicating with God. Jesus intercedes on our behalf.  
Luke 22:32

Prayer is infinitely more than simply the use of words in addressing the Heavenly Father. Prayer is really an attitude of heart. Prayers are intended for God's people to have a more meaningful communion with God. Our prayers stimulate a spirit of intimacy and devotion to God.  
Genesis 4:26, 12:8, 21:33

Romans 8:34

Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died - more than that, who was raised to life - is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Romans 8:27

And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Hebrews 7:25

Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

### **Mustard Seed Faith:**

Matthew 17:20

He replied, because you have so little faith, I tell you the truth, if you have faith as a small mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, move from here to there and it will move, nothing will be impossible for you.

## **Two Words That Describe Faith:**

Confidence and certainty are two qualities that need a secure beginning, and a secure ending.

The beginning of faith is believing in God. He is who He says He is. (e.g., provider, healer, righteousness, peace, etc.)

The ending of faith is believing in God's promises. He will do what He says He will do. I John 5:14 - 15

Isaiah 55:11

So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

When we believe that God will fulfill His promises even though we don't see those promises materializing yet, we demonstrate true faith, which is the key element in prayer.

Hebrews 11:1, 6

Now faith is the confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

## **When Should We Pray?**

Luke 18:1

Jesus shared a parable with his disciples to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

## **How Should We Pray?**

Pray sincerely.

Matthew 6:5 - 7

And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.

## **Where Should We Pray?**

Anywhere and everywhere!

Matthew 6:6

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Jonah 2:1

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God.



## **Types of Prayer**

When you begin your prayer time it is important to remember that there is more than one type of prayer. Keep in mind that you do not have to mention all of these in one prayer.

### **Intercession**

Praying for someone else.

### **Guidance**

Praying for answers to solve problems in our lives.

### **Praise & Worship**

Worshipping God in a personal way, recognizing His greatness and love.

### **Petition**

Asking God for what you want Him to do for you.

1 John 5:14 - 15

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of him.

### **Thanksgiving**

Prayer of gratitude for God's gifts and blessings to us.

### **Confession**

Sharing our sins and failures with God because He allows us to experience forgiveness through His love.

## **An Easy Formula for Prayer: A-C-T-S**

### Step 1 in Prayer is **Adoration**

To adore God is to worship and praise Him, to honor and exalt Him in our hearts and minds, and with our lips. During this period, one might sing songs of praise/adoration to God for his attributes (e.g., omnipresence, love, etc.), and give Him the praise for being who He is.

### Step 2 in Prayer is **Confession**

When in the presence of God, we must reveal our sins. Be specific when you confess your sins. Our sins are forgiven when we confess them. In order to be forgiven, you must also forgive others.

John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

### Step 3 in Prayer is **Thanksgiving**

An attitude of thanksgiving to God for who He is, and for the benefits we enjoy because we belong to Him; enables us to recognize that He controls all things, not just the blessings, but the problems and adversities as well. As we approach God with a thankful heart, He moves powerfully on our behalf.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

### Step 4 in Prayer is **Supplication**

At this point in prayer, make your requests known unto the Father who hears your prayer.

Philippians 4:19

And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

## Answers from God Regarding your Prayers

The colors in a stoplight are like the answers to our prayers from God. Look for your answer to come in one of the following ways:



Red - NO.

God knows the plans for our lives, and the plans are different from ours. Our God knows when you or your prayers are not sincere.

Yellow - WAIT.

God requires us to have patience and to wait for Him. Our faith guides us to know when the season is right.

Green - YES.

God knows that you are spiritually ready to receive what you have asked according to His will when your prayers are unselfish and earnest. Go forth in your faith!

**Supporting Scriptures:** Matthew 18:19; Psalm 61:1 - 2; Matthew 6:6

## Chapter Three Fasting

### What Fasting Is

- **Fasting is** the abstaining from physical nourishment; (not eating any food.) In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for fasting means to cover over the mouth. And in the New Testament, the Greek word fasting is translated as “not eating”.

### What Fasting is not

From a biblical perspective, there is no such thing as a partial fast, which is controlling or restricting your diet to exclude certain edibles.

