7 STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

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NEW LIFE

Something wonderful happened to you. Things are different. Maybe you find yourself wondering what really happened. It is hard to explain, even to yourself . “But,” you say, “I know something happened. I am really changed. I am a new person.”
That is right! You are a new person. The Bible says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Now you are justified by faith in Christ. “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1). This is a new birth and the beginning of a new life of obedient love and devotion to God—the life of faith.

As a Christian, your motive in everything is to please and glorify God and to serve others. This is your abiding choice, your heart’s supreme purpose. This is love—God’s love—that now directs your whole life and gives it meaning. No wonder you are different.

Now, here are seven steps to help you get off to a good start in your new Christian life. Read them carefully and keep this handy for future reference.

1 | LIVE VICTORIOUSLY BY FAITH

“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57). “We are more than conquerors through him who loved us” (Romans 8:37). “For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith” (1 John 5:4).

Your victorious Christian life is not the result of your own daily efforts alone but of constantly placing your trust in Christ. It is not just trying; it is trusting. It is more than living for Christ; it is letting Christ live in you each moment by faith. Do not try to overcome temptation and solve problems in your own strength. Always look to Christ and trust Him for His strength and help. Christ was your Savior when He forgave your sins, and He continues to be your Savior as He lives in you each day and gives you victory over temptation and sin.

Christ resides within us by His Spirit, sitting upon the throne of our hearts. Christ also sits upon the throne at the right hand of the Father as our merciful High Priest. “I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One” (1 John 2:1).

2 | READ YOUR BIBLE DAILY

“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation” (1 Peter 2:2). The Bible is your spiritual food. It is necessary for your spiritual growth and maturity. Read it daily. A good place to start is the Gospel of Mark.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16,17).

Read the Bible prayerfully. It is more than history and literature. It is the inspired Word of God, a gold mine of truth. As you dig for its treasures, ask God to guide you by His Spirit. Ask Him to make it plain to you and to apply it to your own Christian life. As God speaks to you through His Word, obey Him. Follow His instructions and believe His promises.

3 | PRAY DAILY

"Pray continually" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Prayer is your means of communication with God, your spiritual lifeline. Meet God in prayer first thing each morning. Then cultivate an attitude of prayer throughout the day. When tension and frustration begin, stop everything—if possible—and spend a few moments in prayer.

A well-balanced prayer life includes praise, adoration, worship, thanksgiving, supplication (asking, petitioning), intercession (intense, burdened petitioning), and times of quiet waiting on God to give Him a chance to speak to your heart.

Pray in faith and confidence. Unburden your heart to God and believe Him to answer your prayer. If the answer does not come immediately, continue to wait upon the Lord and thank Him for hearing you. God is answering but in His own way and time.

If possible conduct regular family devotions. Bring the whole family together daily at a convenient time. Read a portion of Scripture and pray with the members of the family, taking turns leading in prayer. You might wish to use a good daily devotional guide such as God's Word for Today (which may be ordered from Gospel Publishing House by calling 800.641.4310). If time permits, consider individual prayer requests and needs.

4 | BECOME INVOLVED IN THE CHURCH

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10:25).

Every Christian needs a church home. As a Christian, you are part of the family of God. Other Christians are your spiritual brothers and sisters. It is important to worship God together. You need the strength that comes from regular fellowship with other Christians and from the preaching of God's Word.

You need the ministry of a Spirit-filled pastor. Your pastor watches over the spiritual life of the congregation just as a shepherd watches over his sheep. You are part of your pastor's "flock." From your pastor you receive prayerful guidance, counsel, instruction, and even correction if needed. When you need spiritual help or have questions about the Bible and the Christian life, feel free to go to your pastor. Always honor the position, leadership, and ministry of your pastor. And remember to pray for your pastor regularly.

The church is your God-given opportunity for united Christian service and testimony. Find your place of service in the church. Become a voting member so you can participate fully in the legal and business matters of the church.

Support your church with your tithe and offerings. The tithe, which is 10 percent of your earnings, belongs to God and is His chosen method of supporting His work. God has promised to bless you financially as well as spiritually if you will honor Him with your tithe and offerings. Do so in love and faith.

