

A Biblical Model Of Spirituality

Acts 2

S Joseph Kidder

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Three major events that shaped the Christian movement:

- 1. The coming of the Holy Spirit.
- 2. The appeal by Peter to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- 3. The birth of the church.

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:1-4

The Spirit is given as a regenerating agency, to make effectual the salvation wrought by the death of our Redeemer. The Spirit is constantly seeking to draw the attention of men to the great offering that was made on the cross of Calvary, to unfold to the world the love of God, and to open to the convicted soul the precious things of the Scriptures. AA, 52.

The Holy Spirit is our efficiency in the work of character building, in forming characters after the divine similitude. When we think ourselves capable of molding our own experience, we make a great mistake. We can never of ourselves obtain the victory over temptation.

But those who have genuine faith in Christ will be worked by the Holy Spirit. The soul in whose heart faith abides will grow into a beautiful temple for the Lord. He is directed by the grace of Christ. Just in proportion as he depends on the Holy Spirit's teaching he will grow.

Our Father Cares, pp. 118, 119. or 136.

Have you been baptized
by the Holy Spirit?

The Appeal to Accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Acts 2:38-39

For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time.

1Timothy 2:5-6

The foundation of Christianity is Christ
our Righteousness. 5T 725

The absence of devotion, piety, and
sanctification of the outer man comes
through denying Jesus Christ our
Righteousness.

6MR 147

The only defense against evil is the indwelling of Christ in the heart through faith in His righteousness. Unless we become vitally connected with God, we can never resist the unhallowed effects of self-love, self-indulgence, and temptation to sin.

DA, 324.

The third angel's message calls for the presentation of the Sabbath of the fourth commandment, and this truth must be brought before the world; but the great Centre of attraction, Jesus Christ, must not be left out of the third angel's message....EV 184

Many had lost sight of Jesus. They needed to have their eyes directed to His divine person, His merits, and His changeless love for the human family. All power is given into His hands, that He may dispense rich gifts unto men, imparting the priceless gift of His own righteousness to the helpless human agent.

This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. It is the third angel's message, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of His Spirit in a large measure. EV 190.

How Confident You are In Your
Salvation?

The Birth of the Church

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.

The Birth of the Church

They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

The Biblical Evidence

“By this shall all men know that you are My disciples, if ye have love for one another.”



John 13:35

The Biblical Evidence

**“Let your light so shine
before men, that they may
see your good works and
glorify your Father in
heaven.”**



Matt 5:16

12

The Biblical Evidence

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor.”

Romans 12:10



The Biblical Evidence



**“Follow my example,
as I follow the
example of Christ.”**

I Corinthians 11:1

The Biblical Evidence

“...as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. And you became followers of us and of the Lord...”

I Thessalonians 1:5,6.



“No value is attached to a mere profession of faith in Christ; only the love which is shown by works is counted genuine. Yet it is love alone which in the sight of Heaven makes any act of value.”

Our Father Cares, pp., 90

Dietrich Bonhoeffer in, *Life Together*, reflecting on the richness of fellowship, which he, during his imprisonment leading up to his death, wrote: "The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer. A physical sign of the gracious presence of the triune God. How inexhaustible are the riches that open up for those who, by God's will, are privileged to live in the daily fellowship of life with other Christians."

On the following page, he adds,
“Let him who has such a privilege
thank God on his knees and
declare. It is grace, nothing but
grace that we are allowed to live in
fellowship with Christian brothers.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*, trans. John W. Doberstein (New York: Harper & Brother Publishers, 1954), 19.

