

## **Study#4: What Do I Do Now?**

I have heard, believed, and obeyed the Gospel in baptism, what do I do now? You are now a Christian (Acts 11:26), you have *"...been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever..."* (1 Pet. 1:23).

As a Christian I have responsibilities in this new walk. This lesson will examine some duties and responsibilities the Christian has to the Lord, as well as to the local church! Now that I'm a Christian I must...

### **Grow Spiritually & Become Rooted In Christ**

It's God desire that His children, Christians, grow spiritually. Peter, with the pen of inspiration, wrote, *"but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..."* (2 Pet. 3:18). The Apostle Paul penned, *"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith..."* (Col. 2:6-7).

The Bible speaks of the "milk" (1 Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-13) of the word and "solid food" (Heb. 5:14). Just as much as a young infant grows physically, transitioning from milk to solid food, so too does the new Christian transition from the elementary principles of God's word to more weighty matters.

The New Testament often gives direction for our "walk" (Gal. 5:16, 21-25) as a Christian, indicating it matters to God how we live out our lives. The Christian must spend time in God's word on a regular basis.

- Read the word of God (Eph. 3:3)
- Search its pages (Acts 17:11).
- Study it (2 Tim. 2:15).
- Meditate on the word (Phil 4:8).



## Jesus Provides The Essential Elements For Spiritual Growth

**Light** - Jesus said, "I am the light of the world..." (Jn. 8:12).

**Living Water** - Jesus said to the Samaritan Woman, " "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water" (Jn. 4:10).

**Bread Of Life (nourishment)** - Jesus taught, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst" (Jn. 6:35).

## Worship God In Spirit And Truth

Jesus said, *"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"* (Jn. 4:23-24). The New Testament reveals the channels of the Christian's worship of God...

- **The Lord's Supper** - Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper in Matthew 26:26-29, *"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.' Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.'"* The Lord's Supper is not a common meal, but a memorial of the Lord's death (1 Cor. 11:26). First century Christians partook of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7).
- **Giving (Collection)** - The Apostle Paul commanded the church at Corinth, *"Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come"* (1 Cor. 16:1-2). This act of worship was also done on the first day of the week and is the only passage that reveals how the local church is to receive its funds to carry out the work that God has given the church.
- **Singing** - Paul penned, *"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,*

*singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord"* (Col. 3:16). The scope of New Testament music is vocal music, and the "instrument" is the "heart" of man.

- **Prayer** - this is the means through which we communicate to God. We are to be *"praying always with all prayer and supplication..."* (Eph. 6:18). Jesus taught us to pray to God the Father in the model prayer (Matt. 6:9). The Christians at Jerusalem *"...continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers"* (Acts 2:42).
- **Teaching** - The early Christians *"...continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine..."* (Acts 2:42) or teaching. Jesus commissioned the Apostles saying, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age"* (Matt. 28:20). Obedient believers are to be taught! Jesus said, "It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me" (Jn. 6:45).

It matters to God how we worship. Jesus rebuked some in His day saying, *"And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."* (Matt. 15:9). God desires true worship (Jn. 4:23-24). The Apostle Paul penned, *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him"* (Col. 3:17). This simply means that whatever we do, including in our worship, we must have Divine approval or authority.

## Repent and Pray For Forgiveness

The obedient believer is not once saved always saved! It is possible for the Christian to so sin as to be lost! We can read about some in the New Testament who...

- Had fallen from grace (Gal. 5:4).
- Suffered shipwreck concerning the faith (1 Tim. 1:19).
- Had become lukewarm and were commanded to repent (Rev. 3:14-19).

Erring Christians are commanded to repent of sin and pray for forgiveness. We read about the conversion of Simon in Acts 8:13, *"Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done."* He later sinned (Acts 8:14-19). The Apostle Peter commanded Simon, *"But Peter*

*said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you" (Acts 8:20-22).*

Live every day for the Lord. Seek first the kingdom of God, that is the rule of God in your life (Matt. 6:33). Aim every day to be well-pleasing to God (2 Cor. 5:9).

## **For Discussion Questions**

For Discussion #1: Why is it important that the Christian grow spiritually (2 Pet. 3:18)?

For Discussion #2: What does it mean to become rooted in Christ (Col. 2:6-7)?

For Discussion #3: What are some things I can do every day to promote spiritual growth?

For Discussion #4: What are the five channels or items of Christian worship?

For Discussion #5: What actions must I take when I sin as a Christian?