- **Fasting is not** a means of changing what God has in His perfect will. However, fasting *will* cause a change in you to be receptive and obedient to God’s will.
- **Fasting** does not restrict the intake of water. There are biblical examples of Elijah and Jesus, whom the Word says ate no food and drank no water. Theirs was strictly a personal choice, not a command.
- **Fasting is not proof of your faith!**

### Spiritual Preparation for Fasting

Preparing for fasting and anything with a purpose always involves time, discipline and effort.

Supporting Scriptures - Matthew 7:24 - 27, Luke 6:48 - 49, Matthew 6:17 - 18, Mark 9:29

### Corporate Fasting

Support the request of and guidance from our pastor for corporate fasting. We do this as a church.

Joel 1:14

Declare a holy fast; call a sacred assembly. Summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord.

Joel 2:15

Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, and call a sacred assembly.

Ezra 8:21

There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, and with all our possessions.

### **FASTING DURATION**

Trust the Lord for your fast duration. There is no biblical rule for a fasting period.

Judges 20:26

Then the Israelites, all the people, went up to Bethel, and there they sat weeping before the Lord. They fasted that day until evening and presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings to the Lord.

### **FASTING HONORS GOD**

Jesus teaches us how to fast in a way that honors God. Matthew 6:16 - 18

#### **When did fasting begin?**

There is no biblical example of fasting before the time of Moses. And the New Testament does not have any reference of Jesus instituting a fast. Perhaps the reason is because fasting does not give us any authority over Satan, but the name of Jesus does.

#### **Who should fast?**

Fasting is a voluntary sacrifice which involves an act of self-denial. Fasting is not for the weak, sickly, or the very young. God does not expect any person to violate health or medical instructions. Therefore, fasting is not for everyone. If you are unable to fast, you can participate by praying and meditating.

#### **What is the purpose of fasting?**

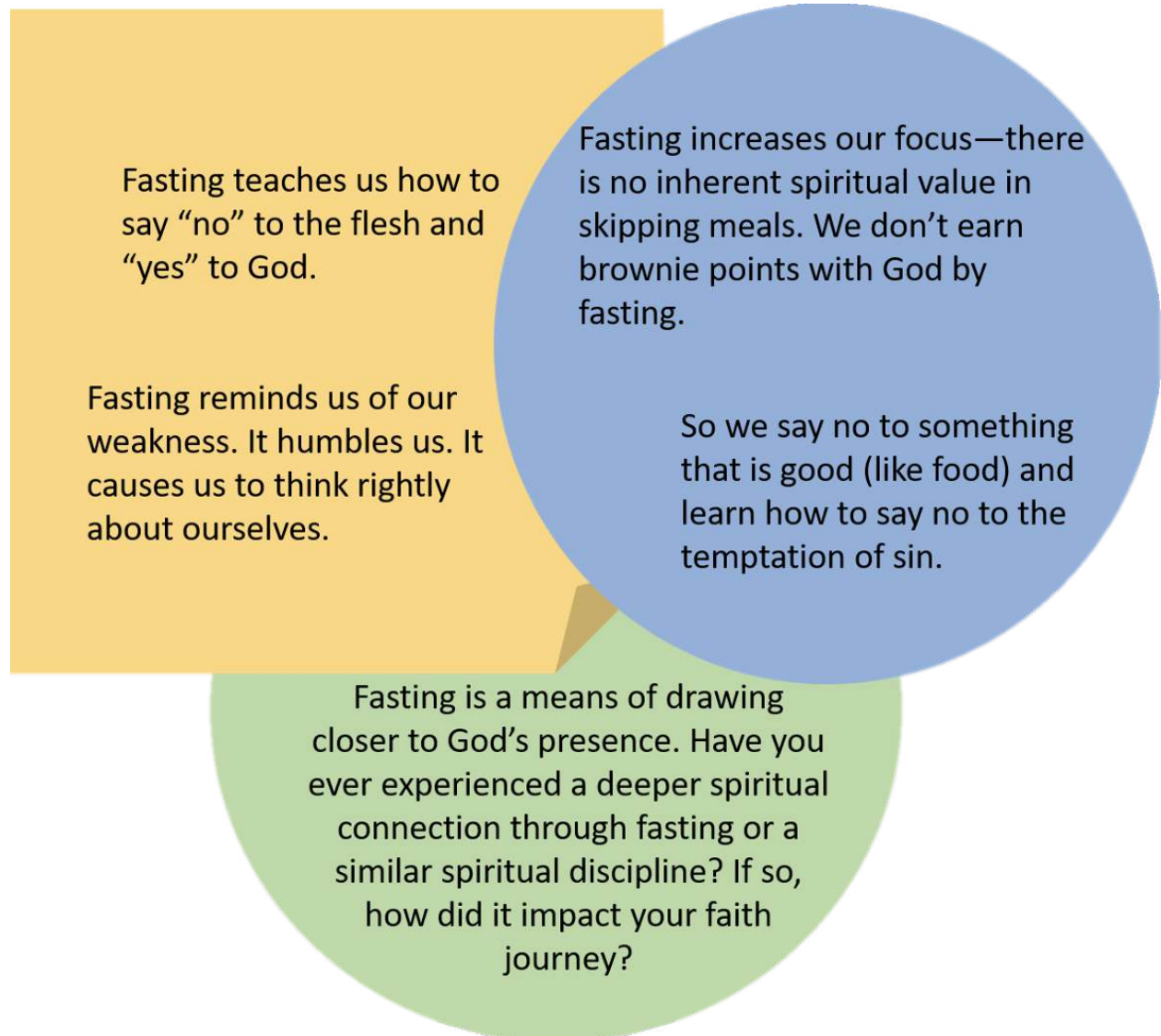
Simply stated, fasting allows purging, cleansing, humbling and repenting to take place in the body so that the spirit of God can move in our lives. When this happens, you are able to hear God clearly, receive a Word in your spirit, make right choices and get answers to prayers.



