

Health, growth, completion

# Vision



New Apostolic Church USA

District News

[www.nac-usa.org](http://www.nac-usa.org)

Late Summer 2021

Dear brothers and sisters,

Earlier this year, we introduced the idea of

## ***Coming home...new!***

It sounds catchy, but what does this actually mean? Over the past months, we have all lived through a very interesting time, inclusive of loneliness, sorrows, and difficulties. Yet, we also experienced the joys of reuniting with loved ones and our congregation after a long period, perhaps learned some different understandings about what matters most, and even made some new discoveries about ourselves and our relationship with Jesus.

It is common that after powerful experiences in life, such as a war, a sickness or trauma, or even a pandemic, one can become changed and begin to think and live differently, sometimes either negatively or positively. We choose a more optimistic and confident path, knowing the Holy Spirit will generate in us a *newness of life* (Romans 6:4).

Focusing on this new avenue of life, I created a list of “less/ more” traits that I will work on, guided by the Spirit:

Less intense;  
*more peaceful and settled*

Less agitated over foolish matters;  
*more understanding and contented*

Less judgmental;  
*more forgiving*

Less burdened;  
*more reliant on God's strength*

Less focused and talking about myself;  
*more interested and listening to others*

Less biased in my views;  
*more inclusive and open*

Less impulsive reactions;  
*more measured*



*Continued on the next page*



Perhaps, you may consider creating a list of your own to discover what new possibilities and changes can develop in your life. Over the next months, we will continue to explore our personal relationship with Christ and our communal relationship with Him and one another.

An important related topic will be

***Embracing differences.***

You can see on my list of the “less items” that some of these may be based on differences; of opinions, of personalities, of understandings, etc. Even so, there are also other differences that may separate us; gender, race, identity, sexual orientation, social class, ethnicity, and on and on.

*Newness of life* must also mean that we strive to not only overcome these differences, but to acknowledge, embrace, respect, and integrate them in the advancement of the body of Christ.

Through the teaching of Paul in 1 Corinthians 12, we recognize all the various elements of the body were designed by God for a “*more excellent way.*” Thus, the more I work on myself and edify others, the

*...more fit for the kingdom,  
more used would I be,  
more blessed and holy,  
more Savior like Thee.<sup>1</sup>*

With loving greetings

<sup>1</sup> From the hymn, *More holiness give me*



SINCE AUTUMN OF 2017,  
WE HAVE EXPLORED VARIOUS  
ELEMENTS OF GIVING:

GIVING IS **LOVE**

GIVING IS **FAITH**

GIVING IS **MISSION**

GIVING IS **JOY**      GIVING IS **SECRET**

GIVING IS **SACRIFICE**

WE WILL CONCLUDE  
THIS SERIES WITH THE  
FOREMOST REASON  
FOR GIVING:

GIVING IS  
**WORSHIP**

# GIVING IS WORSHIP

Worship is one's expression to another of their worth, value, or benefit to them. As Christians, we use this word in reference to God, our Father and Creator, our Savior and Redeemer, our Helper and Comforter. Naturally, we understand that God doesn't need our worship, however, worship is necessary for us and for the development of our relationship with God.

From early biblical times, humans have expressed their worship and thankfulness in giving. We can read in Genesis that this was a very natural, almost instinctive response. Cain and Abel both turned to God, their Creator, and gave offerings to Him. Further, after the great flood abated, Noah, without any instruction from God, in a very natural way turned to Him, built an altar, and gave offerings which were pleasing to Him, in acknowledgement of God's benevolence and protection. Later on in history, we can see that God stipulated how He would receive the offerings of His people.

As we move through the Bible towards the New Testament, one can see that giving as worship also takes on a spiritual nature. The Psalms speak of sacrifices of joy, Jeremiah talks of sacrifices of praise, which is also further highlighted by the writer of Hebrews. Paul speaks most definitively of giving one's total being in Romans 12:1: *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.*

Thus, we can ascertain that giving as a form of worship means to give something back to our Benefactor; not as an even exchange of services, or gift of equal value, but as a token to express our feelings. Because we know that the Lord looks at the disposition of our heart (Samuel 16:7), this expression includes our:

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**HUMBLENESS** BEFORE HIS OMNIPOTENCE AND BENEVOLENCE

**RELIANCE** ON THE ONE WHO PROVIDES AND PROTECTS

**NEED** FOR HIS DAILY GRACE

**ADORATION** FOR HIS LOVE, COMPASSION, AND FORGIVENESS

**THANKFULNESS** TO HIM WHO IS THE GIVER OF ALL GOOD GIFTS (MATTHEW 7:11, JAMES 1:17)

**GENEROSITY** KNOWING ALL HAS COME FROM HIM

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Simply put, it is a means for us to show our Father what He means to us. And this giving is not only regarding our offerings and sacrifices directly to Him, but as Jesus taught in Matthew 25:40, giving to others out of His love for us, is an expression directly to Him ... *Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.*

Many of our brothers and sisters understand this godly principle and have given unsparingly to others. They have discovered the wonderful mystery of giving; we do not give for notability nor ulterior motives, but rather giving in the

mind of Christ humbly results in a joy that fills the heart, unlike any other. Their giving also is a strong manifestation of their absolute trust in the Almighty, assured that His provision will always sustain them.

Thus, it becomes our privilege to give before our gracious Father as a firm declaration that He alone is the blessed source of all we are and all we have. What better way to worship God and tell Him what He means to you than by taking what He has given you in your life and using it to bless and serve others? Through our giving, we glorify our God. - LRK

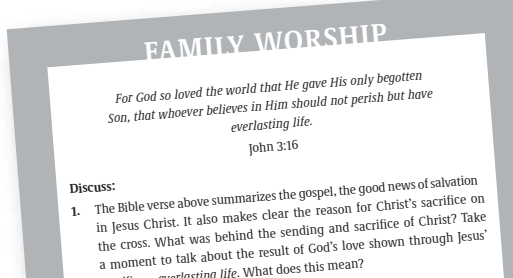
# GIVING IS...

LOVE • FAITH • JOY • MISSION • SACRIFICE • SECRET • WORSHIP

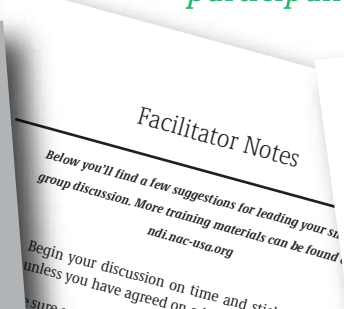
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## NEW FEATURES:

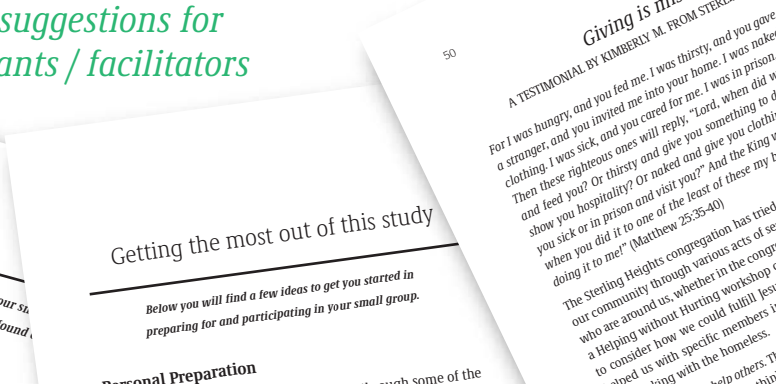
*Family worship materials*



*Tips & suggestions for participants / facilitators*



*Testimonials from members*



## *Special moments with Jesus*

FROM A MEMBER

Over the past decade or so, we have been given so much information and explanation regarding Holy Communion. Beginning with designating a special section of each service where preparation occurs, to the Hymn of Repentance, and VISION articles, my understanding of this sacrament has grown in a beautiful new way and is now much deeper. I of course remember being taught to “place everything in the Lord’s Prayer.” However, that was over with so quickly, and I found it impossible to think about anything else if I wanted to sincerely think about what I was praying. It didn’t work for me.

