

New Believer Guide

Introduction

Congratulations on your decision to give your life to Christ!

We are so excited that you have made this decision and will become a builder of God's Kingdom!

Jesus described what you have just experienced as being “born again.” Now, you are a child of God. Let me welcome you to God's family! You are my brother or sister in Christ. I have the privilege of pointing you in the right direction so you can grow from being a baby in Christ toward being a mature follower. That's a lifelong journey, but now is a good time to start.

This is what this new believer guide is about, helping you get started toward experiencing the life our Lord desires for all His children.

The aim for this guide is to point you in the right direction and give you the information you need to get started on your lifelong journey with our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. We are called to become fully mature Christians.

Colossians 1:28 Whom (*Jesus*) we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that **we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:**

The word *perfect* here means “mature” or “complete”. Paul wanted to see each believer mature spiritually.

First, we need to make sure you understand some basics.

Understanding Your Decision

Becoming a follower of Christ, a Christian, a Born Again Believer, is the most important decision you have made. This decision determines to who you will spend eternity with. The first basic thing you need to understand is your decision of salvation and following Christ.

The term "saved" is used more than fifty times in the New Testament to refer to one receiving salvation. It means that one is saved from the condemnation of their sins and because they are saved, meaning their sins are forgiven and they become a candidate for heaven.

Being saved is not a question of how good you are, or good deeds you have done, nor if you are a church member or have been baptized, but have you believed in Jesus Christ as your Savior and received forgiveness? Those whom God saves and gives eternal life, are those who have at

some point in time realized that before God, they were sinners. Realizing they were guilty of sinning against God, they asked Him to forgive and save them. Because they believed and asked for God's forgiveness, they are now absolutely sure they are saved. They know, based on God's word, that they are the children of God.

God says in order to go to heaven, to have peace in our lives, we must be *"born again."* In John 3:7, a very religious, but unsaved Jewish Pharisee named Nicodemus came to the Lord Jesus seeking truth. Nicodemus was a morally good man and very religious, but his faith was in his good works and religious acts. Like so many he was trusting in his own righteousness and works to get him to heaven. Jesus explained to him that in order to be saved, *"Ye must be born again."* That meant that Nicodemus needed to be spiritually born and put his faith in Jesus Christ and not his works.

God explains the only way a person can be "born again" is to believe. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) His plan is simple! God says that we are His creation and that He loves us. He says we can be saved today, even this very hour if we believe Him and ask Him to save us?

First, you must realize you are a sinner. God says, *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).

Surely, we know that we have done wrong things which God says is sin. Therefore, as a sinner we understand that we are separated from God by our sin because He is a totally holy and righteous God. Our sin separates us from God and condemns us to die apart from Him who created us because we do not believe and receive His forgiveness. God says, *"For the wages (meaning payment) of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23).

God loved you so much he gave his only begotten Son, Jesus, to bear your sins and die in your place. John 3:16-18 says,

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Further God says:

"For he hath made him (Jesus, who knew no sin) to be sin for us ... that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

That means that Christ came to Earth and that He suffered and died for our sins that we might be able to receive full forgiveness of our sins. The only way to be saved and forgiven of our sins is to come to the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said in John 14:6, *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

Because we were sinners and under the penalty of sin, Jesus Christ, came to Earth as a man (John 1:1-2, 14), to shed his blood and die in our place. He paid our sin debt so that we could be pardoned for our sins. *"For the life of the flesh is in the blood" (Lev. 17:11) "... without shedding of blood is no remission pardon" (Hebrews 9:22).*

Because God loved us, even though we sinned against Him, Christ died for us. The Bible says, *"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8).

God said mine and your sins were laid upon Jesus, and he suffered and died in our place. On the Cross He suffered, died, became our substitute, and because of His death for us we can absolutely believe and trust Him to save us because God cannot lie.

The Bible tells us, *"God ... now commandeth all men everywhere to repent"* (Acts 17:30).

This repentance means a change of mind, that agrees with God that each of us is a sinner and agrees with what Jesus did for us on the Cross. In other words, we recognize we have sinned against God, our Creator. We understand the truth that God loved us and sent His Son the Lord Jesus to die on the Cross and to pay for our sins (Romans 5:8). Thus, knowing that we are a sinner, and thereby separated from God, we in faith ask God to forgive our sins.

