



Follow-Up Series: Beginning Your New Life...

1. Beginning Your New Life with Christ
2. Beginning Your New Life of Fellowship with Christ
3. Beginning Your New Life In the Holy Spirit, including the "Holy Spirit Booklet" of Campus Crusade for Christ.
4. Beginning Your New Life of Growth in Christ
5. Beginning Your New Life in God's Word
6. Beginning Your New Life in Prayer

❖ **E-mail:** hope@hope365.co.za
 ❖ **Fax:** (SA Only) 086 641 6505

We would love to hear from you!

This ministry is completely dependent on donations from people like you. If you feel led by the peace of the Holy Spirit, consider investing in the following account:

*ABSA, Branch: 509-145
 Acc No: 40-6919-0901 Type: Cheque
 Name: **There is Hope Ministries**
 Ref: **Name & Surname**
 Please Fax / E-mail:*

*(i) deposit slip & (ii) postal address
 The account is audited and funds are invested in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.
 (Matthew 28:18-20)*

Pieter Brits

*Strategy Catalyst
 There is Hope Ministries*

Magdalen Brits

*Senior E-Mentor
 There is Hope Ministries*

Our office is also available to train you and your disciples on:

- Winning of souls
- How to effectively reach a target area with the gospel

THERE IS HOPE MINISTRIES C.C. 155, 5th Avenue, Kleinmond, 7195, RSA
BOARD: P Rossouw, A Klopper, TJ Duncan, AL de Kock



FOLLOW-UP 1

NAME:

DATE:

#####

Beginning Your New Life with Christ

#####

The moment that you, as an act of faith, receive Jesus Christ into your life to be your Lord and Saviour He comes in. This is what He promises in Revelation 3:20.

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him..."

Have you received Christ into your life in this way?

If so, where is Jesus Christ right now in relation to you?

On this basis of Revelation 3:20 how do you know that Christ is in Your Life?

Now that you have received Jesus Christ into your life, you have established a personal relationship with Him.

You have now become a child of God. You do not become a child of God by living a good life or being born into a Christian family. The word "*Christian*" means "*Christ in one*" - Christ living in you. The Bible tells us that many things happen when Christ comes to live in you.

A NEW RELATIONSHIP

1) What does the resurrection prove to us about Jesus Christ? (Romans 1:4)

2) Who is Jesus Christ? (1 John 5:20)

3) What would be the result for us if Christ had not risen from the dead? (1 Corinthians 15:13-17)

4. a) What did you become when you received Christ? (John 1 :1 2)

b) Since other Christians are also God's children, what is your relationship to them?

Salvation is God's favor freely given to man when he puts his faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour resulting in the forgiveness of sin.

5.a) Is salvation the reward of a man's good works? (Ephesians 2:8, 9)

b) How is salvation obtained?

6) Have you received forgiveness for your sins? (Colossians 1:13, 14)

7.a) Will Christ ever leave you? (Hebrews 13:5; John 10:28,29)

b) Since Christ has promised never to leave you, how many times do you have to invite Him to come into your life?

A NEW LIFE

Read 1 John 5:11-13

1) Where is eternal life found? (1 John 5:11)

2) If a person has Christ in his life, what kind of life does he have? (1 John 5:13)

3a) Can a person know that he has eternal life right now? (1 John 5:13)

b) Do you know that you have eternal life?

c) How do you know?

A NEW ADVENTURE

1) Now that you have Christ in your life, what have you become? (II Corinthians 5:17)

2) What can separate you from Christ? (Romans 8:38, 39)

3) Who can take you away from Christ? (John 10:27-29)

CONCLUSION

1) On the basis of this study what are some of the things that you know are true of your life right now?

2) Would you like to thank God right now for what He has done for you?

Thanking God demonstrates faith!

SUGGESTED READING

John 3

MEMORISE

Revelation 3:20

Hebrew 13:5b

FOLLOW-UP 2

NAME:

DATE:

#####

Beginning Your New Life of Fellowship with Christ

#####

When you received Jesus Christ, you established a personal relationship with Him. You became a child of God (John 1:12). You received His life, so now you bear His name, "Christian."

A common question that many Christians ask is, "What happens when I sin and do things that are displeasing to God?" In other words, "Is my relationship broken?" "Does Jesus leave my life?"

The answer to this question can best be understood if we distinguish between our relationship to God and our fellowship with God.

RELATIONSHIP

We can illustrate the difference between our relationship to God and our fellowship with God by the father-son relationship in a human family.

When a boy is born into a family, he is the son of his father, because he has his father's life in him.

He then bears his father's name.

Let's suppose the son decides to leave his home and does many things to disgrace his father. Is he still his father's son?

The relationship of the father and son is permanent. This relationship exists regardless of the behaviour of the son.

FELLOWSHIP

However, what would happen to their fellowship? Because of the action of the son, their fellowship has been broken. What must the son do to restore their fellowship? The son must go to his father, admitting he is wrong and asking for forgiveness.

Let us relate this illustration to our relationship with God.

Our relationship with God, our Father, is permanent. We are His children. This relationship never changes.

But when we sin and do things that are displeasing to God, our fellowship is broken. So, in order for our fellowship with God to be restored, we must admit to Him that we have been wrong and accept His forgiveness.

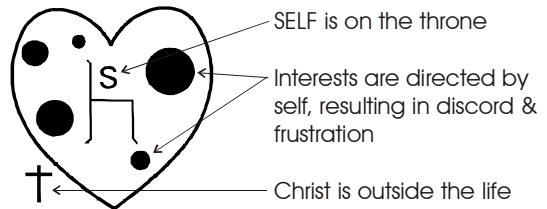
We can illustrate the difference between our relationship and our fellowship with God using three hearts.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:14 - 3:3.

- 1) What is the **non-Christian** called in 1 Corinthians 2:14? Write your answer at heart number (1).
- 2) What is the **Christ-directed man** called in 1 Corinthians 2:15? Write your answer at heart number (2).
- 3) What is the **self-directed man** called in 1 Corinthians 3:1? Write your answer at heart number (3).

(1)

(Non-Christian)

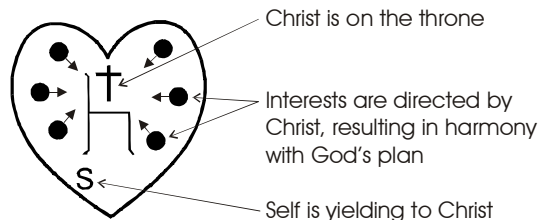


4) Does this man have a relationship with God?

5) Does he have fellowship with God?

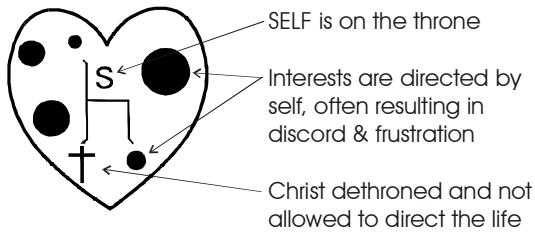
(2)

(Christ-Directed Man)



6) Does this man have a relationship with God?

7) Does he have fellowship with God?

(3)**(Self-Directed Man)**

The fleshly man is a Christian who is living a self-directed life because of sin.

8) Does this man have a relationship with God?

9) Does he have fellowship with God?

The fleshly man in heart number **(3)** can restore his fellowship with God by confessing his sin. Confession involves three things: agreeing, thanking, and repenting.

When we confess, we **AGREE** with God that what He has revealed to us as sin, is sin.

We also **THANK** God that this sin has been paid for by Jesus Christ's death on the cross.

Confession also involves **REPENTANCE**. Repentance is a change of attitude which will result in a change of action.

The Christian needs to understand that when he does sin and takes over the direction of his life once again, he should immediately confess his sin and God will restore him to fellowship.

Read 1 John 1:9

10) According to this verse, what are we to do with our sins?

11) What did God promise to do when we confess our sins?

SUGGESTED READING

Read 1 John 1

MEMORISE

John 1:12

1 John 1:9

FOLLOW-UP 3

NAME:

DATE:

Beginning Your New Life In the Holy Spirit

For three years the disciples had walked, worked and talked with Jesus. They knew Him, trusted Him and loved Him. On one particular night, however, Jesus told His disciples some very upsetting news: He would soon die.