## What should you expect from fasting?

You should anticipate a Word from the Lord. He will reveal Himself in a greater way. You will experience a deeper, closer relationship with God simply because you are communing with the Holy Spirit. Although not the primary focus, a healthier body is definitely a benefit. When you come before the Lord fasting and praying for the right reasons, God honors sincerity.

In Ezra 8:22 - 23, the people desired a safe journey and they needed protection. So they fasted and God answered their prayers.



## **Chapter Four Praise & Worship**

### **Learning to Praise God**

#### **WHAT IS PRAISE?**

Praise is acknowledging and celebrating the person and work of God. The Bible uses select words to describe the function of praise: glorify, bless, magnify, adore, applaud, acclaim, and honor.

Psalm 103 1-5

“Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagles.”

#### **HOW DO WE EXPRESS PRAISE?**

Praise can be expressed by singing, shouting, dancing, kneeling, bowing, giving, testifying, speaking forth, lifting hands and playing musical instruments.

The personality of praise is one of JOYFUL CELEBRATION. The sounds of praise should resemble a PEP RALLY and not a funeral.

Psalm 150 - “Praise the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens. Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.”

Hebrews 13:15 - “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that confess his name.”

Psalm 100 - “Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs . . . Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

## **WHAT DOES THE WORD SAY ABOUT PRAISE?**

### **GOD INHABITS PRAISE**

Our praise can create an environment in which God makes His presence known. Praise establishes a throne room from which He can rule.

Psalm 22:3

“Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.”

### **SATAN IS RESISTED AND REBUKED BY PRAISE**

Psalm 149: 6 - 9

“May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron, to carry out the sentence written against them. This is the glory of all his saints. Praise the Lord.”

Lucifer cannot tolerate the vocal praise of God’s people because it reminds him of the heavenly estate he forfeited through his rebellion. Praise reminds him that the throne of the universe is occupied by the Lamb of God, and it tells him that we know the source of our power and that we are not relying on our own strength.

Revelation 12:11

“They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”

### **THE BIBLE COMMANDS US TO PRAISE**

Psalm 96:1

“Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.”

Psalm 47:1

“Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.”

Psalm 150:6

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.”

We may need to discuss how we are going to praise Him, but whether or not we are going to praise Him needs no discussion.

To be silent is sin. We *will* praise the Lord.

