

## Four Elements that Illuminate the Core of the Christian Faith of Believers:

These four Elements taken together bring the individual Christian to a mature and fulfilling understanding of the Christian faith and the required response of worship and service.

- Scripture
- Tradition
- Reason
- Experience

**Scripture** is considered the primary source and standard for Christian doctrine.

**Tradition** is experience and the witness of the development and growth of faith through the past centuries and in many nations and cultures as illuminated by scripture.

**Experience** is the individual's understanding and appropriating of the faith in the light of his or her own life as is consistent with scripture.

Through **reason** the individual Christian brings to bear on the Christian faith discerning and cogent thought as is confirmed with scripture.

These four elements taken together bring the individual Christian to a mature and fulfilling understanding of the Christian faith and the required response of worship and service.