



LCS talk 8
GROWING IN THE SPIRIT

A. INTRODUCTION



1. The baptism in the Spirit is only a beginning. Now we need to grow in this new life in the Spirit. We need to be empowered to be witnesses who will share Christ to others.



2. Receiving the power of the Spirit is a process:

- need to grow in this new life in the Spirit
- need to make use of the basic means of growth which the Lord provides us.

CHRISTIAN LIFE



CHRISTIAN LIFE



Outer Rim = Christian Life
Hub = Power of Christ
**Spokes = Means of
contact with Christ**

B. First tool: PRAYER



1. Prayer is the primary means for establishing and maintaining a deep and loving personal relationship between ourselves and God.

B. First tool: PRAYER



2. A successful prayer life involves 3 important principles.

3 important principles in a successful prayer life



- a) Our prayer must be faithful.
- Decide to spend time with the Lord everyday
 - Decide on the practical details.
 - Adopt a format to begin.



- b) Our prayer must be led by the Holy Spirit.
- c) Our prayer must be centered on a relationship with Jesus.



Types of Prayer

- Adoration
- Contrition
- Thanksgiving
- Supplication/Petition

B. First tool: PRAYER



3. The intercession of Mary and the saints is a powerful tool of prayer. A devotion to Mary and the saints is part and parcel of a Catholic's faith. Praying the Holy Rosary is such a tool.

C. Second tool: STUDY



1. Need to know God and understand Him and His ways. –
“ To know Him, to Love Him, to Love Him is to Serve Him.”

C. Second tool: STUDY



2. Three ways we can learn more about God.

- Bible
- Spiritual Reading
- Teachings and Preaching

Love

a. BIBLE

13 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a tinkling cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the



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- * This is the most important, because this is the very word of God. It teaches us who God is, what He has done, and what He wants us to do.
- * We should read the Bible daily.
 - Start with 10 to 15 minutes.
 - Pursue a more deliberate study of portions of the Bible.
 - We should make it a goal to read the whole Bible.
- * We should attend seminars that help us learn more about the Bible and Bible methodologies, such as the Basic Bible Seminar (BBS) and the Liturgical Bible Study

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

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Love

b. Spiritual Readings

13 If I speak in the tongues^d of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a tinkling cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames,^e but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking,

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* After reading what God has said of Himself (Bible), we can read what men have said about God. We can draw on spiritual insights and study throughout the life of the Church.

* This includes reading spiritual books, magazines, articles, etc.

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c. Teachings/Preachings

13 If I speak in the tongues^d of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames,^e but have not love, I gain nothing.

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- * Our teaching and formation program in the parish.
- * The word of God spoken in the Sunday homily, in parish events, in conferences, etc.
- * Study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- ❖ Begin the habit of taking notes.

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D. Third tool: SERVICE



1. Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, is at work in us, not just for our personal development but also to equip us for effective service for him and his people.

D. Third tool: SERVICE



2. We need to take on the heart of a servant, just like Jesus.

Mt 20:26-28.

D. Third tool: SERVICE



2. We need to take on the heart of a servant, just like Jesus.

Mt 20:26-28. To serve others is to be humble.

D. Third tool: SERVICE



3. 5 Ways we can serve:

5 Ways we can serve



1. Serve God by the way we live.
2. Perform the basic responsibilities God has given us in our daily lives.
3. Serve our fellow men by recognizing the many built-in opportunities for service in day-to-day life.
4. Make ourselves and our resources available for God's work. Our time, talent, treasure.
5. Evangelize. Share Christ with family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and the world at large.

