

# Your Plan for Spiritual Growth



First Baptist Church exists “To Glorify God by Knowing Christ and Making Him Known.” This is our God-ordained mission. For this to occur, all FBC believers must embrace this mission personally. Each person must be growing in his or her relationship *with* Christ and service *for* Christ. We all understand that spiritual growth requires intentionality. If you **PLAN TO GROW**, you are more likely to grow.

*There are four main spiritual commitments important to you as a follower of Christ and important to the health of our church family. We have listed and briefly explained these below. You may have already made some or all of these commitments or you may have not known about them until now. Either way we encourage you to formulate your spiritual growth plan for this year around these four commitments. As you plan, know that this is your plan before God. You do not have to fill in all four areas; choosing even one or two will help you grow.*

## 1. Consecration

When we consecrate ourselves to the Lord, we declare His lordship over our lives. We follow Paul’s urging in Romans 12:1 to “present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.” Consecration is not a one time event, but occurs regularly as we submit more and more of our lives to Christ.

## 2. Celebration

Celebration is our worship of God – both privately and publicly. Every believer should be growing in his or her personal worship of God. This occurs via intentionally seeking God in His Word and in prayer and then responding to Him in love, praise and obedience. Similarly, in Hebrews 10:25, God calls Christians to meet together as a church family for public worship. Here, we sing our love to God. We pray our hearts to Him. We give our tithes and offerings and we listen to and apply God’s Word. It is in worshiping together that our identity as a church is formed.

CONSECRATION

CELEBRATION

CONNECTION

COMMISSION

## 3. Connection

When we trust Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we become part of the family of God. The Holy Spirit baptizes us into, or identifies us with, the body of Christ known as the Church. The New Testament teaches that every Christian belongs to the Church. It gives no evidence of an unchurched Christian. Therefore, it is imperative that each one intentionally ‘connects’ with the local body of believers through a small group such as a Sunday School Class, a discipleship group, or the Wednesday Evening Ministries.

## 4. Commission

Jesus has entrusted all Christians with His mission. He is building His Church and building His kingdom. God has given each believer resources of time, talent and treasure. He calls us to be responsible stewards of these. Investing one’s time in serving God’s people and mission brings glory to Him. Exercising one’s spiritual gift to strengthen the local church blesses the believer and the church. Giving financially through the ‘tithe’ (a tenth) and special offerings is an important expression of growing faith. Jesus has sent us into our world with His gospel (Matt. 28:18-20). His “Great Commission” compels us to begin in our community (Jerusalem) and reach to the ends of the earth.



Now, take the two commitment cards included and fill them out with your own spiritual growth plan. You will bring one to church on 'Commitment Sunday' and the other you will keep as a personal reminder of your spiritual growth plan for this year. Feel free to 'write in' your own specific commitments as God leads you.

**Transformation** in life happens through the **COMMITMENTS** we make and the **HABITS** we establish. At FBCH we provide opportunities for commitment and life-changing encounters with God on Sunday morning, Sunday evenings, Wednesday evenings and other events. The habits we build enable us to live out our commitments and build on the changes that happen in our encounters with God.

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith, goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Peter 1:5-8



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Make the  
Main Thing the  
**MAIN THING**