Put yourself in the disciples' place. How would you feel? Confused? Frightened? Helpless? They probably did, too.

But then imagine hearing Jesus tell you, as a result of His going to be with God the Father, another friend would come - one who would be with you; one who would be in you.

The friend who was to come is the Holy Spirit. An amazing thing that Jesus told His followers was that the Holy Spirit would reside in them. Even better, He would "be with them forever." Imagine the encouragement this offered to these individuals. God would make His home within the lives of those who would love and receive Him.

In this way, the disciples would not be left with the impossible tasks of trying to imitate the character of Christ and attempting to continue His mission. Instead, through the Holy Spirit, the very life of Christ with all His character, authority and strength could be lived through their individual lives and personalities.

Twenty centuries later, Christ's promise still remains true. He offers hope to those who are trying to live as He lived. Anyone who has sincerely attempted to reach that goal knows that, worthy as it is, it is a hopeless ideal. Only Jesus Christ can act like Jesus Christ.

And that, of course, is the uniqueness of Christianity. Instead of frustrating us with the inevitable failure of attempting to live up to impossibly high ethical,

moral and spiritual standards, the only Person who ever perfectly fulfilled all those standards offers to do it again through each of us. Once Jesus has entered into a life, that person has the potential to let Him live out His life in and through him. This is available to anyone!

It sounds good, doesn't it? The obvious question is, how can I experience the resurrected Christ living His life through me?

Important:

The following 3 pages are a typed version the Holy Spirit Booklet. "Have you discovered the Spirit-Filled Life?"

- ❖ Read through it.
- ❖ Complete the review questions.
- ❖ You are then ready to proceed to Follow-up 4



Every day can be an exciting adventure for the Christian who knows the reality of being filled with the Holy Spirit and who lives constantly, moment by moment, under His gracious direction.

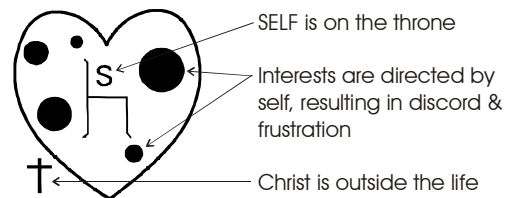
The Bible tells us that there are three kinds of people:

1. Natural Man

(one who has not received Christ)

"A natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised" (1 Corinthians 2:14).

THE SELF-DIRECTED LIFE

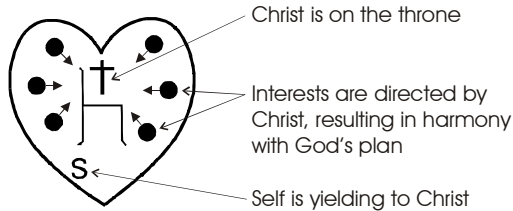


2. Spiritual Man

(One who is directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit)

"He who is spiritual appraises all things... We have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:15).

THE CHRIST-DIRECTED LIFE

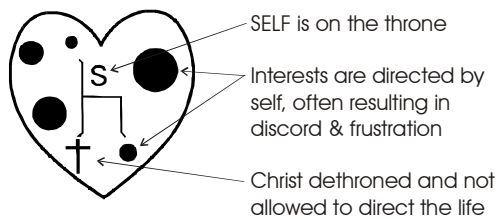


3. Carnal (Wordly) Man

(One who has received Christ, but who lives in defeat because he is trying to live the Christian life in his own strength)

"And I brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to carnal men, as to babes in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still carnal. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?" (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

THE SELF-DIRECTED LIFE



1. God Has Provided For Us an Abundant and Fruitful Christian Life.

- Jesus said, "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" (**John 10:10**).
- "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing" (**John 15:5**).
- "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law" (**Galatians 5:22, 23**).
- "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (**Acts 1:8**).

The Spiritual Man

- Some spiritual traits which result from trusting God:

- Christ-Centered
 - Empowered by the Holy Spirit
 - Introduces others to Christ
 - Effective prayer life
 - Understand God's Word
 - Trusts God
 - Obeys God
- 
- Love
 - Joy
 - Peace
 - Patience
 - Kindness
 - Goodness
 - Faithfulness
 - Gentleness
 - Self-control

The degree to which these traits are manifested in the life depends upon the extent to which the Christian trusts the Lord with every detail of his life, and upon his maturity in Christ. One who is only beginning to understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit should not be discouraged if he is not as fruitful as more mature Christians who have known and experienced this truth for a longer period.

