

Now What?!

Inspired by "A Father's Love Letter"

EBOOK WITH STUDY GUIDE
FOR NEW CHRISTIANS

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NEW LIFE

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Dedication

*To Sky, my stuffed toy dolphin,
who heard my cry.*

Introduction

When I accepted Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior at a very young age, I did not fully understand what it really meant. All I understood was there were people God used to introduce my Jesus, first to my Mother, and then to me. I did not have any sensational or ultra dramatic life episode except that I was suffering from a skin disease. My Mother, on the other hand, had a more interesting testimony because she briefly engaged in a cult during her younger years.

This study guide is an attempt to share personal experiences of slow, yet steady growth in the Lord. In the process of absorbing the truth found in His infallible word, may you understand little by little, the decision you have made when you accepted Jesus Christ in your life.

The most important decision in life is to invite Jesus as a personal Lord and Savior. It means that you put your full trust in Him for salvation and you believe that He is the only way to eternity. But Jesus is not just a gateway to Heaven, He wants a personal relationship. This relationship needs to be taken care of, nurtured, and valued in order to grow.

Just like when you enter into human relationships for example, a romantic relationship, you need to care, cultivate, and commit to it in order for the relationship to last.

Your relationship with Jesus now is like the first few months (or years) of knowing, learning, and getting to know Him. You will get to know Him and His promises over your life when you spend time to study His word. My free ebook, "A Father's Love Letter," is really an invitation to accept Jesus in your life.

Now that you have invited Him in your heart, you need to begin to treasure this relationship.

When I was a baby Christian or someone new in the faith, I was a sickly girl. And even if I started attending Sunday School classes, my skin disease would not go away. Now, did I believe in Jesus still even if I accepted Him in my life and yet continued to suffer physically?

A resounding yes!

Accepting Jesus as personal Lord and Savior is the starting point of a new life in Christ. You call it the born-again experience.

From the traditional and religious mindset of going to church, following a lifestyle of dos and don'ts, you have just now entered a totally new spiritual experience.

A spiritual experience that is faith-focused, Jesus-centered, and Bible-based.

As you navigate the Christian walk, you will discover a whole gamut of personal, social, emotional, and spiritual experiences that hopefully will lead you into one thing: Christlikeness.

The whole point of being a Christian is to be molded into Christlikeness. That is quite a mouthful and really astounding to hear because no one will ever come close to who Jesus is! But we try to be.

What does it mean to be Christlike? That is a whole teaching in itself. Simply put, we have to be shaped or fashioned to be really like Him in His compassion to others, His obedience and character, and His abounding grace and mercy.

Jesus came to save the lost, hurting, and destitute- and that's you and me.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)





NOW YOU'RE SAVED

Before you accepted Jesus Christ through praying the "Acceptance Prayer," you were in some kind of search. Or in some kind of mess. Deep down inside, the prayer touched you and made you decide –finally.

Maybe even before that someone already shared to you something similar. Or my ebook was the first material you read that tells something about a Savior.

Let me tell you that nothing is an accident in life, especially in the life of a believer. You are now called a believer of Jesus. A son or daughter of the Most High God whether you feel it or not.

Because of that very important decision of accepting Jesus into your heart, you are now a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).



Read : Romans 3:23

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

There are some adjustments that you need to make in order to know Jesus more. One of these is to spend time reading the Bible. This life-giving book gives hope, healing, and restoration. As a new believer, you need to invest in a physical Bible. Today, there are many digital Bibles and that is totally OK. But if you want to go deeper into studying, a physical Bible is really the best! There is just something so sweet about it. For me, it is the closest you can be with Jesus in a tangible sense.

So, read Romans 3:23. This verse tells us the truth about our human existence and that is we all fall short of the glory of God. Everyone is a sinner. Thus, everyone needs a Savior.



Memorize: John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”

We are all perishable goods without Jesus. Without His saving grace, we are hell-bound because of sin. It should be us on that cross, but because of God's great love He sent His only Son for us. Jesus redeemed us from sin. It means that He has bought us back to Himself and for Himself. To be redeemed is to be bought back. Jesus paid the price of our sin.

Sin has separated us eternally from the Father. It created the gap between man and God. The original sin of our parents, Adam and Eve, caused this curse upon humanity. Jesus had to be sacrificed on the cross on our behalf.



Meditate: Acts 4:12

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Ponder upon this: Salvation is found in no one else, but in Jesus.

Up Close and Personal:

1. When was the first time you heard about Jesus?
2. What was your initial reaction?
3. Describe the kind of life you had before you got saved.
4. Do you believe that you are a sinner?
5. What did you do to get saved?



Study: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!

A new you is here! A new life in Jesus awaits you! A life filled with hope, love, joy and peace!

When you accept Him, it will manifest or be seen in your life. Because if it is a sincere acceptance, it will bear fruit in your life. A certain kind of change happens on the inside of you. It is the change you have been longing for. And only Jesus can make that change.

Whatever change you need, in any area of your life, trust the saving grace of Jesus to get you through! Christ is the answer to all our longings.



Apply: In your own words, what is salvation? And as a new creation in Christ, what do you think you should emulate about Jesus?

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“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”

1 Peter 3:15





HE IS LORD

You accepted Jesus as personal Lord and Savior. Most of the time, we are focused on being saved and regard Him as our loving Savior (only), who showed us kindness.

Lordship of Jesus is equally important. In fact, it is of prime importance. When you accept Him, Jesus becomes Savior and Lord. It is a twin blessing- it is a package.

You can't have one without the other. The former is instant when you receive the gift of salvation, while the latter is a process that you will go through. Lordship of Jesus depends on your outright obedience. You can't just take Him in as Savior and do not regard Him as Lord. The Lordship of Jesus requires a daily surrender or submission to His will. As stated in the Bible, He is Lord.



Read : Acts 2:36

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

I say that Lordship is a process because life is a process. When you let someone into your house, you give the best treatment and hospitality. In a special event, VIPs get the best seats. On special occasions, we reserve seats for some special people or dignitaries.

In the same way, when you let Jesus enter your life by accepting Him as personal Lord and Savior, He gets the best place in your life: your heart.

It is in the center of your heart where Jesus would like to dwell. That center belongs only to Him.



Memorize: Romans 10:9

“If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Confessing Jesus as Savior is the start of Lordship. It is the acknowledgement of His new reign in your life. We know that a King’s words cannot be broken. What more with the words of our Lord found in the scriptures? His words are final because He is King of kings and Lord of lords!

His Kingship over your life requires 100 percent submission in all areas. What He says is the best for your life! If you truly trust Him in all areas, you will give Him full access and full reign. He just can’t be just your Lord in the area of ministry. He must be Lord of all!



Meditate: Acts 4:12

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”

Ponder upon this: The Lord is Lord of all or none at all!

Up Close and Personal:

1. When God opens up your heart, what do you think He will see?
2. Who or what is the first place in your heart?
3. Are there any areas you are having a hard time submitting to God?
4. Lordship is a daily walk with God, do you agree?
5. Is Jesus Lord over your life?



Study: Matthew 7:21

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

Lordship is a daily walk that begins in the heart. Now that Jesus is residing in your heart, let Him occupy the center seat in your life. Your heart is new and has been washed by the blood of Christ. Because of this new relationship you have with Jesus, His Lordship will be tested by your daily surrender and submission. Ask His grace and mercy daily so that you can walk in total obedience.

You have a new relationship with Jesus that requires a new heart.



Apply: In your own words, what is Lordship? What is the area of your life (relationship, finances, ministry, business) that needs obedience?

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“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9



FORGIVE

A believer's life is marked by His forgiveness. For without His forgiveness, a person remains in the pit of sin without any hope. But because of God's great love (John 3:16), we can have forgiveness by placing our faith in Jesus.

We have been redeemed by His blood and because we confess that we are sinners, He forgives us.

In your walk with the Lord, forgiveness will always be tested. As you have been forgiven, so shall you forgive others as well.

One way to test if you have really forgiven is that you don't feel the sting of pain inflicted upon you by others. You really do not remember the pain. Forgive and move forward with Jesus.



Read : Psalm 32:5

“Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.”

God is a loving Father who will forgive you if you confess your sin. He wants you to know and experience His love that is why He is offering a hand of forgiveness. But only to those who will admit their sins to Him. Take another verse as warning: **“Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” Proverbs 28:13**

God is so merciful to us. He gives us a chance to start over in life. No matter how we messed up in the past, we can be assured of His forgiveness. You can start over now!



Memorize: Ephesians 4:32

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

God has given us great grace by forgiving us of our sins. When you accepted Jesus as personal Lord and Savior, your sins have all been washed away and you are starting on a clean slate. The grace that you have received now as being forgiven and made new is also the same grace you need to extend to those who need your forgiveness.

Forgiving others is not a feeling, but a decision we need to make. Forgiving does not mean tolerating or approving the hurt or offense made against you, but it means releasing the pain over to God. He can mend what is broken in your life and relationship. Forgive.



Meditate: Matthew 6:15

“But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Ponder upon this: Forgiveness is a decision and not a feeling.

Up Close and Personal:

1. Have you already forgiven all those who have wronged you?
2. Do you agree that you need to forgive even if you do not feel like it?
3. To whom do you need to confess your sin?
4. Have you fully accepted Christ's forgiveness?
5. Who do you need to forgive?



Study: I John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”


A vital aspect in our daily walk with the Lord is keeping our hearts free from any unforgiveness. When Jesus hung on the cross, He said one of His last words: **“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34.** In spite of His dying situation, He chose to show compassion and asked for forgiveness on behalf of those who crucified, ridiculed, and shamed Him.

Hurt people always hurt other people. Sometimes, they do not know it. Choose to forgive and let go.



Apply: How can you really show forgiveness to someone who has hurt you? Pray and ask God to help you forgive the person who hurt you.

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For it is by grace you have been saved,
through faith—and this is not from
yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by
works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

4

FAITH

Your new relationship with Jesus requires faith. God is pleased with faith. As you journey spiritually with a renewed sense of hope, faith is your fuel to keep living the Christian life.

As a new believer in Christ, you strive to please Him and not man alone. This God-pleasing kind of life needs a lot of faith.

Faith is synonymous with trust. When you put your whole trust in Jesus for salvation, you are expressing your faith in Him. Having complete trust in God is also a test of faith walk. I say a walk of faith because nothing in this life is certain. But the promises of God are certain, true, and sure to bless you as you walk with full faith in God. Know His word and build your faith!



Read : 1 John 5:3-5

“In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”

You will overcome trials and hardships by having faith in Jesus. Now that you are saved and part of His family, you will still go through some hard times in life, but the good news is that you will overcome because of Jesus. As long as you know and seek Him, love and serve Him, obey and trust Him, you will surely overcome. Jesus has already won every sickness or pain at the cross. And the reason for the cross is you!



Memorize: Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

We receive the promises of God in the Bible by having faith. We still do not see some answers to prayers in the natural, but we believe that in His time, He will answer our prayers. Everyday, faith is needed to get us through and get us going. There will be bumps along your Christian journey and that is why you need to build and strengthen your faith.

You only put your trust to someone you know. How can you always trust God if you do not want to know Him?

And how can you really know Him personally if you do not want to learn His word?



Meditate: Hebrews 1:6

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

Ponder upon this: His presence is your great reward.

Up Close and Personal:

1. In what area of your life do you need to trust God more?
2. What reward would you like to receive from God because of your obedience?
3. Do you think you have enough faith?
4. How would you describe your new-found faith in Jesus?
5. What is your life verse?



Study: Hebrews 11:8

“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.”

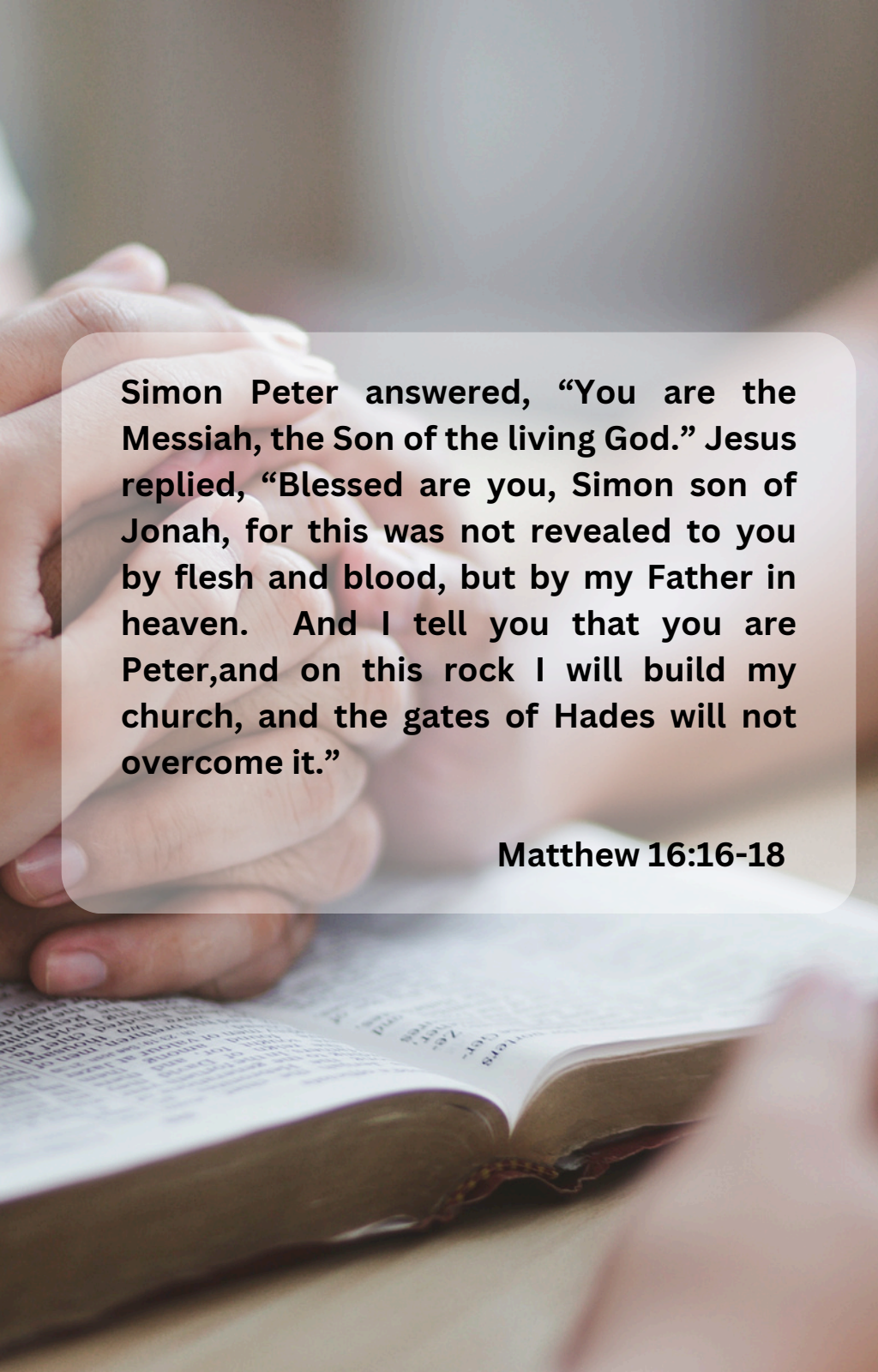
Faith requires obedience to God’s will and ways. **If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain move, and it will move. (Matthew 17:20)**

