

**ROSE OF SHARON PENTECOSTAL TEMPLE
MEMBER'S GUIDE**

Believing • Belonging • Becoming • Building

“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.” - Ephesians 2:19, KJV

Written and Developed by Apostle Dr. Eric L. Jones

Prepared for the spiritual formation, doctrinal instruction, and covenant life of Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple.

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Publication and Use

This Member's Guide has been prepared for the spiritual formation, doctrinal instruction, and covenant life of Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple.

This guide is not intended to replace the Holy Scriptures. The Bible is the supreme and final authority in all matters of doctrine, faith, life, and conduct. Where this guide summarizes a doctrine, members should read the cited passages in their biblical context and remain teachable under sound spiritual leadership.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the King James Version (KJV). Scripture references without full quotations are supplied for continued study.

Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple Member's Guide

Believing • Belonging • Becoming • Building

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Prepared for Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple.

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Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

Author: Apostle Dr. Eric L. Jones

Publication Year: 2026

Edition: First Edition

ISBN: 9798190648317

Printed in the United States of America

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Dedication

This guide is dedicated to the covenant family of Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple: those who have labored faithfully, those who are being restored, those who are beginning their journey of discipleship, and those whom God will yet add to this spiritual household.

May every member become firmly established in the truth, filled with the Holy Ghost, formed in the character of Jesus Christ, joined faithfully to the household of faith, and equipped to participate in the mission of God's Kingdom.

Acknowledgments

I first acknowledge God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost, from whom all truth, grace, wisdom, and spiritual formation proceed. Whatever is faithful and fruitful within this guide must ultimately be credited to the illuminating work of the Holy Ghost and the enduring authority of the written Word.

I also acknowledge the pastoral leadership, ministry leaders, teachers, servants, and faithful members of Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple. A congregation is strengthened through people who pray, worship, teach, serve, give, forgive, endure, and remain committed to the work God has entrusted to the local assembly.

This guide also honors those who helped preserve the doctrinal convictions and discipleship foundations from which this work was developed. Their commitment has made it possible to bring the church's beliefs, membership responsibilities, spiritual practices, and Kingdom assignment together within one unified resource.

Finally, I acknowledge every member who will approach this guide with humility and sincere spiritual hunger. Its purpose will not be fulfilled merely because it has been written. It will be fulfilled as Kingdom citizens believe the truth, enter covenant fellowship, submit to formation, and use their gifts to build the Body of Christ.

A Message from the Author

Membership in a local assembly must never be reduced to attendance, enrollment, or religious affiliation. Biblical membership is covenant participation in the household of God. It joins redeemed people to a community in which they worship, learn, pray, serve, mature, receive correction, carry responsibility, and participate in Christ's mission together.

This guide was developed to help Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple strengthen that kind of covenant life. Its four movements—Believing, Belonging, Becoming, and Building—reflect the progression of healthy discipleship. We must believe the truth revealed in Scripture, belong faithfully to Christ and His people, become mature through the transforming work of the Holy Ghost, and build according to the gifts and assignments God has entrusted to us.

The strength of an assembly is not measured only by the number of people who attend its services. It is revealed in the spiritual condition of its people, the integrity of its doctrine, the quality of its relationships, the character of its leaders, the participation of its members, and its faithfulness to the mission of Jesus Christ. A healthy congregation requires more than gifted preaching or meaningful worship. It requires disciples who are willing to be taught, formed, corrected, equipped, and sent.

I encourage every member to approach this guide prayerfully. Read the cited Scriptures in their complete context. Write down your questions. Discuss what you are learning with mature spiritual leadership. Allow the Holy Ghost to identify areas requiring repentance, healing, growth, accountability, and renewed obedience. You are not being invited merely to join an organization. You are being called to take your place in a spiritual household, submit to the formation of Christ, and participate in the advancement of God's Kingdom.

Apostle Eric L. Jones

Foreword

The strength of a local assembly is not determined by attendance alone, nor can it be measured only by the quality of its services, programs, or public ministry. A healthy congregation is built when people are grounded in the Word of God, joined together in covenant fellowship, formed in the character of Jesus Christ, and equipped to serve according to their God-given purpose. This *Member's Guide* has been developed to help Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple continue that necessary work. Membership in the local church is more than having one's name recorded on a church roll. It is an invitation to become an active and accountable part of the household of God. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God" (Ephesians 2:19, KJV). Through Christ, we are brought into a spiritual family where we worship together, learn together, pray for one another, carry one another's burdens, receive spiritual care, and participate in the mission God has entrusted to His Church.

The four movements presented throughout this guide—Believing, Belonging, Becoming, and Building—provide a clear pathway for spiritual development. We must believe the Gospel and receive the truth of Scripture. We must belong faithfully to Christ and His people. We must become mature disciples whose conduct reflects the character of our Lord. We must also build by using our gifts, time, testimony, relationships, and resources to strengthen the Church and advance the Kingdom of God. This guide connects doctrine with discipleship and spiritual experience with responsible Kingdom living. It helps members understand not only what Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple believes, but also how those beliefs should shape personal conduct, covenant relationships, spiritual disciplines, ministry service, and public witness. Sound doctrine must produce sound living. Genuine Pentecostal experience must remain governed by Scripture, demonstrated through holy character, and expressed through love, service, order, and obedience.

I extend my sincere appreciation to Apostle Dr. Eric L. Jones for the prayer, study, spiritual insight, and disciplined labor invested in this work. His ability to bring biblical doctrine, discipleship formation, covenant membership, ministry preparation, and practical application together within one unified resource has provided Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple with a valuable instrument for both present ministry and future growth. Apostle Jones has approached this assignment with respect for the authority of Scripture, sensitivity to the ministry of the Holy Ghost, and a genuine concern for the spiritual health of this congregation. This work reflects more than the preparation of written material; it reflects a desire to see people established in truth, restored through grace, matured in character, activated in their gifts, and equipped to fulfill their place within the Body of Christ. For this contribution to the life and development of Rose of Sharon, I offer my personal gratitude and pastoral appreciation.

I encourage every member to receive this guide as more than a book to be read or a course to be completed. Use it as a companion for prayer, study, reflection, discussion, and spiritual examination. Read the Scriptures for yourself. Ask questions. Seek understanding. Receive correction with humility. Apply what you learn, and allow the Holy Ghost to continue forming Christ within you.

May this guide help Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple remain steadfast in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers. May it strengthen our covenant life, deepen our love for God and one another, prepare every member for faithful service, and help this congregation fulfill the assignment God has placed upon it.

With pastoral gratitude and Kingdom expectation,

Dr. Darrell Duncan
Senior Pastor
Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple

Author's Preface

This guide began with a simple but searching question: What should a person understand, embrace, and practice when becoming part of the covenant life of Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple? That question required more than a brief explanation of church procedures or a summary of organizational expectations. It required a biblically grounded framework capable of connecting salvation, doctrine, spiritual formation, covenant relationships, holy living, ministry service, and Kingdom purpose.

Membership in a local assembly is often approached as though it were primarily an administrative decision. A person attends, completes an orientation, provides the requested information, and is formally received into the congregation. These steps may be necessary, but they are not sufficient to express the biblical meaning of belonging to the household of God. Scripture presents the Church as the Body of Christ, the family of God, a holy nation, a spiritual house, and a people called to reveal the character and mission of the Lord Jesus Christ. To enter that fellowship is to accept both a place of belonging and a responsibility for spiritual growth, covenant faithfulness, and Kingdom service.

The Apostle Paul wrote that believers are “no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God,” and that they “are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone” (Ephesians 2:19–20, KJV). This passage provides the governing image for the guide. We are being joined to a household, established upon a foundation, aligned with a cornerstone, and built together for the dwelling and purpose of God. Membership, therefore, is not passive association. It is the disciplined process of being joined, formed, aligned, and equipped.

The four movements of this guide—Believing, Belonging, Becoming, and Building—were chosen to express that process

clearly. Believing establishes the truth we confess. Belonging explains the covenant household we share. Becoming addresses the character and spiritual practices that should increasingly define our lives. Building calls every member to use his or her grace, gifts, testimony, time, relationships, and resources in service to Christ and His mission. These movements are distinct, but they cannot be separated. What we believe shapes how we belong. How we belong influences who we become. Who we are becoming determines the integrity with which we build.

In developing this guide, I drew from the doctrinal framework contained in Rose of Sharon's Statement of Beliefs and the discipleship concerns represented therein. That source provided important theological and formative foundations. The language, structure, explanations, applications, membership commitments, reflection questions, formation plans, and ministry-readiness tools have been newly developed to bring those foundations together in a unified resource. The goal was not merely to preserve information, but to organize it in a way that helps members move from doctrinal understanding to faithful practice.

