

GROWTH TRACK

Step [1]
GAINING TRACTION IN
YOUR FAITH

WELCOME TO

GROWTH TRACK

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God.

Psalm 92:12-13

OUR MISSION:

We **bring faith to life** by helping people take their next step to **belong** to God's family, **become** a disciple and **build** the Kingdom of God.



MEET YOUR PASTORS

PASTOR MATTHEW AND AMBER HUNT'S STORY

Matthew and Amber Hunt have been the lead pastors at Faith Church since the Fall of 2016. Before coming to Faith Church, Pastor Matthew was in pastoral ministry for over thirteen years with the majority of that time having been in North Carolina. He leads with integrity, communicates with creativity, and serves with passion. Pastor Matthew has a true conviction of the purpose and power of the local church. They have 3 children: Alyssa, Micah, & Annalise.



matthew@faithchurchks.org // @matthewhuntks (Facebook & Instagram)



[1] BELONG.

Belonging is the starting point. You belong here.

OUR MANIFESTO :

At Faith Church **we bring faith to life**. We are committed to fulfilling Jesus' mission to love God and love others - its faith put to action. We want to **connect** faith to life in the city of Fort Scott and in every surrounding city. **Jesus is the center** of our focus and we want to live out our faith in every endeavor, conversation, and place we go. We strive toward generosity and gratitude as we desire to be spirit-led in everything. We choose a **faith that is committed rather than casual** so we always contribute more than we consume. We are faith-filled in our pursuit of our mission, allowing **God's Word to shape our worldview** and priorities. We choose to focus on a few priorities, making them excellent rather than becoming distracted by many good things. Our priorities are: creating **life-giving services, partnering in outreach** both globally and locally, engaging in life-building **connect groups**, and creating **irresistible kids environments** at every level. We believe **unity releases God's blessing** so we remain humble in our choice to give honor to others. No matter if you are far from faith, familiar with faith in Jesus, or have just fallen away - **you belong here**.

OUR MINISTRY STRUCTURE:

Faith Church is a Pastor-led, Board of Elder-supported, staff and volunteer operated, non-denominational church. We are rooted, holding fast to a simple message of Jesus, anchored to Scriptural orthodoxy in our doctrine, and we rely on the power of the Holy Spirit.

NICENE CREED:

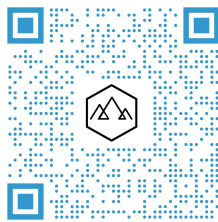
We believe in one God¹, the Father, the Almighty², maker of heaven and earth³, of all that is, seen and unseen⁴. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God⁵, eternally begotten of the Father⁶, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made⁷, of one Being with the Father⁸. Through him all things were made⁹.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven¹⁰: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate¹¹; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures¹²; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father¹³. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end¹⁴.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life¹⁵, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets¹⁶.

We believe in one holy global and apostolic Church¹⁷. We believe in the forgiveness of sins proclaimed in water baptism¹⁸. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come¹⁹. Amen.

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(1) Exodus 20:2-3, Mark 12:29-31 (2) Ephesians 4:6, Malachi 2:10, Genesis 35:11 (3) Genesis 1:1, Isaiah 44:24. (4) Colossians 1:16, Romans 1:20 (5) 2 Corinthians 1:3, I Thessalonians 1:1, Romans 13:14 (6) John 3:16, Hebrews 1:6, Matthew 14:33, Revelation 1:8 (7) John 1:1, I John 1:5, John 8:12, John 20:28, I John 5:20, Psalms 2:7, Hebrews 1:5, John 14:9 (8) John 10:30, Isaiah 44:6, Revelation 1:8, Philippians 2:6, John 10:38, Colossians 2:9 (9) John 1:1-3,10,14, I Corinthians 8:6, Colossians 1:15-17

(10) I Thessalonians 5:9, Acts 4:12, II Timothy 3:15, John 6:51, John 6:38, Matthew 1:18, Luke 1:27,35, Philippians 2:6,7, Romans 1:3 (11) Acts 2:36, Matthew 27:2,26, Mark 15:15 (12) Matthew 16:21, Mark 15:46, Luke 24:5-7, I Corinthians 15:3-4 (13) John 20:17, I Timothy 3:16, I Peter 3:21,22, Acts 1:9, Mark 16:19 (14) Acts 1:10,11, Revelation 1:7, John 5:22, Acts 10:42, Luke 1:33

(15) John 14:17, II Corinthians 3:17, Acts 5:3,4, John 3:5, Titus 3:5 (16) 16. John 15:26, Luke 11:13, Matthew 28:19, II Peter 1:21

(17) John 17:20-23, Ephesians 4:1-6, Colossians 1:18, Hebrews 12:23, Revelation 21:27, Philippians 4:3, Matthew 18:20, Philemon 1:2, Romans 16:5, I Timothy 3:15, Ephesians 2:20, Acts 2:42 (18) Matthew 28:18,19, Ephesians 4:5, Galatians 3:27, Matthew 26:28, Luke 24:47, Acts 2:38, I Peter 3:21, Romans 6:3,4 (19) I Corinthians 15:12, I Corinthians 15:21,22, John 3:16, I Corinthians 2:9, Romans 11:36

HEBREWS 11:1,6

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.



BELIEF IS THE BASIS FOR BELONGING

Matthew 7:24-27

24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.