Why is it that most Christians are not experiencing the abundant life?

2. Carnal Christians Cannot Experience the Abundant and Fruitful Christian Life.

The carnal man trusts in his own efforts to live the Christian life:

1. He is either uninformed about, or has forgotten, God's love, forgiveness, and power. (Romans 5:8-10; Hebrews 10:1-25; 1 John 1; 1 John 2:1-3; 2 Peter 1:9; Acts 1:8).
2. He has an up-and-down spiritual experience.
3. He cannot understand himself - he wants to do what is right, but cannot.
4. He fails to draw upon the power of the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life. (1 Corinthians 3:1-3; Romans 7:15-24; 8:7; Galatians 5:16-18)

The Carnal Man

- Some or all of the following traits may characterize the Christian who does not fully trust God:

- Ignorance of his Spiritual heritage
 - Unbelief
 - Disobedience
 - Loss of love for God and for others
 - Poor prayer life
 - No desire for Bible Study
- 
- Legalistic attitude
 - Impure thoughts
 - Jealousy
 - Guilt
 - Worry
 - Discouragement
 - Critical spirit
 - Frustration
 - Aimlessness

(The individual who professes to be a Christian, but who continues to practice sin - should realize that he may not be a Christian at all, according to 1 John 2:3; 3:6, 3:9; Ephesians 5:5).

3. Jesus Promised the Abundant and Fruitful Life as the Result of Being Filled (**Directed and Empowered**) by the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit-filled life is the Christ-directed life by which Christ lives His life in and through us in the power of the Holy Spirit (John 15).

- One becomes a Christian through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, according to John 3:1-8. From the moment of spiritual birth, the Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit at all times (John 1:12; Colossians 2:9, 10; John 14:16, 17). **Though all Christians are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, not all Christians are filled (directed and empowered) by the Holy Spirit.**
- The Holy Spirit is the source of the overflowing life (John 7:37-39).
- The Holy Spirit came to glorify Christ (John 16:1-15). When one is filled with the Holy Spirit, he is a true disciple of Christ.
- In His last command before His ascension, Christ promised the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to be witnesses for Him (Acts 1:1-9).

How, then, can one be filled with the Holy Spirit?

4. We are Filled by the Holy Spirit by Faith; Then We Can Experience the Abundant and Fruitful Life Which Christ Promised to Each Christian.

You can appropriate the filling of the Holy Spirit right now if you:

- Sincerely desire to be directed and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 5:6; John 7:37-39).
- Confess your sins. By faith thank God that He has forgiven all of your sins - past, present and future - because Christ died for you (Colossians 2:13-15; 1 John 1; 2:1-3; Hebrews 10:1-17).
- Present every area of your life to God (Romans 12:1, 2).
- By faith claim the fullness of the Holy Spirit, according to:
 1. **His Command** - Be filled with the Spirit. *"And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit"* (Ephesians 5:18).
 2. **His Promise** - He will always answer when we pray according to His will.

"And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked of Him."
(1 John 5:14, 15).

How to Pray in Faith to be Filled with the Holy Spirit

We are filled with the Holy Spirit by faith alone. However, true prayer is one way of expressing your faith. The following is a suggested prayer:

*"Dear Father, I need You. I acknowledge that I have been directing my own life and that, as a result, I have sinned against You.
I thank You that You have forgiven my sins through Christ's death on the cross for me.
I now invite Christ to again take His place on the throne of my life.
Fill me with the Holy Spirit as You commanded me to be filled, and as You promised in Your Word that You would do if I asked in faith.
I now thank You for directing my life and for filling me with the Holy Spirit. Amen"*

- Does this prayer express the desire of your heart?
- If so, bow in prayer and trust God to fill you with the Holy Spirit right now.

How to Know That You are Filled (Directed and Empowered) by the Holy Spirit

- Did you ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit?
- Do you know that you are now filled with the Holy Spirit? On what authority?
(On the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word: Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:22, 23.)

Do not depend upon feelings.

