



What's next?

Now that you're a follower of Jesus -

7 - *next steps for every new follower of Christ.*



*Life of
Purpose*

*Life of
Success*

Bruce R. Edwards

Now that you're a follower of Jesus

What's Next?

*"As newborn babe, desire the pure milk of
the word, that you may grow thereby"*

1Peter 2:2

www.bruce-edwards.com

What's Next?

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Introduction

The Greatest Gift

The most important decision you can make in your life is to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. When you put your trust in Jesus you become “born again” and receive a new life. It is the **greatest gift** you can receive.

It is a free gift from God. No one is forced or required to accept this gift of new life. You have the freedom to choose or reject God’s gift. You cannot earn it, pay for it, or do enough good works to deserve it. You simply receive it by grace through faith.

When we choose to receive Jesus, He gives us peace, joy, strength, righteousness, forgiveness and the assurance of eternal life with Him. What an incredible gift. If you are reading this book, then you've probably made that decision to receive the **greatest gift** - a new life in Jesus!

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
John 3:16

If you are not sure you have made that decision, do it now. Just believe in your heart that Jesus is the Son of God and say in your own words, “Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God and I ask you into my heart to be my Lord.”

As a believer in Jesus, we are part of the body of Christ and have entered into the Kingdom of God and have become a child of God. We become a Christian, a follower of Christ. We now have certain rights, privileges, opportunities and responsibilities that belong to us as Christians.

It is much like becoming an employee of a company. You have certain things you are responsible for as an employee of that company, and in return you receive

company benefits and other opportunities and privileges. The company will often give their new employees a handbook and take them through orientation to help get them familiar with all the benefits and opportunities of the company.

As a believer in Jesus our handbook is the Bible. The Bible is God speaking to us and giving us instructions and insights to life as a believer and follower of Jesus.

This book - “What’s Next” is to help get you started in the Kingdom of God. It is a short orientation to help you understand certain benefits that are yours and certain rights and authority that you have as a follower of Christ.

Christianity is all about having a relationship with God the Father through His Son Jesus with the help of the Holy

Spirit. It is not about being religious or following a set of rules or some creed, but it is about knowing the Lord. The things shared in this book are essential and basic keys to help you develop your relationship with the Lord. My prayer is that you will be blessed and grow in the Lord as you read through this short book. So, What's Next?

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me”.
Revelation 3:20

Chapter One

Be Water Baptized



Believing in Jesus Christ is the inward aspect of our salvation and being baptized is the outward affirmation of

our salvation. So, after we believe, the next step is water baptism. These two go together.

“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Romans 6:4

Water baptism is obedience to the command of Jesus. He Himself was baptized, setting an example for us to follow. (Matthew 3:13-15)

It was Jesus' last instruction to his disciples. Last

instructions are often the most important words one wants to communicate. ***“He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.”*** Mark 16:16

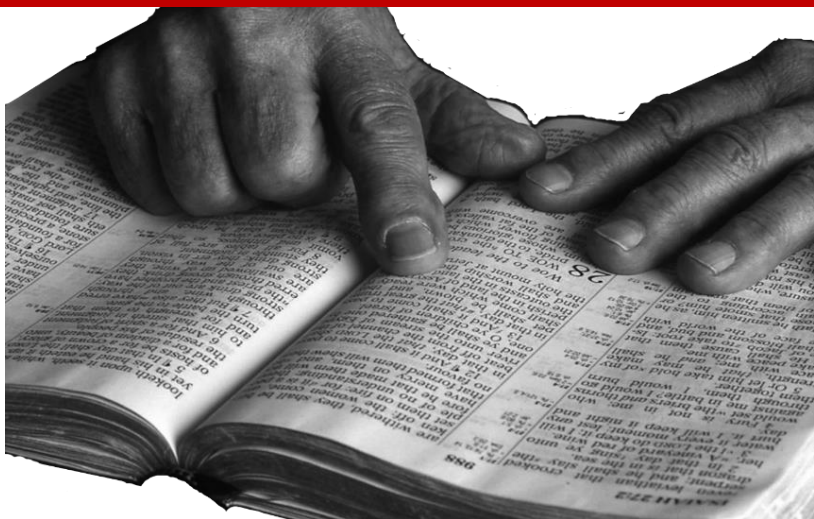
Water baptism is an outward sign of an inward work in your life. When you go into the water you show other people that you are following Jesus with your life. Romans 6:3-4

Water Baptism is a picture of what Jesus did in His death, burial, and resurrection. 1 Peter 3:21

Even though we do not need to have water baptism to actually receive the gift of eternal salvation from the Lord, the act of being baptized is still very powerful before the Lord and before the world in general, as we are making a public profession of our faith to the Lord by being immersed into water. As such, every Christian should make it a priority to be baptized with water as soon as they can after receiving the gift of salvation from the Lord.

Chapter Two

Start Reading the Bible



Reading the Bible on a regular basis is extremely important for a Christian. The Bible is your personal owner's manual that gives you important information and instruction to help you grow in your faith. It teaches you how to live and operate effectively as a Christian. It gives you wisdom and knowledge to help guide you and keep you on track to fulfill the plan and purposes God has for your life.

What's next for you as a Christian?

Begin reading the Bible on a regular basis.

5 Simple Suggestions

The following are five simple suggestions to help make your Bible reading easier with greater results:

1) The first thing you want to do is to get a Bible that is easy for you to read. There are several different reliable Bibles - New King James, New American Standard, English Standard Version, New International Version, and New Living Translation to mention a few to consider. Choose one that is easy for you to understand and begin reading it.

“The primary purpose of reading the Bible is not to know the Bible, but to know God”

2) The second important thing to understand about the Bible is that it is God speaking to you. It is important to personalize the Bible. I encourage you when you read the Bible to always approach it as God personally speaking to you. The Bible is the Word of God. He gave us His Word so we could get to know Him as He speaks to us through the Word.

3) The third important thing to realize is that it is ok to write in your Bible. If you have a special family Bible that you are not comfortable writing in go and buy a Bible you can write in. My Bible is filled with notes, thoughts, questions, comments, and ideas that come to me as I am reading or as I am listening to someone teach or preach. It is a great help in facilitating my understanding and learning. It will help you better understand the Bible as you read.

7 Amazing Benefits to Reading the Word

1. Feeding the soul
 2. Gives hope for life
 3. Grows your faith.
 4. Helps you know God
 5. Teaches you the truth
 6. Provides protection and direction
 7. Keeps you in the perfect will of God
-

4) The fourth important suggestion is to set a time each day designated for reading the Bible and make it a priority.

