

**Core: Establishing Essentials of Faith**  
**Session #5&6: Connecting With and Receiving From God** (Interfacing with and drawing upon God's grace)  
September 29, 2021

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**OVERVIEW: Core**

**REVIEW OF LAST WEEK: God's Holy Spirit** (God living in us)

**We were designed to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit.** The cross made it possible once again.

**The Spirit makes us new creations.** The spirit draws us, convicts us, regenerates us, helps us live for God.

**Let's receive more and more from the Holy Spirit.** Let's give Him greater and greater latitude in our lives.

**Today: Connecting With and Receiving from God** (interfacing and drawing upon God's grace)

**John 15:5** *Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

God offers us grace by His Spirit

It doesn't happen by osmosis or accident

Let's learn to be self-feeders

## 1. Terminology

**Works of Piety.** Devout, devotion, reverence.

**Sacraments.**

*Sacramentum.* Oath or a solemn vow.

More than rituals or traditions, Sacraments impart "saving grace"

Outward signs of inward and spiritual grace

**Catholic tradition has 7:** Marriage, Ordination, Anointing, Confession, Confirmation, Baptism, Communion.

**From Jesus.**

"Divine Ordinances instituted by Christ for His church"

**Baptism**

**Matthew 28:19** *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,*

**Communion**

**Luke 22:19** *And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."*

**Means of Grace.** Instruments through which God delivers His grace.

## 2. Personal.

**Study**

**2 Timothy 2:15** *Study to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

**Prayer**

**1 Thessalonians 5:17** *pray continually;*

**Fellowship**

**Matthew 18:20** *For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."*

**Serving.** Talk about this in an upcoming session.

### 3. Communal.

#### Worship, Prayer, Preaching, Fellowship

**Hebrews 10:24–25** *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. <sup>25</sup> Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

**Romans 10:17** *Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

### 4. Going further.

#### Stewardship

**1 Corinthians 4:2** *Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

#### Sabbath

**Exodus 20:8** *“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.*

#### Fasting

**Matthew 6:17–18<sup>17</sup>** *But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.*

#### Witnessing

**Matthew 10:7** *As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’*

#### Healthy living

**1 Corinthians 6:19** *Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;*

#### Foot washing

**John 13:14–15** *Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*

**Spiritual Diagnosis.** Are spiritual disciplines a part of your life? It’s a great place to begin.

#### What’s it mean for our lives

- **God engineered many means of grace.** It’s His desire to pour His grace into our lives.
- **Personal spiritual disciplines don’t happen by accident or osmosis.** Part of being a disciple is developing and living our personal spiritual disciplines.
- **Let’s be self-feeders.** Let’s belly up to the table.

#### Reflections for this week:

- **What challenges you Biblically?** (How do you understand Scripture differently?)
- **What challenges you ethically?** (How does this inform your morals and worldview?)
- **What challenges you personally?** (What might God be speaking to your heart about your personal life?)

**Next Week:** *Walking with God*