In Acts 16:30,31, the Philippian jailer asked Paul and Silas: *"...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."* More than sixty times in the New Testament God tells us to believe in Him.

God is telling us to simply believe on Him as the One who bore our sins, died in our place, was buried, and whom God resurrected. Our Creator loves us and wants to forgive us, to give us a new heart and soul, and a new life in fellowship with Him. *"Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Salvation Is By God's Grace

Salvation is by Grace (God giving His Son, He didn't have to, but He did because He loved you that much). Works (trying to earn your way to heaven by what you do) cannot cleanse you or pay for the sins you have committed. You cannot earn your way to heaven with doing good things. Because it does not erase the crime you have already done. The same in a court room,

where someone has committed a crime, they cannot get out of the punishment with saying sorry and say look at all the good things I have done. But if someone else pays their penalty they can go free, and that's what Jesus did.

Ephesians 2:8-9 *“8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.”*

The penalty has been paid for you.

Hebrews 9:22 *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

Jesus shed His blood for the remission of your sins. (1 Corinthians 15:1-8)

You Must Be Born Again (John 3:1-8)

How to be born again. (2nd birth, birth of the spirit)

You must believe that Jesus is the Son of God, He lived a sinless life, gave His life on the cross and shed His innocent blood for your sins, and He rose the 3rd day forever defeating sin, death, hell and the grave. Able to forgive you of your sin that you can go free.

You must repent of your sin. To repent means to Change your mind, heart, and actions toward sin. Forsake (give up) your sin and follow Christ.

If you understand your guilt and need of a Savior and have really repented and believed, then you have been Born Again and have been adopted into the Family of God. And you are beginning your new life in Christ.

Understanding Your New Life In Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17 *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

John 1: 12-13 *“12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”*

1 John 3:1 *“Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”*

Your past sins have been forgiven and now you are innocent before God and our Lord. God will not hold your past sins against you because of the blood of Christ and your decision to follow Him. You have been adopted into God's Family and now are a son/daughter of the Most High, the Creator. You are an heir of God. You have been reborn into a new life, a new family and have eternal life with God if you follow your Lord and Savior. You have a relationship with the Living Creator, God, and have access to Him.

Where Do I Go From Here?

I'm glad you asked. God wants your relationship with Him to grow. He wants you to get to know Him and to develop into a mature Christian so one day you can teach His ways. He wants you to follow Him to wherever He leads.

It's not so much about the do's and don'ts, but the relationship, because if you Love God you will keep His commandments. (John 14:15) After all the do's and don'ts show you that God knows best, and that the rules are there for your protection.

Steps To Growth

Prayer

Prayer is twofold. Prayer is conversation with God and prayer is speaking His will to be done. **(Matthew 6:9-13)**

Prayer is not Changing God's mind, it is finding out His will and giving God freedom to act upon it on earth. We should not want to change God's mind. His will is best. He only wants what is best for us, so a sensible person will not want anything that is not God's will. Something that He does not want to do can only lead to second best or trouble. We get the best by seeking God's will, so we do not need to change His mind.

God's will is revealed in His Word, the bible, which brings us to the next step.

Read the Bible Daily

When we read the bible, we are gathering information. You are getting acquainted with God. To Know God is to Know His Word. He has revealed Himself in His word and that's how you get to know your Lord.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Psalms 119:105 - NUN. Thy word [is] a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Matthew 4:4 - But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Romans 15:4 - For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

1 Timothy 4:13 - Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Psalms 119:18 - Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Spread the Gospel

Matthew 24:14 *“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”*

Mark 16:15 *“15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

Romans 1:16 *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”*

There are many ways to spread the Gospel, but the most basic one is witnessing one on one and telling someone your testimony. Go out and share your Lord.

Worship

The heart of worship is the celebration of God. Worship celebrates God, the God known by prophets, psalmists, and apostles, and by multitudes of Christians, for whom worship is not a duty but a privilege, not a burden but a delight. Worship gladly celebrates who God is, and how gracious He is. People of faith have realized for many years that in worship, we remember who God is and who we are to be as God's people.

Christian worship becomes the centralized place where you really get in touch with who you are as a spirit being. We need to understand that the spirit also has needs and that those needs require contacting God.

Many people think that praise and worship is only singing songs at church, but it is so much more! It is also a condition of your heart -- a willingness to exalt God and yield to His will.

