

FIRST STEPS FOR NEW BELIEVERS

EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD SEEK THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION.

"Lord, What Wilt Thou Have Me To Do?" Acts 9:6

Your Life Truly Begins Anew.

You have repented of your sins and trusted Jesus Christ and received Eternal Life. Now you are ready to start living a life that pleases God. You want to be a successful Christian.

This month shall be unto you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year to you. Exodus 12:12

HERE IS HOW YOUR LIFE BEGAN

1. You Were Born-Again, Hence You Became:

- A babe in Christ. I Peter 2:2
- And a Son of God. John 1:12 and John 3:3, 5, 7

2. This Salvation Came Not:

- By your own goodness or morality.
- By your keeping the Ten Commandments.
- By your observance of the "Golden Rule."
- By your participation in the "Lord's Supper."
- By your baptism
- By your joining the Church.

3. This Salvation Was:

- **A Gift of God.**

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8, 9

- **By Faith.**
"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:1 "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Romans 10:17

- **By Believing with the Heart.**

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:9, 10

4. This Salvation Is:

- **Eternal.**

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand." John 10:28

You can never lose it. (Read Romans 8:35-39)

You can, however, lose the **JOY** of it.

"Restore unto me the **JOY** of thy salvation;" Psalms 51:12

You need to know how to get the most out of your Christian Life. "I am come that they might have **LIFE**, and that they might have it more **ABUNDANTLY**." John 10:10

STEPS TO A HAPPY CHRISTIAN LIFE

1. PUBLIC CONFESSION of your faith in Christ as Saviour.

This means that as quickly as possible after salvation, you should take your stand publicly in a regular church service declaring that you have been saved.

- a. This is usually done during the "invitation hymn" that is sung at the close of each service.
- b. This is done in obedience to what Jesus said, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." Matthew 10:32

"...whosoever believeth on him, shall not be ashamed." Romans 10:11

- c. This will not only help you and bless your life, but it will be a testimony to others who need to do the same thing, and will influence those about you.

2. BAPTISM....which is Immersion in water of one who has already been saved.

- a. Baptism is a picture of Christ's death, burial and resurrection.

b. Baptism is an outward picture to the world of what has taken place in your own heart and life.

- Death to Sin.
- Burial of the Old Life.
- Resurrection to walk in newness of life.

c. Baptism is the answer of a Good Conscience toward God.

"The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the puffing away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." I Peter 3:21

d. Baptism is the door to the Church.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." Acts 2:41

Though Baptism does not save you, nor help save you, nor keep you saved, it is a vital link in a happy Christian life.

Scriptural Baptism requires:

1. A Saved Candidate.
2. The right method - immersion.
3. The right motive-act of obedience to God.
4. The right authority: a New Testament Baptist Church

3. REGULAR ATTENDANCE at services of a True Independent Baptist Church.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25

- a. It is here that your soul is fed.
- b. It is here you are surrounded by fellow Christians who can and will help you.
- c. It is here you are constantly reminded of what Christ has done for you, and your heart is kept warm and grateful.
- d. It is here you will be able to serve Him who loved you and died for your sins, for the Church is His body, and He works in and through His body of which He is the Head.

4. PRAYER LIFE

This means to talk with Him anytime and anywhere. "Pray without ceasing." I Thessalonians 5:17

- a. Prayer is the "sincere desire of the heart."
- b. Begin every day with Prayer.

*"Whisper a prayer in the morning,
Whisper a prayer at noon,
Whisper a prayer in the evening,
To keep your heart in tune."*

- c. The gate of Prayer is **NEVER SHUT**.

Start now to form the habit of a daily quiet time. Decide on a time, preferably in the morning.

Decide on a place, where you will be alone and uninterrupted.

- d. To Pray is the greatest thing you can do; and to do it well there must be **CALMNESS, TIME** and **DELIBERATION**.

"If you are too busy to Pray, you are too busy!"

- e. Anything that is big enough to concern you, is not too small a matter for which to pray.
- f. To live without prayer, is to live without His power.

5. DAILY BIBLE READING

The Bible is God's personal letter to **YOU**. His **WORD**

It is a "...Light unto our feet." Psalms 119:105

- a. When you read the Bible
 - Remember that God is speaking to you.
 - Believe what God says.
 - Do what God commands.
- b. Read slowly -- "tasting the words."
- c. Underline passages that impress you. Note passages you need to have explained.
- d. Meditate daily upon what you read, recalling it many times during the day.
- e. Every chapter in the Bible is a finger of God pointing out the way of life and the path of duty.

*"Blessed Bible, sacred treasure,
Precious Book of all the best
There is Comfort, never failing
And a calm abiding rest."*

*"Read with reverence, and commit it,
Verse by verse, and day by day
It's the Word that God has spoken
And it shall not pass away."*

- f. Reading the Bible will be one of your most interesting experiences.

START BY READING:

- The Gospel of John.
- I John (to gain assurance).
- James (to teach us how to live before men)
- Psalms (Devotional reading)

6. CONSECRATE YOUR ALL.

*"My life, O Lord, I give to thee,
My talents, time, and all;
I'll serve Thee Lord and faithful be,
I'll hear thy faintest call."*

- a. Give the Lord His tithe, and your offerings (over and above the tithe) to the support of your church.

Every Scripture that commands or invites us to give, promises us greater material prosperity. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."
Luke 6:38

- b. Strive to live a **CHRIST-CENTERED LIFE.**

- Let your **MIND** be one through which Christ thinks.
- Let your **HEART** be one through which Christ loves.
- Let your **VOICE** be one through which Christ speaks.
- Let your **HAND** be one through which Christ helps.
- Let your **FEET** be those through which Christ walks.
- Let your **EARS** hear for Christ.
- Let your **EYES** see for Christ.

Strive to be more patient, kind, loving, joyous, and unselfish day by day.

EACH NIGHT survey the day's activities. Profit tomorrow by today's failures.

IN A QUESTIONABLE SITUATION ask yourself:

- "What does the Bible teach?"
- "What does the Holy Spirit say?"

Never do that which you know the Bible forbids.

Remember--in all things God said, "... my grace is sufficient for thee." II Corinthians 12:9

c. **Be a SOUL-WINNER.**

He Saved you, He can Save Others.

- Any Christian **CAN** win souls.
- Every Christian **SHOULD** win souls.

Do not wait for people to come to you. "Go ye therefore ..." Matthew 28:18,
"...and ye shall be witnesses unto me..." Acts 1:8

Start **NOW** by telling your family and friends that you are a Christian. Give your Personal Testimony as Paul gave his on numerous occasions.

*"Give me a faithful...
Like to Thee,
That each departing day
Henceforth may see*

*Some work of love begun
Some deed of kindness done,
Some wand'rer sought and won,
Something for Thee."*

Make this the motto of your life:

*"Only one life
'Twill soon be past;
Only what's done for Christ
Will last."*

*"I expect to pass through this world but once;
Any good thing, therefore, that I can do,
Or any kindness that I can show to a human being,
Or a word that I can speak for Jesus,
Let me do it NOW: let me not neglect nor defer it."*

For I shall not pass this way again.

REMEMBER

1. Other Christians are praying for you, and we have confidence that you will be a great Christian and a faithful soul winner for Jesus.
2. If you do yield to temptation and do that which is not right, turn to: I John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

3. Your Pastor is willing, ready, and able to help you with your spiritual problems, large or small.

Go to him; confide in him.

He will give you Bible answers.

He will join in prayer with you.

He will encourage you in your service for Christ.