Doctrine matters because truth determines direction. A congregation cannot remain spiritually healthy when its members are uncertain about the Gospel, the authority of Scripture, the nature of God, the person and work of Jesus Christ, the ministry of the Holy Ghost, salvation, holiness, the Church, resurrection, judgment, or the return of Christ. At the same time, correct doctrine must do more than fill the mind. It must shape character, govern relationships, correct conduct, sustain hope, and produce obedience. James warned, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22, KJV). Biblical knowledge reaches its proper purpose when truth becomes practice.

Pentecostal identity also requires more than familiarity with Pentecostal language, worship traditions, or spiritual

manifestations. Authentic Pentecostal life remains centered in Jesus Christ, governed by Scripture, empowered by the Holy Ghost, and evidenced through holiness, love, spiritual fruit, courageous witness, accountable ministry, and faithful service. The gifts of the Spirit are not substitutes for character, and spiritual experience does not remove the need for doctrine, order, wisdom, or correction. The same Holy Ghost who empowers believers for ministry also transforms them into the likeness of Christ.

For this reason, the guide addresses both spiritual privilege and spiritual responsibility. Members should know that they are loved, welcomed, valued, and needed. They should also understand that covenant life requires faithfulness, teachability, reconciliation, generosity, service, accountability, and perseverance. Grace receives us as we are, but it does not abandon us to remain unchanged. The grace of God forgives, restores, instructs, strengthens, and forms us until our lives increasingly agree with the truth we confess.

This guide should not be treated as a substitute for the Bible, the ministry of the Holy Ghost, pastoral care, or life within the congregation. It is designed to direct members more deeply into each of these. Readers should examine the cited Scriptures in context, record their questions, seek clarification from mature spiritual leadership, and practice what they learn. The guide may be used during membership orientation, personal study, one-to-one discipleship, small-group formation, leadership development, ministry preparation, and periodic spiritual review.

I am grateful to Dr. Darrell Duncan, Senior Pastor, and to the leadership of Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple for their commitment to the spiritual health, doctrinal stability, and future development of the congregation. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute this work to a church family with a meaningful history and a continuing Kingdom assignment. My prayer is that this guide will help preserve what is biblically

faithful, strengthen what is spiritually healthy, correct what requires renewed alignment, and prepare the congregation for what God has appointed for its future.

To every person who studies these pages, I encourage you to proceed with humility and expectation. Do not rush simply to complete the material. Allow the Word of God to examine your beliefs, motives, relationships, habits, priorities, and readiness to serve. Ask the Holy Ghost to reveal where you need repentance, healing, instruction, discipline, courage, or renewed commitment. Spiritual formation is not accomplished by information alone. It requires truth received by faith, practiced through obedience, and sustained within covenant relationships.

My hope is that each reader will emerge from this guide with more than an understanding of Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple. I pray that you will possess a clearer understanding of your identity in Christ, your place within His Body, your responsibility as a Kingdom citizen, and your assignment as a servant of God. May you become firmly established in the faith, faithfully joined to the household, continually formed in the character of Christ, and fully engaged in building according to the grace God has placed upon your life.

Welcome to Covenant Life

Welcome to Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple. Membership in a local assembly is more than having one's name placed on a roll. It is a covenant relationship in which redeemed people worship God together, receive and practice sound doctrine, care for one another, submit to the transforming work of the Holy Ghost, and participate in Christ's mission in the world. The local church is a spiritual household where disciples are formed, gifts are developed, burdens are shared, correction is received, and Kingdom purpose is fulfilled.

This guide is designed to help every member understand both the faith we confess and the life that confession requires. Sound doctrine must produce sound living. Spiritual experience must remain governed by Scripture. Ministry activity must flow from character, love, and obedience. Membership therefore involves believing the truth, belonging to Christ and His people, becoming mature in character, and building according to the assignment God has entrusted to His Church.

Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple welcomes people at different stages of spiritual development. Some are beginning their walk with Christ. Others are returning after disappointment, failure, or distance. Still others have walked with the Lord for many years but need renewed alignment. Wherever a person begins, the call is the same: receive Christ, follow Him, grow in truth, walk in holiness, love His people, and serve His purpose.

Anchor Scripture

“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.” — Ephesians 2:19–20

How to Use This Guide

This guide may be used in new-member orientation, one-to-one discipleship, small groups, leadership development, and personal study. Each chapter contains a central teaching, supporting Scriptures, a member response, and reflection questions. Read prayerfully and slowly. Look up the passages in your Bible, record questions, and discuss areas requiring clarification with mature ministry leadership.

The guide moves intentionally from doctrine to practice. Part One establishes what we believe. Part Two explains the household to which we belong. Part Three describes the life we are becoming through the Spirit. Part Four calls every member into service and mission. The Member Tools at the end provide a covenant, a thirty-day formation plan, and practical assessments that can be revisited throughout the year.

No member is expected to mature alone. Spiritual growth occurs through the Word, the Holy Ghost, personal obedience, and life within the Body. Ask for prayer when needed. Receive teaching with humility. Build honest relationships. When you fall, return quickly to God. When you grow, help someone else grow.

Our Path: Believing, Belonging, Becoming, and Building

Believing means receiving the Gospel, trusting Jesus Christ, and embracing the doctrine of Scripture. Faith is not mere agreement with religious ideas; it is a trusting response to the revelation of God that produces repentance, obedience, and endurance.

Belonging means recognizing that salvation joins us to Christ and to His people. We become members of one Body and citizens of one Kingdom. Covenant belonging calls us away from isolation, consumerism, and casual attendance into fellowship, accountability, shared care, and faithful participation.

Becoming describes lifelong transformation into the likeness of Christ. The new birth is decisive, but maturity is progressive. Through Scripture, prayer, worship, correction, trials, spiritual disciplines, and the work of the Holy Ghost, our minds are renewed and our conduct is brought into agreement with our new identity.

Building means using our grace, gifts, testimony, time, resources, and relationships to strengthen the Church and extend the Kingdom of God. Every member has a contribution. Some are called to recognized ministry offices, but all are called to serve, witness, love, give, pray, and make disciples.

Member Response

I will not treat membership as passive association. By the grace of God, I will learn the faith, participate in the household, pursue maturity, and serve the mission.

PART ONE

BELIEVING: THE FAITH WE CONFESS

The Gospel of the Kingdom and the Grace of God

The Gospel begins with God, not with human effort. God is holy, righteous, loving, and merciful. Humanity was created for fellowship with Him and for faithful stewardship under His rule, but sin brought alienation, disorder, guilt, and death. No one can erase sin through morality, religious performance, good intentions, or personal improvement. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

God acted in grace. The eternal Son took on true humanity, lived without sin, died for our sins, was buried, and rose bodily from the dead. At the cross, Jesus Christ bore the judgment sin deserved and opened the way of reconciliation with the Father. His resurrection declares His victory over sin, death, and the powers of darkness. Salvation is therefore not a reward for worthy people; it is God's gift to those who repent and trust in Christ.

The Gospel is also the Gospel of the Kingdom. Jesus does not merely rescue us from a future penalty; He brings us under God's present rule. We are forgiven so that we may be restored to fellowship, obedience, sonship, holiness, and Kingdom purpose. Grace pardons, but grace also trains. The same grace that receives the sinner begins the work of transforming the disciple.

The appropriate response is repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21). Repentance is a Spirit-enabled change of mind and direction: turning from sin, self-rule, and dead works toward God. Faith is personal reliance upon Jesus Christ—His person, His finished work, His promises, and His lordship.

A Prayer of Faith and Surrender

Father, I acknowledge that I have sinned and cannot save myself. I believe that Jesus Christ died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from sin and self-rule, and I receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Forgive me, cleanse me, fill me with Your Spirit, and teach me to follow You in the fellowship of Your people. Let my life belong to Your Kingdom and fulfill Your purpose. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Supporting Scriptures: Isaiah 53:4–6; John 3:16–18; Acts 2:36–39; Romans 5:6–11; 6:23; 10:8–13; 1 Corinthians 15:1–4; Ephesians 2:8–10; Titus 2:11–14.

Reflection

- What is the difference between trying to improve yourself and receiving salvation by grace?
- What must you turn from, and what does it mean for you to come under the lordship of Christ?
- Who can help you remain accountable in your new or renewed walk with God?

The Bible: Our Final Authority

We believe the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God and provide the complete, trustworthy, and authoritative written rule for doctrine and life. Scripture reveals God's character, will, redemptive purpose, and Kingdom. It tells the truth about humanity, announces salvation in Christ, equips the Church, and judges every competing claim.

Because the Bible is authoritative, neither personal preference, spiritual experience, culture, tradition, political ideology, nor a leader's opinion may overrule its teaching. Experiences should be tested by Scripture. Prophetic utterances should be judged by Scripture. Doctrine should arise from responsible interpretation of Scripture in context.