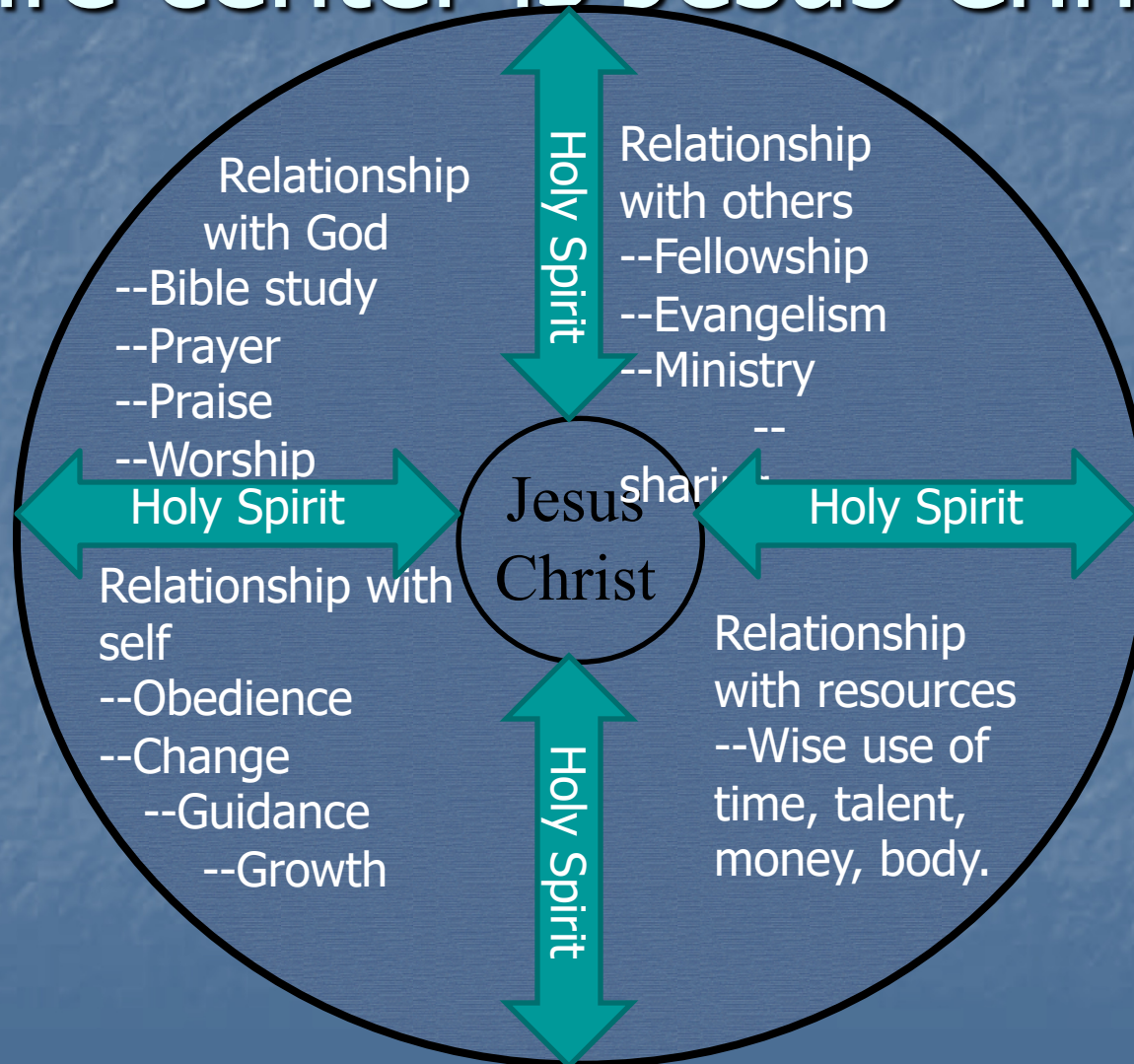
Ibid., 20.

How Close Does Your
Community of Faith Resemble
That of the New Testament?

FOUR ARENAS OF RELATIONSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY

- Our relationship with God
- Our relationship with Others
- Our relationship with Ourselves
- Our relationship with Our resources

Life center is Jesus Christ



Life-Center Is Jesus

The many argumentative sermons preached, seldom soften and subdue the soul. . . . It should be the burden of every messenger to set forth the fullness of Christ. When the free gift of Christ's righteousness is not presented, the discourses are dry and spiritless; the sheep and lambs are not fed.

Said Paul, "My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power." There is marrow and fatness in the gospel. Jesus is the living center of everything. Put Christ into every sermon.

Let the preciousness, mercy
and glory of Jesus Christ be
dwelt upon; for Christ
formed within is the hope of
glory.

1SM, 158 (1892)

Living With a Passion for the Presence of God

- Acts 2:42-47

List all of the daily practices of the early church.

- Prayer
- Bible study
- Fellowship
- Worship
- Praise
- Giving
- Ministry
- Evangelism

Unity

Joy

Sign and wonder

Obedience

Miracles

Church attendance

Simplicity

Lord's supper

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Our Relationship With God

- Worship
- Praise
- Prayer
- Bible Study
- Fasting
- Solitude and retreat

Our Relationship With Others

- Fellowship/communion with fellowmen
- Evangelism
- Ministry
- Encouragement
- Love
- Sharing of resources

Our Relationship With Ourselves

- Obedience
- Shaping of the heart
- Changing of the mind
- Guiding of the life
- Healing of damaged emotion
- Reflection
- Growth

Our Relationship With Our Resources

- The use of our resources
- The uses of our time
- The uses of our talents
- The uses of our money
- The uses of our Bodies and the
- Nature around us

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What do you learn from this
model of spirituality?

