



NEW MEMBER HANDOUTS

Supplemental to Member Handbook

Contents

About DOVE International Fellowship 1

Biblical Core Values (expanded) 2

Baptism in Holy Spirit 6

Sharing Christ with Others 8

What God Says About Tithing 9



About DOVE International Fellowship

DOVE International is a worldwide family of believers in Christ involved in churches and ministries located in six continents. As an international family, we are diverse in culture and background but share a common God-given vision, values, mission, and commitment to start and nurture churches and ministries to transform communities throughout the nations. We are called by the Lord to labor with Him to build His church from house to house, city to city, and nation to nation.

We encourage local church leaders to train God's people to become spiritual fathers and mothers who nurture and release believers to minister through small groups, learning to live in community together. God has called us to be people of prayer, to make disciples, to reach those who need to know Jesus and advance the Kingdom of God. Our international family of churches is just one of many new apostolic movements God is birthing and releasing today. We stand together with the rest of the Body of Christ to advance the kingdom of God in every nation.

DOVE is an acronym which states "Declaring Our Victory Emmanuel." Our international family is called to declare our victory in Emmanuel (God with us) as we experience first-hand; living the Kingdom—transforming our world.

For more information about the DOVE International Fellowship visit: www.dcfi.org

DOVE USA

The DOVE USA apostolic teams serve the leaders of DOVE USA churches like Cross Creek Community Church. Healthy leaders produce healthy churches which in turn impact our communities for the Glory of God.

Apostolic Oversight for Cross Creek Community Church

Mim (and Deryl) Hurst
DOVE Westgate Church
1755 W. Main Street
Ephrata, PA 17522
(717) 721-3775

Biblical Core Values (expanded)

Adopted from our partnership with DOVE International

All values and guiding principles for the DOVE International family must be rooted in the scriptures (II Tim. 3:16-17, II Tim. 2:15).

1. Knowing God the Father through His Son Jesus Christ and living by His Word is the foundation of life.

We believe that the basis of the Christian faith is to know God through repentance for sin, receiving Jesus Christ as Lord, building an intimate relationship with Him, and being conformed into His image. God has declared us righteous through faith in Jesus Christ (John 1:12, John 17:3, Rom. 8:29, II Cor. 5:21).

2. It is essential for every believer to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and be completely dependent on Him.

We recognize that we desperately need the person, the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to minister effectively to our generation. Changed lives are not the product of men's wisdom, but in the demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit as modeled in the New Testament church (I Cor. 2:2-5, John 15:5). We believe it is essential for every believer to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and to pursue spiritual gifts (II Cor. 13:14, John 4:23-24). All decisions need to be made by listening to the Holy Spirit as we make prayer a priority and learn to be worshipers. Worship helps us focus on the Lord and allows us to more clearly hear His voice. We recognize that we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against demonic forces. Jesus Christ is our Lord, our savior, our healer and our deliverer (Eph. 6:12, I John 3:8).

3. The Great Commission will be completed through prayer, evangelism, discipleship, and church planting.

We are committed to helping fulfill the Great Commission through prayer and fasting, evangelism, discipleship, and church planting locally, nationally, and internationally reaching both Jew and Gentile (Matt. 28:19-20, Matt. 6:5-18, Acts 1:8). We are called to support others who are called as co-laborers, as churches are planted throughout the world. The Great Commission is fulfilled through tearing down spiritual strongholds of darkness and church planting (I Cor. 3:6-9, Matt. 11:12, II Cor. 10:3-4, Acts 14:21-23). We are also called to proclaim the gospel through the arts, publications, and the media and will continue to believe God to raise up other resources and ministries to assist us in building the church (I Cor. 9:19-22).

4. We deeply value the sacred covenant of marriage and the importance of training our children to know Christ.

It is our belief that marriage is between one man and one woman. Both marriage and family are instituted by God, and healthy, stable families are essential for the church to be effective in fulfilling its mission. Parents are called by God to walk in the character of

Christ and to train their children in the nurture and loving discipline of the Lord Christ (Mark 10:6-8, Eph. 5:22-6:4). The Lord is calling His people to walk in the fear of the Lord and in a biblical standard of holiness and purity. Marriage covenants are ordained by God and need to be honored and kept. We uphold the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman. (Prov. 16:6, Mark 10:9, I Thess. 4:3-8, I Cor. 6:18-20).

5. We are committed to spiritual families, spiritual parenting and intergenerational connections.

Believing that our God is turning the hearts of the fathers and mothers to the sons and daughters in our day, we are committed to spiritual parenting on every level of church and ministry life (Mal. 4:5-6, I Cor. 4:15-17). Participation in a small group is a fundamental commitment to the DOVE family. The small group is a group of believers and/or families who are committed to one another and to reach others for Christ. We believe the Lord desires to raise up spiritual families in many levels including small groups, congregations, apostolic movements and the kingdom of God (I Cor. 12:18, Eph. 4:16). We believe each spiritual family needs to share common values, vision, goals, and a commitment to build together, with the need to receive ongoing training in these areas (Ps. 133, II Pet. 1:12-13, II Tim. 2:2). We are committed to reaching, training and releasing young people as co-laborers for the harvest, as the young and the old labor together (Acts 2:17, Jer. 31:13).