This can be 5 minutes or 15 minutes or longer. Set a time that works for you and then stay committed to it. I like to think of it as setting an appointment to meet with God. If you had an opportunity to meet each day with the President of the United States, would you make sure to make that appointment? Sure, you would. You have the opportunity to meet with God. What an awesome privilege.

5) The fifth suggestion is to use a Bible reading plan. This will help keep you focused and motivated. There are several different Bible reading plans available. If you have never really read the Bible or have tried in the past but found it boring or difficult, start by using the 40 Day Reading Plan on the next page and make sure to follow the first four suggestions above:

40 DAY BIBLE READING PLAN

Day 1 - 7 Read 3 chapters each day from the Gospel of John.

Day 8 - 10 Read 2 chapters each day from Ephesians.

Day 11 -18 Read 2 chapters each day from the Gospel of Mark.

Day 19 - 20 Read 2 chapters each day from Philippians.

Day 21 - 34 Read 2 chapter each day from the Book of Acts

Day 35 Read 1John Chapter 1-3

Day 36 Read 1John Chapter 4-5

Day 37-40 Read 2 chapters each from 1&2Peter

After completing the 40 Day Reading Plan I encourage you to begin reading through the Bible each year. I have an excellent one-year reading plan on our web site that is organized so you will read through the Bible in a year reading a few chapters each day. You can find it at on the resource page and the link below.

www.bruce-edwards.com

Facts About the Bible

The following is a brief overview of some basic information about how the Bible is written and arranged.

There are two divisions to the Bible: Old Testament and New Testament.

The Bible is made up of 66 different books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

Each book of the Bible has numbered chapters and numbered verses. These have been added to help readers quickly locate specific verses in the Bible. For example, John 3:16 is a reference for the Book of John, the third chapter, and the 16th verse.

There are two main focuses or purposes of the Bible. They are.

1) **God revealing Himself to us.** He wants us to know Him. We can have a personal relationship with God through His son Jesus. This is what makes being a

Christian different. The Word gives us an understanding of who God is, what His nature is like and what His Character is.

2) **God revealing His plan of redemption for all of man.** God created man to rule and reign on earth and have fellowship with him, but man lost his dominion and fellowship with God because of disobeying Him, and as result all of mankind was separated from God. However,

God had a plan to redeem man back to Him and that plan was His son Jesus. As we read through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, we discover God's love and mercy for us through His son Jesus and His plan of reconciling man back to fellowship with Him.

Bible Tools/Helps

There are some additional resources/tools you can use that can help make reading the Bible easier:

1) **Concordance** - this a tool that lists words found in the Bible alphabetically and then gives the references of where that word is found in the Bible.

2) **Bible Dictionary** - this is basically a collection of terms used in the Bible and about the Bible along with the definitions (generally extended definitions) of what Biblical scholars mean by those terms. A Bible dictionary

will usually include some background information and archeological data. Some of the things you will find in a Bible dictionary are:

- Definitions of terms
- Introductory information on a book of the Bible
- Short biographies of Bible characters
- Historical background information
- Descriptions and histories of places, such as countries or cities

3) **Topical Bible** - this is a book that takes key topics, people, places and subjects from the Bible and arranges them alphabetically. Under each term is listed all of the scriptures related to that topic and then they are categorized as needed in related subtopics. It provides a great resource to easily study many different topics in the Bible.

The important thing is to start today, by reading the Bible on a daily basis. It provides us with spiritual nourishment for our lives. Just like we need to eat a good diet to keep our physical body strong, we need a good diet of His Word to keep us strong spiritually. So, What's Next? **Start reading your Bible!**

Chapter Three

Start Praying



Prayer changes things!

What's Next for a Christian? Start praying each day. Prayer is simply talking to God. One of the greatest benefits of being a believer is the opportunity to speak directly with God.

Prayer is a communication process that allows us to talk to God and for God to talk to us! It is not a one-way activity, God speaks, we listen, we speak, and God listens to our hearts. He wants us to communicate with Him, like a person-to-person phone call.

Cell phones and other devices have become a necessity for many in today's society. There are blue tooth devices, blackberries, I-phones, email and many other means of communication that

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

Col. 4:2

people use to interact, discuss, and respond to one another. Prayer works even better than any of these communication devices because it is a direct connection with God.

Prayer is an essential part of our relationship with God. Yet too often we neglect this vital source of communication with heaven. In many cases, we don't pray because we don't know exactly how to pray. Prayer can be exciting, powerful

and fulfilling.

Start making prayer a part of each day. Here are some basic principles to help you get started:

1) **Pray to the Father in the name of Jesus.** When we pray, we are speaking to God the father. It is because of our faith in Jesus and His name that we are able to speak directly to God. For example, “Father God, I thank you for this day and thank you for your divine protection over my family and life in the name of your son Jesus. Amen.” We do not need to have someone pray for us or pray through some other person. As a believer, you have direct access to the Father through Jesus.

2) **Pray the Word.** I am often asked, “What do you say when you pray?”

First, just talk to God like you would anyone. He understands every language, dialect, and accent. You do not have to pray in King James English. Speak with God from your heart. Carry on a conversation with Him. Make sure to include moments of silence and listen because He will speak to you.

Second, when you ask God for something, base your request on God's Word. That is what I mean by praying God's Word. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us: And if we know that he hears us, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him" 1 John 5:14-15

"The value of consistent prayer is not that He will hear us, but that we will hear Him."

We are to pray according to God's will. God's will is revealed in His Word. So, it is important to pray His Word. For example, if you are trying to make a decision and need wisdom to help make the right decision. Simply ask God for wisdom based on James 1:5 which says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, ask of God who gives to all liberally and without reproach and it will be given to him."

Look for scriptures that promise what you are praying for. God's Word gives us promises for protection, provision, deliverance, help, hope, peace, health, direction, favor, salvation for loved ones and practically every area of life. Base your prayers on the Word and you can have confidence God will hear and answer your prayer.

3) **Pray in Faith.** Faith is a key ingredient of prayer. Faith simply means trusting God. It is believing that God is faithful to do exactly what He says He will do. Mark 11:24 says, "whatever things you ask when you pray, believe you receive them, and you will have them."

It is important when you pray that you are fully confident and not wavering. If you have doubt, then your prayer will be unanswered. James 1:6 says, "let him ask in faith with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose he will receive anything from the Lord. "

"Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God" Romans 10:17 Faith is rooted in the Word. When we put the Word in our hearts and our prayers are based on the Word, we will be praying in faith.