How did it happens?

Are you spiritually healthy,
Or just spiritually busy?

Jesus does not call us to be spiritually busy but to be full of His Holy Spirit and to be spiritually full in the knowledge of His love and faithful to His word.

It is not what we do but who we know
intimately.

Trying Vs Training

What about for spiritual life?



“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.”

I Timothy 4:7

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.”

First Corinthians 9:24

“An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules.”

Second Timothy 2:5

“But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.”

First Corinthians 9:27

“Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”

First Timothy 4:7-8

“Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.”

First Corinthians 9:25-26

Roadblocks To Living Like Jesus

- Key roadblocks to personal Spiritual Transformation -
 - 1. Lack of authentic relationship with the father.
 - 2. Lack of meaningful relationship with others
 - 3. The constant demand of time and deadlines.

- 4. Our inability to manage distraction.
- 5. Our radical addiction to ease and comfort
- 6. Our faulty understanding of theology
- 7. Our fear of critical examination and reflection

- 8. Our attachment to this world
- 9. Personal sin.
- 10. Our Lack of hunger for the things of God.
- Discussion - What do you think about these roadblocks? Are there some others you experience?

Roadblocks To Living Like Jesus

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If Jesus Is In Charge Of Your
Time, How would Your
schedule look Like?

When we turn off the TV and silence our iPhone to listen to the still small voice of God, like Elijah, we practice spiritual growth. When we carve out time to pray, three times per day like Daniel, we practice spiritual growth. When we sing psalms in church fellowship, like David, we practice spiritual growth. When we pray like Jesus that we maybe one with the Father as Jesus was one with the Father, we practice spiritual growth. When we “contemplate the life of Christ,” whether for one hour or ten minutes each day, as Ellen White urges us to do, we practice spiritual growth.

■ HOW TO HAVE A MEANINGFUL QUIET TIME WITH GOD

■ Start with a proper attitude

- Expectancy, Alertness, Reverence, Willingness to obey.

■ Select a specific time

- Find your quality time

■ Choose special place

- Scheduled, Special, Sacred

■ Follow a simple plan

- Wait on God; reflection on yesterday; journal, prayer, and scripture, listen.

HOW TO DEAL WITH COMMON PROBLEMS IN QUIET TIME

- The Problem of discipline – robbers of Prayer (work, TV, phone)
- The problem of dry spells – disobedience, physical condition, hurry,
- The problem of concentration – read & pray aloud, walk while you pray
- The problem of discouragement – consider having an appointment with God

Living With a Passion for the Presence of God

- Living With a Passion for the Presence of God gives us different perspective on time. Acts 2:44-45, 2 Peter 3:10-13
- Living With a Passion for the Presence of God gives us different perspective on possession. Acts 2:44-45, 2 Peter 10-13
- Living With a Passion for the Presence of God gives us different perspective on pleasure. Acts 2:46-47

Living With a Passion for the Presence of God

- Living With a Passion for the Presence of God gives us different perspective on problems. Acts 2:47, 2Chr. 20
- Living With a Passion for the Presence of God gives us different perspective on life.