6. Spiritual multiplication and reproduction must extend to every sphere of kingdom life and ministry.

Multiplication is expected and encouraged in every sphere of church life. Small groups should multiply into new small groups and churches should multiply into new churches. Church planting must be a long-term goal of every congregation (Acts 9:31, Mark 4:20). The DOVE family of churches will be made up of many new regional families of churches as apostolic fathers and mothers are released in the nations of the world (Acts 11:19-30, Acts 13:15).

7. Relationships are essential in building God's kingdom.

Serving others and building trust and relationships is a desired experience in every area of church life. We believe the best place to begin to serve and experience trust and relationship is in the small group (Acts 2:42-47, Eph. 4:16, Gal. 5:13). We are joined together primarily by God-given family relationships, not by organization, hierarchy, or bureaucracy (I Peter 2:5).

8. Every Christian is both a priest and a minister.

According to the scriptures, every Christian is a priest who needs to hear from the Lord personally (Rev. 1:5-6). Every believer is called of God to minister to others and needs to be equipped for this work with the home as a center for ministry. Fivefold ministers are the Lord's gifts to His church. He uses fivefold persons to help equip each believer to become an effective minister in order to build up the body of Christ (I Pet. 4:9, Eph. 4:11-

12). We need to be constantly handing the work of ministry over to those we are serving so they can fulfill their call from the Lord (Titus 1:5, I Tim 4:12-14).

9. A servant's heart is necessary for every leader to empower others.

We believe every sphere of leadership needs to include a clear servant-leader called by God and a team who is called to walk together. The leader has the anointing and responsibility to discern the mind of the Lord that is expressed through the leadership team (II Cor. 10:13-16, Num. 27:16, I Peter 5:1-4). Leaders are called to listen to what the Lord is saying through those whom they serve as they model servant-leadership. They are called to walk in humility and integrity, in the fruit of the Spirit, and in the fear of the Lord (Acts 6:2-6, Acts 15, Matt. 20:26, Gal. 5:22-23). We believe God raises up both apostolic overseers and partner church elders to direct, protect, correct and discipline the church. These leaders must model the biblical qualifications for leadership (Acts 15, Acts 6:1-4, I Tim. 3, Titus 1). Those with other spiritual gifts including administrative gifts (ministry of helps) need to be released to fulfill the Lord's vision on each level of church life (I Cor. 12). In every area of church life, we believe we need to submit to those who rule over us in the Lord and esteem them highly in love for their work's sake (Heb. 13:17, I Thess. 5:12-13). LP4 – Revival, The Bible and Church History DOVE Global Access

10. Biblical prosperity, generosity and integrity are essential to kingdom expansion.

Biblical prosperity is God's plan to help fulfill the Great Commission. The principle of the tithe is part of God's plan to honor and provide substance for those He has placed over us in spiritual authority. Those who are over us in the Lord are responsible for the proper distribution of the tithe and offerings (III John 2, Matt. 23:23, Heb. 7:4-7, Mal. 3:8-11, Acts 11:29-30). We believe in generously giving offerings to support individuals, churches, and ministries both inside and outside of the DOVE family. We encourage individuals, small groups, congregations, and ministries to support fivefold ministers and missionaries in both prayer and finances (II Cor. 8:1-7, Gal. 6:6, Phil. 4:15-17). We believe that every area of ministry and church life needs to be responsible financially and accountable to those giving them oversight in order to maintain a high standard of integrity. Spiritual leaders receiving a salary from the church are discouraged from setting their own salary level (Gal. 6:5, Rom. 15:14, I Thess. 5:22, II Cor. 8:20-21).

11. The gospel compels us to send missionaries to the unreached and help those least able to meet their own needs.

Jesus instructs us to take the gospel to the ends of the earth to those who have never heard. Our mission is to reach the unreached areas of the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ by sending trained missionaries and through church planting. Together we join with the body of Christ to reach the unreached (Matt. 24:14, Acts 1:8, Acts 13:1-4, II Cor. 10:15-16). We are also called to help the poor and needy, those in prison, orphans and widows. This includes our reaching out to the poor locally, nationally and internationally.

When we help the poor, both materially and spiritually, we are lending to the Lord (Deut. 14:28, 29, Deut. 26: 10 12, Matt. 25:31-46, James 1:27, Prov. 19:17).

12. We are called to build the kingdom together with the entire body of Christ.

Our focus is on the kingdom of God, recognizing our small group, our local church, and DOVE International is just one small part of God's kingdom. We are called to link together with other groups in the body of Christ and pursue unity in His church as we reach the world together (Matt. 6:33, Eph. 4:1-6, John 17, Ps. 133). We wish to see God's kingdom come not just in and through the church, but in all areas of life. Therefore, we are called to minister in the church, the family, government, the arts, education, business and the media, so that all such spheres come under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and reflect the values of His kingdom. (Matt. 6:10) We believe in utilizing and sharing the resources of people and materials the Lord has blessed us with. This includes the fivefold ministry, missions, leadership training, and other resources the Lord has entrusted to us (I Cor. 12, Acts 2:44-45). Our unifying focus is on Christ, His Word and the Great Commission, and we believe we should not be distracted by minor differences (Romans 14:5). We subscribe to the Lausanne Covenant as our basic statement of faith and Christian values. The scriptures serve as a light to guide us; the Lausanne Covenant, and these values and guiding principles unite us as partner churches (Matt. 28:19-20, Amos 3:3, I Cor. 1:10, I Cor. 15:10).

Baptism in Holy Spirit

What is the “Baptism in the Holy Spirit?”

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of Jesus’ words concerning the “promise of the Father” (Luke 24:49, Luke 3:16). It is a baptism with power. Every believer receives the indwelling (person) Holy Spirit upon salvation, but the filling of Holy Spirit power is to be repeated over and over throughout our Christian lives. The first time we receive this power it’s called *baptism* in Holy Spirit, after that it’s called *being filled* by Holy Spirit.

What happens when I’m Filled?

When we receive the Holy Spirit, we receive this gift with the understanding that nine spiritual gifts are contained within this one gift, and God will teach us how to use each of these individual gifts:

- Message of Wisdom
- Message of Knowledge
- Faith
- Gifts of Healing
- Miracles
- Prophecy
- Tongues
- Interpretation of Tongues

What is “Speaking in Tongues?”

When they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in tongues. These tongues were not a language that they had learned, but a Spirit-inspired language that came directly from God Himself.

How do you speak in tongues?

First, you must understand that it is the Spirit of God that “gives the utterance.” You must speak them, but He is faithful to give them. (John 7:38-39)

Some things to Remember:

- If you are saved, you have the person of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16, Romans 8:9)
- The gift of the Holy Spirit is a promise for all who ask (Luke 11:11-13)
- Any believer may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-29)
- The Holy Spirit gives power to witness (Acts 1:8)
- The Holy Spirit helps us to pray (Romans 8:26)
- A person may be water baptized and saved but not yet baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 18:14-16)
- Speaking in tongues and praising God are signs of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44-46)
- Some believers may receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit before they are baptized in water (Acts 10:46-48)

- The word *baptize* means to put under cover. When a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit, they are totally immersed or enveloped in the Spirit of God.
- Speaking in tongues is the one experience that is common to all of the New Testament examples of believers receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- When you speak in tongues, you speak directly to God in a personal prayer language, and at the same time build up your inner Spirit by Holy Spirit's working within you.

How to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit:

1. **Renounce.** Sin, unforgiveness, doctrinal hang-ups, pride, or any unclean thing influencing you are spiritual barriers which may block you from receiving. Why not pray right now and confess your sin, and renounce anything from your past that would hinder you from receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?
2. **Request.** Jesus said that all we had to do is ask and we would receive. Tell the Lord that you want to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
3. **Receive.** Reach out by faith and take hold of this gift that God freely gives to all those who believe in Him. Don't analyze it with your mind but allow your spirit to receive this gift. Worship the Lord and keep your mind on Him.
4. **Release.** By faith, stop praying in English (or your native language) and begin speaking in tongues. You may at first have only a few words but go ahead and speak those in faith and others will follow. As you yield your tongue to the Spirit, you will begin to feel a wonderful release of worship. Peace and joy, two fruit of the Spirit, will flood you with a new sense of the presence of God. You will never be the same.

Sharing Christ with Others

1. The Introduction (conversation starters)

- a. Their secular life
- b. Their church background
- c. Our church
- d. Testimony: personal and/or church
- e. Two diagnostic questions:
 - i. Have you come to a place in your spiritual life where you know for certain that if you were to die today you would go to heaven?
 - ii. Suppose that you were to die tonight and stand before God and he were to say to you, “Why should I let you into my heaven?” What would you say?

2. The Gospel

- a. Grace
 - i. Heaven is a free gift
 - ii. It is not earned or deserved
- b. Man
 - i. Is a sinner
 - ii. Cannot save himself
- c. God
 - i. Is merciful – therefore doesn’t want to punish us
 - ii. Is just – therefore must punish sin
- d. Christ
 - i. Who He is – the infinite God-man
 - ii. What He did – He paid for our sins and purchased a place in Heaven for us which He offers as a gift.
- e. Faith
 - i. What it is not – a mere intellectual assent or temporal faith
 - ii. What it is – “trusting in Jesus Christ alone for our salvation.”

