

1. **Repent:** *After John was arrested, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the good news of God: 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe in the good news. (Mark 1:14-15)*

**A.C.T.** with true repentance:

1. **A** dmitting the God is right
  2. **C** onfessing that you are wrong
  3. **T** urning from it and running to God
2. **Come as a Child:** *"I assure you... unless you are converted and **become like children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 18:3)*

Do you have enough humility, dependence, and trust to sustain your faith? Without these childlike qualities, we will never be able to grow the way God wants us to. Our character and competency will be unsustainable.

"As you have therefore received Christ, [even] Jesus the Lord, [so] walk (regulate your lives and conduct yourselves) in union with and conformity to Him." Col 2:6 **HDT**—Humility... Dependence... and Trust

3. **Love God with All You Being:** *Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Mt. 22: 37-40*

Love is a decision of the will to act in light of a deep, abiding concern, and affection for the object of our love.

- We love God with all our **heart** when we love Him exclusively, Him and Him alone.
- We love God with all our **soul** when we find our satisfaction in Him more than any other person or thing. When we **refuse to accept** any other alternative.
- We love God with all our **mind** when we make decisions to obey His **every command** as we take captive every thought.
- We love God with all our **strength** when we use our nature talents, acquired skills, and spiritual gifts for Him as we persevere in the face of every trial no matter how much energy it takes.

4. **Receive the Holy Spirit:** *"After saying this, He breathed on them and said, '**Receive the Holy Spirit.**'" (John 20:22)*

- Receiving the Holy Spirit means living according to the fruit of the Spirit by his power and guidance, thereby becoming more like Christ. Ro 8:29
- It is something we accept when we are born again: John 3:3,7; I Peter 1:23—He takes up residence and then the transformation begins. Gal 5:25
- We don't need more of the H.S., he needs more of us! And when he gets more of us, then we can become more effective for him! Rom 8:29

5. **Enter through the Narrow Door:** *"Enter through the **narrow** gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that **leads to life**, and only a few find it." Mat 7:13,14)*

- Does this mean salvation is difficult or hard to obtain? In one sense, the answer is no. Salvation is not based on our works, but on faith in Jesus Christ (Eph 2:8-9).
- However, because salvation in Jesus requires choosing Him as Lord, there is a commitment involved that requires repentance of sin and a turn toward holy living.
- Many will refuse to accept this free gift of eternal life as a result, choosing the "wide gate" that seems easier at the time, yet leads to destruction.
- The thing that is hard about becoming saved is the pain from damaging your pride, because you have to admit you're wrong and let someone else tell you what to do. This goes against our old nature of independence.
- We don't like someone else telling us how to live. We know best and therefore it's too risky to let someone or something thing control us. Our personal peace, joy, and affluence depend on it.
- So it is not hard to obtain salvation, IF you are a humble person. Proud people have a hard time at getting saved and living a life of peace.

6. **Worship in Spirit and in Truth:** *God is a **spirit**, and those who worship Him must worship in **spirit and truth.**" (John 4:24)*

- To worship God in spirit and in truth, then, is to declare that God is worthy of our reverence. We worship God based on the truth of who **He is**, the truth of who **we are**, the truth of what **God does**, and the truth of what is **going on in our world**.

- At times our worship is expressed through corporate singing, teaching, and giving. It is also expressed in our daily lives through prayer, Scripture reading, acts of kindness, gratitude, pure thoughts, and the like.
- “It means to come **honestly** to God to admit our **insufficiency** and utter **dependence** on Him. When we truly empty ourselves in our pride, arrogance, and self-sufficiency, confessing our sins with acts of repentance, we are then able to worship God in truth and with all of our spirit as born again believers.” Tom Blackaby

7. **Abide in Me:** *“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.”* Jn 15:4,9

“When our Lord says: Abide in me he is talking about the will, about the choices, the decisions we make. We must decide to do things which expose ourselves to him and keep ourselves in contact with him. This is what it means to abide in him.” (Boice)

**A**doration: love God/others; pray/fast; time to listen to and talk w/ God  
**B**ible -- schedule a regular time/ place for studying God's word; meditate  
**I**nterpersonal—join church, small group, Sunday school, min opportunity!  
**D**isciples--“Go into all the world and make disciples...” Be one/make one!  
**E**vangelism --“Go into all the world- preach the Gospel to every creature!”  
**S**ervice—Use your spirit gifts, natural abilities, and acquired skills for Him  
**S**anctification—“If you love me, you will keep my commands” (Jn 14:15)

**Q:** Which of the areas above are you the weakest in? What steps can you take to bring you up to the next level of faithfulness and fruitfulness?

8. **Remember and Repent:** “Yet I hold this against you: You have **forsaken the love** you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! **Repent and do the things you did at first.** If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.” Rev 2:4,5

- Remember how you used to spend time in His Word?
- Remember how you used to pray with a passionate heart?
- Remember the joy in getting together with other Christians?
- Remember how excited you were about telling others about Jesus?

## Five primary ways the Father showed his love to his Son Jesus by:

**1. Delegation:** *“The Father loves the Son **and has placed everything in his hands.** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.”* John 3:35, 36

**Q:** Who has God brought into your life that you can equip for ministry?

**2. Revelation:** *“For the Father loves the Son and **shows him all he does.** Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed.”* John 5:20

**Q:** Leaders are learners. Are you a disciplined learner of God’s message?

**3. Affirmation:** *“And a voice from heaven said, “This is **my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.**”* Matt 3:17; 17:5

**Q:** Are you positive and encouraging, loving and respecting as you communicate?

**4. Attention:** *“Then the devil left him, and **angels came and attended him.**”* Matt 4:11 *“An **angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.**”* Lk 22:43

**Q:** Do you reach out in word and deed with a compassionate and empathetic heart? What needs are there around you that you can meet?  
Prov 3:27

**5. Unification:** “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you<sup>[e]</sup> known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the **love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.**” John 17: 25, 26

**Q:** Do you speak the truth in love, while preserving the unity of the relationship?