The Bible must be read as a unified story centered in Jesus Christ. Individual verses should not be detached from their literary, historical, covenantal, and canonical setting. Members should ask what a passage meant in its context, how it reveals God and His redemptive purpose, how it relates to Christ and the Kingdom, and how it calls us to believe and obey.

Scripture is not given merely to increase information. It is intended to produce wisdom, faith, correction, formation, and fruitful action. A member who hears the Word but refuses to practice it is self-deceived. A member who receives the Word with humility and obeys it builds on a firm foundation.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” — 2 Timothy 3:16

Member Practices

- Read Scripture daily with prayer and attention.
- Study complete passages, not isolated sayings.
- Compare teaching and prophecy with the written Word.
- Memorize key passages that strengthen faith and obedience.
- Participate consistently in corporate teaching and Bible study.
- Practice what God reveals.

Supporting Scriptures: Psalm 19:7–11; 119:9–16, 105, 160; Matthew 7:24–27; Luke 24:25–27; Acts 17:10–12; 2 Timothy 3:14–17; Hebrews 4:12; James 1:21–25; 2 Peter 1:19–21.

The One God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

We believe in one God, eternally known as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God; yet God is one. The three are not competing gods, temporary masks, or unequal levels of deity. They are eternally united in being, glory, purpose, and work.

The Father is the source and sender in the work of redemption. He loved the world and sent the Son. He adopts those who are in Christ and brings them into His household. Through the Son and by the Spirit, believers cry, “Abba, Father.”

Jesus Christ is the eternal Word and Son. He did not begin at Bethlehem. He was with God and was God. In the incarnation He took on a true human nature through the virgin conception and birth while remaining fully divine. He lived without sin, proclaimed the Kingdom, performed mighty works, died as the atoning sacrifice for sin, rose bodily, ascended, reigns at the Father's right hand, intercedes for His people, and will return in glory. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and humanity and the supreme Head of the Church.

The Holy Ghost is fully divine and personal. He convicts the world, gives new birth, indwells believers, reveals Christ, teaches truth, produces holy character, distributes spiritual gifts, empowers witness, guides the Church, and prepares God's people for the return of Christ. He is not an impersonal force to be manipulated; He is the Holy Spirit to whom the Church listens, yields, and obeys.

Supporting Scriptures: Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16–17; 28:19; John 1:1–18; 14:9–17, 26; 16:7–15; Acts 5:3–4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Colossians 1:15–20; 2:9; Hebrews 1:1–4.

Member Response

I will worship the one true God, come to the Father through the Son, honor Jesus Christ as Lord and Head, and yield daily to the Holy Ghost.

Humanity: Creation, Fall, and New Creation

Human beings are created by God in His image and therefore possess inherent dignity and moral responsibility. We were created to know God, represent His character, cultivate His creation, live in covenant relationship, and exercise delegated stewardship under His authority. Human worth does not depend upon wealth, usefulness, ethnicity, social standing, health, age, or personal achievement.

The fall occurred when humanity rejected God's word and rule. Sin is more than isolated wrongdoing; it is a condition of alienation expressed through unbelief, pride, self-rule, disordered desire, injustice, and disobedience. Sin damages our relationship with God, with ourselves, with other people, and with creation. Its wages are death.

In Jesus Christ, God creates a new humanity. Those who are born of the Spirit are forgiven, reconciled, adopted, and brought into union with Christ. The believer becomes a new creation, but this new identity must be worked out through ongoing transformation. Our spirit has been made alive to God; our minds must be renewed; our habits must be retrained; and our bodies must be presented to God as instruments of righteousness.

New creation does not erase personality, history, or human weakness. It places every part of life under Christ's redeeming rule. God can heal what sin and suffering have broken, restore purpose, and use a surrendered life for His glory.

Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 1:26–28; 2:7, 15–17; 3:1–24; Psalm 8; Romans 3:9–23; 5:12–21; 6:1–14; 8:1–17; 12:1–2; 1 Corinthians 15:45–49; 2 Corinthians 5:17–21; Ephesians 4:20–24.

Salvation: Grace, Repentance, Faith, and Transformation

Salvation is the comprehensive work of God by which He rescues sinners, reconciles them to Himself, forms them into the likeness of Christ, and brings creation toward its promised restoration. It has a past dimension—we have been saved from sin's guilt; a present dimension—we are being saved from sin's power; and a future dimension—we will experience the redemption of the body and the fullness of God's renewed creation.

Salvation is by grace through faith, not by works. Yet genuine saving faith is living and fruitful. We are not saved by obedience, but the salvation we receive produces obedience. The New Testament joins justification and transformation without confusing them. God declares the believer righteous in Christ and then, by the Holy Ghost, progressively conforms the believer to Christ.

Repentance is not merely feeling guilty, regretting consequences, becoming more religious, or making temporary resolutions. True repentance recognizes sin, accepts responsibility, turns toward God, and produces fruit consistent with a changed direction. Faith is not positive thinking or presumption. It is confident trust in God's character and Word, expressed through allegiance to Jesus Christ.

The assurance of salvation rests first in Christ's sufficient work and God's faithful promise. It is strengthened by the witness of the Holy Ghost, growing love for God and His people, increasing obedience, hatred of sin, and persevering faith. When a believer sins, the answer is not concealment or despair, but confession, repentance, renewed trust, and restored fellowship.

Supporting Scriptures: John 1:12–13; 3:3–8; Acts 3:19; Romans 3:21–28; 5:1–5; 8:14–17; 10:9–13; 2 Corinthians 7:9–11; Ephesians 2:8–10; Philippians 1:6; 2:12–13; Titus 3:3–7; 1 John 1:5–2:2.

The Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God is God's sovereign rule, authority, order, and redemptive purpose. It is not merely a place we enter after death. In Jesus Christ, the Kingdom has drawn near and is active among us. Wherever God's will is received, His righteousness practiced, His power displayed, and His purpose advanced, the rule of the King is being manifested.

The Kingdom is spiritual in origin and character but produces visible consequences. It is not built by coercion, domination, or partisan capture. It advances through truth, righteousness, peace, joy in the Holy Ghost, sacrificial love, faithful witness, justice, mercy, deliverance, healing, and transformed lives. The Church does not replace the Kingdom; the Church is the people called to embody, announce, and serve the Kingdom under Christ.

Entrance into the Kingdom requires the new birth. Kingdom citizenship reorders identity and loyalty. The disciple seeks first the Kingdom and God's righteousness, receives the King's commands, stewards resources for the King's purposes, and represents the King's character in the world.

The Kingdom is already present, but its fullness is still coming. Christ reigns now, His people serve under His authority now, and one day every opposing power will be finally subjected. This hope does not make the Church passive. It gives courage for faithful obedience, patient endurance, and Kingdom labor.

Supporting Scriptures: Matthew 4:17, 23; 6:9–10, 33; 12:28; 13:1–52; 28:18–20; Luke 4:18–19; 17:20–21; John 3:3–5; Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 4:20; Colossians 1:12–14; Hebrews 12:28; Revelation 11:15.

Kingdom Examination

- Where is self-rule resisting God's rule in my life?
- How should Kingdom citizenship shape my use of time, money, speech, and influence?
- What evidence of righteousness, peace, joy, justice, and mercy should become more visible through me?

The Foundational Doctrines of Hebrews 6

Hebrews 6:1–2 identifies six elementary teachings that form a foundation for maturity: repentance from dead works, faith toward God, the doctrine of baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. These teachings are elementary not because they are unimportant, but because they establish truths upon which mature discipleship is built.

Repentance from Dead Works

Dead works include sinful actions and every attempt to establish righteousness apart from faith in Christ. Repentance turns the heart from self-rule and self-justification toward God. It produces confession, changed direction, restitution where appropriate, and fruit that demonstrates sincerity.

Faith Toward God

Faith rests in who God is, what Christ has accomplished, and what God has promised. Biblical faith hears God's Word, trusts God's character, and responds through obedience. It rejects both unbelief and presumption.

The Doctrine of Baptisms

The New Testament teaches the believer's identification with Christ, water baptism, and the believer's reception and ongoing fullness of the Holy Ghost. These are treated more fully in the following chapters.

Laying on of Hands

Scripture records the laying on of hands in blessing, prayer for healing, reception of the Holy Ghost, commissioning, and recognition of ministry assignment. It is a sacred act and must not be practiced carelessly, manipulatively, or without spiritual order. God is the source of every true gift and grace; hands are a biblical sign of identification, agreement, blessing, and authorized prayer.

Resurrection of the Dead

The resurrection of Jesus Christ guarantees the future resurrection. Death does not have the final word. God will raise the dead, and believers will receive transformed bodies suited for life in the fullness of God's presence and renewed creation.