3. The Commitment

- a. The Qualifying question: “Does this make sense to you?”
- b. The Commitment question: “Would you like to receive the gift of eternal life?”
- c. The Clarifying question
- d. The Prayer of Commitment
- e. The Assurance of Salvation

4. The Immediate Follow-up

- a. Bible (seven-day call back appointment)
- b. Prayer
- c. Worship
- d. Fellowship
- e. Witness

What God Says About Tithing

What is the Tithe?

The tithe is the first ten percent of our income. This belongs to the Lord. There is also encouragement to give offerings to special needs but offerings are above and beyond the tithe. In the New Testament, tithes and offerings are combined in the instructions to give as the Lord has prospered. (See [2 Corinthians 9:6-8](#))

Is Tithing a Part of the Law that does not Apply to us Today?

No, Tithing was established before the law was given by Moses (See [Genesis 14:20](#)). It was reaffirmed by Christ in the New Testament (see [Matthew 23:23](#)). We affirm the sovereignty of God over all our finances when we tithe. The New Testament does not ground the tithe on the Mosaic Law. On the contrary, Hebrews 7 establishes the authority of Jesus Christ's high priestly office in terms of Melchizedek's collection of the tithe from Abraham.

What is the Real Purpose of the Tithe?

The tithe serves the practical functions of supporting vital ministries. However, the underlying purpose of the tithe is to learn to fear the Lord. God has promised to give wisdom and blessing to those who fear Him. (See [Deuteronomy 14:22-23](#))

Where is the Tithe to be Given?

The tithe of money is to be given to support the local church. God has designed the Church to carry out vital social functions among Christians, as well as getting out the Gospel to non-Christians. These functions include caring for the widows, distributing to the necessity of the saints, ministering to the sick, giving to the poor, and teaching families to care for themselves. If the Church fails to carry out these functions and they are taken over by others, the Church will lose its effectiveness and become despised by the world (See [Matthew 5:13-16](#)).

When Should we Give the Tithe?

The tithe is to be given on the first day of the week (See [1 Corinthians 16:2](#)).

Does the Tithe Include More than Money?

Yes. We are to give God the first fruits of all that He gives to us. Christ commended those who tithed each part of their harvest. At the same time, He warned them not to neglect such important items as justice and the love of God (See [Luke 11:42](#)). This means that we should give God the first fruits of our time, the first day of each week, and the first part of each day (See [Proverbs 3:9-10](#)).

Should a Person Tithe if they are in Debt?

Yes. The debt itself is often a witness that tithing is not taking place. It should, and therefore, be a motivation to begin tithing in order to allow God to show His power in gaining financial freedom. As a

practical matter, special arrangements should be made with all creditors so that they continue to receive some payment and the promise of more as funds increase (See [Matthew 6:33](#)).

What if I have not Tithed for Several Years?

Each Christian must come to his or her own decision as to how far back to go in paying tithes. God wants us to be cheerful givers, and He promises that the more we give to Him, the more He will give to us (See [2 Corinthians 9:6](#)).

Should a Person Tithe on a Designated Gift?

No. The person who receives a designated gift accepts an implied trust to use it for the purpose for which it is intended. The receiver should report back to the giver that the gift was properly used. However, this does not mean that the receiver cannot use other resources to express his gratefulness to the Lord for unexpected provision.

Should we Tithe on our Gross Income or our Net Income?

Some Christians argue that the only income over which they have a say is the net or disposable income, and this is what is to be tithed. But this view fails to recognize that taxes provide us with services for which we would otherwise have to pay. The requirement then is for proportionate giving of all income. Whether we have simple or complicated earnings, we should always tithe on our gross income (see [Proverbs 3:9](#)).

Can the Tithe be used to pay the tuition at a Church School?

No. This is contrary to the spirit of giving, since there would be personal benefit derived from the gift. There are also legal complications for such a practice. Funds given in this manner do not qualify as a charitable deduction.

Should an Older Child be given Money to put in the Offering Plate to teach them to Tithe?

No. A child who is able to earn money should be taught to tithe out of the money they earn, not out of money that is simply given to them. It is the faith of sacrifice that needs to be taught, since that is what God has promised to honor (See [Hebrews 11:6](#)).

If we Increase our Tithe, will God Increase our Financial Reward?

No. The Tithe is only ten percent. Anything beyond this would be offerings. We should not give with the expectation of financial reward, even though God promises a blessing if we “test Him in this” and He also promises to “rebuke the devourer” protecting us from financial loss. But God is not a vending machine, our motives should be advancing His Kingdom, meeting needs, laying up treasure in Heaven, and growing in personal faith.