4) **Pray Out of Relationship - make it Personal**

The most important key to effective prayer is a personal relationship with our Heavenly Father. Two men in the Bible who are known for their great faith are Abraham and Moses. Both men had an intimate friendship with God. James 2:23 tells us Abraham, "... was called the friend of God," and in Exodus 33:11 tells us, "the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend." Both men saw God do great miracles in their lives.

However, it takes time to develop a relationship. Prayer is a vital part of building that relationship. Involve God in the details of your life and understand His desire to be a part of even the little everyday challenges and events. You can be who you are with God. You cannot fool him or hide anything from him. Be transparent and real with it. Make your conversation with God personal.

What a comfort to know that God loves us so deeply that He has given each of us an "open line" directly to Him whenever we need direction, comfort or strength. And His continuing promise to us is that He will answer our prayers!

5) Pattern for prayer

Our prayers should not be something we endure or simply do out of obligation, but they should be filled with life. The following is a simple pattern you can use to help you as you start a life of prayer.

It is an acronym ACTS-

- A** - **Adoration**. Start by worshiping and praising God. Simply expressing your love for who He is. He is the creator of heaven and earth. The giver of life. We praise Him and exalt Him.
- C** - **Confession**. This involves confessing God's word and confessing our sins.
- T** - **Thanksgiving** - We should always include an attitude of gratitude in our prayer - conversation with God. Let Him know how grateful you are for Him saving you, for His mercy, grace and love.
- S** - **Supplication** - Now ask God for your specific requests for yourself and others. Share with God what you need; His help, guidance, provision, wisdom, healing, and anything else you have need of. Give us this day our daily bread...
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil"

We have access to throne of God. Hebrews 4:16 tells us, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Take advantage of your privilege to come boldly to God's throne and speak with Him. That is prayer. So, What's Next? **Start Praying!**

Chapter Four

Start Going to Church



Church is not a building it is the people

As a believer the next thing that is important to incorporate in our new life as a Christian is becoming part of a local Church. God created us in such a way that we need fellowship with other followers of Christ. Hebrews 10:25 says, ***“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.”*** God’s desire is for us to build each other up and to encourage one another so we can grow in the Lord.

The church is designed to be like a body. It needs all of its parts to function efficiently and effectively. Paul explains it this way in Romans 12:5-6 “...so in Christ we who are many forms one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us...” You are a vital part of the body of Christ. God has a plan for you in fellowship with believers. Getting connected in the life of a church is essential for our own growth and the growth of others.

“The church is not a building or denomination. The church is the people.”

Becoming committed to a local church means you should be involved in the following ways:

1. Attending services regularly.
2. Finding a place to serve in the church.
3. Getting connected in the life of the church
4. Supporting the church financially by giving tithes and offerings.
5. Praying for the church and leadership regularly.

The following are some guidelines to help you in finding the right local church for you:

- 1) Look for a church that is preaching and teaching the Word.
- 2) Look for a church that believes in miracles for today.
- 3) Look for a church that has people getting saved on a regular basis.
- 4) Look for a church that is focused on missions.
- 5) Look for a church that is helping the poor and needy.

Find the Church God has for you and get involved. “Those planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish” Psalm 92:13

“Jesus is the head of the church. We are the body.”

Remember, no church is perfect. The church is not the building or programs, but the people. We are the church and together we are called to impact our world by being salt and light. So, What’s Next?

Start going to church!

Chapter Five

Start Confessing What God's Word Says About You

You are who God says you are!



Where is Your
Identity?

God's fingerprint
is on you!

So, start speaking those things over your life.

What's Next as a Christian? After reading the Bible, God's Word regularly and talking with God, praying every day - you need to discover and understand who you are in Christ and start confessing God's Word. That is what's next for you. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away all things have become new".

As a believer, you are now a new and different person. Every person has an image of themselves which has been developed based on all the experiences and influences in their life - the way they grew up, how their parents raised them, what others - teachers, coaches, siblings, friends,

You are who the Bible says you are, not what others have labeled you.

peers, employers have said about them and how they have been labeled and impacted by other influences in their life. As a result, they have painted a picture, a perception of who they think they are based on all those experiences. As a Christian

we now have a new identity. There is a new portrait being painted of us which now is based on who God says we are.

You are a new creation - a new person. You now have your identity in Jesus. Begin to define yourself and see yourself the way God sees you. You need to begin to define

yourself and redraw your self- portrait based on what the Word says about you and who the Word says you are. You draw that new picture of yourself by confessing what God's Word says. There is power in our words. Proverbs 18:21 says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue. "In other words, what we say can bring death or life - blessing or cursing.

Don't say things like -

- I will never amount to anything.
- I am such a loser.
- I am just an accident looking for a place to happen.
- I could never do that.

And the list goes on of negative words people say about themselves. These are based on past experiences or because someone has spoken them over us. Change what you are saying and start confessing what God's Word says about you! The following are several things you can start confessing over your life. They are statements of who you are in Christ based on what the Word says:

"In Him we live,
move, and have our
being." Acts 17:28

You Are Righteous

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

You Are an Over Comer

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”

You Are More Than a Conqueror

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us”

You Are Justified (forgiven)

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” – Romans 5:1

You Are Complete in Christ

“And you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” – Colossians 2:10

You Are A Saint

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus.” – Ephesians 1:1

You Are Christ's Friend

“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.” – John 15:15

You Are God's Workmanship

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” – Ephesians 2:10

You Are A Citizen of Heaven

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.” – Philippians 3:20

You Have No Condemnation

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” – Romans 8:1-2

You Cannot Be Separated from The Love of God

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” – Romans 8:38-39

You Are Assured That All Things Work Together for Your Good

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” – Romans 8:28

You Are Bought with A Price and Belong to God

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

You Are God’s Temple

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” – 1 Corinthians 3:16

You Can Do All Things Through Christ Who Strengthens You

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” – Philippians 4:13

You Are Established, Anointed and Sealed by God

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.” - 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

You Are Seated with Christ In the Heavenly Places

“And raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” – Ephesians 2:6

You Are A Member of Christ’s Body

“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.” – 1 Corinthians 12:27

You Have Been Adopted as God’s Child

“Having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.” – Ephesians 1:5

You Are God’s Fellow Worker

“For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.” – 1 Corinthians 3:9

You Are the Salt and Light of The Earth

“You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.” –

Matthew 5:13-1

You Are A Personal Witness of Christ’s

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” – Acts 1:8

You Have Not Been Given A Spirit of Fear, But of Power, Love and A Sound Mind

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” – 2 Timothy 1:7

You Have Been Redeemed and Forgiven

“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1:14

You Are Free from Any Charge Against You

“Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.” –
Romans 8:33-34

You May Find Grace and Mercy in Time of Need

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” –
Hebrews 4:16

Begin changing the image of yourself to what God’s image is of you. He sees you as an overcoming, conqueror, joint heir with Christ, holy and righteous and a child of God! So, What’s Next?

