**What is Next After Salvation?**

We are excited about your commitment and acceptance of Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord. You are now ready to go forward and live your life for God but may not fully know what to do next.

Accepting Christ is the first step to changing your life in a more positive way. Life can be challenging but God can help you through these difficult times. We have provided 5 practical things that will help you in your walk with the Lord and make your life more joyous and fulfilling.

These are:

1. ***Read Your Bible Every Day***. The Bible contains instruction on various areas of our life and can keep us strong in our relationship with our Lord. Bible study is God talking to you. That does not mean that you’ll hear an audible voice as you’re reading. It just means that the Bible is a written record of the truths God wants you to understand about Himself and the world in which you live.

If you do not have a Bible, please allow us to help you. There are various versions that easily help you understand God’s plan for your life. There are also computer versions that can be opened to a particular topic that can help you in your hour of need. Active Bible study is s necessity to live as close to the way God expects us to live.

1. ***Pray.*** One of the keys to any strong relationship is good communication. For maximum growth and development, you’ll want to make sure that you communicate with God on a daily basis. There’s no substitute for that personal one-on-one time with Him. There is no need that is too large or small for God.

*“Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.” Phil. 4:6*

Once you have become a Christian, there are still times of discouragement or when you need help. 1 Peter 5:8 states, *“Be self controlled and alert, Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” NIV* Did you notice the word “like”? It does not mean that he is a lion or has control over you. He doesn’t. We can be tempted to go back to our old ways or struggle with something but please remember the scripture found in 1Jo 4:4 *“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world”.*

God is always greater and desires for us to communicate our needs to him at anytime of the day. He is the One we can turn to bring provision, healing, strength, peace, wisdom and so much more! He is always there for you!

1. ***Church Attendance.*** Most people are drawn to salvation through a church service or message. It is important for any new Christian to be “fed” regularly the Word of God and have the support and fellowship from other Christians who attend church. A local church will provide the support and guidance needed to remain actively close to God.

Hebrews 10:25 says, *“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”.* It is really important to be connected to a good church with good people who can help your remain strong and with people who all are striving to stay close to God.

Most churches also provide education through a Sunday school or similar formats to allow us to grow together. 1 Peter 2:2 teaches us *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”* Once we start growing and learning through education and closeness with God, God will keep allowing the Scriptures to reveal a greater desire to walk with Him.

1. ***Witness.*** This change in your life should bring a different look for others to noticeably see. Many will ask us what is happening due to the smile on our face of the different way we are now acting. This is a great opportunity for us to be a witness (sharing) to others to what God has done for us.

You have gone through a marvelous change. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”*. Also in Ephesians 4:22-24 states of us having a need to change many things in our life, “*But ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; 23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness”.*  Nothing is a greater testimony or example for others to see and notice than living consistent to God.

 **The Body of the Believer**
 

The longer and closer we get to God, our old man diminishes and the holy man, Spirit, Mind, and Soul becomes greater in our lives.

1. ***Seek the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost).*** As a full-gospel church, we believe that there is a separate gift that God gives us. After Christ had left, he told his disciples to wait for a gift. This gift gave them power and boldness to preach the Gospel as well as to be able to discern right from wrong. Acts 1:8 says, *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”. {power...: or, the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you}*

After receiving such a gift found in Acts 2:1-4, you can notice a difference in those who were filled by the Holy Ghost. The disciples no longer had a physical presence of Jesus within their midst and they needed something more to sustain and help them in their daily walk. God sent down the gift of the Holy Ghost to those in the Upper Room and urgency of that truth and recognize their utter dependence on God’s enabling power.

Second, it reveals the Holy Spirit’s nature. Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as the “Comforter” or, in Greek, parakletos. That same word was used in other Greek writings to describe a character witness in a trial. In other contexts, it describes a specialist in any field who could supply missing knowledge or insight needed to solve a perplexing problem. It also refers to an encourager who knows exactly what to say or do when a person is suffering physically or emotionally.

The Holy Spirit wants to be as real, personal and a part of our daily lives as Jesus was to His disciples.

1. **Lastly, Support Your New Church Through Your Tithes, Offerings, and Time.** The church has been there for you and responsibility of being a Christian is to support the things of God. Giving is so important. Most people consider a tithe amount that is equal to 10% of your income. God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 *“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver”.*

There is also a principle of giving. We find an important scripture found in Luke 6:38, *“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 same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again”.* We are not trying to preach a prosperity message as we are encouraging us to give back to the Lord as he has blessed us.

The church also needs volunteers in order to bring a more effective message of salvation for those in our community. The more people we have working, the more we can share.

Spiritual growth is becoming a person who displays a more Christ-Like character in their daily walk.  We are alive here on earth to fulfill God’s destiny through our personal life. Knowledge of God’s plan and direction comes through daily studying the word of God. It is through the Word learned and applied in our lives that we grow to maturity that will consistently glorify God and receive fantastic blessing in time and eternity.

Your relationship with God can be as rewarding and fulfilling as you decide to make it. I encourage you to set your sights high. Make Him the number one priority in your life. If you do that, a whole new level of living awaits you – the life you were destined by God to live, the very life for which you were created. Don’t miss out.

God Bless and continue to be with you on your walk with our Savior Jesus Christ!

***Pastoral Care, Inc. Staff***

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