Eternal Judgment

God is perfectly holy and just. Every person will give account to Him. Those in Christ are not condemned with the wicked, but believers will stand before Christ concerning the stewardship of their lives. This truth calls us to sober faith, holy conduct, faithful service, and compassionate evangelism.

Supporting Scriptures: Hebrews 5:12–6:3; Genesis 48:13–20; Mark 16:17–18; Acts 6:5–6; 8:14–17; 13:1–3; 19:1–7; 1 Timothy 4:14; 5:22; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11–15.

Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Water Baptism

We believe in water baptism by immersion for those who have repented and placed faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism does not earn salvation. It is the obedient public confession of a believer who has been united with Christ. Going beneath the water signifies burial with Christ; rising from the water signifies newness of life through His resurrection.

Baptism declares that the old life no longer has rightful dominion and that the believer now belongs to Jesus Christ. It is personal, but not private: the baptized person is received within the fellowship and mission of Christ's people.

The Lord's Supper

We observe the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Jesus Christ. The bread and the cup proclaim His body given and His blood shed for the New Covenant. Communion calls the Church to gratitude, self-examination, reconciliation, covenant unity, and hope in Christ's return.

The Table is not to be approached casually or superstitiously. We discern the Lord's body by honoring Christ's sacrifice and recognizing our covenant responsibility to one another. We come not because we claim perfection, but because we depend upon Christ, repent of sin, and refuse contempt for His people.

Supporting Scriptures: Matthew 26:26–29; 28:18–20; Acts 2:38–42; 8:35–39; Romans 6:1–11; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 11:23–34; Colossians 2:12.

The Holy Ghost and Pentecostal Life

Every true believer is born of the Spirit and belongs to Christ. The Holy Ghost indwells the believer, bears witness to adoption, produces Christlike fruit, and seals God's people. The same Spirit also fills and empowers believers for witness, prayer, spiritual gifts, courageous service, and effective ministry.

We affirm the present work and gifts of the Holy Ghost. The Book of Acts presents believers receiving power when the Holy Ghost comes upon them, and speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance repeatedly accompanies this Pentecostal outpouring. Members are encouraged to seek God sincerely for the fullness of the Spirit and to remain continually filled.

Pentecostal life is not measured by emotional intensity alone. The Spirit who gives gifts also produces fruit. Power without love becomes dangerous; gifts without character bring reproach; zeal without biblical order can injure people. Genuine Spirit-filled life exalts Jesus, agrees with Scripture, strengthens the Church, advances witness, and produces love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.

Spiritual gifts are distributed according to the Spirit's will for the common good. No member possesses every gift, and no gift makes a person superior. Prophecy should be judged. Tongues in the public assembly should follow biblical order. Healing prayer should be compassionate and free of manipulation. Deliverance ministry should magnify Christ's victory, respect human dignity, and operate under accountable leadership.

Supporting Scriptures: Luke 11:9–13; 24:49; John 14:16–17; Acts 1:4–8; 2:1–18, 38–39; 8:14–17; 10:44–48; 19:1–7; Romans 8:1–17; 1 Corinthians 12–14; Galatians 5:16–25; Ephesians 5:18–21.

Member Response

I will welcome the work of the Holy Ghost, seek His fullness, cultivate His fruit, exercise gifts in love and order, and refuse to use spiritual language to control or impress others.

Resurrection, Judgment, and the Return of Christ

Jesus Christ rose bodily from the dead and is the firstfruits of those who sleep. His resurrection is central to the Gospel and guarantees that death will not finally defeat those who belong to Him. At physical death, believers are with the Lord while awaiting the resurrection of the body.

Jesus Christ will return personally and gloriously. His coming will bring the defeat of evil, the resurrection of the dead, judgment, the public vindication of His rule, and the fullness of God's redemptive purpose. Scripture warns against date-setting, sensational speculation, and deceptive claims. The proper response to biblical prophecy is watchfulness, holiness, courage, faithful service, and hope.

God will judge the world in righteousness. Those who reject God's salvation remain accountable for sin. Those who are in Christ have passed from condemnation into life, yet believers will still give account for their stewardship and receive reward according to Christ's righteous judgment.

The reality of judgment should never produce cruelty or self-righteousness. It should deepen reverence, motivate evangelism, restrain evil, comfort the oppressed, and strengthen endurance. Our hope rests in Christ, not in our ability to master every detail of the prophetic calendar.

Supporting Scriptures: John 5:24–29; 11:25–26; Acts 1:9–11; 17:30–31; 1 Corinthians 15:12–58; 2 Corinthians 5:1–10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Titus 2:11–14; 2 Peter 3:8–14; Revelation 20:11–22:5.

PART TWO

BELONGING: THE HOUSEHOLD WE SHARE

The Church as Christ's Body, Family, and Holy Nation

The Church is the redeemed people of God gathered in Christ by the Holy Ghost. Scripture describes the Church as Christ's Body, God's household, a holy temple, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a bride, a flock, and an army under divine command. Each image contributes to a full understanding of covenant life.

As a body, the Church requires every part. Members differ in function, gift, experience, and maturity, but all receive life from Christ. Isolation weakens both the individual and the body. As a family, the Church practices honor, care, patience, correction, hospitality, and responsibility. As a holy nation, the Church embodies a citizenship that crosses ethnic, social, political, and economic divisions. As a temple, the Church must remain consecrated to God's presence and purpose.

The local assembly is a real expression of the one Church. It is not merely a weekly event or a provider of religious services. It is a household in which people are known, formed, protected, corrected, equipped, and sent. Members should reject both possessive language that treats the church as a private institution and consumer language that asks only, "What can I receive?" The healthier question is, "How is Christ forming us together, and what has He entrusted me to supply?"

Supporting Scriptures: Matthew 16:13–19; Acts 2:41–47; Romans 12:3–8; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27; Ephesians 1:22–23; 2:11–22; 4:1–16; 1 Peter 2:4–10.

Christ the Head and the Order of Ministry

Jesus Christ is the supreme and nontransferable Head of the Church. All legitimate authority in the Church is delegated by Him, governed by His Word, empowered by His Spirit, and accountable to His judgment. No leader owns Christ's people. No title places a person beyond correction. Spiritual authority is given to serve God's purpose, protect the flock, equip the saints, and preserve truth and order.

The New Testament recognizes elders who oversee, teach, shepherd, and lead; deacons who serve the practical needs and order of the household; and ministry gifts that equip the Body. Leadership qualifications emphasize character before charisma: faithfulness, sobriety, integrity, sound doctrine, healthy relationships, self-control, hospitality, and a good witness.

Members are called to honor and cooperate with faithful spiritual leadership, receive sound instruction, pray for leaders, and avoid rebellion, slander, and divisiveness. This does not require silence in the face of sin or abuse. Biblical submission is never permission for manipulation, secrecy, exploitation, sexual misconduct, financial impropriety, or coercive control. Concerns should be handled truthfully, respectfully, and through appropriate processes.

Leaders, in turn, must serve willingly rather than domineer, model the life they teach, welcome appropriate accountability, protect the vulnerable, and distinguish the voice of God from personal preference. The goal of biblical order is not centralized personality but a healthy body growing into Christ.

Supporting Scriptures: Mark 10:42–45; Acts 6:1–7; 14:23; 20:17–35; 1 Timothy 3:1–13; Titus 1:5–9; Hebrews 13:7, 17; 1 Peter 5:1–5.

Fivefold Ministry and Every-Member Service

Christ gives apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip the saints for ministry, build the Body, bring believers toward maturity, and protect the Church from instability and deception. These gifts express distinct graces, but they work toward one purpose under one Head.

The apostolic grace establishes foundations, aligns communities with Christ's present purpose, strengthens mission, and builds wisely. The prophetic grace calls people to hear and obey God, brings edification, exhortation, and comfort, and helps the Church discern seasons and direction. The evangelistic grace proclaims Christ and mobilizes the Church toward the lost. The pastoral grace shepherds, protects, nurtures, and restores people. The teaching grace explains Scripture accurately and forms believers in truth.

No fivefold minister possesses Christ's fullness alone. The gifts require mutual honor, biblical testing, character, and accountable relationship. Titles should describe genuine grace and service rather than ambition or status.

Fivefold ministry exists to equip the saints, not to replace them. Every believer is called to ministry in the broad biblical sense of service. Some preach; others administer, give, lead, show mercy, welcome, create, repair, teach children, visit the sick, intercede, serve meals, mentor, evangelize, or strengthen families. The Church grows “according to the effectual working in the measure of every part” (Ephesians 4:16).

Supporting Scriptures: Romans 12:3–8; 1 Corinthians 12:4–31; Ephesians 2:20; 3:1–11; 4:7–16; 1 Peter 4:10–11.

Worship, Fellowship, Prayer, and the Word

The earliest believers continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers. These practices remain central to a healthy church.

Worship is the whole-life response of reverence, love, obedience, and praise offered to God. Singing is an important expression of worship, but true worship includes the surrender of the body, the stewardship of daily life, generosity, justice, and obedience. Corporate worship should exalt God, center upon Christ, welcome the Holy Ghost, agree with Scripture, and build the congregation.

Fellowship is covenant participation, not casual friendliness alone. It includes shared life, mutual care, hospitality, bearing burdens, encouragement, material concern, and truthful relationships. Members should make room for people who are new, grieving, returning, overlooked, or different from themselves.

Prayer is communion with God and cooperation with His will. The Church prays in adoration, confession, thanksgiving, petition, intercession, spiritual warfare, and listening surrender. Members should cultivate private prayer and join corporate prayer whenever possible.

The Word governs and nourishes the assembly. Preaching and teaching should explain Scripture faithfully, reveal Christ, call for response, and equip the saints. Members should listen actively, test teaching responsibly, take notes where helpful, and practice what is taught.

Supporting Scriptures: Acts 2:42–47; Romans 12:1–2; 1 Corinthians 14:26–40; Ephesians 5:18–21; Colossians 3:12–17; Hebrews 10:19–25.

Reconciliation, Correction, and Restoration

God has entrusted the Church with the ministry of reconciliation. Because redeemed people are still maturing, conflict, misunderstanding, and failure will occur. The question is not whether difficulties arise but whether we respond according to Christ.

Jesus instructs a believer who has been wronged to address the person directly and privately when safe and appropriate. Gossip recruits an audience without pursuing reconciliation. Slander attacks character. Avoidance allows wounds to deepen. Biblical confrontation is truthful, humble, specific, and aimed at restoration rather than humiliation.

Church correction is an expression of love when it is biblical, proportionate, impartial, documented appropriately, and directed toward repentance and restoration. It must never be weaponized to silence legitimate reports, protect influential people, demand unquestioning loyalty, or punish someone for setting healthy boundaries. Allegations involving abuse, exploitation, violence, child safety, or criminal conduct require protective action and may require reporting to civil authorities in addition to pastoral response.

Forgiveness releases personal vengeance to God; it does not call evil good, erase all consequences, or automatically restore trust. Trust is rebuilt through truth, repentance, changed behavior, accountability, and time. Reconciliation requires willingness from the involved parties and must not be forced where safety remains at risk.

Supporting Scriptures: Matthew 5:23–24; 7:1–5; 18:15–20; Luke 17:3–4; Romans 12:14–21; 1 Corinthians 5:1–13; 6:1–8; 2 Corinthians 2:5–11; 5:18–21; Galatians 6:1–2.

Covenant Membership at Rose of Sharon

Covenant membership is a voluntary commitment to walk with Christ within the doctrine, relationships, order, and mission of Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple. It does not replace membership in the universal Body of Christ, and it does not earn favor with God. It provides a clear local context for care, accountability, formation, service, and mission.

A covenant member should be able to confess faith in Jesus Christ, demonstrate a willingness to repent and grow, affirm the essential doctrine of the assembly, participate faithfully in worship and formation, preserve unity, practice biblical stewardship, submit to appropriate spiritual care, and serve according to grace and opportunity.

Membership is not perfection. The church is a place where imperfect people are being formed by grace. Nevertheless, membership carries responsibility. Persistent conduct that contradicts the Gospel, refusal of biblical reconciliation, divisiveness, exploitation, or rejection of essential doctrine cannot be treated as insignificant. Leaders and members should approach such matters with truth, patience, due process, and a genuine desire for restoration.

Marks of a Faithful Member

- Confesses Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- Receives the Bible as the final authority for doctrine and life.
- Participates consistently in worship, prayer, teaching, fellowship, and Communion.
- Pursues holiness and responds to conviction with repentance.
- Protects unity without concealing wrongdoing.
- Honors leadership while retaining biblical discernment.
- Gives and serves willingly, not under compulsion.
- Uses speech to edify rather than gossip or destroy.
- Cares for fellow members, especially those who are vulnerable or in need.
- Witnesses to Christ and supports the mission of the Church.

Supporting Scriptures: Acts 2:41–47; Romans 12:1–18; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27; Ephesians 4:1–6, 11–16; Hebrews 10:24–25; 1 Peter 4:8–11.

PART THREE

BECOMING: THE LIFE WE PRACTICE

A Daily Life with God

Spiritual maturity is formed through repeated fellowship with God. No devotional routine earns salvation, but disciplined practices place us where we can attend to God's Word, respond to His Spirit, and retrain our desires. A daily life with God should include Scripture, prayer, worship, confession, thanksgiving, listening, and obedience. The goal is not to complete a religious checklist but to cultivate communion. Some days will feel emotionally rich; others will require faithful persistence. God remains worthy and present in both. Members should establish a realistic time and place for devotion. Begin with a manageable rhythm that can grow. Read a complete paragraph or chapter of Scripture, observe what it says, interpret it in context, identify what it reveals about God and His purpose, and decide how to respond. Pray the truth back to God. Record important convictions and follow through. Fasting is a voluntary abstinence from food, or another legitimate appetite where appropriate, for focused prayer and spiritual attentiveness. It must not be used to manipulate God or impress people. Individuals with medical concerns should act wisely and seek appropriate guidance.

A Simple Daily Pattern

- **Be still:** acknowledge God's presence and surrender the day.
- **Read:** study a manageable portion of Scripture in context.
- **Reflect:** identify truth, correction, promise, warning, and application.
- **Pray:** adore, confess, thank, intercede, and listen.
- **Obey:** take the next action God has made clear.

Supporting Scriptures: Psalm 1:1–3; 5:1–3; 63:1–8; Matthew 6:5–18; Mark 1:35; John 15:1–11; Philippians 4:4–9.

Renewing the Mind and Building on the Word

The new birth gives a new identity, but old thought patterns do not disappear automatically. The mind must be renewed through truth. Believers learn to identify lies, assumptions, fears, shame narratives, cultural pressures, and habits of interpretation that contradict God's Word.

Renewal is more than repeating positive statements. It requires bringing thoughts under Christ's authority, meditating on Scripture, replacing falsehood with truth, practicing new responses, and receiving help where wounds or destructive patterns have become deeply rooted.

The words we speak matter because speech reveals and reinforces the heart. Members should reject gossip, profanity, false witness, manipulation, contempt, chronic negativity, and careless promises. Speaking life does not mean denying pain or pretending every circumstance is pleasant. It means telling the truth in faith, hope, love, and wisdom.

Jesus compared the obedient hearer to a person who built upon rock. Storms come to every life. The foundation is revealed when pressure arrives. A life built on Scripture is not free from trial, but it is anchored in truth that can withstand trial.

Supporting Scriptures: Proverbs 4:20–27; 18:21; Matthew 7:24–27; Romans 12:1–2; 2 Corinthians 10:3–5; Ephesians 4:17–32; Philippians 4:8–9; Colossians 3:1–17.

Character, Holiness, and Integrity

God's purpose is not merely to make us gifted, informed, or publicly effective. He is forming the character of Christ in us. Holiness means belonging wholly to God and bringing conduct into agreement with His nature and will. Integrity means that our public confession and private practice are becoming one.

The fruit of the Spirit provides a reliable picture of mature character: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Fruit develops through abiding in Christ, yielding to the Spirit, obeying truth, enduring pruning, and practicing righteousness.

Character is especially tested in hidden places: how we handle money, sexuality, anger, power, disappointment, confidential information, correction, and the success of others. A person's gifting may create opportunity, but only character can sustain trustworthy service.

Consecration includes presenting the body to God, refusing intoxication and addiction, pursuing sexual purity, practicing honesty, making restitution where necessary, keeping commitments, and separating from patterns that repeatedly lead into sin. Holiness must never become pride or contempt for struggling people. The holy life is marked by reverence, humility, mercy, and continuing dependence upon grace.

Supporting Scriptures: Romans 6:11–14; 12:1–2; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20; Galatians 5:13–26; Ephesians 4:17–5:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:1–8; Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:13–21.

Love, Forgiveness, and Freedom from Offense

Love is the governing virtue of Kingdom life. Spiritual gifts, sacrifice, knowledge, and impressive ministry become empty when separated from love. Biblical love is not mere sentiment. It seeks another's true good, tells the truth, bears burdens, remains patient, refuses envy, and does not rejoice in wrongdoing.

Offense becomes spiritually dangerous when a real or perceived wrong is repeatedly rehearsed until bitterness, suspicion, retaliation, or withdrawal controls the heart. Freedom begins by naming the wound truthfully, bringing it to God, refusing vengeance, seeking wise counsel, and pursuing reconciliation where possible.

Forgiveness is a decision and often a process. It does not mean the harm was acceptable. It does not require immediate emotional relief or unrestricted access. It means relinquishing the right to repay evil with evil and placing judgment in God's hands. Boundaries may remain necessary, especially when there has been abuse, manipulation, or repeated violation.

Members should become skilled encouragers. Encouragement is not flattery; it is truthful speech that imparts courage, recognizes grace, strengthens endurance, and calls people toward faithfulness. A healthy church becomes a community where people are corrected without being discarded and strengthened without being idolized.

Supporting Scriptures: Matthew 5:43–48; 6:12–15; 18:21–35; Romans 12:9–21; 1 Corinthians 13; Ephesians 4:25–32; Colossians 3:12–15; Hebrews 3:12–13.

Faith, Courage, Perseverance, and Hope

The life of faith includes promises and pressures, victories and waiting, miracles and endurance. Faith trusts God in all of them. It does not deny facts, manipulate outcomes, or blame suffering people for insufficient belief. It looks honestly at circumstances while remaining anchored in God's character, presence, wisdom, and power.

Courage is obedience in the presence of fear. Members will face moments when following Christ requires difficult conversations, moral resistance, sacrificial giving, public witness, or patient endurance. Courage grows as we remember God's faithfulness, receive the support of His people, and take the next obedient step.

Perseverance is essential because spiritual fruit and Kingdom assignments often develop over time. Discouragement, delay, offense, temptation, criticism, and suffering can tempt us to abandon what God has begun. Scripture calls us to run with endurance, lay aside every weight, and keep our eyes on Jesus.

Hope is not wishful thinking. It is confident expectation rooted in God's promise and Christ's resurrection. Hope allows believers to grieve without despair, wait without becoming passive, and labor without demanding immediate recognition.

Supporting Scriptures: Joshua 1:1–9; Psalm 27; Isaiah 40:28–31; Mark 9:23–24; Romans 5:1–5; 8:18–39; 2 Corinthians 4:7–18; Hebrews 10:35–39; 11:1–12:3; James 1:2–8.

Family, Marriage, Sexual Integrity, and Care

Family is part of God's design for nurture, identity, responsibility, and generational blessing. The Church should strengthen marriages, support parents and caregivers, honor single adults, care for widows and vulnerable children, welcome people whose family histories are painful, and become a spiritual family for those who lack healthy natural support. We affirm marriage as a covenant union of one man and one woman, ordered toward faithful companionship, mutual service, sexual faithfulness, and family life. Husband and wife are equal in human dignity and accountable to Christ. Marriage must never be used to excuse domination, violence, intimidation, marital sexual coercion, or other abuse. The Church should respond to danger with protection, truth, pastoral care, and appropriate professional or civil intervention.

Sexual intimacy belongs within the covenant of marriage. Members are called to sexual integrity in body, imagination, media use, relationships, and speech. Pornography objectifies people, trains desire away from covenant love, and damages spiritual and relational health. Those struggling with sexual sin need truth, repentance, accountability, and compassionate pathways toward freedom—not secrecy, ridicule, or hopelessness. We affirm that every person bears God's image and must be treated with dignity. Biblical conviction and Christlike compassion belong together. Members should refuse cruelty, mockery, harassment, and self-righteousness while remaining faithful to the Church's understanding of creation, holiness, and sexual conduct. Divorce is a grievous rupture and should not be pursued casually. Complex situations require careful pastoral counsel, concern for safety, truth about covenant failure, and humility. People affected by divorce should not be reduced to a label; the Church must minister both righteousness and restoration.

Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 1:26–28; 2:18–25; Psalm 68:5–6; Matthew 19:3–12; 1 Corinthians 6:9–20; 7:1–40; Ephesians 5:21–6:4; Colossians 3:18–21; 1 Timothy 5:1–16; James 1:27.

Stewardship and Kingdom Economy

God is Creator and Owner; we are stewards. Everything entrusted to us—time, abilities, relationships, opportunities, money, possessions, influence, and creation—should be managed under His authority. Stewardship is therefore broader than a church offering, though financial giving is an important part of it.

Biblical giving expresses worship, gratitude, trust, honor, justice, and participation in ministry. Scripture presents tithes, firstfruits, offerings, generosity, care for the poor, and support for those who labor in the Word. In the New Covenant, giving should be willing, thoughtful, proportionate, cheerful, and free from manipulation.

Members should practice financial integrity: work honestly, avoid exploitation, meet obligations, reject greed, plan wisely, care for dependents, cultivate generosity, and resist materialism. Giving does not purchase miracles, leadership access, salvation, or divine favoritism. Leaders must handle church resources transparently and responsibly.

Kingdom economy asks not only, “How much must I give?” but, “How does everything entrusted to me honor the King and serve His purpose?” Members should grow toward consistent generosity while acting responsibly within their actual circumstances.

Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 14:18–20; Proverbs 3:9–10; Malachi 3:8–12; Matthew 6:19–34; 23:23; Luke 16:1–13; Acts 2:44–45; 4:32–37; 1 Corinthians 9:7–14; 16:1–2; 2 Corinthians 8–9; 1 Timothy 6:6–19.

Spiritual Warfare and Wise Discernment

Scripture teaches that Satan and demonic powers are created beings in rebellion against God. They oppose truth, accuse believers, tempt, deceive, divide, and seek destruction. They are not equal to God. Jesus Christ defeated the powers through His death and resurrection, and their final judgment is certain.

Believers participate in Christ's victory by submitting to God, resisting the devil, standing in truth, practicing righteousness, exercising faith, proclaiming the Gospel, praying in the Spirit, and remaining watchful. Spiritual warfare is not a substitute for repentance, wise decisions, medical care, counseling, legal protection, or practical action. Not every difficulty is caused directly by a demon, and careless spiritual labels can injure people.

Discernment tests teaching, prophecy, impressions, motives, and spiritual manifestations. A claim should be examined by Scripture, the confession of Jesus Christ, its fruit, its consistency with God's character, and accountable spiritual wisdom. Members should avoid superstition, fear-driven obsession, and fascination with darkness.

Deliverance ministry should be Christ-centered, compassionate, confidential, and accountable. It must never involve humiliation, physical harm, sexualized conduct, financial exploitation, or untrained improvisation. The aim is freedom under the lordship of Jesus, followed by discipleship, renewed thinking, healthy relationships, and holy living.

Supporting Scriptures: Luke 10:17–20; John 8:31–36; Colossians 2:13–15; Ephesians 6:10–18; James 4:7–10; 1 Peter 5:8–9; 1 John 4:1–6; Revelation 12:7–12; 20:10.

PART FOUR
BUILDING: THE MISSION WE FULFILL

Gifts, Calling, and Purpose

God has prepared good works for every believer. Calling begins with belonging to Christ and being formed in His character. From that foundation, the Holy Ghost distributes gifts and opens opportunities for service. A member's assignment may operate in the gathered church, the home, the workplace, the neighborhood, civic life, or a specialized ministry field.

Discovering purpose requires prayer, Scripture, obedience, community confirmation, experimentation, training, and time. Desire alone does not confirm a ministry office. Genuine calling is recognized by biblical alignment, grace to serve, fruit, character, burden, competence that can be developed, and the confirmation of mature leaders and the community affected.

Comparison distorts calling. Some roles are visible; many are hidden. The Kingdom measures faithfulness rather than celebrity. Members should not wait for a title before serving, nor should they use service to campaign for recognition.

Purpose Discernment Questions

- What needs or people consistently stir compassion and responsibility in me?
- What gifts do mature believers recognize in my life?
- Where has my service produced godly fruit?
- What training, healing, or character development do I need?
- What is the next faithful action available now?

Supporting Scriptures: Ephesians 2:10; 4:7–16; Romans 12:3–8; 1 Corinthians 12:4–11; 2 Timothy 1:6–7; 1 Peter 4:10–11.

Service: The Measure of Greatness

Jesus redefined greatness through service. The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give His life. Kingdom leadership therefore does not imitate the domination and status-seeking of the world.

Service is love made practical. It notices needs, accepts responsibility, follows through, works with others, and honors people who cannot repay. Faithful service includes punctuality, preparation, teachability, communication, confidentiality, safety, and respect for established order.

Members should serve from grace rather than compulsion. Healthy service includes rest, family responsibility, realistic capacity, and permission to communicate limitations. The Church should not glorify burnout or use spiritual pressure to secure labor. At the same time, discipleship calls us beyond convenience. Sacrificial service will sometimes cost time, comfort, and preference.

Supporting Scriptures: Matthew 20:20–28; John 13:1–17; Acts 6:1–7; Galatians 5:13–14; Philippians 2:1–11; Colossians 3:22–24; 1 Peter 4:10–11.

Witness, Disciple-Making, and Mission

Every member lives within a mission field. Witness begins with a credible life, but it must also include a clear announcement of Jesus Christ. We should be prepared to explain the Gospel, share our testimony, answer with humility, invite people into fellowship, and walk patiently with those who are learning.

Evangelism is not winning arguments or pressuring people into a hurried response. It is loving people, listening well, proclaiming Christ truthfully, depending upon the Holy Ghost, and inviting repentance and faith. The results belong to God. The Great Commission calls the Church to make disciples, not merely count decisions. Disciple-making includes baptism, teaching obedience, modeling Kingdom life, answering questions, offering correction, and helping new believers become disciple-makers themselves.

A simple testimony can follow three movements: what life was like before surrender to Christ; how you encountered and responded to Christ; and what Christ is changing now. A testimony should be honest, Christ-centered, respectful of other people's privacy, and free from exaggeration.

Supporting Scriptures: Matthew 28:18–20; Luke 24:44–49; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16–17; 10:13–17; 2 Corinthians 5:17–21; Colossians 4:2–6; 1 Peter 3:15–16; 2 Timothy 2:1–2.

Justice, Mercy, Compassion, and Public Responsibility

The Kingdom of God calls the Church to righteousness, justice, mercy, and compassionate action. Every person bears God's image. The Church must oppose dehumanization, exploitation, racism, ethnic hatred, human trafficking, abuse, corruption, and indifference toward suffering.

The Church serves as a prophetic witness by proclaiming truth, caring for people affected by poverty and injustice, supporting restoration, practicing impartiality, and challenging wrongdoing without becoming captive to partisan idolatry. Civil government is accountable to God for public order and justice; believers should pray for governing authorities, obey lawful requirements unless they require disobedience to God, and participate responsibly in public life.

Care for creation is also stewardship. The earth belongs to God. Members should resist waste, exercise responsibility, and recognize that environmental harm often burdens vulnerable communities most severely.

Compassion must be practical. It may include feeding, visiting, mentoring, advocating, giving, welcoming, supporting reentry, protecting children, accompanying grieving families, or connecting people with competent services. The Church should neither preach a Gospel without embodied mercy nor practice mercy while concealing the name and lordship of Christ.

Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 1:26–31; Psalm 24:1; Proverbs 14:31; 31:8–9; Isaiah 1:16–17; 58:6–12; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:13–16; 25:31–46; Luke 4:16–21; Romans 13:1–7; James 1:27; 2:1–17.

A Practical Rule of Life

A rule of life is a prayerfully chosen pattern that helps a disciple remain available to God. It is not a legalistic standard imposed on everyone. It is a realistic structure for ordering time, attention, relationships, work, rest, and service around Kingdom priorities.

Daily

- Begin and end the day with prayer.
- Read and meditate on Scripture.
- Practice gratitude and confession.
- Complete the next known act of obedience.
- Use speech that is truthful and edifying.

Weekly

- Participate in corporate worship and teaching.
- Share meaningful fellowship with other believers.
- Practice Sabbath principles of worship, rest, and renewal.
- Serve someone beyond your immediate household.
- Review your time and spending in light of Kingdom priorities.

Monthly

- Practice focused fasting and prayer as health permits.
- Give consistently and review stewardship.
- Meet with a mentor, ministry leader, or accountable believer.
- Assess progress in one character goal and one service goal.
- Reconcile quickly where relationships have been strained.

Seasonally

- Revisit your calling, commitments, and capacity.
- Seek feedback from trusted leaders and people you serve.
- Complete needed training.
- Make room for retreat, healing, and renewed vision.

Supporting Scriptures: Psalm 90:12; Proverbs 3:5–6; Daniel 6:10; Matthew 6:1–34; Acts 2:42; Ephesians 5:15–17; Hebrews 10:24–25.

MEMBER TOOLS

Rose of Sharon Membership Covenant

Having confessed Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and trusting the grace of God to sustain me, I enter covenant fellowship with Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple.

By the help of the Holy Ghost:

- I will receive the Holy Scriptures as the final authority for doctrine, faith, life, and conduct.
- I will pursue an obedient relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, Scripture, worship, repentance, and faith.
- I will seek the fullness of the Holy Ghost, cultivate the fruit of the Spirit, and exercise spiritual gifts in love and biblical order.
- I will participate faithfully in the worship, teaching, fellowship, Communion, prayer, and mission of this assembly as health and circumstances permit.
- I will honor Christ-appointed leadership, pray for leaders, receive biblical instruction and correction, and address serious concerns truthfully through appropriate processes.
- I will protect the unity of the Spirit by refusing gossip, slander, divisiveness, prejudice, manipulation, and retaliation.
- I will pursue reconciliation, forgive as Christ has forgiven me, establish wise boundaries where necessary, and seek restoration without concealing harm.
- I will pursue holiness, integrity, sexual purity, sobriety, financial honesty, and responsible conduct in public and private life.
- I will steward my time, gifts, finances, relationships, and opportunities for the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom.
- I will serve according to grace and capacity, care for fellow members, and help create a safe and welcoming household.
- I will witness to Jesus Christ, participate in disciple-making, and support the compassionate mission of the Church.
- When I fail, I will not hide in shame or persist in rebellion; I will repent, seek help, and return to faithful fellowship.

First Thirty Days Formation Plan

Week One — Establish the Foundation

Read John 1–7 and Ephesians 1–3. Write a one-paragraph testimony of your response to Jesus Christ. Establish a daily prayer time. Identify one mature believer or ministry leader with whom you can communicate honestly.

Key focus: Grace, identity in Christ, and the authority of Scripture.

Week Two — Enter the Household

Read Acts 1–4 and Ephesians 4–6. Participate in corporate worship and one additional prayer, study, or fellowship opportunity. Introduce yourself to someone you do not yet know. Ask how membership care and ministry communication operate within the assembly.

Key focus: Fellowship, unity, spiritual order, and every-member contribution.

Week Three — Practice the New Life

Read Romans 6–8 and Galatians 5–6. Identify one habit to put off and one Christlike practice to put on. Ask for prayer concerning a specific area of growth. Make peace with someone if the Holy Ghost identifies an unresolved offense and contact is safe and wise.

Key focus: Holiness, Spirit-filled living, and renewed character.

Week Four — Join the Mission

Read Matthew 5–7 and 28, then 1 Peter 4. Complete the Ministry Readiness Reflection in this guide. Serve one person intentionally. Share your testimony or the Gospel with someone prayerfully. Meet with a leader to discuss next steps in formation, baptism if needed, and appropriate areas of service.

Key focus: Kingdom obedience, witness, service, and purpose.

Personal Spiritual Growth Plan

My present season:

One truth God is teaching me:

One character area requiring growth:

One relationship requiring attention:

My daily Scripture and prayer rhythm:

My weekly worship and fellowship commitment:

My service goal for the next ninety days:

My stewardship goal for the next ninety days:

The person who will encourage and hold me accountable:

Review date:
Review

Ministry Readiness Reflection

This reflection is not a test of personal worth. It helps members and leaders discern appropriate next steps.

Gospel and Doctrine

- Can I explain the Gospel clearly in my own words?
- Do I affirm the essential doctrine presented in this guide?
- Am I willing to receive correction from Scripture?

Character and Relationships

- Is there an area of ongoing conduct that I am concealing or refusing to address?
- Do I keep commitments and communicate responsibly?
- Can I receive feedback without retaliation, withdrawal, or blame?
- Am I pursuing reconciliation where appropriate?

Spiritual Life

- Do I maintain a growing rhythm of Scripture, prayer, worship, and fellowship?
- Am I seeking the fullness and fruit of the Holy Ghost?
- Do my gifts operate in love and biblical order?

Service and Skill

- What needs do I notice?
- What abilities, experiences, or spiritual gifts can I offer?
- What training or supervision do I need?
- What is my present capacity without neglecting health, family, work, or recovery?

Safety and Accountability

- Do I understand the boundaries and responsibilities of the ministry area?
- Am I willing to complete required screening or training?
- Can I work under supervision and follow safeguarding procedures?

My next recommended step:

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Doctrinal Quick Reference

The Bible

We believe the sixty-six books of Scripture are inspired by God and are the supreme written authority for doctrine and life. **Key texts:** Psalm 119:160; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:20–21.

God

We believe in one God, eternally known as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Key texts:** Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14.

Jesus Christ

We believe Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, sinless in life, atoning in death, bodily raised, ascended, reigning, interceding, and returning in glory. **Key texts:** John 1:1–18; Colossians 1:15–20; Hebrews 1:1–4.

The Holy Ghost

We believe the Holy Ghost gives new birth, indwells and sanctifies believers, empowers witness, distributes gifts, and forms Christlike fruit. We affirm the present reality of Pentecostal fullness and spiritual gifts. **Key texts:** Acts 1:8; 2:1–18; 1 Corinthians 12–14; Galatians 5:22–25.

Humanity and Sin

We believe human beings are created in God's image, but all have sinned and need redemption. **Key texts:** Genesis 1:26–28; Romans 3:23; 5:12–21.

Salvation

We believe salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and includes forgiveness, reconciliation, new birth, adoption, sanctification, perseverance, resurrection, and final restoration. **Key texts:** John 3:3–18; Romans 5:1–11; Ephesians 2:8–10; Titus 3:3–7.

The Kingdom of God

We believe God's Kingdom is His sovereign rule revealed in Christ, embodied by His people, active now, and coming in fullness. **Key texts:** Matthew 4:17; 6:33; Romans 14:17; Hebrews 12:28.

The Church

We believe the Church is Christ's Body, God's household, and a holy people called to worship, fellowship, formation, witness, compassion, and mission. **Key texts:** Acts 2:42–47; Ephesians 2:19–22; 4:1–16; 1 Peter 2:9–10.

Ministry and Leadership

We believe Christ is the Head of the Church and gives fivefold ministry to equip the saints. Biblical leaders must serve with sound doctrine, godly character, and accountability. Every member has a ministry of service. **Key texts:** Mark 10:42–45; Ephesians 4:7–16; 1 Timothy 3:1–13.

Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe water baptism by immersion is the obedient confession of a believer's identification with Christ, and the Lord's Supper remembers and proclaims Christ's New Covenant sacrifice. **Key texts:** Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:1–11; 1 Corinthians 11:23–34.

Healing and Spiritual Gifts

We believe God heals and works through the gifts of the Holy Ghost according to His wisdom and will. The Church should pray in faith, minister compassionately, and avoid manipulation. **Key texts:** James 5:13–16; 1 Corinthians 12:4–11; 1 Peter 4:10–11.

Family and Holy Living

We believe God's grace forms holy people whose relationships, bodies, marriages, families, speech, work, and resources come under Christ's lordship. **Key texts:** Romans 12:1–2; 1 Corinthians 6:12–20; Ephesians 4:17–6:4.

Resurrection, Judgment, and Christ's Return

We believe in the bodily resurrection, the righteous judgment of God, the personal return of Jesus Christ, the defeat of evil, and the everlasting fullness of God's redemptive purpose. **Key texts:** John 5:24–29; 1 Corinthians 15; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Revelation 20–22.

Justice, Mercy, and Human Dignity

We believe every person bears God's image and that the Church must practice compassion, justice, mercy, reconciliation, and responsible stewardship. **Key texts:** Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:13–16; 25:31–46; James 1:27; 2:1–17.

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Glossary of Essential Terms

Apostle: A ministry gift of Christ with grace to pioneer, establish, align, build foundations, strengthen leaders, and advance mission.

Baptism in the Holy Ghost: The believer's empowering immersion in the Holy Ghost for witness, prayer, gifts, and ministry.

Church: The people called by God into union with Christ and one another; expressed universally and through local assemblies.

Covenant: A binding relationship established by promise and faithful obligation. The New Covenant is established through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Disciple: A committed learner and follower of Jesus Christ who receives His teaching, imitates His life, and participates in His mission.

Evangelist: A ministry gift with grace to proclaim the Gospel and equip the Church for witness.

Faith: Trusting reliance upon God and His Word that responds through allegiance and obedience.

Fivefold Ministry: Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers given by Christ to equip the saints and build the Body.

Grace: God's unearned favor and active power in Christ that saves, teaches, strengthens, and transforms.

Holiness: Belonging to God and living in increasing agreement with His nature, Word, and purpose.

Justification: God's gracious declaration that the believer is righteous in Christ.

Kingdom of God: God's sovereign rule, authority, order, and redemptive purpose, revealed and administered through Jesus Christ.

Pastor: A ministry gift with grace to shepherd, protect, nurture, guide, and restore God's people.

Prophet: A ministry gift with grace to communicate God's heart and direction in submission to Scripture and accountable judgment.

Reconciliation: The restoration of relationship made possible first between God and humanity through Christ and then practiced among people through truth, repentance, forgiveness, justice, and peace.

Repentance: A Spirit-enabled change of mind and direction that turns from sin and self-rule toward God.

Salvation: God's comprehensive work of rescue, forgiveness, reconciliation, transformation, preservation, resurrection, and restoration through Jesus Christ.

Sanctification: The work of God by which believers are set apart and progressively formed in holiness.

Spiritual Gifts: Grace-enabled manifestations and capacities distributed by the Holy Ghost for the common good and mission of the Church.

Teacher: A ministry gift with grace to explain, defend, and apply Scripture so believers become established in truth.

Closing Charge

Membership is an invitation into faithful covenant life. You have been called not only to attend but to abide in Christ, walk in the Holy Ghost, love the household, grow in holiness, and contribute to the mission. Your history does not disqualify you from grace. Your gifts do not exempt you from formation. Your struggles do not require isolation. Your place in the Body carries both dignity and responsibility.

Continue in the apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers. Remain teachable. Repent quickly. Forgive wisely. Serve faithfully. Give generously. Speak truthfully. Protect the vulnerable. Carry the Gospel. Keep your eyes upon Jesus. Let your life become evidence that the Kingdom of God has drawn near.

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” — 1 Peter 2:9

Prayer of Covenant Consecration

Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I thank You for saving me by Your grace and bringing me into the household of faith. I acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord, Head of the Church, and King over every area of my life.

Help me to remain established in Your Word, responsive to the Holy Ghost, faithful in prayer, sincere in worship, holy in conduct, and steadfast in love. Deliver me from isolation, pride, offense, spiritual passivity, and every habit that would hinder my growth or weaken the fellowship of Your people.

Teach me to receive correction with humility, extend forgiveness with wisdom, protect the vulnerable, honor godly leadership, serve without selfish ambition, and use my gifts for the strengthening of the Body. Give me grace to fulfill my responsibilities as a member of Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple.

Make me a faithful disciple, a responsible Kingdom citizen, a compassionate servant, and a trustworthy witness of the Gospel. Let my life bring honor to Jesus Christ, strength to His Church, and visible evidence of Your Kingdom.

I consecrate my time, gifts, relationships, resources, testimony, and service to Your purpose. Establish me upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

About Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple

Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple is a local assembly committed to the lordship of Jesus Christ, the authority of the Holy Scriptures, the present ministry of the Holy Ghost, the pursuit of holiness, and the formation of faithful disciples.

The congregation exists to worship God, proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom, teach sound doctrine, cultivate covenant fellowship, strengthen families, equip believers for ministry, care for people in times of need, and participate in God's redemptive mission within the community and beyond.

Rose of Sharon understands the Church to be more than a gathering place. It is the Body of Christ, the household of God, a holy nation, and a people called to reveal the character and government of God through truth, love, righteousness, justice, mercy, reconciliation, and Spirit-empowered service.

Its formation pathway calls members to believe the faith, belong to the household, become mature in Christ, and build according to their God-given purpose.

About the Author

Apostle Dr. Eric L. Jones is an author, theological teacher, organizational consultant, ministry strategist, relational coach, speaker, husband, father, and advocate. He serves as Senior Pastor and Overseer of Reviving Reverence Ministries alongside his wife and covenant partner, Lady Callie Jones.

His work includes Apostolic–Prophetic ministry, Kingdom theology, biblical teaching, leadership development, discipleship, organizational restoration, prison and reentry ministry, justice advocacy, curriculum development, publishing, and ministry strategy.

Apostle Jones is passionate about helping people and organizations discover their God-given purpose and develop the knowledge, beliefs, character, skills, structures, and strategies necessary to fulfill it. His approach emphasizes biblical integrity, reverence, holiness, compassionate leadership, sound organizational order, practical implementation, and the restoration of people to Kingdom purpose.

He developed the *Rose of Sharon Pentecostal Temple Member's Guide* to provide a unified framework for doctrinal understanding, covenant membership, spiritual formation, and every-member ministry.

Member Information and Formation Record

Member's full name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Date of birth: _____

Date first attended Rose of Sharon: _____

Date membership orientation began: _____

Date membership orientation completed: _____

Date received into covenant membership: _____

Water baptism date: _____

Orientation facilitator: _____

Discipleship mentor: _____

Ministry interests or areas of service: _____

Recommended next steps: _____

Member signature: _____

Leadership representative: _____

Date: _____

Final Blessing

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”

—Jude 24–25, KJV

Go forward believing the truth, belonging faithfully to the household, becoming mature in the likeness of Christ, and building according to the grace God has placed upon your life.

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Handwriting practice lines consisting of 30 horizontal lines.

Lined area for writing or drawing, consisting of multiple horizontal lines.