Start Confessing God’s Word Over Your Life!

Chapter Six

Baptism WITH the Holy Spirt

Receive Power to Witness More Effectively



Once a person is “born again” (saved) they can also be BAPTIZED **WITH** THE HOLY SPIRIT. This is a gift available to every believer. It is subsequent to being born again. In other words, you cannot receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit until you are born again. John 14:16-17

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

Notice Jesus said, “Whom the World cannot receive”. Who is “whom”? It is the Holy Spirit. Who cannot receive the Holy Spirit? The world, those who are not born again. If this was talking about getting saved no one could ever be saved.

Not the Same Thing

Being “BAPTIZED **WITH** (or into) THE HOLY SPIRIT” is not the same thing as receiving the Holy Spirit. I know many people teach and believe that, but that is NOT what the Word of God teaches

When a person is born again, they receive the Holy Spirit. Everyone who has truly put their faith in Jesus has the Holy Spirit. The moment you are born again the Holy Spirit comes to live in you. When you are Baptized with the Holy Spirit, He comes upon you. You are immersed into the Holy Spirit.

Different Baptisms in the Bible

To help understand this better it is important to understand there are several baptisms mentioned in the Bible. Baptize means to immerse. Whenever someone is baptized, they are immersed into something and someone does the immersing. For example, water baptism. When you are water baptized you are immersed into WATER and the person doing the baptizing is usually the PASTOR or some other church leader.

When you are saved you are “baptized into Christ”. 1 Corinthians 12:13 – “***For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body***”. This is a work of the Holy Spirit. He baptizes you, immerses you into Christ.

Being “BAPTIZED WITH (or into) THE HOLY SPIRIT” is not the same thing as receiving the Holy Spirit.

When you are Baptized with the Holy Spirit you are immersed into the Holy Spirit by Jesus. Jesus is the one who baptizes you into the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is the one who baptizes you into the Body of Christ. They are two different events.

When you are saved you are “baptized into Christ”. When you are baptized with the Holy Spirit your “baptized into the Holy Spirit”.

John the Baptist Prophesied It

The term Baptized with the Holy Spirit comes from the prophecy made by John the Baptist. He said, “***I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.***” (Luke 3:16) Clearly John is telling us this is some Jesus will do for us.

Jesus Taught It

After the resurrection Jesus told his disciples, “***Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.*** (Luke 24: 19).

The baptism of the Holy Spirit was called the promise of the Father in this passage. Jesus said it would be an enduement with power from on high. These followers would be endowed with God's power to be witnesses of Jesus. According to His instruction, some one hundred and twenty followers of Jesus, including the disciples, met together to wait for the promise of the Father.

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

(Acts 2:1-4)

Reason for It

1. To Have Power to be a more effective witness

An important reason for the baptism of the Holy Spirit is power to be a more effective witness for Christ. When a person is baptized with the Holy Spirit, they receive ability or enablement that wasn't there before. This doesn't mean you can't be a witness for Christ without the baptism with the Holy Spirit, just you will have power to be more effective.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:5).

And those: one hundred and twenty went into the streets witnessing of Jesus. The Jews who were gathered in Jerusalem from all over the world, because of the feast of Pentecost, heard the wonderful works of God in their own languages. (Acts 2:11). Finally, Peter stood up and preached about Joel's prophecy and the resurrection of Christ. ***“Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about THREE THOUSAND SOULS were added to them”*** (Acts 2:41).

The results were amazing as they witnessed in the power of the Holy Spirit. Soon another 5,000 believed the word and were added to the church (Acts 4:4).

2. Rivers of Living Water to bless others

Jesus described the Holy Spirit as rivers of living water that would flow out of the believer's inner most being,

"Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “anyone thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will

flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified” (John 7:37-29),

The Holy Spirit produces rivers of life, love, joy, peace, and power to flow out of your spirit to meet the needs of others. Jesus said these that believe upon Him SHOULD RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Ask and You Shall Receive

Knowing that it is God's will for you to be filled with the Holy Spirit gives you confidence in asking Him to baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

“Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him?” (1 John 5:14-15).

Jesus said your heavenly Father would give the Holy Spirit to those who would ask Him. You ask the Father to give you the Holy Spirit and have confidence you shall receive! (Luke 11:9-13)

A New Tongue

One of the signs Jesus said would follow those who believe was ***“they will speak with new tongues”*** (Mark 16:17).

Isaiah prophesied about this. ***“For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, to whom He said, ‘This is the rest with which you may cause the weary to rest,’ and, ‘This is the refreshing’; yet they would not hear”*** (Isaiah 26:11-12), It will be a rest and be refreshing to the believer.

The one hundred and twenty believers (Jews) all spoke with ether tongues on the day of Pentecost when they received the baptism with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4). The Gentiles in the house of Cornelius spoke with tongues when the Holy Spirit came on them (Acts 10:44-45). Likewise, the people at Ephesus spoke in tongues when the Holy Spirit came on then (Acts 19:6).

Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit when Ananias laid hands on him. He later told the Christians at Corinth, “I thank “my God I speak with tongues more than you all” (1 Corinthians 14:18). He said praying in the Spirit edifies or builds up the believer (1Corinthiana 14:4). In his message to the Corinthians, he concluded his instructions on tongues with these words, “Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to Prophesy, and DO NOT FORBID TO SPEAK WITH TONGUES. Let all things be done decently and in order” (I Corinthians 14:39-40).

Chapter Seven

Start Sharing Your Faith



SHARING YOUR
FAITH

It is important to start sharing your testimony with others. You have a story to tell. It is the story of how Jesus changed your life. Others need Jesus just like you did, and your testimony can be an encouragement to family, friends, and others. 1 Peter 3:15 says, ***“But have reverence for Christ in your hearts, and honor him as Lord. Be ready at all times to answer anyone who asks you to explain the hope you have...”*** You should be ready to share the hope you have in Christ with others. Take a few minutes to write your testimony and commit it to memory so when the opportunity comes you are ready.