Abraham was tested to sacrifice His only son, Isaac on a mountain top to see if he really trusted God. And he did. He obeyed even it caused so much pain as they climbed their mountain that day. There will be testings in your Christian walk that will be painful, but take heart, climb your mountain one step at a time.



Apply: How can you build your faith in Christ? When trials come, how can you show or express your faith in Him?

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Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

Matthew 16:16-18



FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS

One of the purposes of your new life in Christ is to fellowship with other believers. In a Christian community, you will find people of the same faith and together, you can grow in Christlikeness.

This new path of Bible-believing, God-honoring, and Jesus-following is a walk of faith with people who can lift you up, pray for you, encourage you in your new relationship with Jesus. This new relationship you have is also meant to be shared with the people of the same faith. You will find that a church is a place worship where you can also be equipped and established as a new Christian.

After accepting Jesus as personal Lord and Savior, you need a Bible. And you need to go to a Spirit-filled church.



Read : Acts 2:42; 44-46

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

“All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.”

No man is an island. And no Christian man or woman is an island. This faith walk with Jesus needs true friends. In a local church, you will find your true friends. People of the same faith who would like you to grow spiritually and be established in the faith. You will find true friends in the church.



Memorize: Proverbs 17:17

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”

Anyone who finds a true friend, finds a real treasure! In this new digital world of internet connections, you will not find too many authentic people. It is hard to find a true friend in the truest sense of the word.

In an offline world like in a local community or common Christian setting, you will find fun, friendship, and fellowship and the determining commonality that you share is your relationship with Jesus.

A real friend will pray for you, lift you up, encourage you to build and strengthen your faith. A friend in the Lord understands your spiritual journey and helps you grow to be more like Jesus.



Meditate: Proverbs 18:24

“ One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.”

Ponder upon this: The church is a community of believers with shared lives. In the church, you will meet new friends, learn how to serve the Lord, and worship Him.

Up Close and Personal:

1. Have you ever been in a Christian church? How was the experience?
2. Do you have Christian friends around?
3. Do you serve in the church? If so, what ministry are you currently involved with?
4. What is worship?
5. How can you grow as a new believer?



Study: 2 Corinthians 6:14

“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?”

The many blessings of being part of a church community include loyal friends, meaningful fellowship, and faith-filled people. In a church, there is also an opportunity to use talents and skills to serve the Lord, an equipping to be stronger in the faith, and an experience for corporate worship.

As a baby Christian who is relatively new to the faith, you need to take baby steps towards spiritual development. Start your spiritual journey by having a daily prayer, reading of the word, and attending a Christian church.



Apply: What natural talent/s God has given you? How can you use your talent and spiritual gifts for the Lord and for the Kingdom?

[illegible]

Conclusion

The Lord has walked with me all my life! There were times in the past that I wanted to live on my own will and ways and was trying to escape from the *Hands* that held me so close early in life. But He never disconnected from me. He never let go my hand.

Today, as you walk out your new-found faith in Jesus, stay close to Him and follow His will and ways. I believe that just like me, He will never let go of your hand.

Wherever you are and whatever stage of your life you are in, believe that the moment you accepted Him in your life, you became brand new! A *brand new life* is what many people long for because many have given up all hope. But Jesus came to save you. Open up your heart and let Him in. *And welcome to your new life in Christ!*

