

August 2026 Bulletin



Back to the Basics

By Pr. Baiju Mathew

In our current life, there are times when our faith becomes complicated. Our schedules are filled with church activities, committee meetings, and so many other things, and we seem to be spiritually exhausted. Are we missing something? An athlete must constantly practice the basic footwork to remain in the field. Just like that, our spiritual life relies on the fundamentals.

“Let’s get back to the basics of our faith: loving God with all our heart and loving our neighbors as ourselves.”— Francis Chan

Back to the basics is not a step backward, but a realignment with the vital and core spiritual habits that form the Christian life. Look at the four pillars below: Gospel, Scripture, Prayer, and Community.

Every spiritual return should begin where our journey first started. The Gospel is the daily fuel for our entire walk with the Lord, reminding us every day of God’s grace, our need for a Savior, and the finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our identity should be anchored in His grace and not in our performance.

“It is time to get back to the basics of what it means to follow Jesus - less about the show and more about the soul.”— A.W. Tozer

Back to the basics requires the consistent habit of reading, meditating on, and applying the Word of God to our lives. This helps protect us from the distractions of the world and provides clear direction. Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Our prayer life needs discipline—personal prayer, quiet time to praise God, confess sin, lay our anxieties before Him, and sit in His presence to hear His voice.

A healthy faith cannot be lived out while neglecting fellowship, the church, and the community. We need to use our gifts to love and serve one another, making our faith a reality rather than just a theory.

Reflection:

- What are the distractions that keep us from hearing God's voice?
- How can we shift our focus back to loving God?

Micah 6:8

“He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?”

Staying Connected with God

By Julia Joshy

In today's world, we face many important challenges and distractions that keep us constantly busy, often causing us to slowly become distant from God. We may still attend church every Sunday or have the Bible memorized, yet we can quietly drift away from our relationship with God. In Colossians 2:6-7 it says, "As you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith." Before we can guide other people to faith or do good things for the kingdom of God, we must remain strongly connected to Christ ourselves. Just as a branch can't bear fruit without the foundation of the tree itself, we cannot grow spiritually without Him as our stem. Regularly praying and reading our Bible as a daily devotion reminds us that our relationship with God should be our highest priority. When we make God our highest priority, everything begins to make sense and fall into its proper place.

Going back to the basics means making time for spiritual practices that help us draw closer to God. Reading His Word and praying on a daily basis can give us encouragement and spiritual guidance when needed. These habits help us develop a stronger trust in and love for God while remembering Him in our daily lives. Worshiping God helps strengthen our relationship with Him and reminds us of the unfailing love He has given us. These principles may sound small, but they are an important foundation for building a strong relationship with Christ. A closer relationship with God helps influence the way we treat others and how we respond to stressful or difficult moments in our lives. As we continually seek God through these everyday habits, we grow closer to Him and stronger in our faith each day. Even though we may become busy at times, practicing these habits will strengthen our faith and relationship with God.

Following Jesus in our everyday lives not only strengthens our relationship with Him but also gives us a greater sense of purpose throughout our daily lives. Calling yourself a Christian means that you not only praise Him in church or prayer but also remember Him in your attitude and day-to-day choices. Convincing everyone you're a Christian has little significance if you turn away from God and continue in sin throughout your daily life outside of church. Believing in God doesn't mean you need to push yourself to be the best Christian the world has ever seen. Everybody falls short and makes mistakes. There are many times when people sin without realizing it through small actions that go against God's will. An important part of the Christian life is becoming aware of this sin and

responding by acknowledging it. Seeking God for forgiveness and repentance means turning away from sin and making the effort to grow from it.

Following Jesus not only means believing in and practicing His principles but also growing in faith through our mistakes. Although Christians aren't perfect and may sin at times, it's important that everyone acknowledges their sin and asks God for His forgiveness. Practicing the basics, like prayer and reading your Bible every day, will strengthen your relationship with God and help you grow in faith.

Take the Theme Home

Week 1: Returning to the Foundation

Scripture Reading: Colossians 2:6-7

Our walk with Christ begins with the Gospel, but it is also sustained by it. Paul reminds believers to continue living in Christ by being rooted, built up, and strengthened in faith. Going back to the basics is not about starting over, it's about returning to the firm foundation that allows us to grow spiritually.

Reflect:

- What does it mean to be “rooted and built up” in Christ rather than in our own efforts?
- What distractions have slowly pulled your focus away from Christ?
- How can remembering the Gospel each day change the way you live this week?
- What practical step can you take to strengthen your foundation in Christ?

Week 2: Rooted in God's Word and Prayer

Scripture Reading: Psalm 119:105 and Luke 10:38-42

God's Word provides direction, wisdom, and encouragement for every season of life. Like Mary sitting at Jesus' feet, spending time with Him is more important than becoming consumed by our many responsibilities.

Reflect:

- What often keeps you from spending time in God's Word or in prayer?
- Do you approach your devotional time as a duty or as an opportunity to know God better?
- What changes can you make to prioritize quiet time with God this week?
- How can prayer become more of a conversation with God than simply a list of requests?

Week 3: Living Out Our Faith Every Day

Scripture Reading: Micah 6:8 and James 1:22-25

Following Jesus involves more than attending church, it is reflected in our daily attitudes, choices, and relationships. God's desire is that His people not only hear His Word but also put it into practice by walking humbly, loving mercy, and acting justly.

Reflect:

- In what areas of your life is your faith most visible?
- What does it look like to “do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly” in today's world?
- How does regularly reading God's Word help transform your daily decisions?
- What is one area where God is calling you to greater obedience?

Week 4: Growing Together in Christ

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 10:24-25 and John 15:1-8

God never intended believers to grow alone. As we remain connected to Christ, the true Vine, and encourage one another through fellowship and service, our faith becomes stronger and bears lasting fruit.

Reflect:

- Why is Christian community essential for spiritual growth?
- How have other believers encouraged or challenged your walk with Christ?
- In what ways can you use your gifts to serve your church and community?
- What fruit has God been producing in your life recently?

Stay Connected!

WEEKLY MEETINGS

DAY	TIME	LOCATION
Tues	7:00 - 8:00 PM	@ Zoom
Fri	10:00 - 11:00 AM	@ Zoom
Sat	7:00 - 8:30 PM	@ Church

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

EVENT	DATE	LOCATION
PYPA	August 8	Church
Memory Verse Test	August 15	Church
Ladies Meeting	August 22	Church
Church Retreat	September 4-6	Church

PRAY FOR NATIONS

COUNTRY	CAPITAL	EST. POPULATION
Belize	Belmopan	423,900
Benin	Porto-Novo	12,505,000
Bhutan	Thimphu	790,700
Bolivia	La Paz	11,559,000
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sarajevo	3,386,000