## **HE IS WORTHY OF OUR PRAISE**

Psalm 18:3

“Call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.”

Matthew 28:18

“Then Jesus came to them and said, all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

Philippians 2:9

“Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.”

## **Preparing To Worship**

### **WHAT IS WORSHIP?**

Worship is an outward expression of a love relationship between God and a believer. Worship is showing honor, appreciation, reverence, esteem, and adoration to God. Worship may be subtle, sensitive, quiet, and contemplative. We worship God through the lifting of hands, bowing, and the utterance of words of admiration spoken from our lips.

### **PURPOSE OF WORSHIP**

Believers worship to pay homage to God in our thoughts, feelings and actions.

## WHAT DOES THE WORD SAY ABOUT WORSHIP?

### WORSHIP: THE COMMAND

#### **John 4:24**

“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

### WORSHIP: PUBLICLY

#### **Psalm 5:7**

“But I, by your great mercy, will come into your house; in reverence will I bow down toward your holy temple.”

#### **Psalm 34:1**

“I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.”

#### **Psalm 122:1**

“I rejoiced with those who said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

### WORSHIP: PRIVATELY

#### **Psalm 29:2**

“Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.”

#### **Romans 12:1 - 2**

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - - His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

### WORSHIP: THE PRIORITY

#### **Mark 12:30**

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

## **Chapter Five Giving**

### **What Is The Tithe?**

Tithe means “the tenth portion.” It is one-tenth of all of your financial increase or your incoming cash. Financial increase includes: incoming cash from a paycheck, a welfare check, profit from a sale, a gift, rental income, commission or inheritance.

The tithe is the minimum amount of money given (returned) to God as an expression of worship and a demonstration of our love for Him.

You cannot tithe your time or talent. After the tithe, all additional giving is what’s called “free will offering.”

### **What Is The Origin Of Tithe?**

The origin of the teachings of tithe in scripture is prevalent in both the Old and New Testament. The tithe was established before the Law in Old Testament times. It was the minimum of giving under the Law. Jesus affirmed tithing as a form of stewardship in the New Testament. Our stewardship being a total life commitment with consistent willingness and complete yielding of self and all things to God. Under grace, the believer may be compelled by love and gratitude to give more.

### **What Does The Word Say About Tithing?**

When you honor someone or something, you treat them with special distinction and respect. You give them a special place and special recognition.

### **You Honor The Lord With Your Tithe!**

#### **Proverbs 3:9 - 10**

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”

#### **Luke 6:38**

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the

measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

### **Why Should Christians Tithe?**

Tithing is an act of worshiping God. It is the biblical method of financing God’s work. Tithing develops a sense of responsibility to God.

To demonstrate our faith and thanksgiving, we can return a part of God’s gifts to us to help the church carry out His works and to share with those in need.

### **What Are the Rewards of Tithing?**

Our lives are enriched. Through giving, we offer ourselves in service and devotion to God. We become stronger in faith, more aware of others’ needs, and we experience the joy of sharing with others in Christ.

**Tithing should be as meaningful to you as to those who benefit from your contribution.**

### **The Tithes Open the Windows of Heaven**

Open windows are the provisions, the protection and the promotions that come from God to an obedient person and congregation.

### **Satan Is Rebuked**

Satan would like to destroy the increase God brings into your life: your family, your ministry, your business, your career, and your relationship with God. Tithing assures that Satan will not destroy those things. God will give you divine protection.

### **Supporting Scripture - Malachi 3:11-12**

### **All Nations Shall Call You Blessed**

There will be evidence that we have a supernatural God on our side. God will give us material blessings.

Tithing should be looked upon as an obligation and a privilege. It is time that we acknowledge the sovereignty of our God, and that we practice obedience to His Word.

## How Are Tithes Used at Freedom Church Hillside?

Tithing has vital, practical uses, as well as spiritual significance. Tithing helps the church meet basic needs.

Freedom Church Hillside has recurring expenses that must be met every month. Tithing provides a regular, predictable source of funding that eliminates our reliance on fundraising activities. Tithes also contribute to the support of outreach ministries; as well as to provide a resource to help those in need.

You will never be badgered, begged or gimmicked to give. Tithes and offerings are the only means by which this church, its ministries, and its operations will be financed.