The promise of God's Word, not our feelings, is our authority. The Christian lives by faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God Himself and His Word. This train diagram illustrates the relationship between fact (God and His Word), faith (our trust in God and His Word), and feeling (the result of our faith and obedience) (John 14:21).



The train will run with or without the guard's van. However, it would be futile to attempt to pull the train by the caboose. In the same way, we, as Christians, do not depend upon feelings or emotions, but we place our faith (trust) in the trustworthiness of God and the promises of His Word.

How to Walk in the Spirit

Faith (trust in God and in His promises) is the only means by which a Christian can live the Spirit-directed life. As you continue to trust Christ moment by moment:

1. Your life will demonstrate more and more of the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23) and will be more and more conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18).
2. Your prayer life and study of God's Word will become more meaningful.
3. You will experience His power in witnessing. (Acts 1:8).
4. You will be prepared for spiritual conflict against the **world** (1 John 2:15-17); against the **flesh** (Galatians 5:16-17); and against **Satan** (1 Peter 5:7-9; Ephesians 6:10-13).
5. You will experience His power to resist temptation and sin (1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 1:19-23; 2 Timothy 1:7; Romans 6:1-16).

Spiritual Breathing

By faith you can continue to experience God's love and forgiveness.

If you become aware of an area of your life (an attitude or an action) that is displeasing the Lord, even though you are walking with Him and sincerely desiring to serve Him, simply thank God that He has forgiven your sins - past, present and future - on the basis of Christ's death on the cross. Claim His love and forgiveness by faith and continue to have fellowship with Him.

If you retake the throne of your life through sin - a definite act of disobedience - breathe spiritually.

Spiritual breathing (exhaling the impure and inhaling the pure) is an exercise in faith that enables you to continue to experience God's love and forgiveness.

1. **Exhale - confess** your sin - agree with God concerning your sin and **thank** Him for His forgiveness of it, according to 1 John 1:9 and Hebrews 10:1-25. Confession involves **repentance** - a change in attitude and action.
2. **Inhale** - surrender the control of your life to Christ, and appropriate (receive) the fullness of the Holy Spirit by faith. Trust that He now directs and empowers you; according to the **command** of Ephesians 5:18 & the **promise** of 1 John 5:14, 15.

After completing:

"Have you discovered the Spirit-Filled life?"
answer the following Review Questions.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

(As you answer the following questions, refer to the part: "Have you discovered the Spirit-Filled life?")

1) On whose strength is the self-centred Christian relying?

2) On whose strength is the Spirit-filled Christian relying?

A Spirit-filled Christian becomes self-centred when he refuses to confess sin in his life.

3) What are the two aspects of spiritual breathing?

4) What three things are involved in exhaling (confession of sin)?

5) What does inhaling mean?

6) We can know that we are filled with the Holy Spirit by faith based on:

and on:

SUGGESTED READING

The Gospel of John chapters 7 - 8

MEMORISE:

John 10:10

Acts 1:8

FOLLOW-UP 4

NAME:

DATE:

Beginning Your New Life Of Growth in Christ

The moment you received Christ, you were born into God's family and you received everything you need to live the abundant Christian life. Spiritual growth results from trusting Jesus Christ. "*The righteous man shall live by faith*" (Galatians 3:11).

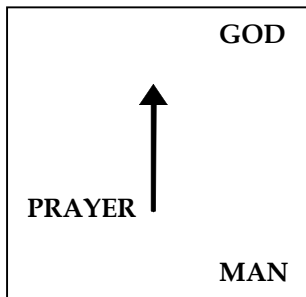
A life of faith will enable you to trust God increasingly with every detail of your life.

The nourishment for spiritual well-being is provided in the following Principles of Growth:

1. Prayer
2. Bible Study
3. Obedience

PRAYER

Prayer is talking and listening to God. Failures in the Christian life can most often be traced to prayer-lessness.



1) How does man speak to God?

2) Read Philippians 4:6, 7.
a) What are we told to do?