Now we have a wonderful time to prepare in every service, and of course we have been taught extensively about repentance and now I realize that this needs to occur on a regular basis and prior to the time we celebrate Holy Communion. I have learned that preparation for Holy Communion must occur every day in our prayer life, not waiting until Sunday when distractions occur and time is limited and when it isn’t really possible to give Holy Communion the thought and prayer this special sacrament needs and deserves. What always astounds me is that in every service we learn something new during the preparation section of the service. Wow! And the Hymn of Repentance – such a special quiet time to ponder and prepare. At first our grandchildren thought that the Hymn of Repentance was providing a break in the service when they can talk to me and this provided a great opportunity for me to first let them know that we don’t talk during this time, and then afterwards to teach them the importance and seriousness of this sacrament.

Last night in our small group we spoke about the importance of really knowing that we are sinners. That is a learning that could have been thought to be an “offensive” teaching in the past. I’m so thankful for all of this learning. One of our priests in preparing for communion once said that we can consider receiving Holy Communion as our “special moment with Jesus.” What a beautiful picture - I think of it every Sunday! I could go on and on...

# Prayer is a treasure, a power, and a grace...

- Apostle R. Kainz

***How can we utilize this precious gift?***

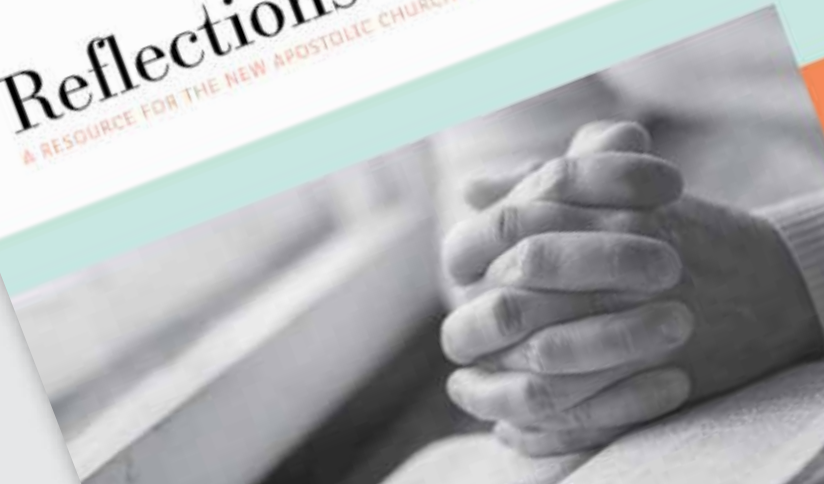
INTRODUCING...

## Reflections on Prayer

A new resource that digs into the words of Scripture to unearth what the Spirit teaches us about prayer; expanding our knowledge and deepening our relationship with the One who hears and answers prayer.

Order yours on Amazon today.

**Reflections on Prayer**  
A RESOURCE FOR THE NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH USA





# Decisive Experiences

BUILD TRUST AND ASSURANCE

Changing personal circumstances can be incredibly influential. All too often, they dictate not only our disposition and mood, but also things with much greater eternal impact - our convictions of faith, our trust in God and His promises, and our hope in Jesus Christ. This truth is not unique to us today, either. We can see all throughout the Bible where the people of God struggled to remain convicted, trusting, and hopeful. Many times, they let their current situations influence them, sometimes positively and sometimes negatively.

After the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, their immediate and appropriate response was to glorify God. With collective voice, they sang an extensive, heartfelt hymn of praise to God for having been delivered from the Egyptians. The people of God had a **decisive experience** that firmed up their trust in Him. They knew, after all, that only He, the omnipotent and almighty God, could have done this. God clearly showed that He was with them!

I WILL SING TO THE LORD, FOR HE  
HAS TRIUMPHED GLORIOUSLY!

EXODUS 15:1

It didn't take long, however, for their trust and conviction to begin to wane. As soon as their circumstances changed and they had to suffer from thirst, their faith was tested, and the firmness of their trust in God began to crumble. They could only see a negative picture and completely discarded the good that God had done. They complained frequently to Moses, hardened their hearts to the Lord, and had such unbelief that it precluded them from entering the Promised Land.

This type of circumstantial, up and down faith was also a concern thousands of years later in the first church. Consider Hebrews 3:14:

FOR WE HAVE BECOME PARTAKERS  
OF CHRIST IF WE HOLD THE  
BEGINNING OF OUR CONFIDENCE  
STEADFAST TO THE END.

The author of the epistle urges the Hebrews not to follow the example of their ancestors, those who rebelled in the wilderness and who were filled with unbelief (see Hebrews 3:16-19). He admonishes them to hold fast to their foundational confidence and conviction, which they had from the very beginning, and to remain steadfast regardless of circumstance.

A literal interpretation of this text would lead us to believe that our faith was at its peak at the time of our baptism with water and the Spirit (*the beginning*). This may or may not be the case. However, since that time, we have lived through **decisive experiences** that built within us the same assurance that the Israelites had at the Red Sea - our God and Father is with us and all things are possible for Him! These experiences caused our knowledge to increase and our faith to mature as we were led by the Holy Spirit through these events.

We can also see this text as an exhortation to remain firmly committed to the foundations of faith that we initially and publicly professed, whether at our baptism, sealing, or confirmation:

## I BELIEVE...

IN THE TRIUNE GOD

IN THE GOSPEL

IN THE CHURCH AND THE APOSTOLATE

IN THE SACRAMENTS

IN THE IMMINENT AND INEXORABLE

RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST

Let us cling to and remain firmly convicted of these fundamental elements of our faith until the end, no matter what. The Lord alone will decide when the end is, and we are secure with Him.

When we live and profess in this way, then Hebrews 3:14 makes it clear - *we will become partakers of Christ.*

To be a partaker of Christ means we can enjoy the love and goodness of Christ. Through Him, we can be sanctified, perfected, and saved. We can experience His help and nearness and that He will never forsake us. We can be prepared for His coming by the work of the Apostle ministry.

To be a partaker of Christ means that we can have personal encounters with Him and experience His presence in the church, and know true fellowship with Him in Holy Communion.

Lastly, as partakers of Christ, we recognize our calling to contribute to the health and well-being of the church, to advance the good news of the gospel, and to serve those around us. This is the greatest fulfillment in life. Truly, there is no greater joy than to become a partaker of Jesus Christ!

Let us never neglect this path and opportunity, but rather humbly embrace it. In all circumstances and in all seasons of life, may we remain fully convinced of the truth of the gospel, completely trusting in the Lord, and abounding in hope for the fulfillment of God's salvation plan through Jesus Christ. - MNJ/LRK

THE FAITHFUL SHALL HAVE GLADNESS

WHICH NONE FROM THEM CAN TAKE,

AND THEY WHO HAVE THE PROMISE

FROM FAITH TO SIGHT SHALL WAKE.

BE TRUE UNTIL FROM DESERT SAND YOU

ENTER THERE THE PROMISED LAND.

KEEP FAITH, KEEP FAITH; O BRIDE OF

JESUS, KEEP YOUR FAITH!

FROM THE HYMN - TO CHRIST, THE LORD, BE FAITHFUL



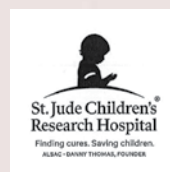
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital  
has received a gift in honor of

**All children in the New Apostolic Church USA**

This gift will continue to bring hope to the  
children of St. Jude today, tomorrow, and beyond.

Thank you for sacrificing part of your birthday  
gift for this special cause!

*St. Jude's Children's Hospital*



A few years ago the New Apostolic Church USA, together with the leaders of the Church's children ministry made the decision to make an annual donation to St. Jude's out of the birthday gift funds.

*Above is an excerpt from the card that was received from St. Jude's Children's Hospital.*



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*More information  
will be coming soon!*

