

# Connect

With Sunny Place Church of God

July, 2023

## The Instruction Manual

Have you ever bought a car or an appliance? Have you ever purchased something that forewarned that assembly was required? Perhaps, you haven't purchased any of these items. But just maybe, you've either heard someone talk about their experience with such a purchase or even been present when the item was brought home and unboxed. Sure, if you have experience behind the wheel, you can just get in that new car and drive. And with a little common sense it doesn't take much to realize that you must plug in a microwave and press a series of buttons if you want to warm something up. Or maybe you are a bit of a handyman, and you can just visualize how your new bookcase should be assembled and you put it together. Whichever the case may be, all three of these items share at least one thing in common. And that commonality is that they all come with their own instruction manual. It is true that you can use or make something work without reading the instructions first; but are you really getting the most out of it if you don't understand or realize its full potential? Therefore, it would be prudent and in your best interest to read the instructions that were provided.

And just like the things we buy, wouldn't you know it, life itself comes with an instruction manual. We know it as the Bible. Now there are people out there that might tell you that the Bible is just a bunch of old books written by numerous authors and it cannot possibly be one coherent and seamless work. However, each word contained therein was given by one single author. *"For prophecy [the word of God] never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke [as they] were moved by the Holy Spirit."* (2 Pe. 1:21).

The Holy Spirit (God) was speaking through holy men, who were faithful and obedient, to share His words of life with people. Furthermore, the Bible is much more than just a book. *"For the word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, ... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* (Heb. 12:4). In other words, the word of God is just as relevant and powerful today as it was to those living 2,000 years ago. It distinguishes truth from falsehoods, good from evil, and right from wrong. Therefore, there is nothing that we can think, say, or do that God doesn't see and know. Which means that His word is not only able to reveal and expose the thoughts and motives of our minds and hearts, but it cautions, admonishes, encourages, and is able to be a guide for us in all circumstances.

*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly equipped for every good work."* (2 Tim. 3:17). God in His infinite wisdom provided us with the instruction manual of life so that we could be perfect (blameless, holy, without sin) in His sight. From the literal beginning, if we look to Genesis and the garden of Eden, God provided Adam and Eve with everything they needed or could want through His creation. He put them there to look after His garden and He only had one rule. That is, they could eat from any tree they wanted except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Because God knew that the day in which they ate of the fruit of that tree they would die. (This reminds me of the beginning pages in most instruction manuals where it reads something

(Continued on next page)

like “Read All Instructions Carefully Before Use” or “Important Safety Instructions” or “Before You Begin” or “Warning”) Sadly, both Eve and Adam chose to disobey God’s instruction and they ate of that tree. Because of their disobedience (sin) they were expelled from the garden and no longer had access to eat from the tree of life which would have allowed them to live forever. And the most significant consequence for their sin was that they died spiritually that day because they deliberately separated themselves from God by choosing to disobey Him and doing what the flesh (self-will) wanted.

Adam and Eve’s act of disobedience had a domino effect *“through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”* (Ro. 5:12). But God the Father had a plan before the foundations of the world that He would send His son Jesus Christ to demonstrate how we are to live life and to ultimately lay down His own life (die) for us. Jesus paid the penalty for the sins that we committed with His own blood in our place. He was mocked, beaten, falsely accused, and crucified. *“For He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin [to be] sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* (2 Co. 5:21). Jesus defeated sin and death on the cross and God the Father raised Him from the dead to be the firstborn of many.

Now, I’ve mentioned it a couple of times that God gave us an instruction manual. The Bible and all its contents are the words of life and those words shed light on the way that leads to eternal life which comes from God the Father. Jesus Himself said *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* (Jn. 14:6). And Jesus just a few verses later speaking about what would happen after His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension to the Father assured the disciples *“The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”* (Jn.

