

**D:** stands for **defending the faith**.

This will result from reading and knowing the Bible, to give answer and reason for the faith in you (1Peter 3:15). Learn a verse a week, and you will acquire 50 a year!

The Holy Scriptures has answers for all the moral issues that face the Coptic Church and the world today, such as; same sex marriage-homosexuality [Rom.1:26,27], tattooing and piercing [Lev.19:28; 21:5], abortion [Ex.20:13; Deut.5:17], etc.

**E:** stands for **eternal life**.

You have to mention eternal life in your prayers, because that's what we are striving for. ***"But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you"*** (Matthew 6:33). In our daily prayer, we can say what the thief beside Jesus on the Cross said; ***"Lord, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom"*** (Luke 23:42).

**F:** stands for **forgiveness** and **fasting**.

God forgave us our sins, and He is asking us to forgive others, as He forgave us (Matt.6:12). FORGIVENESS is the gift of Christianity.

So, we are taking from the treasure of God's forgiveness and give others from the forgiveness of God.

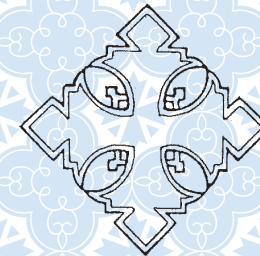
In the Lord's Prayer, God said that unless we forgive others, we shall not be forgiven.

Also, there is a condition in the Lord's prayer concerning forgiveness, and that is, ***'forgive us our trespasses **as** we forgive those ..'*** Here, we are putting a condition on ourselves before God, telling Him to forgive us in the same manner we forgive others, .. my question to you is 'how do we forgive others'?



Also, 'F' stands for **fasting**. We were created vegetarians, originally (Gn.1:29) and the first time meat was eaten by men, or was included in man's diet was during the Great Flood of Noah (Gn.9:3,4) Then God gave certain fasts to the Hebrew-Jews, and He gave the recepies for the fasting food in Ezekiel 4:9-He also told us, through Isaiah about the reason and goal behind fasting (Is.58:6-8)

***Glory be to God forever. Amen.***



# Back to BASICS of CHRISTIANITY



**Fr. Markos R. Hanna**  
**1999**

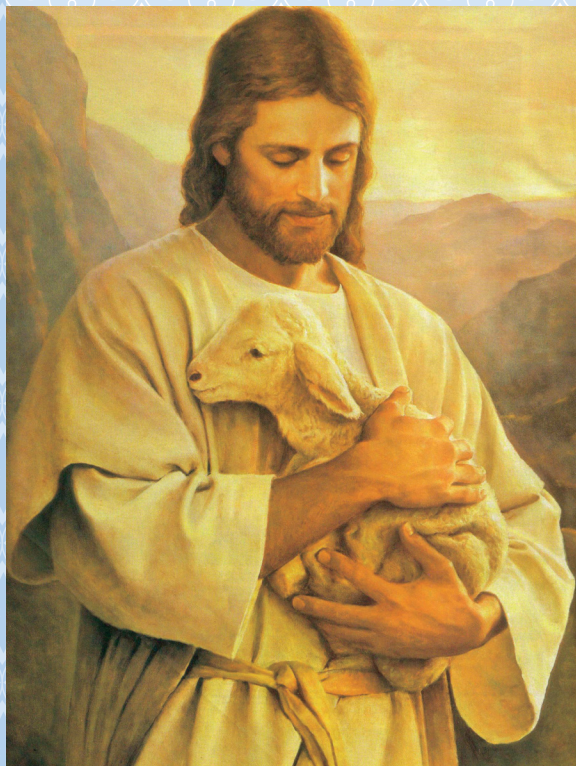
**Revised**  
**2004 & 2005**

## INTRODUCTION:

When someone is cited for a violation, he/she chooses to go to traffic school to learn the basics, to avoid a point against them for a descent insurance premium.

We, as Christians, also need to go back to basics, to refresh our relations with God as we are progressing spiritually.

As Christians we have to reconcile with God by listening, obeying and fulfilling God's commandments.



## These Christian 'Basics' are as simple as:

A, B, C, D, E, and F!

**A:** stands for **Amen**, meaning to pray.

When we pray we converse with God, He listens for He is our Father.

**P**ray is human communication with God.

**P**ray is communion with God through words of praise, thanksgiving, repentance, supplication and intercession.

**P**ray is 'raising up the heart and mind to God'.

Psalms could be described as a collection of song-prayers.

The words often express our own feelings – feelings that we would prefer no one, much less God, ever knew.

**The Scriptures** urges us to “*pray without ceasing*” (1Thess.5:17), and to “*watch and pray*” (Matt.26:41; Mark 13:33).

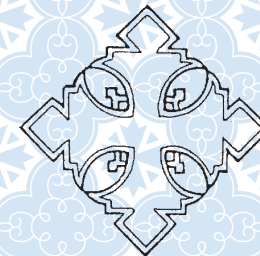
**B:** stands for **reading the Bible**.

When we read the Bible, we listen to God, thus, the dialogue is complete between Him and us; when we pray we talk and He listens, and when we read the Holy Bible He talks and we listen. A relationship develops through communication.

The Psalmist says; “*But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night*” (Psalm 1:2).

***One chapter a day, keeps the devil away.***

The Bible was written over a period of 1600 years, by 40 writers and One Author: The Holy Spirit. It consists of 39 books in the O.T., 27 in the N.T., and The Second Canonical Books.



**C:** stands for **confession and contribution**.

**Confession;** it is the third Sacrament of seven, it's called the Sacrament of Repentance and Confession .. confession clears the conscious and makes us as good as new, in preparation for partaking of the Holy Communion (**James 5:16**).

+ “And many who believed came confessing and telling their deeds” [Acts 19:18].

+ “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” [1 John 1:9].

**Contribution;** is one of the three main basics of faith; **almsgiving**, prayer and fasting (**Matthew 6**). Giving offerings and tithes are showing God that we are sharing what He gave us with His brethren, the result is “*.. open for us the windows of heaven and pour out for us such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it*” (**Malachi 3:8,10**).