E. Fourth tool: FELLOWSHIP



1. Fellowship refers to almost everything that Christians do together as a body – as brothers and sisters.

E. Fourth tool: FELLOWSHIP



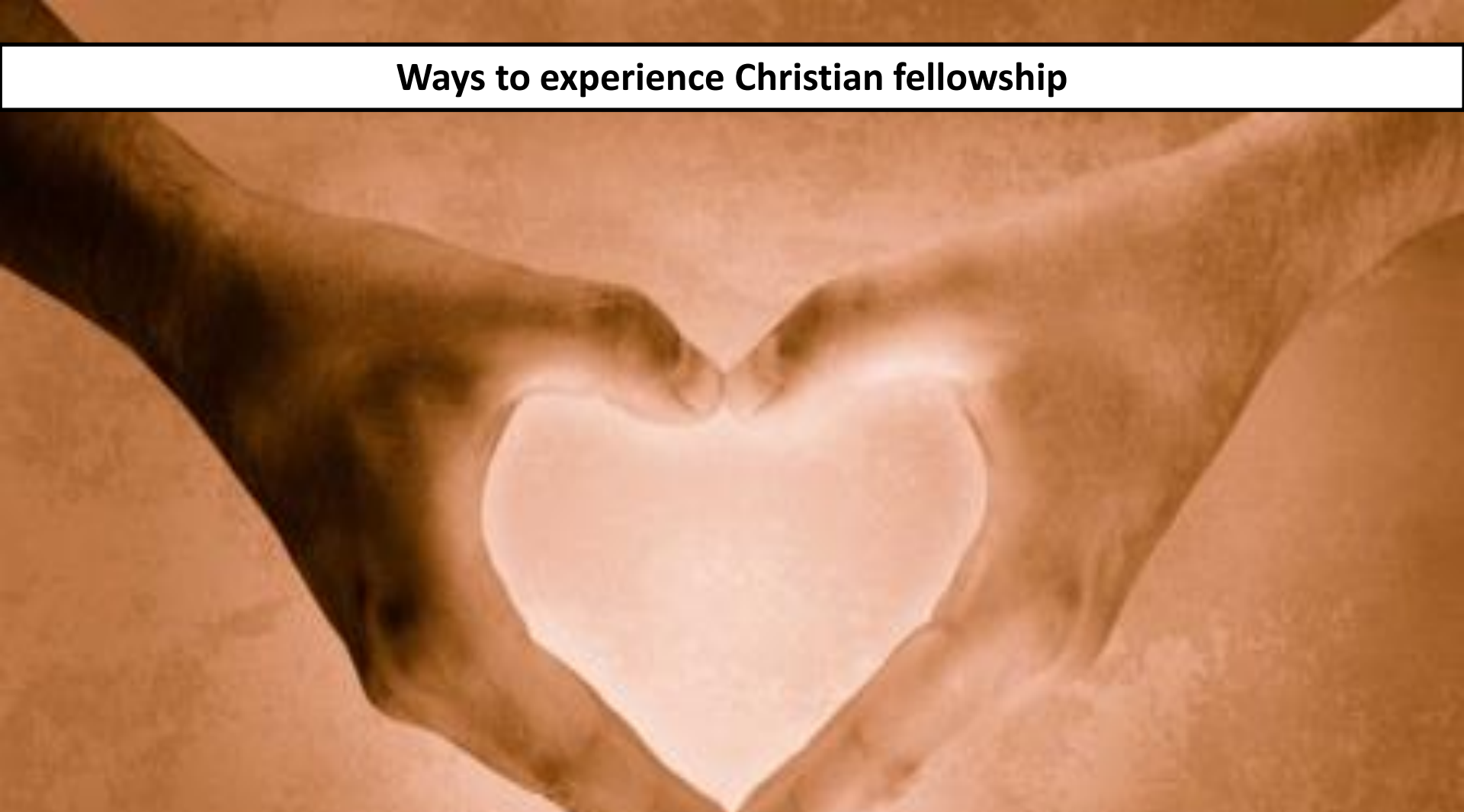
2. We do not become complete Christians by ourselves.

E. Fourth tool: FELLOWSHIP



3. Some ways to experience Christian fellowship.

Ways to experience Christian fellowship

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- A close-up photograph of two hands, one darker-skinned and one lighter-skinned, joined together to form a heart shape. The hands are positioned with fingers pointing towards the center, creating a soft, glowing heart in the middle. The background is a warm, textured brown color.
- a) Worship in liturgies, prayer meetings, conferences.
 - b) Coming together for teaching and formation.
 - c) Serving together (like the team in this LCS).
 - d) Parish events.
 - e) Social gatherings.

F. Fifth tool: SACRAMENTS & Devotion to Mary



1. The most important tool for spiritual growth are the sacraments. They are the main channels of God's grace for our lives.

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in a prayerful gesture, set against a warm, golden-brown background. The hands are positioned at the bottom of the frame, with fingers interlaced. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the center of the image, containing a list of sacraments. At the top of the image, a white horizontal bar contains the title 'Sacraments' in black text.

Sacraments

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Reconciliation
4. Eucharist
5. Matrimony
6. Extreme Unction
7. Holy Orders

F. Fifth tool: SACRAMENTS & Devotion to Mary



2. The sacrament of Reconciliation and the sacrament of Eucharist.

Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist



- a) Though confession is required only once a year, we should avail of this more often. We of course should immediately go to confession if we have committed mortal sin.
- b) Though communion is required only once a year, we should receive communion, with the proper disposition, whenever we go to Mass, which should be at least every Sunday.

F. Fifth tool: SACRAMENTS & Devotion to Mary



3. Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. She is the foremost disciple of Jesus and we can grow by imitating her and asking for her intercession.

G. CONCLUSION



1. When we meet Christ, we are just “babies in Christ.” We are to grow to maturity, called to live Christ and to share Christ. In order for this to happen, God provides us with tools.



2. If you make use of these tools to growth and are faithful, you will not be disappointed.

Group discussion



What tools to Christian growth have not been fully utilized in your life?