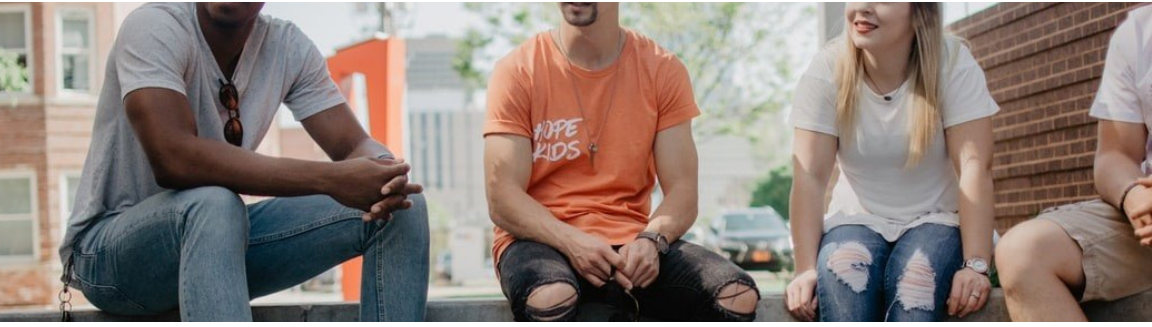
As you grow spiritually, so will your opportunities for Christian service. You will experience the joy and fulfillment that comes not only from being blessed and strengthened but also in being a blessing and strength to others.

5 | BE BAPTIZED IN WATER

"Having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead" (Colossians 2:12).

Water baptism is a public demonstration of your identification with Christ in His death and resurrection. It is a testimony of your faith in the risen Christ, a public declaration that the old "you" is gone, buried with Christ, and that a new "you" is now alive in Christ. It is a public act of resolute commitment before the whole universe.

Because water baptism is a public witness of your conversion to Christ, you should be baptized immediately. Water baptism has maximum significance and benefit when it takes place at the time of conversion or soon after.



6 | WITNESS FOR CHRIST

"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved" (Romans 10:9,10).

Your witness for Christ only begins with your confession of faith and water baptism. Take your stand for Him immediately and fully. When people ask about your change, tell them cheerfully and without hesitation that you are a Christian. Tactfully and prayerfully, endeavor to lead others to Christ. And be sure your life is your best testimony. A sincere, happy, radiant, kind, considerate Christian is the best advertisement Christ has. Be living proof that Christ and His salvation are real.

7 | BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8) "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:4).

Before you were saved, the Holy Spirit convicted you of sin. It was He who led you to Christ. When you surrendered to Christ, the Holy Spirit came to dwell within you to generate conscious fellowship with God and to integrate you into the body of Christ, the grand fellowship made up of all true Christians.

But the Holy Spirit desires to do much more than just dwell in you. He wants to fill you completely. Jesus will baptize you in the Holy Spirit if you ask Him in faith. This baptism in the Holy Spirit is a definite experience, the door into a new dimension of the presence and work of the Spirit within you. When the Holy Spirit fills you, your whole being is mobilized by Him for dynamic Christian living and service.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not essentially an emotional experience, although it is likely to have a powerful effect upon your emotions. The initial, physical evidence of this experience is speaking with a new language as you are prompted by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4). This definite, observable, uniform sign demonstrates the personality of the Holy Spirit. It is evidence that He has filled you. This is the beginning of the Spirit-filled life.

There you have seven steps to guide you in your new adventure with Christ. Some of your friends or Satan might try to make you believe your salvation experience is a fantasy. But believe God's Word and continue to trust Christ, and the success for your new life is guaranteed: "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

THE POTTER'S HOUSE

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

Arise and go down to the potter's house,
and there I will cause you to hear My words.
JEREMIAH 18:2

PASTOR CRIS LLOYD | 619-771-4133

SERVICES TIMES

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15AM (FOR ALL AGES)

SUNDAYS 10:30AM | 6:30PM

WEDNESDAYS 7:30PM

CHILDREN'S CHURCH 6:30PM ON SUNDAYS

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