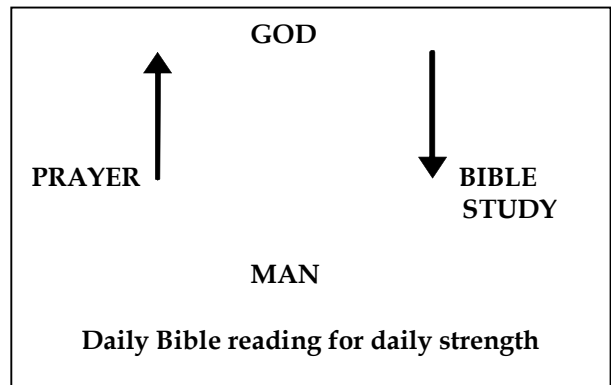
b) What should we pray about?

c) As we pray about everything, what does God promise we will experience?

We talk to God through prayer as illustrated in the diagram; He talks to us through the Bible.

BIBLE STUDY

Physical food is necessary for physical life. Without food, one becomes weak and eventually ill. This is true spiritually as well. The Bible is our spiritual food.



1) How does God speak to man?

2) How does reading the Bible help us?
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

3) How does faith grow? (Romans 10:17)

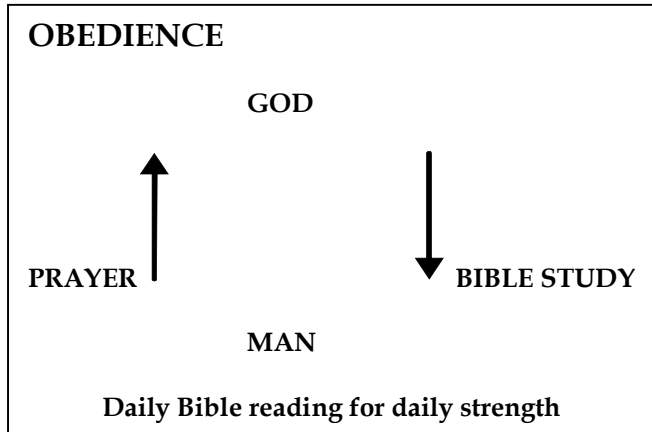
4) When should we read the Bible? (Acts 17:11)

As we read God's Word, the Bible, God talks to us as illustrated in the diagram. As we pray, we talk to God. We need to constantly practice both.

Nb: It is necessary to read God's Word daily for daily strength!

OBEDIENCE

The key to continual growth in the Christian life is obedience to the will of God. To know the importance of prayer and Bible Study is of little value unless they are applied in our lives.



- 1) Read James 1:22
 - a) According to this verse, is it enough to read the Bible?

b) After we have read the Bible, what are we supposed to do?

- 2) How can we prove that we love Jesus? (John 14:21)
-

CONCLUSION

- 1) In light of our study and discussion, what three things do you think God wants you to do daily?

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____

- 2) Realizing that prayer and Bible study are essential for my spiritual growth, I am going to set aside from _____(time) to _____ (time) each day to pray and study the Bible.

- 3) What will be the result of keeping Christ's commandments? (John 15:10)
-
-

- 4) Where do we get the power to obey the will of God? (Philippians 2:15)
-
-

SUGGESTED READING

The rest of the gospel according to John.

MEMORISE

Philippians 4:6-7

James 1:22

FOLLOW-UP 5

NAME:

DATE:

#####

Beginning Your New Life in God's Word

#####

Throughout history God has desired to communicate with the people of His creation.

Before Jesus came, God spoke to and through the committed people of the Old Testament who recorded His Word.

God then sent His Word to earth personally, in the person of Jesus Christ (John 1 :14).

While Jesus was on earth, as well as after His death and resurrection, God again directed committed men to record the words and ministry of the Son of God. The result of their faithfulness and availability is the New Testament.

The Bible is the entire record of God's communication to us. It has been given to us by God who desires our fellowship and worship.

This Bible study will help to explain how to understand and enjoy the Bible.

LEARNING TO LISTEN TO GOD

The Bible is the most important book one could read. Many people do not know how to listen to what God is saying to them in His Word. A meaningful relationship with the Lord is dependent on hearing and understanding what He is sharing with us.

The following are some hints to help you begin your study of God's Word.

Understand that reading the Bible is not like reading any other book. The Bible is God's inspired Word to man. In this book, God has something to say to you.