THREE SURE FOOTED STEPS TO GAIN TRACTION

STEP [1] REPENT

Turn away from sin and give your allegiance to Jesus. (Ephesians 2:9)

1. The invitation for people to repent and give their allegiance to Jesus drives what we do in our Sunday gatherings.
2. Sin is God's good world coming apart. (Genesis)
3. Salvation is God putting it back together. (Isaiah 65, Ephesians 1:10, Revelation 21)
4. Personal salvation is when people repent and surrender, beginning to experience in advance what God will do the for whole cosmos one day – we become a new creation, now.
5. Weekly Communion



STEP [2] BAPTISM

Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, **go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

1. **Water baptism:** Discipleship begins with the surrender of our allegiance (adopted into the family) through our repentance and the work Jesus accomplished on the Cross. Then we are marked for obedience by **water baptism**.
2. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit** (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4- 8).

(See the appendix for further Scriptural explanation of Baptism.)

STEP [3] PRACTICE

Belonging to the family of God looks like practicing our faith with small, daily steps of worship, prayer, scripture, obedience, and hospitality.

Mark 12:29-31 Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

BAPTISM APPENDIX

Salvation - Have you been born again?

Matthew 7:13-23; Luke 6:46; Luke 13:25; Hosea 9:17

In John 3, Jesus explained to a man named Nicodemus that he, like everyone else, must be “born again” (John 3:1-21). Nicodemus was a strict law keeper and a strongly conservative theologian. He was a leader of the Pharisees. In that day and age, Pharisees weren’t viewed as “the bad guys.” They were men who believed, taught and practiced the Scriptures. And just like all the other Pharisees, Nicodemus also believed, taught and practiced the Scriptures. In fact, he memorized the whole first five books of the Bible, attended religious services, prayed and read his Bible every day. He also fasted according to Scripture and was a strict tither. He believed in God, and John 3 says that he even believed in Jesus. But something in Nicodemus’ life was missing. Jesus identified this “something” as the new birth.

What does it mean to be born again? It’s not just an evangelical term. It’s a term Jesus used. In John 3:3, He told Nicodemus, “Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” So how are we born again? To be born again means to be born of the Spirit. It’s when the Spirit comes to live in you. Man has a free will, and God doesn’t override man’s will. We must *choose* to follow God and receive His free gift of eternal life (1 Peter 1:3-5).

Water Baptism

Once we choose to follow God and receive His free gift of eternal life, Jesus commands us to be baptized by water. The best introduction to water baptism is the example set by Jesus. He told John the Baptist that He was to be baptized by John to fulfill all righteousness. Jesus was setting an example for all believers to follow (Matthew 3:13-17; 1 Peter 2:21).

Notice that Jesus was baptized as an adult, not an infant; and that He was immersed in the Jordan, not sprinkled, by John the Baptist (Luke 3:21-22). Through this outward act of obedience, Jesus actually entered into His life of ministry.

God’s grace in a believer’s life results in a death and a new life. There’s a death to sin where “the old man,” the sinful nature, is crucified with Christ. As Christians, we are

to reckon ourselves as dead to sin. Baptism represents the burial of the old man that died at the cross when we gave our life to Jesus. After the burial, there is new life as we are raised up out of the waters of baptism with Christ in the likeness of His resurrection. First comes burial, then comes resurrection. First comes death to sin, then comes the new life of righteousness (Romans 6:1-7).

Luke 3:21-22 (NKJV)

When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Once a believer has experienced the new birth and been water baptized, we encourage them to seek God for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings God's presence into our lives. He empowers us and leads us into all truth. He releases the power of God into our lives.

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

On the night before His betrayal, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples. He was so excited about this, He said it would be better for His disciples to have the Holy Spirit with them than to have the person of Jesus Christ with them (John 16:7-14). He also warned them not to do anything after His ascension until they received the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-2 (NKJV)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

After Jesus was raised from the dead, He appeared to His disciples multiple times over a span of 40 days and then ascended into heaven. At that time, He told them to wait for the Holy Spirit. For exactly 10 days they waited. Then suddenly, during the Jewish feast of Pentecost, Jesus poured out the promised Holy Spirit on the disciples. That was the day the church was born (Acts 2:1-2).

What happened? They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues (different languages) as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:3-4). Fire appeared over their heads, and they began to worship and praise God. Peter stood up to preach and led 3,000 Jews to faith in their Messiah (Acts 2:36-41).

The Person of the Holy Spirit

The Bible reveals that the Person of the Holy Spirit has been the primary agent in the effective ministry of God's Word since the birth of the Church on the day of Pentecost (Acts 10:44-46). The Scriptures clearly state that the triune Godhead (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit) operates co-equally, co-eternally and co-existently as one unit. This is the revelation of the Trinity. The Person of the Holy Spirit—His attributes, His characteristics and His work—has been sent to the earth to glorify Jesus (John 16:14).

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God, the Lord and Giver of Life, who was active in the Old Testament (Genesis 1:2) and given to the Church in fullness at Pentecost. He empowers the saints for service and witness, cleanses us from the old nature and conforms us to the image of Christ (Ephesians 1:13-14). The baptism in the Holy Spirit, subsequent to conversion, releases the fullness of the Spirit and is evidenced by speaking in tongues, fresh joy, praise, miracles and the power to be a witness, as well as other inward and outward manifestations and gifts.

How Do We Receive the Baptism in The Holy Spirit?

Acts 8:15-17 (NIV)

When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

It is God's will for every Christian to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Just like salvation, this baptism is a free gift, and Jesus said that it's our heavenly Father's pleasure to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him (Luke 11:13). One way that the baptism in the Holy Spirit was received in the Book of Acts was through the laying on of hands (Acts 8:15-17), but ultimately the baptism in the Holy Spirit is given when you ask God for it.

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP?

- RSVP for Step TWO
- Register for Water Baptism
- Begin the Fresh Start Pathway - <https://faithchurchks.org/fresh-start>
- Invite someone to church with you

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

TELL US YOUR FAITH STORY: