

Next Steps for New Believers



Welcome to the family of God. If you sincerely **apologized** to God for your sins, **accepted** and placed your **trust** in Jesus Christ alone for your salvation (rescue from the guilt, power, and penalty of sin), according to the promise of God, you are now a member of God's forever family. John 1:12 NLT tells us: *"But to all who **believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.**"*

The Bible also says that there is a celebration in heaven over your decision to follow Christ. *"In the same way, there is **joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents.**"* Luke 15:10 NLT

Spiritual growth is your next step spiritually. The Bible tells us we need to grow in grace (God's favor) and in the knowledge of Christ. *"Rather, you must **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ....**"* 2 Peter 3:18 NLT

The Bible also tells us that we need to grow to be like Jesus Christ (in attitude, behavior, speech, values, etc.). *"... **growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.**"* Ephesians 4:15 NLT

1. **A New Beginning** - Understand What Happened to You.

The first step in your spiritual growth is to understand what happened to you when you accepted and trusted in Christ. Some of the most important **changes** are...

▶ **You were cleansed from sin & made right with God.**

*"Some of you were once like that. But you were **cleansed**; you were **made holy**; you were **made right with God** by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Corinthians 6:11 NLT*

▶ **You experienced a changed heart & life.**

*"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has **become a new person**. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT*

▶ **You were saved** (rescued from the penalty of sin), **given a new birth spiritually, and the Holy Spirit has made His home in your heart** (also see 1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

*"⁴ But—When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, ⁵ **he saved us**, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. **He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life** through the Holy Spirit. ⁶ **He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior.**" Titus 3:4-6 NLT*

▶ **Your name was written in The Book of Life in heaven.**

*"And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the **Book of Life** was thrown into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:15 NLT*

▶ **You are a citizen of heaven.**

*"But we are **citizens of heaven**, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior." Philippians 3:20 NLT*

▶ **You have Christ living in you and through your life.**

*"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God...." Galatians 2:20 NLT*

There is more! You will discover more of what God has done for you as you continue to grow spiritually.

Q1. Which of these changes means the most to you?

2. Assurance of Salvation

The second step in your spiritual growth is to gain the assurance of your salvation. There is a spiritual enemy of your soul. The devil will seek to cause you to doubt your salvation. You need to trust in the **promise** of God for the assurance of your salvation.

1 John 5:11-13 NLT

*"**11** And this is what God has testified: He has given us eternal life, and **this life is in his Son.** **12** Whoever **has the Son has life**; whoever **does not** have God's Son **does not** have life. **13** I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that **you may know you have eternal life.**"*

Q2. In whom is eternal life found, according to verse 11?

Q3. According to verse 12, what do you now have if you "have" God's Son?

Q4. What is the consequence of rejecting God's Son, according to verse 12?

Q5. According to verse 13, why did God give us this promise?

God gave us a promise. If we "have" His Son, we have "eternal life." God is faithful to His promises. Claim this promise. Trust Him for the assurance of your salvation.

3. Maintain Your Spiritual Growth

The third step in your spiritual growth is to *maintain* a spiritual growth process. There are 7 ways to do this...

1. Bible Reading & Study - Allow God to speak into your heart & life.

1 Peter 2:2 NLT

*"Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will **grow into a full experience of salvation.** Cry out for this nourishment"* Read the Bible regularly.

Q6. In what way will the Bible help you (1 Peter 2:2)?

Q7. How often does a baby need to be fed milk? What does this suggest about how often a new Christian needs to be fed spiritual milk - the Bible (1 Peter 2:2)?

2. **Prayer** - Talk to God.

Philippians 4:6-7 NLT

*“6 Don’t worry about anything; instead, **pray about everything**. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God’s **peace**, which exceeds anything we can understand. His **peace** will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”*

Q8. Why is prayer important to a Christ-follower?

3. **Worship** - Gather with Others to Worship God.

Psalms 5:7 NLT

*“Because of your unfailing love, I can **enter your house**; I will **worship** at your Temple with deepest awe.”*

John 4:23 NLT

*“But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when true **worshippers** will **worship** the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will **worship** him that way.”*

Q9. Why should worship be a high priority in our lives?

4. **Fellowship** - Connect with Other Believers for Mutual Encouragement & Accountability.

Hebrews 10:25 NLT

*“And let us not neglect our **meeting together**, as some people do, but **encourage one another**, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.”*

Q10. How does regular fellowship with other Christ-followers benefit us?

5. **Witness** - Tell Others What Christ Has Done for You.

Acts 1:8 NLT

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And **you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere**—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Matthew 28:19 NLT

*“Therefore, **go and make disciples** of all the nations...”*

The Simplest Way to Witness:

(1) Tell people that you have become a Christian (a Christ-follower). Admit to them that you have a lot to learn about being a Christian, but as of now, you do know that your sins have been forgiven, God is in the process of changing your life, and God has given you eternal life. Share with them **John 3:16**.

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” NLT

(2) Share with people the three key words for becoming a Christian: **apologize**, **accept**, and **trust** in Christ.

(3) Attend training opportunities to learn how to share the Gospel, such as **The Three Circles** Gospel explanation.

Q11. Who is someone you can start praying for and preparing to tell them about Jesus?

6. **Baptism** - Identify Yourself As A Follower of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:19 NLT

*“Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.**”*

The word “baptize” means “to immerse.” Baptism is symbolic. It pictures dying to the old life and being resurrected to a new life as described in 2 Corinthians 5:17. Helping people to identify their life with Christ in baptism is part of making disciples as mentioned in Matthew 28:19-20. Baptism should be done *after* a person’s salvation as seen from the example of Paul re-baptizing a group who had been baptized by John the Baptist. They had not yet heard about Jesus. Apparently, Paul updated them, they accepted Christ, and Paul re-baptized them (See Acts 19:1-5).

Q12. Are you ready to identify your life with Jesus Christ as his follower? Would you like to be baptized?

7. **Small Group Discipleship** - Help Change the World - Be A Disciple, Make Disciples.

Matthew 28:19-20 NLT

*“¹⁹ Therefore, go and **make disciples** of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ **Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.** And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Q13. Are you ready to participate in a discipleship small group?

Check list

- NLT Bible
- Bible reading schedule
- Date to be baptized: _____
- Small group choice: _____
- Copy of **The Three Circles** discussion card

New Beginnings Fellowship - sbc

3019 Whites Chapel Parkway

Trussville, AL 35173

www.beginnings.today

205-613-7235

(Written by Pastor Tim Henning)