You have a story to tell. It is the story of how Jesus changed your life.

You don't need to tell people what they need to do or how they need to change, just share what you did, and how Jesus saved you. No one can argue with your testimony. You are simply telling them what happened to you. You don't even need to understand everything the Bible teaches or have a lot of scriptures memorized to simply share how Jesus has changed your life.

Jesus said, ***“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same***

way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matt. 5:14-16). Testimonies encourage others in their faith, and that is why it is highly crucial for Christians to share their testimony, even if they are new believers. You never how sharing about your experiences can help others facing the same obstacles, or how the new person you've become can inspire others who seek to discover the God that completely changed you.

Use the following 3 questions to help guide you in writing your personal testimony.

1. What Was My Life Like Before I Met Christ?

- **What kinds of problems, challenges, and struggles were you dealing with?**
- **What direction was your life headed in – success, tragedy, purposeful, hopeless, etc.**
- **Did you grow up in church?**
- **Anything else that might be important.**

2. How Did I Meet Christ?

Remember your testimony is not about you and your awesome decision to choose Christ, but God's awesomeness in choosing to save you. You did not find God. He wasn't lost. He found you. You were lost.

- **Who did God use to lead me to the faith? How did God use them?**
- **What did they say and do? Where did you receive Christ – at church, home, at a special event, at a friend's house, or some other situation?**
- **Were you seeking answers?**
- **Was there a special Bible verse that God use to get your attention or help you make the decision to receive Christ?**
- **Did you become a Christian the first time you heard the gospel or was it a process?**

3. What's My Life Like Now That I Know Christ?

- **How did your life change once you became a Christian?**
- **How things got better? How things got worse?**
- **What is different?**

Sharing your testimony is not the end all be all. The goal is to provide encouragement, hopefully pique their

Write out your testimony and begin sharing with others.

interest, and maybe open the door to share the gospel. Sharing your testimony is a great starting place to move forward in trying to make disciples. Your testimony does not save anyone.

The power to save comes from the gospel, not our cool stories. Sharing our testimony is merely a way to start an evangelistic conversation or lay groundwork for future gospel conversations.

Remember that God does not call the equipped; He equips the called—and as Christians, we are all called to share what Christ has done. Some of Christ's last words on earth were, "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). Sharing our faith isn't just a suggestion, it's a command. And God is with us when we obey Him.

Chapter Eight

Start Serving



Having made a personal commitment to follow Christ, you now are called to serve God by serving others. “***You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.***” (Galatians 5:13) We are not saved by serving, but we are saved for serving. As a child of God, you have a high calling that can only be fulfilled by becoming a servant.

God has given every believer 3 resources:

1. **Time** – God has blessed each of us with 24 hours in each day.
2. **Talent** – this includes the gifts and abilities God has blessed us with
3. **Treasure** – this is the financial resources God has blessed us with

When it comes to serving God, the question is how we are using these 3 resources. There are three things we can do with each. We can waste them, spend them, or invest them. As followers of Christ, we need to find out how God wants us to invest our time, talent, and treasure in the Kingdom of God. We start serving God by finding ways to serve others with our time, talent, and treasure.

In chapter three we talked about getting connected with a fellowship of believers – a local church. Look for places you can serve in your church. It may be helping

with the children's ministry, or leading a small group, becoming an usher or greeter, maybe helping keep the facilities and grounds cleaned, it could be visiting those who are shut in. The important thing is finding a place you can invest your time and talent helping serve others.

We serve by giving of our finances into the work of the ministry. 2 Corinthians 6:7-8 says, ***“let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work”***. Every person has the ability to give. Does not expect equal gifts, but equal sacrifice. The little widow women who gave “2 mites” (a very small amount) yet Jesus she gave more than those who gave large amounts. Giving of our finances is an issue of the heart.

Part of serving is discipleship – being discipled and discipling others. Jesus gave every one of us an assignment, ***“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,”*** (Matthew 28:19)

Look for opportunities today to serve, and take your place alongside Christ, who was the ultimate servant of all. How are you investing your time – talent – and treasure? Where are you serving in the local church? Are you discipling someone?

Chapter Nine

3 Additional Keys for Believers to Grow



Unlock God's full potential in your life

1. You Need to Continue to grow.

Your new life as a Christian is an ongoing process. You are continually under construction. God is working in you to help you grow. Make a decision to continue to grow in the Lord.

What does that mean? Stay humble and open to the correction and direction of the Lord in your life. If you apply the steps above of reading the Bible, praying, being connected in church and confessing God's Word you will be in a place of continual growth.

Isaiah 64:8 tells us God is the potter and we are the clay. In other words, if we will yield to the Lord and stay on the potter's wheel God will continue to shape and mold us into who He wants us to be.

The good news is God is faithful to complete the good work He has begun in you according to Philippians 1:6, so, don't quit or give up. Keep pressing in and you will see increase in every area of your life. Continue to do all the things above and you will continue to grow!

2. You Have Benefits and You Need to Possess Them

Jesus said in John 10:10 "...I have come that you might have life and life more abundantly." God's will for you as a follower of Christ is to have a rich and full life.

According to 2Peter 1:3-4, God has given us all things

we need for this life and for godliness by his exceedingly great and precious promises. These are the benefits, rights and privileges that belong to the believer. However, you must take possession of those promises. Many believers never discover all that belongs to them. Hosea 4:6 says, “My people perish for a lack of knowledge.” In other words, they never discover God’s promises for them in His word.

How do you possess the promises? You possess them by faith - believing in your heart and confessing them with your mouth. There are thousands of promises in the Bible for you. It is important to know what they are and then possess them. Here is a list of some of the promises (benefits) for you:

1. Peace - “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you,” John 14:27
2. Protection - “No evil shall befall you. Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you.” Psalm 91:10-11
3. Blessing - “who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing...” Ephesians 1:3
4. Eternal Life - “this is the promise that He has promised us eternal life.” - 1 John 2:25
5. Healing - “... by whose stripes you were healed.” 1Peter 2:24
6. Provision - “but my God shall supply all your need,

- according to His Riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”
Philippians 4:19
7. Favor - “A good man obtains favor from the Lord...”
Proverbs 12:2
 8. Strength - “the Lord is the strength of my life.” Psalm 27:1
 9. Rest - “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28
 10. Victory - “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
1 Corinthians 15:57

Jesus, however, did not promise you a life without trials or challenges but He did promise to help you overcome the trials and tribulations you may encounter. In fact, Jesus put it this way in John 16:33, “in this world you will have tribulation but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” Another promise we have is found in 2 Corinthians 2:14, “thanks be to God who ALWAYS causes us to triumph.” God promises us victory.

Psalm 103:2-5 tells us, “Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not **all His benefits**— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s “. What an awesome God we serve. You have many benefits as a follower of Christ. Don’t forget them, don’t miss them, but instead discover them and make

sure to possess them!

3. You Need to Fight the Good Fight of Faith

The first part of John 10:10 says, “The thief comes to kill, still and destroy.” Jesus is referring to Satan and the world system. Remember you are now in the Kingdom of God. We are in the world but not of the world. Make no mistake about it the kingdom of the world is warring against us and trying to steal and destroy our lives as followers of Christ. What do we need to do to resist this opposition?

First, know that “greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world “. 1John 4:4

Second, “Resist the devil and he will flee “. James 4:7 Notice it did not say - he might flee, maybe he would flee, but he will flee.

Third, stay in FAITH. In 1Timothy 6:12 the Apostle Paul tells his young protégé Timothy to “fight the good fight a faith”. The only fight you have as a believer is the fight of faith. All of the attacks and opposition we encounter are to try and move us out of faith and into fear and doubt. Stay in faith and you will never be defeated. Faith always brings victory. We are more than conquerors!

Chapter Ten

Last Thoughts – What if you mess up?

Don't Give Up!



If you mess up - fail or stumble, get back up and keeping going. If you suffer a setback, don't be discouraged but get ready for a comeback. God is merciful and He is for us. Romans 5:8-9 says, "***God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.***" Think about that for a moment. God loved us and saved us when we were sinners. Now that we are saved and in the kingdom of God, He even loves us more and is more committed to saving us from all that tries to come against us.

Stay focused on Jesus. Hebrews 12:2 says, "***looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.***" Our life of faith begins with Jesus and we will finish our life of faith by and only by, Jesus. Don't become so busy or distracted by the cares of the world that you lose focus of Jesus.

Jesus has a plan for your life. You have a divine purpose. There is no one else exactly like you. As you begin this new life and begin taking your next steps as a follower of Christ you will begin to discover your purpose in life. Verse 1 of Hebrews 12 says, "***let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,***". The race we have to run is our purpose in life. God is with you as run your race – just keep focused on Jesus!

What's Next? Victory! Jesus will take you from strength to strength, faith to faith and glory to glory. Go for it!

May God richly bless you and keep you as you fulfill His purpose and destiny for life.

Closing

It's all about Jesus

As you begin this journey and take the next steps as a follower of Christ always remember it is all about Jesus. Acts 17:28 says, “^{For} ***In him we live and move and have our being***”.

Christianity is not a religion it is a RELATIONSHIP. One of the unique things about following Jesus is the ability to know Him. He is a personal God who cares about you. He knows the number of hairs on your head. (Luke 12:7)

It is Jesus who pursues, secures, and maintains our position in the family of God. He died that we might be restored to a right relationship with His Father and back into the family we were originally created to be a part of.

At the heart of following Christ is getting to know Him more and more. All the things shared in this short book are meant to be processes that help you to get to know Him better.

It is not about the processes, but about what the process

produces. It is not as much about the doing as it is about the “being”. Jesus is more interested in who we are than what we do. If we are true followers of Christ who really know Him, then what we do will reflect who Jesus is.

Keep Jesus first! ***“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”*** (Matthew 6:33)

God want us to grow. Just like we grow naturally – born a baby, then a toddler, then a child, then a teen, and then an adult. Spiritually it’s the same we are born again as spiritually babies and then with the right spiritual diet and exercise we will grow into spiritual adulthood. That diet is the Word of God and the exercise is obeying what the Word tells us to do. It is the life of faith.

The Bible tells us to Live by Faith. Again, the way we do that is through Jesus. He is the author and the finisher of our faith. We need to keep our eyes fixed on Him.

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“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

John 10:10

Appendix 1

What's Next

Discipleship Lesson Plans

We have taken the 10 chapters in this booklet and developed the following six simple lesson plans to be used for small group studies or individually to help better understand the principles shared.

In the next section are review questions and discussion question to be used with each lesson plus space for personal notes.

Lesson One

- Introduction
 - Define Greatest Gift
 - Discuss the Benefits of a Believer
 - Bible is the believers life handbook
 - Christianity is a relationship not religion
- Chapter One
 - Define water baptism
 - Not a requirement for salvation

Lesson Two

- Chapter Two
 - Cover the 5 suggestions for Bible reading
 - Discuss and assign 40 Day Reading Plan
 - Go over facts about the Bible
 - What are some Bible tools
- Chapter Three
 - How do you define prayer
 - Example of Jesus praying
 - Cover basic principles of prayer
 - Review the A-C-T-S pattern of prayer

Lesson Three

- Chapter Four
 - Discuss what the church is
 - Talk about why it is important to go to church
 - Being committed and connected
 - How to choose a church
- Chapter Five
 - Discuss what it is to be a New Creation
 - Your New Identity in Christ
 - Confession of God's Word over your life
 - Review scriptures of who you are in Christ

Lesson Four

- Chapter Six
 - Explain what the Baptism with Holy Spirit is (world cannot receive it)
Discuss different baptisms in Bible
 - Not the same thing as receiving Holy Spirit
 - Every believer has the Holy Spirit
 - Talk about the purpose for
 - Cover how to receive baptism with Holy Spirit

Lesson Five

- Chapter Seven
 - Discuss 1Peter 3:15
 - Why share your testimony
 - How to write your testimony
 - How to share your testimony
- Chapter Eight
 - Serving is your calling
 - Discuss three resources every belief has
 - Review different ways a believer can serve

Lesson Six

- Chapter Nine
 - Discuss the 3 additional keys for growth
 - Review some of the promises of God
 - Talk about trials and troubles as a believer and how to overcome
- What if You Mess Up
 - Talk about mistakes believers make and how we should respond
 - Discuss Hebrew 12:2
 - What is the race each believer has to run
 - How do we finish our race
- Closing
 - Why is being saved all about Jesus
 - Discuss how to get know Jesus more
 - How do believer live by faith