Therefore, read with the attitude:

"Lord, this is Your personal letter of love and instruction to me. Help me to understand and obey Your counsel and commands."

PREPARATION

In addition to the Bible, you will need a pen or pencil, and paper. Taking written notes will make you think more clearly. They will also keep you from forgetting what you learn. Consider buying a notebook to record your study of the Bible.

Find a quiet place to study and decide what verses to examine.

Then stop to ask God to speak to you through His word.

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

- 1) It is best to start by reading the entire book in the Bible. Then read three times the chapter your verses are in.
- 2) Read your passage several times to understand the main thing it is saying. Write this in your own words on your paper.
- 3) Be sure to read what comes before and after your verses so you will know the context.
- 4) It may be helpful to write out the whole passage by hand.
- 5) If there is anything you do not understand write your question down on your paper. Perhaps you will see the answer later as you study. Until then the question will keep you thinking and reading.
- 6) Keep reading the passage again and again until no more questions come to your mind.

Then ask the following questions and write the answers on your paper:

- a) What is the main thing the passage is saying?
- b) What is the key verse?
- c) What does it teach me about God or the Lord Jesus Christ?
- d) Who is the passage speaking about?
Who wrote it?
To whom was it written?
- e) Where and when does it take place?
- f) What reasons does the writer give for saying what he has written?
- g) It is very important to ask "How does this apply to me?"

FOLLOW-UP 6

NAME:

DATE:

Beginning Your New Life in Prayer

Any fulfilling relationship involves two-way communication. A look at the biographies of people recorded in the Bible clearly shows the importance of communication between God and His people. As long as these individuals listened to God, obeyed Him and prayed, their spiritual lives were radiant. When these same people, however, failed to hear and obey God and talk with Him through prayer, spiritual problems crowded in.

The same thing can happen to us today. God communicates with us through His Word, the Bible. If we desire a rich and fulfilling Christian life, we also need to learn to talk with God. To pray is simply to converse or talk with Him.

Prayer was an important emphasis in the life of Jesus Christ. His desire to seek His Father's presence and know His will through prayer is apparent throughout His earthly life. The life of Christ was a living conversation with God the Father; prayer was the backbone of Christ's life and ministry. To become like Christ, we need to learn to pray.

Prayer should include the following elements: (ACTS)

- ❖ Adoration (Praise & Worship)
- ❖ Confession
- ❖ Thanksgiving
- ❖ Specific Requests.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP GOD

1) In Psalm 95:6 we are told to:

2) According to Ps 95:7, why should we worship God?

3) According to Ps 135:3 why should we praise God?

God is worthy of our worship and praise. As His children, we should praise Him for His love, mercy, patience, holiness and power.

4) Read 1 Chronicles 29:11-12. What does this passage tell us about God's character?

Praise & Worship God through prayer

Take a few minutes to worship and praise God right now. Tell Him how much you appreciate Him and why. Considering the character of God described in Chronicles 29:11-12, tell God your thoughts about Him.

If you are studying this booklet with a friend, pray together. Take turns talking aloud to God.

CONFESS YOUR SINS

1) According to Psalm 66:18, what happens when we pray and when there is unconfessed sin in our lives?

2) According to 1 John 1:9, what does God say He will do when we confess our sins?

Are you aware of anything in your life that is not pleasing God?

If so, confess your sin:

- A) **Agree** with God that what He has revealed to you as sin, is sin.
- B) **Thank** God for His forgiveness on the basis of what Christ has done on the cross.
- C) **Repent** - change your attitude and action.

Confess your sins through prayer

- ❖ Take a few minutes and ask God to show you what is not pleasing to Him.
- ❖ Privately list these on a separate sheet of paper.
- ❖ Now pray and confess these sins.
- ❖ Claim the promise of 1 John 1:9 and write this verse across your sheet.
- ❖ Then destroy your list.

THANK GOD IN EVERYTHING

1) Read Psalm 106:1. According to this verse, what should we do?

2) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18. According to this verse, for what should we thank God?

3) Read Romans 8:28. According to this verse, why can we thank God for everything?

Thank God in Everything Through Prayer

1) Take a few minutes and in the space below list various things that God has done in your life for which you wish to thank Him.

2) Now list any unpleasant experiences and difficult areas in your life for which you have not thanked God.

