



**RE**

**CONNECT STUDIES**

- **NEW** your faith
- **PENT** from sin to grace
- **ALIGN** your focus
- **CHARGE** the supernatural
- **ACTIVATE** your gifts

 **INTERNATIONAL  
CITY CHURCH**

# STUDY 1 —RE SERIES: RENEW YOUR FAITH

## Introduction

Heb 6:1-3 “So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don’t need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. You don’t need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding”.

2 Cor 13:5 says “Test to see if your faith is genuine. Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith”

There are three types of faith mentioned in the book of James:

### 1. D\_\_\_\_\_ Faith

James 2: 17 “So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless”

This refers to intellectual faith. These Christians have the head knowledge. They may be able to quote the passages of Scriptures. They can speak the right vocabulary but their words are not backed up by works. Their walk do not measure up with their talk. They understand the doctrine of salvation but they have never really submitted their lives to the Lordship of Christ. It is a counterfeit faith.

### 2. D\_\_\_\_\_ Faith

James 2:19 “You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can’t you see that faith without good deeds is useless? “

James says even the demons have a measure of faith. They believe in God. They believe in the deity of Christ (Mk 3:11-12). They also believe in hell --the existence of a place of condemnation. In fact, James says because they believe this, they tremble in terror. Demonic faith affects both the intellect and the emotions. So one can give intellect accent to the teaching and even be emotionally moved by it but yet no real change follows.

### 3. D\_\_\_\_\_ Faith

Dynamic faith involves the mind, the emotions and the will. Here, James gives two examples of faith i.e. Abraham and Rahab. One is the father of faith, the other is a prostitute. But they both exercised faith. If you read Heb 11, you will soon realise that faith is a verb.

Jn 10:38 “But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don’t believe me”

#### DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1. Using the criteria in the study, how would you rate your own faith ie. dead, demonic or dynamic?
2. If our faith is genuine, how would it affect our actions in terms of :
  - a. Managing our finances
  - b. Choosing a life partner (for singles)
  - c. Parenting our kids (for parents)
  - d. Forgiving others
  - e. Choosing a career or running a business
3. How can we grow in our faith?

# STUDY 2 —RE SERIES: REPENTANCE

## Introduction

Christianity is not about WHAT you become but WHO you become.

### 1. C\_\_\_\_\_ is God's End Game.

Gen 1:26—"Let us make man in our image". Right from the beginning, God spelled out his intention. The Greek word for "character" comes from the idea of creating an imprint on a lump of clay. God desires to imprint his image into our lives.

Rom 8:29 says "...For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters".

### 2. C\_\_\_\_\_ don't determine character

We often concludes that the right circumstances in life could end up with a better life. This may be true physically but not actually true spiritually. In fact, circumstances do not make you, but what does make you is how you respond to the circumstances.

*"Circumstances do not derail you but compromises in the midst circumstances will"—Peter Sutchliff*

We can see this through some examples in the Bible.

- a. Joseph –tough circumstances. He was sold into slavery by his own siblings, then wrongly accused and ended up in an Egyptian prison—doomed for a lifetime of suffering. But in twenty four hours, Joseph went from a slave-prisoner to be the Prime Minister of the nation. But his journey was marked by the fact that all through his slavery and his prison life he continued to do faithfully what he was able to do.
- b. Daniel—tough job description. Daniel was exiled to Babylon and because he was smart and capable and the favour of God was upon him, he was promoted to be in- charged of all the Babylonian religions. He became the head of all the sorcerers and magicians. He did not convert anybody but he conducted himself with integrity. The hallmark of Daniel's character is Dan 1: 8 "But Daniel resolved not to defile himself..."
- c. Moses –tough consequences of failure. He was a promising young man. It was said in the book of Acts that "he was mighty in words and deeds". He was destined. He was a great warrior. He was likely to be the next Pharaoh. Just as he was about to fulfil his destiny—a mistake ensued and he ended up spending forty years in the wilderness with the Israelites. We learned from him that failure is not failure unless we quit.

d. Elisha—his dead bones managed to resurrect someone else.

