

To see people transformed into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ

# pathways

DEEPER RELATIONSHIP

WITH GOD, SELF, OTHERS

*You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. Psalm 16:11*

- ζ Your journey starts as someone whose life is completely separated from God. As you **make your way** on your individual path, day by day you can become more and more like Christ. (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:3, Ephesians 4:13-16, Romans 8:29)
- ζ You're not alone on this **journey** ~ the Holy Spirit leads and empowers you the whole way. But this **journey** needs to be **shared** with other believers who are on journeys of their own towards Christlikeness.
- ζ Transforming into a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ is a unique personal **journey** that brings you into **deeper relationship** with God, yourself, and others.
- ζ Exploring options that God extends to you **moves you forward** into **new and exciting territory**, with **new and changing scenery and experiences** each step of the way.



**GOD USES MANY DIFFERENT WAYS TO HELP YOU PROGRESS ALONG YOUR PATHWAY – IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT FOR EVERY FOLLOWER OF CHRIST. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, A FEW PRIMARY TOOLS THAT EVERY BELIEVER NEEDS FOR THEIR JOURNEY.**



**worship** → consistent participation to express love and devotion to God and to allow God to speak to and through your life in ways that challenge and ignite your soul (Psalm 100:1-5, John 4:24)



**growth** → consistently studying God's Word and seeking other things that help you understand and live out the life God calls you to in His Word (Colossians 2:6-7)



**service** → consistent involvement in helping others for the purpose of building God's Kingdom (Psalm 2:11, Romans 12:11)



**connection** → consistent intermixing of your life with the lives of other followers of Christ (Mark 12:30-31, Romans 12:9-21)



**prayer** → consistent communication with God and a growing desire to seek & hear His voice (Ephesians 6:18)

## **HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE MOVING FORWARD, GAINING GROUND?**

**THOSE WHO CONNECT WITH YOU IN THE JOURNEY WILL BE AN EYEWITNESS TO THE GROWTH OF YOUR DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, WITH YOURSELF, AND WITH OTHERS.**

**SPECIFICALLY, THERE WILL BE MORE AND MORE →**

holiness – passion – love – joy – peace – patience – kindness – goodness – faithfulness – gentleness – self-control  
(Galatians 5:22-23)

### **Questions (markers) to Ask (be aware of) Along the Pathway**

- Have I started my journey by making Jesus Christ Savior and Lord of my life by an act of faith?
- Have I taken the initial steps of the Christian life – being baptized, discovering how to use the primary pathway tools, discovering and putting into practice my spiritual gifts?
- Am I in community with other followers of Jesus Christ who are encouraging me on my pathway as well as being encouraged by me on their own pathways?
- How do I know I'm making progress?
- What does it mean to live in the light of who I am in Christ?
- If I understand and live in the light of who I am in Christ, what is that looking like?
- What pathway tools (worship, growth, service, connection, prayer) am I currently using to help me make progress on my pathway?
- As I'm able to identify any suffering, pain or sin taking place within me, do I know where or what the source is? Am I seeking God to show me how to address it?
- Am I willing to submit to how God will bring refining (change) to my life?
- Will I seek others to help & teach me how to walk through these changes?
- If God or others identify next steps for specific help (counseling, spiritual guidance), am I willing to surrender myself to their counsel?
- How can I share my journey with others and help them along their pathway?
- Am I able to describe who I am in Christ?
- What specific training would I like to take that will help me grow and understand who I am in Christ?
- What are my passions, my skill sets, my values – and how do they correlate with my spiritual gifts?
- How am I exploring ways to live these things out?
- How might God be calling me to use who I am to serve others?
- How am I currently serving God in my family, my work, my community?

### **Suggestions of ways to utilize the primary tools**

#### **Worship**

- Regular participation in corporate worship experiences

#### **Growth**

- Personal devotions
- The practice of the spiritual disciplines
- Spiritual friendships for the purpose of growing in Christlikeness
- Suffering & trials
- Other individuals
- Sunday morning classes
- Basic and advanced mentoring
- Women's Bible studies
- Men's challenge groups

- Freedom in Christ ministry
- Ministry Training School
- Antioch School

#### **Service**

- Sunday specific serving - worship team / ushers & hosts / Sunday School teachers / hospitality
- Involvement in Salem ministries
- Involvement in ministries outside of Salem (Crossroads, the Brick, etc.)
- Involvement in personal ministry
- Involvement in church plants

- Involvement in short/long term missions

#### **Connection**

- Family
- Spiritual friendships
- Relationships outside of church
- Small groups
- Women's ministry
- Men's ministry
- 55-n-Better

#### **Prayer**

- Personal prayer life
- Prayer teams