**Disciple Review Questions
and
Group Discussion Questions**

LESSON ONE

- _____ 1. The greatest gift anyone can receive is
- A. \$1 million dollars
 - B. New Car
 - C. New House
 - D. New Life in Jesus
 - E. New Clothes
- _____ 2. When you receive Jesus He gives you
- A. Peace and Joy
 - B. Strength
 - C. Righteousness
 - D. Forgiveness
 - E. All of the above
- _____ 3. When you receive Jesus, which is the greatest gift anyone can receive - you enter into
- A. The Kingdom of God
 - B. The Kingdom of Darkness
 - C. The Kingdom of the Roman Empire
 - D. The Kingdom of Success
 - E. The Kingdom of Despair
- _____ 4. As a follower of Jesus your handbook for life is
- A. Google
 - B. The Webster Dictionary

- C. The Bible
- D. The Church
- E. The Pastor

- _____ 5. After you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior the next step is to
- A. go shopping
 - B. have a party
 - C. be Water Baptized
 - D. post it on Facebook
 - E. none of the above

TRUE or FALSE

- _____ 6. As a believer you are a child of God
- _____ 7. As a follower of Christ you have many benefits,
- _____ 8. Christianity is all about religion and following the 10 commandments
- _____ 9. Water baptism is an outward sign of an inward work.
- _____ 10. Water baptism is required for salvation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Share how you received the greatest gift.
- 2. Share about being water baptized.

LESSON TWO

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- _____ 1. There are 5 things that will help make Bible reading easier. Which of the following is NOT one of the 5 –
- A. Use a Bible version that is easy to understand.
 - B. Read the Bible only when you have time
 - C. Understand the Bible is God speaking to you
 - D. Set a time each day for reading Bible
 - E. Use a Bible reading plan
- _____ 2. There are two main purposes of the Bible
- 1) God revealing Himself to us and the second one is which of the following
 - A. God giving us the 10 commandments
 - B. God teaching us about Israel and all the great men of faith
 - C. God sharing about Heaven
 - D. God revealing His plan of redemption for man
 - E. God teaching the secrets of the Kingdom
- _____ 3. Prayer is very powerful and is simply defined as
- A. Reciting specific scriptures
 - B. A Religious Ceremony
 - C. Speaking to God

- D. Going through a spiritual ritual of kneeling and bowing
- E. Saying memorized spiritual phrases and psalms

- _____ 4. Which of these are basic principles of prayer
- A. Pray to the Father in Jesus name.
 - B. Pray the Word –(scriptures)
 - C. Pray in faith
 - D. Pray out of relationship with God – make it personal
 - E. All of the above

- _____ 5. The value of consistent prayer is not that God will hear us (which He does), but
- A. that we gain peace
 - B. that we will hear Him
 - C. that we get wisdom
 - D. that we please God
 - E. that we set an example for others

TRUE or FALSE

- _____ 6. Reading the Bible teaches you how to live and operate effectively as a Christian.
- _____ 7. Reading the Bible is a religious requirement that has no real benefit.
- _____ 8. The Bible has two divisions Old Testament and New Testament.
- _____ 9. There are 75 books in the Bible.
- _____ 10. To pray God's will - pray His Word. God reveals His will in His word.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Share about your prayer life. Are you praying regularly? Do you have a set prayer or devotional time? Is there a pattern of prayer you are using to help with your prayer time? Are you allowing time to listen and hear what God is saying?
- 2. Share about your Bible reading. Are you regularly reading the Bible? What are some of the challenges you are having?

LESSON THREE

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- _____ 1. Getting connected with a local fellowship of believers, a church, is extremely important because it will help you -
- A. Be accountable
 - B. Grow spiritually and flourish
 - C. Find a place to serve and use the gifts and talents God has given you
 - D. Stay encouraged and to be an encouragement to others
 - E. All of the above
- _____ 2. As a follower of Christ being part of church means being involve in different ways. Which of the following is NOT one of the ways should get involved
- A. Attending services regularly.
 - B. Supporting the church with tithes and offerings
 - C. Looking for problems and making the pastor or leadership aware of them.
 - D. Getting involved with the church by finding a place to serve.
 - E. Praying for the church and leadership regularly.

- _____ 3. You should find a church that does which of the following
- A. Has great facilities
 - B. Has great food and fellowship
 - C. Preaches and teaches the Word of God
 - D. Doesn't waste money and time on reaching the lost
 - E. Doesn't help the poor and needy
- _____ 4. As a new creation in Christ, you have a new identity which means you need to begin to define and see yourself the way
- A. Your friends see and describe you
 - B. Your family sees and defines you
 - C. God sees you and describes you
 - D. You see yourself
 - E. All of the above
- _____ 5. Which of the following describes who you are in Christ according to the Bible
- A. You are a citizen of heaven
 - B. You are righteous
 - C. You are more than a conqueror
 - D. You are redeemed and forgiven
 - E. All of the above

TRUE or FALSE

- _____ 6. The church is not a building or denomination
the church is the people.
- _____ 7. Getting connected with a church is essential for
our own spiritual growth and the growth of others
- _____ 8. You are who others say you are not who God
says you are
- _____ 9. It is ok to say negative things as long as what you
believe is positive and in line with God's Word.
- _____ 10. You should confess (say with your mouth)
what the Bible says about you and who the
Bible says you are.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Where are you going to church? Where are you serving in the church? Are you going regularly? Why is going to Church important to you?
- 2. Why is it important to speak God's Word over your life? Do you let negative things come out of your mouth?

LESSON FOUR

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- _____ 1. Every believer after they receive the free gift of salvation, that is to be born again, they now can receive another gift from God, that gift is the -
- A. Gift of Prophecy
 - B. Gift of Healing
 - C. Gift of being Baptized with the Holy Spirit
 - D. Gift of discernment
 - E. Gift of giving
- _____ 2. There are 2 main reasons or purposes for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit they are -
- A. 1) For power to be a more effective witness for Christ and 2) To be able to be a greater blessing to others.
 - B. 1) To be more special to God and 2) To be able to speak in tongues
 - C. 1) To be more special to God and 2) For more power to be a more effective witness for Christ.
 - D. 1) To be a greater blessing to other and 2) To be able to speak tongues
 - E. 1) For power to be a more effective witness for Christ and 2) To be able to speak in tongues.