Now thank God for these things!

SPECIFIC REQUESTS

1) According to James 4:2b, why are the needs of some Christians not met?

2) According to Matthew 7:7, what does Jesus say will happen when we tell God our needs?

3) According to 1 Timothy 2:1, for whom should we pray?

PRAY FOR SPECIFIC THINGS

Take a few minutes and list your specific needs and requests. Write them down on a separate piece of paper or in the last part of your Bible study notebook. Then write the date they are answered.

NEEDS & REQUESTS	DATE OF ANSWER

When your requests to God are specific, you will know when He has answered them. Thank God when He does.

PRAY REGULARLY

Prayer can become enjoyable when you write your requests in your notebook every day. This provides a permanent record of your requests.

It is also exciting to review your requests periodically and see the many ways God has answered and actively involved Himself in your life.

SUGGESTED READING

Book of Psalms.

Answers to the Follow-Up Series: *Beginning Your New Life...*

ANSWERS: Follow-Up 1

A New Relationship

1. The resurrection proved that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
2. Jesus Christ is God and eternal life.
3. If Christ had not risen from the dead, our preaching is useless; our trust in God is empty, worthless, hopeless, and the apostles were all liars.
- 4.a. I became a child of God.
b. Other Christians are my brothers and sisters.
- 5.a. Salvation is not the reward for a man's good works.
b. Salvation is obtained through faith in Jesus Christ.
6. Yes, I received forgiveness for my sins.
- 7.a. Christ will never leave me.
b. We invite Christ into our lives only once.

A New Life

1. Eternal life is found in Jesus Christ.
2. He has eternal life.
- 3.a. Yes, a person can know that he has eternal life.
b. Yes, I know I have eternal life.
c. Because Jesus promised it in His word to those who have received Him.

A New Adventure

1. I have become a new creature.
2. Nothing can separate me from Christ.
3. No one can take me away from Christ.

ANSWERS: Follow-Up 2

1. Natural man
2. Spiritual man
3. Carnal man
4. No
5. No
6. Yes
7. Yes
8. Yes
9. No
10. We are to confess our sins.
11. God promises to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

ANSWERS: Follow-Up 3

1. The carnal Christian relies on himself to live the Christian life.
2. The spiritual Christian relies on the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life.
3. The two aspects of spiritual breathing are exhaling and inhaling.
4. Exhaling (confession of sin) involves:
 - **Agreeing** with God concerning the sin.
 - **Thanking** Him for His forgiveness.
 - **Repenting** -- a change in attitude and action.
5. Inhaling means surrendering the control of our lives to Christ and receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit by faith.
6. We can know that we are filled with the Holy Spirit based on His command and promise.

ANSWERS: Follow-Up 4

Prayer

1. Man speaks to God through prayer.
- 2.a. We should pray.
b. We should pray about everything.
c. God promises that we will experience His peace.

Bible Study

1. God speaks to man through His word, the Bible.
2. Reading the Bible will teach us, correct us, train us in righteousness and equip us for every good work.
3. Faith grows as a result of reading and studying the Word of God.
4. We should read the Bible daily.

Obedience

- 1.a. No it is not enough just to read the Bible.
b. We need to obey what the Bible tells us.
2. We prove that we love Jesus by keeping His commandments.

Conclusion

- 1.a. Pray.
b. Read and study the Bible.
c. Obey Him.
2. Your choice.
3. We will abide in His love if we keep Christ's commandments.
4. We got power to obey the will of God from God Himself.

ANSWERS: Follow-Up 6

Praise & Worship God

1. We are told to worship God, bow down and kneel before Him.
2. We should worship God because He is our God, and we are His people.
3. We should praise God because He is good, and it is also pleasing to Him.
4. Greatness, power, glory, victory and majesty, all belong to God.

Confess Your Sins

1. God will not hear our prayers if there is unconfessed sin in our lives.
2. When we confess our sins, God will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Thank God in Everything

1. We should thank God.
2. We should thank God for everything.
3. We should thank God for everything because He causes all things to work together for our good.

Specific Requests

1. The needs of some Christians are not met because they do not ask God to meet them.
2. God will answer us when we tell Him our needs.
3. We should pray for other people.