14:26). Peter by inspiration of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost said that that day the words of the prophet Joel had been fulfilled *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy [preach the word of God].”* (Acts 2: 17). Preaching the word of God simply put is sharing the instructions of God that are written on your mind and heart. The evidence that God is in your heart is that you will have an outpouring of the Spirit *“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Against such there is no law. And those [who are] Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit let us also walk in the Spirit.”* (Gal. 5:22-25).

Of course, an instruction manual without a trouble shooting section nor contact information, should you be experiencing issues, wouldn’t be all that useful. Well, what do you know, God has that covered in His manual and here are several examples. *“Now we know that God does not hear [the prayers of unrepenting] sinners, but if anyone is a respecter of God and does His will, He hears him.”* (Jn. 9:31). *“He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I [will be] with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him.”* (Ps. 91:15). *“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”* (Jas. 4:6-8). *“I implore you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, [which is] your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may discern what [is] that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”* (Ro. 12:1-2).

In closing, I have one more phrase from most instruction manuals that I believe is quite appropriate “Please read it carefully and keep it for future reference.” God’s word is always within reach and with the advent of technology you can have it with you on your smart phone everywhere you go. But if you don’t read it, it does nothing for you. And if you don’t meditate on it often then you are liable to forget what it says. So, the choice is up to you, “To read or not to read?” that is the question.

Your brother saved in Jesus,  
J. A. Garcia

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# Sunny Place Church - July Events



**Pastor Pete's**  
**4th FEST**  
**You are invited:**  
**Tuesday, July 4th,**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**@the Weber Home**  
**Invite family and**  
**friends, all are welcome!**  
**4th Of July**



**2nd Saturday**  
**Senior Luncheon**  
**Saturday, July 8th, 11:30am**  
**Sunny Place Church**  
**Free event for**  
**Seniors 55 & up.**  
**Come be our guest**  
**for food, great**  
**speakers and**  
**activities**

Praying Together...Time with Jesus



**Sunday, July 16th**  
**Immediately after Worship Service**  
**in the Sanctuary. A light lunch**  
**will be available**

*Prayer & Worship*

**WORSHIP WEDNESDAY**

**Wednesday, July 19th**  
**6:00—8:30 p.m.**  
**At the Parsonage**



Ladies, you are invited to another  
yummy Lunch  
get together at: Aurelio's Pizza  
1455 Lake St., Addison  
Wednesday, July 26th, 11:30  
Please let Eva or Nona know if  
you can make it.



**Adult Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.**

**"Faith in Action"**

A study of the Book of James  
Led by Pastor Pete

**Sunday Worship Services, 10:45 a.m.**

*In-person and on Zoom*

**7:00**



**"Pray Without Ceasing"**

A study on having a life  
of fervent prayer.

Led by Pastor Pete  
In Person and on Zoom

Our Sunday Worship Services, and Thursday night Bible Study will be held at the scheduled times.  
If you would like to join us for a service or study via ZOOM, send an email with your name and contact information  
to: [sunnyplacecog@gmail.com](mailto:sunnyplacecog@gmail.com) to request a link to be sent to you.  
You can also listen to the audio sermons, within a few days afterwards, by selecting either version on:  
[sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons](http://sunnyplacechurch.org/resources/audio-sermons).

# TLC

Together Loving Christ

**A**re you sharing in the exciting and spiritual blessings of studying God's Word and discovering how it applies to your contemporary life?

**J**oin with us in our Adult Study Group  
Thursday's at 7:00 p.m.

***Grow in the Word!***



## **Scripture of the Month:**

Proverbs 4:10-13

<sup>10</sup>"Listen my son, accept what I say,  
and the years of your life  
will be many.

<sup>11</sup>I guide you in the way of wisdom  
and lead you along  
straight paths.

<sup>12</sup>When you walk, your steps will  
not be hampered;  
When you run, you will not stumble.

<sup>13</sup>Hold on to instruction, do not  
let it go;  
Guard it well, for it is your life.



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Visit us at: **[www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org](http://www.SunnyPlaceChurch.org)**

***Connecting Families With The Love Of Christ***