- _____ 3. One of the initial signs of receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit is
- A. Having greater wisdom
 - B. Having great understanding
 - C. Having greater faith
 - D. Speaking with new tongues
 - E. Being more holy
- _____ 4. The gift of the “baptism WITH the Holy Spirit” is available to
- A. Only the spiritually mature believers
 - B. a special few called by God
 - C. every sinner
 - D. every believer
 - E. to those who pray and wait
- _____ 5. Who baptizes you into the Holy Spirit
- A. Pastor
 - B. Jesus
 - C. Holy Spirit
 - D. All the above
 - E. None of the above

TRUE or FALSE

- _____ 6. Being baptized with the Holy Spirit is exactly the same thing as receiving the Holy Spirit
- _____ 7. There is only one baptism taught in the Bible.
- _____ 8. When person gets saved they are baptized into the body of Christ.
- _____ 9. When a person is baptized with the Holy Spirit they are baptized into the Holy Spirit.
- _____ 10. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is called the “promise of the Father” by Jesus in Luke 24:9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you received the baptism with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues? If not what are some questions you have?
2. What are some of the changes in your life since receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit?

LESSON FIVE

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- _____ 1. One of the best ways to talk to others about Jesus is to
- A. Preach to them.
 - B. Show them how sinful and bad they are.
 - C. Tell your personal testimony about Jesus.
 - D. Tell them how others received Christ.
 - E. Tell them funny stories
- _____ 2. How do you become great in the Kingdom of God?
- A. Win a lot of people to the Lord.
 - B. Make and give a lot of money into the work of the Kingdom of God.
 - C. Become a pastor, teacher, evangelist, apostle or prophet.
 - D. Become a servant.
 - E. Become a powerful leader.
- _____ 3. What are the 3 resources that God has given every believer –
- A. Time, Talent, Thoughts
 - B. Time, Treasure, Thoughts
 - C. Thoughts, Talent, Treasure
 - D. Time, Talent, Treasure
 - E. Tools, Treasure, Talent

- _____ 4. You have 3 choices on how to use the resources God has given you. They are
- A. Waste them, Spend them, or Invest them
 - B. Bury them, Spend them, or Invest them
 - C. Hold them, Bury them, or Waste them
 - D. Spend them, Invest them, or Hold them
 - E. Waste them, Spend them, or Bury them
- _____ 5. As believers, we should write out our testimony and be prepared to share it when given the opportunity. Our testimony should include which of the following
- A. How I met Christ
 - B. What my life was like before Jesus was my savior
 - C. What my life is like now the Jesus is my savior
 - D. None of the above
 - E. All of the above

TRUE or FALSE

- _____ 6. Only a few Christians have a story to tell about how Jesus saved them.

- _____ 7. You don't need to tell people what they need to do just share what Jesus did for you and let the Holy Spirit deal with them on what to do.
- _____ 8. Sharing your testimony is the power that saves other people.
- _____ 9. Sharing our faith is not a suggestion it is a command.
- _____ 10. We are not saved by serving, but we are saved to serve.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How are you using the resources God has given you? How can you invest more wisely? Are you serving in the church? Where?
2. Share how you got saved. Where you got saved. Who shared the gospel with you?
3. Have you shared your testimony? Where? With who? Were you afraid or nervous. Do you have your testimony written out?

LESSON SIX

MULTIPLE CHOICE

- _____ 1. There are 3 additional keys that help you grow as a believer. Which one of these is not one of those keys
- A. You need to get more sleep and rest.
 - B. You need to continue to grow in the Lord. Growing as a believer is a process.
 - C. You need to take possession of the promises of God by faith.
 - D. You need to continue to fight the good fight of faith.
- _____ 2. What do you do if you sin, make a mistake, mess up, fail?
- A. Get mad at God.
 - B. Blame the devil.
 - C. Quit living for God.
 - D. Give up.
 - E. Repent and keep going.
- _____ 3. Hebrews 12:1 says, “you have a race to run”. What is that race?
- A. a 100-meter sprint
 - B. a car race
 - C. a Cross country race
 - D. it is your life purpose
 - E. a Horse race

- _____ 4. There are literally thousands of promises in the Bible for you. Which of these is not a promise of God?
- A. Peace and protection
 - B. Healing and strength
 - C. Pain and sickness
 - D. Favor and provision
 - E. Rest and Victory
- _____ 5. The Bible tells us we are to “live by faith”. The way we do that is
- A. Through Jesus – He is the author and finisher of our faith.
 - B. By hard work
 - C. Through prayer and fasting
 - D. By reading the Bible every day
 - E. Asking other to help us

TRUE or FALSE

- _____ 6. Our life of faith begins with Jesus and we will only be able to finish our life of faith with Jesus
- _____ 7. Now that you are saved Jesus promised you will not have any trials or trouble.

- _____ 8. Christianity is not a religion it is a relationship.
- _____ 9. Christianity is more about doing than it is about being.
- _____ 10. As a Christian we need to always keep Jesus first. (Matthew 6:33)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share a time you messed up and how you responded
—
What are some temptations you are dealing with?
2. What some things you are doing to help you grow in your faith?
3. Share what you believe God's purpose for your life is?

ANSWER KEY

LESSON ONE

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. D | 6. T |
| 2. E | 7. T |
| 3. A | 8. F |
| 4. C | 9. T |
| 5. C | 10. F |

LESSON TWO

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. B | 6. T |
| 2. D | 7. F |
| 3. C | 8. T |
| 4. E | 9. F |
| 5. B | 10. T |

LESSON THREE

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. E | 6. T |
| 2. C | 7. T |
| 3. C | 8. F |
| 4. C | 9. F |
| 5. E | 10. T |

LESSON FOUR

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. F |
| 2. A | 7. F |
| 3. D | 8. T |
| 4. D | 9. T |
| 5. B | 10. T |

LESSON FIVE

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. F |
| 2. D | 7. T |
| 3. D | 8. F |
| 4. A | 9. T |
| 5. E | 10. T |

LESSON SIX

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. A | 6. T |
| 2. E | 7. F |
| 3. D | 8. T |
| 4. C | 9. F |
| 5. A | 10. T |

About the Author

Bruce Edwards is a pastor, teacher, and author with over 40 years of leadership experience in business and ministry. He has been married to his wife Trudy for over 50 years. They have two children and 6 grandchildren.

He has a master's degree in business management and a degree in pastoral ministry. He served over 28 years at Victory Christian Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma as Senior Associate Pastor. He has written over 30 books and helps pastors grow their churches.

As a pastor, he has a passion for helping people experience the abundant life provided through Jesus and is committed to teaching and communicating the principles of God's Word with clarity,





What's next?

7 - *next steps for every new follower of Christ.*



*Life of
Purpose*

*Life of
Success*

Bruce R. Edwards