A member # may be requested from the Membership Services Coordinator or the church office.

# Tithes & Offering

Worship Through Giving | Malachi 3:10



## Ways of Giving

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<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"><b>MOBILE APPS</b></div> <p><b>Zelle</b> give@enjoyfreedom.org</p>	<p><b>Givelify</b> Freedom Hillside</p>	<p><b>CashApp</b> \$FreedomHillside Pastor's Love Gift : \$revcms529</p>	<p><b>PayPal</b> Freedom Baptist Church of the Greater Chicago Area</p>
<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"><b>IN PERSON</b></div> <p>Giving Envelope Drive-up Slot</p>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"><b>ONLINE</b></div> <p>Online Banking at www.enjoyfreedom.org</p>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"><b>MAIL</b></div> <p>Freedom Baptist Church 4541 Harrison Street</p>	



## TITHER'S AFFIRMATION

**I WILL** be faithful and honest in my commitment. On the Lord's Day following the time of my increase, I will bring my tithes to the church.

**I WILL** tithe with consistency and regularity. That is, though there may be times when I am unable to attend Worship, I will see that my tithes are received by the church, either via mail, online, mobile app, by a trusted friend, relative, or fellow church member.

**I BELIEVE** that the Lord will bless our church to grow spiritually and financially, as I inspire and encourage others to join me in tithing.

**MY INCOME** is viewed as all money that the Lord allows to come through my hands.

**MY TITHE** represents one-tenth of my net income. This is based upon the Word of the Lord in the Old Testament in Leviticus 27:32 - 33. It states that a tithe of whatever passed under the Word, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord. From this it can be correctly interpreted, that net income tithing is acceptable. If it does not get into our hands, we cannot tithe from it.

**AT ALL TIMES** I will regard as part of my net income, deductions that I am responsible for that are withheld for me at my discretion; (i.e., credit union, automatic payments, savings, Christmas Clubs, etc.).

**MY REASON FOR TITHING** is because I believe it to be the Lord's way of financing the church.

**I AM NOT DOING THIS TO BE SEEN**, although I am proud to be seen as a cheerful giver, according to the Word of God.

**I KNOW** that what I have is due to the goodness of the Lord; so He has every right to command a sacred portion.

**IF I DON'T TRUST THE LORD WITH MY MONEY**, then I don't trust the Lord at all.

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF FREEDOM CHURCH HILLSIDE: BIBLICAL COMMANDS AND PRINCIPLES ON GIVING**

### **TITHES** - Malachi 3:10

1. The tithe is always the tenth of all of my increase. Increase is my income - money I have 'coming in' for my livelihood.
2. Always of the possessions of a giver and not the provisions made for the giver (FICA, withholding taxes);
3. As part of my income, I will include payroll deductions that are made at my discretion to fulfill my financial obligations from my livelihood (credit union, savings).
4. Examples of my income: salary, honorarium, gifts, monthly Social Security check, royalties, dividend checks, pensions, winnings, or income tax refunds.
5. I am blessed by what I give; not by what I justify not giving because I have already tithed on it. Even if it's more than what is required, have I given too much to the Lord's house?
6. Tithe is always money. I cannot tithe my time, my volunteer work, or my good deeds to others.

### **OFFERINGS** - 1 Chronicles 29:9; 2 Corinthians 9:7

1. Always freewill; based upon my willingness and my ability to give.
2. For special and specified purposes.
3. Though a specific amount may be asked, I will not feel condemned if I don't have it to give.
4. Examples at Freedom Church Hillside: Lent, Scholarship Fund, Freedom Forward, Pastor Smith's Love Offering

### **FIRSTFRUITS** - Proverbs 3:9

1. "Bakar" - to make early fruit. It is a specific, special offering at the first of the year.
2. It speaks to the Lord of the harvest about the envisioned future harvest.
3. It is an amount determined by the giver.

4. It is to be laid on the altar as the giver confesses the Lord's goodness to him/her in the past, and faith for divine favor in the future.