2 Kings 13:21 “Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; so they threw the man’s body into Elisha’s tomb. When the body touched Elisha’s bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet”

Circumstances do not break you. They are opportunities to make d\_\_\_\_\_.  
C\_\_\_\_\_ is a result of your\_\_\_\_\_.

### 3. R\_\_\_\_\_

Sometimes we make the wrong decisions under certain circumstances. The key is to repent. The grace of God enables us to repent.

M\_\_\_\_\_ when you don’t get what you deserve. It gives an impact in the present with an eye to the past, the life you have lived.

G\_\_\_\_\_ when you get what you don’t deserve. It gives an impact in the present with an eye to the future, the life you could live.

When we repent, we receive grace; we leave the past behind and get launched into the future. Sorrow is the starting point of repentance but true repentance moves beyond the emotion to real change in\_\_\_\_\_

#### DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1. What do you understand by the statement “Christianity is about what you become but who you become”?
2. Think of a tough circumstance that you went through or going through, what character lessons do you think God was/is teaching you?
3. “Failure is not failure unless we quit” Do you think you cope well with failures? How do we determine when we should persevere or quit?
4. How can we help each other in the connect group to grow in character?
5. How would you describe someone who has fully repented?

# STUDY 3 —RE SERIES: RE-ALIGN YOUR FOCUS

## INTRODUCTION

Heb 6:1-3 “So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don’t need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. You don’t need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and **eternal judgment**. And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding”.

This study is about re-aligning our focus on eternal matters.

### 1. Our E\_\_\_\_\_Destiny

a. We will all be r\_\_\_\_\_

Dan 12:2 “Many of those whose bodies lie dead and buried will rise up, some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting disgrace”

1 Cor 15:52-53 “It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies”.

2 Cor 5:3 “For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies”

b. We will be j\_\_\_\_\_

2 Cor 5:10 “For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body”.

This is a special judgment that God will hold for b\_\_\_\_\_only. This has nothing to do with our salvation but for things done in the body, whether good or bad.

One of the things we have to give account for is whether we have o\_\_\_\_\_ and a\_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God because obedience to God’s word is the hallmark of a disciple. In Paul’s writing, he doesn’t use the word “disciple” but he refers to a believer as a new creation. We are exhorted to put on the new self.

## 2. Obedience to the Word of God requires us to submit our \_\_\_\_\_ to God

We are tripartite being. We are made up of b \_\_\_\_\_, s \_\_\_\_\_ and s \_\_\_\_\_.

Gal 5:6 says “Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.”

We each have a physical external body; we have a soul which consists of

\_\_\_\_\_ : thoughts, pattern of thinking, meditation

\_\_\_\_\_ : Feelings and reactions

\_\_\_\_\_ : decision making centre

And finally our spirit by which we communicate with God.

In the New Testament, we are the temple of the living God, the three parts of our being corresponds to three sections in the tabernacle (refer to the appendix for the diagram):

Our body: \_\_\_\_\_

Our Soul: \_\_\_\_\_

Our Spirit: \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus death on the cross pierced the veil that separated the holy place to the holiest of holy. He did so by submitting his will to the will of the father. For us to be a spirit man, we must learn to submit our will to the will of the Father.

## 3. Obedience is digging down \_\_\_\_\_

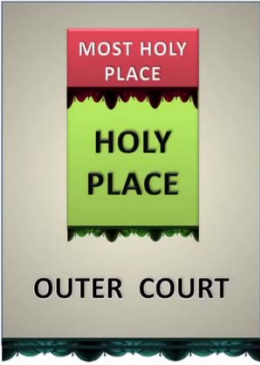
Jesus in Matt 7 told a story of two house builders, one was wise and one was foolish. The wise man build his house on the rock and the foolish one build his house on the sand. In the Gospel of Luke, it tells us they were building side by side on the same sort of soil but one dug deeper and hit bedrock whereas the other just build on the surface. Outwardly both houses looked the same but the foundation was revealed when the storms hit, the flood rose and the wind blew.

The wise man who built on the rock represents the believers who \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the word. They are the one that will stand firm and be rewarded in eternity.

#### DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:

1. What would you do differently if you know you will be standing before the judgement seat of Christ tomorrow?
2. Think of a time when you obeyed God when you didn't feel like it. How did it turn out?
3. Think of a time when you didn't obey God even though you know in your mind you should, but your emotions got the better of you. How did it turn out? Examples: forgiveness, giving, service, etc.
4. To be a spirit man instead of one dictated by the flesh, we need to learn to submit our will to God. What does submitting to the will of God mean to you right now in your situation?





# STUDY 4 —RE SERIES: RE-CHARGE THE SUPERNATURAL

## Introduction

Acts 1:4-5 Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with <sup>[a]</sup> water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.

### 1. The f\_\_\_\_\_power of the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”

### 2. They were u\_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:1 “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place...”

As seen in Ps 133:1-2 “How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony! For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron’s head that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe”, unity is so important for the priestly anointing to flow.

Unity in purpose must also be accompanied by obedience. In Gen 11, the people were united in purpose in building the tower of Babel. But they were disobedient. God’s intention was for them to go and multiply and filled the earth but they decided to stay on the plain in Babylon.

In Gen 12, God called Abraham to leave his family and go the land that God has shown him but Abraham took Lot together with him.

Gen 13:14-15 says “After Lot had gone, the LORD said to Abram, “Look as far as you can see in every direction—north and south, east and west. I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants as a permanent possession...Go and walk through the land in every direction, for I am giving it to you.”

### 3. They were to be \_\_\_\_\_

The power of the Holy Spirit is for us to go and be witnesses for God.

**4. Their spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ were activated**

Acts 2:2-3 “Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them”

**DISCOVERY QUESTIONS:**

1. Share your experience about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. How has the baptism of the Holy Spirit impacted your Christian walk?
2. Unity/harmony is important for the priestly anointing to function. What are some of the things that build/destroy unity in a connect group and in the church?
3. Do you think a connect group can be united in purpose yet be disobedient at the same time? Give some examples.
4. What kind of people do you think God has called your connect group to reach? What can you do to reach out to them?
5. Share your experience about hearing the voice of God. How can we activate our spiritual senses?

Journaling Schedule August and September
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Mon 3/8	Tue 4/8	Wed 5/8	Thurs 6/8	Fri 7/8
Rom 12: 1-6	Rom 12: 7-14	Rom 12: 15-21	Rom 13:1-7	Rom 13:8-14

Mon 10/8	Tue 11/8	Wed 12/8	Thurs 13/8	Fri 14/8
Rom 14:1-9	Rom 14:10-19	Rom 14:20-23	Rom 15: 1-6	Rom 15:7-13

Mon 17/8	Tue 18/8	Wed 19/8	Thurs 20/8	Fri 21/8
Rom 15:14-22	Rom 15:23-33	Rom 16:1-16	Rom 16:17-26	Jude 1-4

Mon 24/8	Tue 25/8	Wed 26/8	Thurs 27/8	Fri 28/8
Acts 1: 1-11	Act 1:12-26	Acts 2:1-13	Acts 2:14-21	Acts 2 :22-28

Mon 31/8	Tue 1/9	Wed 2/9	Thurs 3/9	Fri 4/9
Acts 2:29-41	Acts 2:42-47	Acts 3: 1-11	Acts 3:12-26	Acts 4:1-12

Mon 7/9	Tue 8/9	Wed 9/9	Thurs 10/9	Fri 11/9
Acts 4: 13-21	Acts 4:23-36	Acts 5:1-11	Acts 5:12-16	Acts 5:17-32

Mon 14/9	Tue 15/9	Wed 16/7	Thurs 17/7	Fri 18/9
Acts 5:33-42	Acts 6:1-7	Acts 6:8-15	Acts 7:1-16	Acts 7:17-34

Mon 21/9	Tue 22/9	Wed 23/9	Thurs 24/9	Fri 25/9
Acts 7: 35-45	Acts 7:46-60	Acts 8:1-13	Acts 8:14-25	Acts 8:26-40