Call for Authentic Spirituality

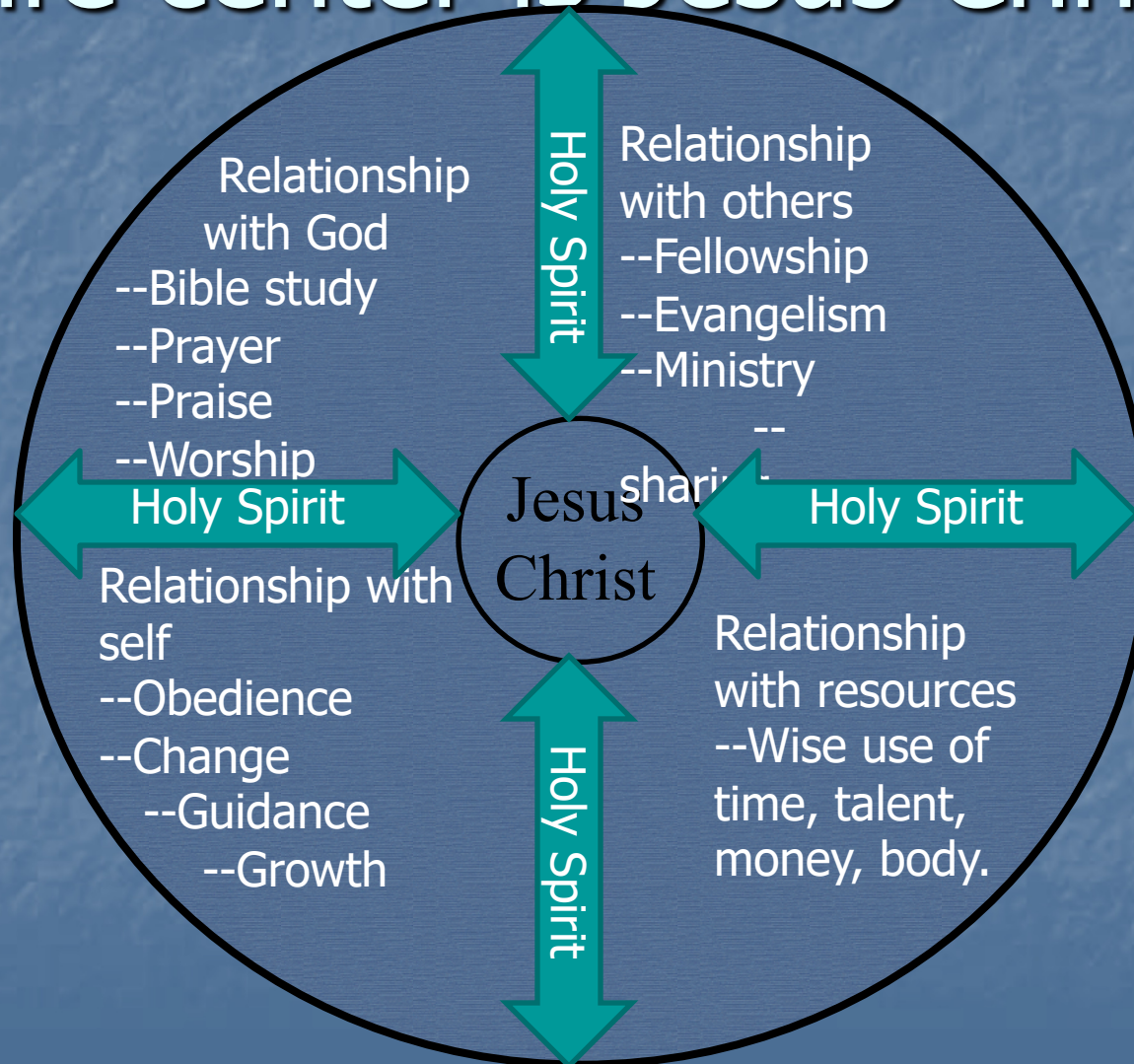
'And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This *is* the first commandment. "And the second, like *it, is* this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:30-31

Worship gives us different perspective on life.

- Church _____
- Family _____
- Work _____
- Rest _____
- Entertainment _____
- Devotion _____

Life center is Jesus Christ



For Ellen White, contemplation moved beyond mere meditating on words and Biblical events toward entering a divine space where she, like the Apostle Paul, could acquire the mind of Christ. Ellen White describes this union with Christ in the *Desire of Ages*:

“So the soul dead in trespasses and sins receives life through connection with Christ. By faith in Him as a personal Saviour the union is formed.

The sinner unites his weakness to Christ's strength, his emptiness to Christ's fullness, his frailty to Christ's enduring might. Then he has the mind of Christ. The humanity of Christ has touched our humanity, and our humanity has touched divinity. Thus through the agency of the Holy Spirit man becomes a partaker of the divine nature. He is accepted in the Beloved.” DA, 673.

Questions to Examine Your Life

- What are you doing to nourish your spiritual life?
- What are the private and public dimensions of nourishing your soul?
- In what ways can God more fully enter your life?
- What is your understanding of spiritual growth?
Write a spiritual autobiography.
- What are you reading in the area of spiritual development?

- With whom do you share your faith development?
- What are the barriers that keep you from sharing your faith development?

What are the bridges that enable such sharing?

- With whom do you share your questions, doubts, joys, and concerns?
- What steps do you take to meet your needs as a whole person? •

- Make a list of the spiritual disciplines you keep.
- Are there spiritual disciplines that you would like to add to your life? If so, make a list of these.
- What disciplines bring you the most comfort, peace, and joy?
- What disciplines frighten you? How might those fears change your life?

The Aim of Spiritual Life

- The Christian's life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of character. There is death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This change can be brought about only by effectual working of the Holy Spirit.

- DA, p. 172