Deuteronomy 26:3 - 10

### **VOWS** - Deuteronomy 23:23

1. A promise to give toward a specific project, purpose, event.
2. Though I may not have it all to give at one time, I will do my utmost to fulfill my promise to give the entire amount that I have promised.
3. In the past: Operation Tabernacle, Seed Faith, and March of Faith.
4. In the present and future: Freedom Forward.

### **TITHES, OFFERINGS, FIRSTFRUITS, VOWS:**

1. Provide for the operations of the church (mortgage, utilities, insurances, maintenance, repairs, equipment, supplies).
2. Provide for the mission and ministry work of the church (support staff, honorariums, outreach and missionary programs, community services, membership relief, needs).
3. Provide for the structural building, expansion, and enhancements of the Lord's house.



## **Chapter Six Spiritual Gifts at Work in You**

The Apostle Paul stressed the importance of understanding the nature of gifts. He wrote, "Concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." I Corinthians 12:1

### **Several Definitions of the Same Thing: A GIFT**

- A gift has been described as a special qualification granted by the Spirit to every believer to empower him to serve within the framework of the body of Christ.
- A divinely ordained spiritual ability through which Christ enables His church to execute its task on earth.
- Extraordinary endowments bestowed by the sovereign Holy Spirit on undeserving believers as instruments for Christian service and church edification.

**SOURCE** - The Special Grace of the Holy Spirit;

**NATURE** - Spiritual Ability, Endowment, Power;

**PURPOSE** - Service or Ministry to Edify Saints.

**BRING IT ALL TOGETHER - A gift is a Spirit given ability for Christian service.**

### **GIFTS ARE NOT TALENTS**

- Talents have to do with technique and methods. Gifts have to do with spiritual abilities.
- Talents depend on natural power. Gifts depend on spiritual endowment.
- Talents instruct, inspire or entertain on a natural level.

## GIFTS RELATE TO THE BUILDING UP OF THE SAINTS

**What is the difference between?**

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT	THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
Has to do with service; a person's spiritual capabilities for the service of the Lord	Has to do with character, a person's spiritual character for those in the Lord Galatians 5:22 -26
Are the means to an end	Is the end Romans 1:11-13
What a man has	What a man is
Given externally	Produced internally (from within)
Multiple, plural, a variety	Singular...but the fruit of the spirit is; one collective fruit
All gifts are not possessed, acquired by all	Should be in every believer
Given instantly for the purpose of ministry	Developed gradually through the Holy Spirit
Will come to an end; cease	Permanent; never ending I Corinthians 13:8-10



**We receive spiritual gifts, but we are known by the fruit of the Spirit.**

**Galatians 5:22 – 23**

**“But the fruit of the spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance (Self-Control), against such there is no law.”**

## **Some of the Gifts Mentioned in the Bible**

### **ROMANS 12:3 - 8**

Exhorting	Prophecy
Giving	Showing Mercy
Governing (Ruling)	Helps
Service	Teaching

### **1 CORINTHIANS 12:8 - 10, 28 - 30**

Apostleship	Miracles
Discernment	Prophecy
Faith	Teaching
Government (Ruling)	Tongues
Healing	Word of Knowledge
Interpretation	Word of Wisdom

### **EPHESIANS 4:11-12**

Apostleship	Prophecy
Evangelism	Teaching
Pastoring	

### **EXODUS 31:1 - 5**

Building	Interior Design
Carpentry	Church Enhancement
Landscaping	Computer Skills
Sewing	Media/Photography

### **Reference Scriptures:**

I Corinthians 12:8 -10, 28-30  
Romans 12:6 - 8  
Ephesians 4:11  
I Peter 4:11

## Chapter Seven Evangelism

### What is Evangelism?

Telling or spreading the good news of Jesus Christ...and God! It includes not only the message about Jesus Christ, but also the message from Jesus Christ. The purpose is to introduce people to Jesus Christ for the purpose of winning souls to Him.

### What is the biblical basis and purpose of Evangelism?

**Matthew 28:19 - 20** - "Jesus said: Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

### Who should engage in Evangelism?

We should all engage in evangelism on some level. You may not be a gifted evangelist whose primary function is to spread the gospel and win souls. But in your everyday life, as opportunities present themselves or even if you create the opportunity, you can tell somebody about Jesus. It always carries more weight if you start with or incorporate a personal testimony about your own relationship with the Lord.

