

# Understanding "The Pattern": A Comprehensive Guide to Spiritual Growth and Teaching

## Part 11

The journey of spiritual growth is a profound and transformative experience. In this article, we will explore "The Pattern," a structured approach to becoming a practicing disciple of Jesus Christ and fulfilling the Great Commission.

This framework emphasizes the importance of faith, obedience, repentance, and teaching others with accuracy and effectiveness.

### The Foundation of "The Pattern"

At the core of "The Pattern" is the commitment to becoming a practicing disciple of Jesus Christ. This journey begins with an intentional decision to follow Christ through faith, confession, repentance, and obedience.

These foundational steps are essential for entering into a deeper relationship with God.

To help remember these initial steps, the acrostic **F.O.R.C.E.** was introduced, symbolizing the power and strength God provides to those who choose to follow Him.

This power empowers believers to live as His children and walk in alignment with His will.

### Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper

As disciples, the journey does not end with the initial commitment. The next step in "The Pattern" involves water baptism, a spiritual birth process that signifies being born into the family of believers.

This act of obedience is deeply connected to the second ordinance of the church—the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper serves as a continual reminder of Christ's sacrifice and provision for His followers. It represents forgiveness, strength, health, and eternal life.

Together, water baptism and the Lord's Supper work harmoniously as integral parts of "The Pattern," reinforcing our relationship with God and the body of Christ.

## The Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Speaking in Tongues

Another critical element of "The Pattern" is the baptism in the Holy Spirit. According to **Acts 1:8**, this baptism equips believers with "dunamis," or divine power, enabling them to be effective witnesses for Christ.

This empowerment is often accompanied by speaking in tongues, which serves as a demonstration of a new communication system between believers and God.

These experiences are transformative, providing believers with spiritual strength and a deeper connection to God. They represent steps "C" and "D" in "The Pattern," following water baptism and the Lord's Supper.

## The Importance of Teaching

Teaching is a vital component of "The Pattern," as outlined in **Matthew 28:18-20**. Jesus commanded His disciples to teach others to observe all that He had commanded. This directive underscores the importance of accurate and effective teaching in advancing God's kingdom on earth.

As seen in **Ezra 7:10**, effective teaching begins with studying God's word, applying it in one's life, and then sharing it with others.

**Ecclesiastes 12:9-10** further emphasizes the need for careful preparation, weighing, and arranging teachings to ensure they are truthful and impactful.

Accuracy in teaching is crucial because incorrect teachings can hinder spiritual growth and mislead others.

**Acts 18:24-26** highlights the importance of teaching God's word more accurately through the example of Apollos, who was guided by Priscilla and Aquila to better understand God's ways.

## The Role of Teachers

Teachers play a significant role in guiding others along their spiritual journey. However, it is not enough to simply convey information; how teachings are delivered also matters.

Effective teaching should be engaging, clear, and designed to resonate with the audience.

The Greek term for "teaching" in **Matthew 28:20** emphasizes instruction that is not only informative but also enjoyable and engaging.

A teacher must strive to make their teachings attractive and meaningful to their audience, as Jesus did during His ministry.

**Proverbs 15:2** reminds us that wise individuals use knowledge in a way that makes it appealing and impactful.

This principle underscores the importance of both accuracy and effectiveness in teaching.

### **The Lifelong Impact of Teaching**

Teaching is not a one-time event but a lifelong process that shapes how individuals think, act, and influence others—particularly children.

Parents bear the responsibility of finding faithful teachers who can assist in imparting accurate and effective teachings to their children.

Moreover, teaching extends beyond formal settings. It involves daily interactions, modeling Christ-like behavior, and sharing God's word in ways that inspire others to grow spiritually.

### **Application Steps for "The Pattern"**

**To integrate "The Pattern" into daily life, consider the following steps:**

#### **1. Practicing Discipleship (F.O.R.C.E.):**

- Memorize the F.O.R.C.E. acronym (Faith, Obedience, Repentance, Confession, Empowerment).
- Use it as a guide when sharing your faith with others.

#### **2. Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper:**

- Reflect on your baptism experience as a symbol of forgiveness and new life.
- Regularly participate in the Lord's Supper as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice and provision.

#### **3. Baptism in the Holy Spirit:**

- Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Embrace your prayer language (speaking in tongues) as an expression of your faith.

#### **4. Teaching Others:**

- Seek opportunities to teach others about God's word accurately and effectively.
- Be discerning when choosing teachers for yourself and your family.
- Continuously study God's word with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

#### **5. Character Development:**

- Cultivate boldness, alertness, dependability, creativity, cautiousness, responsibility, and attentiveness as you teach and share God's word.

## The Biblical Foundation for Teaching

Teaching is a recurring theme throughout scripture, demonstrating its significance in God's plan for humanity:

- **God teaches:** Exodus 4:12; Deuteronomy 4:1
- **Jesus teaches:** Mark 4:1-2; Luke 21:37
- **The Holy Spirit teaches:** Luke 12:12; John 14:26
- **Leaders teach:** Leviticus 10:8-11; Acts 20:17-20
- **Parents teach:** Psalms 78:5; Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- **We teach ourselves:** Romans 2:17-22
- **Early church teaching:** Acts 2:42; Acts 5:42

These examples highlight the importance of teaching as an essential part of spiritual growth and discipleship.

## Conclusion

"The Pattern" provides a clear roadmap for spiritual growth and fulfilling Jesus' command to make disciples.

**By following its five key components**—practicing discipleship, water baptism and the Lord's Supper, baptism in the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, and teaching—we can grow closer to God while equipping others to do the same.

Teaching is not just about conveying information but also about inspiring transformation through accurate, effective, and engaging instruction.

As we embrace our role as teachers—whether as parents, mentors, or leaders—we contribute to advancing God's kingdom on earth.

Let us commit ourselves to studying God's word diligently, teaching it faithfully, and living out its principles boldly.

By doing so, we fulfill our calling as disciples of Jesus Christ while guiding others along their spiritual journey.

[Click here.](#) Resources.