Be like the Samaritan woman at the well, whom Christ told about herself. She ran back to the village and told people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did." - John 4:29. Her zeal drove her to TELL others about Jesus. Giving God credit for what He has done for you, can be the simplest and most powerful way to begin evangelizing. This was the outcome: "Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, He told me everything I ever did. So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of His words many more became believers."

**John 4:39 – 41**

## When is the best time to evangelize?

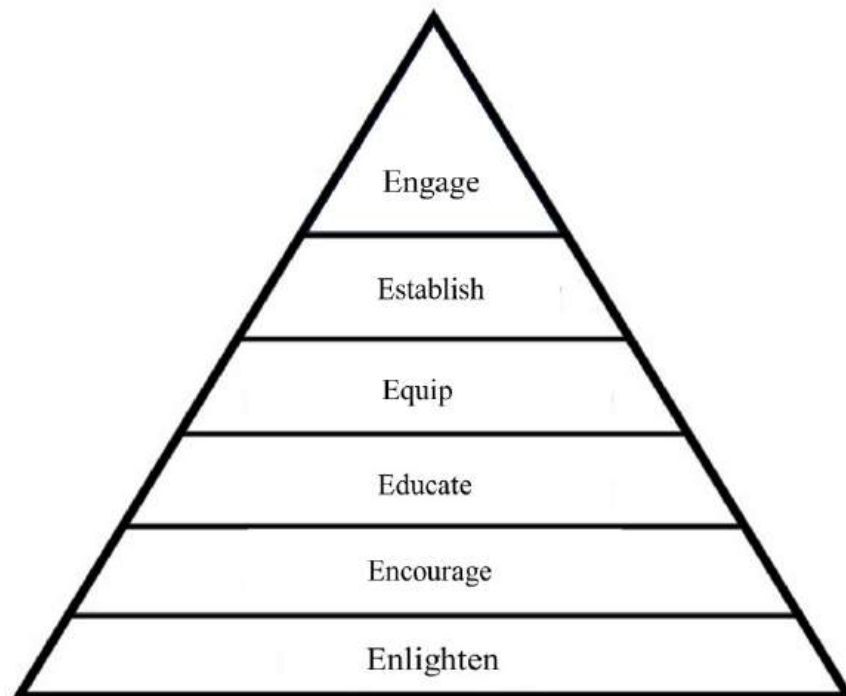
Any time that is especially convenient for the “target” of your message. It may not be so convenient for you all the time, but if you get an opening or opportunity, do your best to take advantage of it. Sometimes when people are going through difficult times and cannot seem to find their way, it is a good time to let them know that Jesus Christ is the way and can bring them out of their situation. Sometimes when people think that life is just not worth living, it is a good time to let them know that Jesus Christ is the life and can make their life worth living. Sometimes when people do not know the difference between right and wrong or the truth from a lie, it is a good time to let them know that Jesus Christ is the truth – Satan is the father of lies and the author of confusion!

## Where is the best place to evangelize?

Anywhere!

## What is the best way to evangelize? How do you do it?

**Be yourself!** Perhaps the best way is the way to get your point across is to share *YOUR* testimony (story). But you also need to meet people where they are in order to prevent the walls from going up or the defense mechanisms from being put up. Be natural, even though you are talking about a supernatural person.





## Scripture Declarations

Matthew 21:22 KJV

All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Psalms 118:24 KJV

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 107:20 KJV

He sent His word and healed them; and delivered them from their destruction.

Psalms 118:17 KJV

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

Romans 8:28 KJV

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2 Timothy 1:7 KJV

“For God hath not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

1 John 4:4 KJV

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.



There are eight (8) member care groups based upon the first letter(s) of a members' last name. Members who need assistance may contact the Congregational Care Ministry at 708-449-3733.

**A – C**

Calvin Dorsey  
Dexter Galloway  
Sheridan A. Giddens  
Wendell Rice

**Co – F**

Stanley Fite\*  
Marvin Phillips  
Rachel Rice  
Wilson Ross

**G – H**

Myron Branch  
Deborah Floore  
Antonio Gale

**I – L**

Phyllis Lynch  
Daphene Walker

**M – O**

David Hannah  
Allen Jenkins  
Leroy Price  
Paula Smith

**P – R**

Rose Lewis-Calvin  
Rufus Pass

**S – Wa**

Tanya Hobson  
Irving Taylor, Sr.

**We – Z**

Vachon Harper-Young  
Charles Whitman  
Ministry Lead  
Charles Miller

\*Honorary Status

## Staying Connected

Visit our church website: [www.enjoyfreedom.org](http://www.enjoyfreedom.org)

Join in person or stream online at [www.enjoyfreedom.org](http://www.enjoyfreedom.org), via Facebook Live and YouTube (Freedom Baptist Church Hillside) at 10 a.m.


You can report death or sickness and request prayer online at: [www.enjoyfreedom.org/comfortcare](http://www.enjoyfreedom.org/comfortcare) ministry or by calling the church office at 708-449-3733, ext. 28.

Join the wake-up prayer call at 6 a.m. each Wednesday morning, as well as the Lifeline prayer call from 7 - 7:30 p.m.

All are welcome to join in!

Dial: (720) 650-3030

Passcode: 357-2229#



**Morning Prayer**  
Wednesdays, 6am - 6:15am

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**Lifeline Prayer Call**  
Wednesdays, 7pm - 7:30pm

You can also stay connected to Freedom through your mobile devices. To receive Freedom Church Hillside ministry text alerts on your phone, text "freedomchurch" to **54244**.

**54244**

**There's an easy way to  
be reminded of  
upcoming events at  
Freedom.**

**Just opt in and receive  
text alerts by texting  
"freedomchurch" to  
54244**

Freedom Baptist Church  
4541 Harrison St. | Hillside, IL 60162  
[www.enjoyfreedom.org](http://www.enjoyfreedom.org) | 708.449.3733

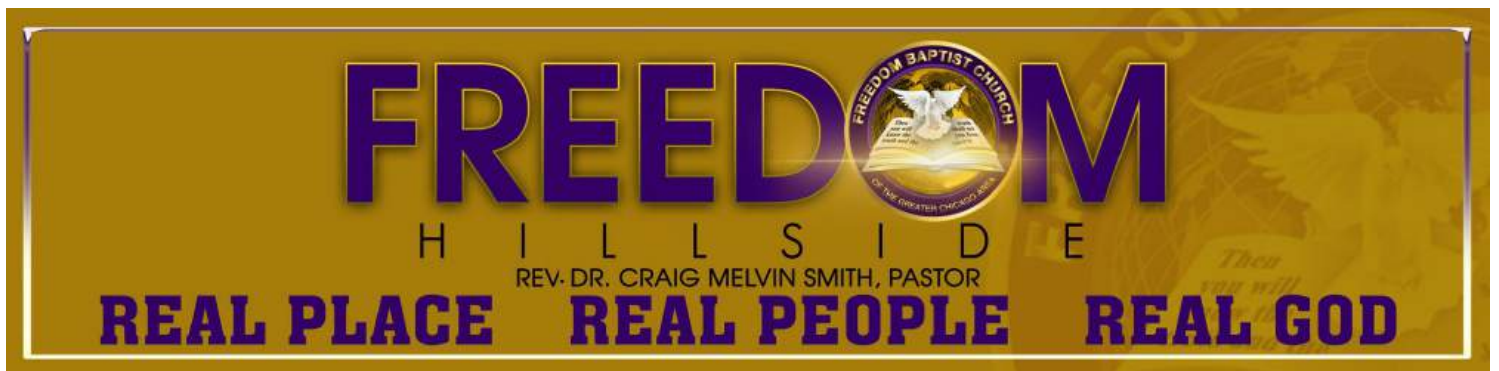


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4541 Harrison  
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Email: [enjoyfreedom@aol.com](mailto:enjoyfreedom@aol.com)  
Website: [www.enjoyfreedom.org](http://www.enjoyfreedom.org)

Rev., Dr. Craig Melvin Smith, Senior Pastor

Church Office Hours  
Tuesday – Thursday  
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



# Things to Remember

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