Worship is an expression of love and awe to the God who gives us more than we deserve. Whether you express your worship by singing, playing music, dancing or in some other way, remember that you are called to worship God with your every action, and everyday life. God is holy, loving, and worthy of all our worship and devotion.

John 4:22-24 *“22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*

- in spirit – our spirit with His Spirit. Only a spirit that is made alive by being born again, having a relationship with Christ, can truly worship the Living God.
- in truth – Jesus is the Truth; you must worship understanding the truth.
 - In - used as a function word to indicate inclusion, location, or position within limits.

Worship can happen corporately and individually. Which brings us to another topic.

Church

Find a bible believing, bible obeying church. Find a community that can help you through this journey. I also suggest you search for a mentor, one that believes and obeys the bible, to help teach you, to correct you, and to encourage you. God made us to be in a community with other believers, to have relationships with other believers. We are stronger together; we are one body. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12) (1 Corinthians 12)

Study the Bible

When we study the bible, the main goal is to go deeper, to understand the biblical text and drawing theological and doctrinal conclusions from it, connecting scripture with other scripture. Studying is essential and commanded.

2 Timothy 2:15 *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

The studying of the bible is not just a recommendation but a commandment to show that you are approved, accepted by God as His employee (workman). You (and every Christian) have a work to do, spreading the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Workmen must be skillful in their job, and understanding how to rightly divide the Word will give you the right interpretation and doctrine to teach. If your interpretation of a passage contradicts another passage, your interpretation is wrong.

Studying and understanding biblical truths and doctrine takes time and effort. God will reveal Himself and His truths to you.

How To Study The Bible (Bible Journaling)

Step 1 – Prayer

Ask the Holy Ghost to give you understanding and to teach you. He wrote the bible so He knows what it says and means.

Step 2 - Observation

Observe what the text says? It may seem rather obvious, but this principle is often overlooked. We must carefully observe what the text actually says. Many mistakes have been made by people who jump into interpretation based on what they think the text states rather than what it really does state.

Ask questions. Who, What, When, Where, Why, How. Sometimes getting a background or culture information can shed some light on a passage.

Examples

1) Who?

- a) wrote it?
- b) is speaking?
- c) is the recipient(s)?
- d) is this about?
- e) are the main characters?

2) What?

- a) is the theme?
- b) is the subject or event
- c) do you learn about the people, event, teaching from the text?
- d) instructions are given?

3) Where?

- a) are the main characters?
- b) did or will this happen?
- c) was it said?

4) When?

- a) was it written?
- b) do or will events occur?
- c) did or will something happen to a person, people, or nation?

5) How?

- a) will it happen?
- b) is it to be done?
- c) is it illustrated?

6) Why?

- a) was it written?
- b) is something said, mentioned?
- c) would or will this happen?
- d) at this time?
- e) this person?

Next define words you do not understand and even words you do. This helps to really understand what the passage is saying.

Step 3 - Interpretation

Context is key. Don't just read one verse and try to interpret it. Read the surrounding verses and chapter(s), understand what book it is in, and then the entire Bible.

Scripture will not contradict itself. If your interpretation contradicts another part of scripture your interpretation is not correct.

Step 4 - Application

Ask questions like these.

- What does the passage teach?
- Does it expose any error in my beliefs or behavior?
- What is God's instruction(s) to me as His child?

Be Obedient to and respond to instruction. Claim any promises God has promised in the passage.

Bible Breakdown

The Bible consists of 2 Parts, the Old Testament (Covenant, agreement, contract) God's covenant with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the nation of Israel. And the New Testament (Covenant) God's covenant with the whole world through Jesus Christ. From there is divided up into 66 books. The books are divided further into chapters and the chapters are divided into verses. (The chapter and verse divisions are for navigation purposes.)

The Old Testament:

Books 1-5: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. (The Law/Pentateuch)

These books were written, (excluding Genesis, Moses compiled Genesis from eyewitness accounts) by Moses about 3400 years ago. They include history and Jewish law. These five books are sometimes called the Pentateuch or the Law.

Books 6-17: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Ester. (History)

These books, among other things, are the Historical account of the Nation of Israel and Gods dealings with them.

Books 18-22: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon. (Poetry)

These books are sometimes called the books of Writings, or the books of Poetry and Wisdom.

Books 23-27: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel. (Major Prophets)

These books contain prophecies that were delivered by prophets. Some of their prophecies were fulfilled during the time of Israel and many others were fulfilled by Jesus Christ about 2000 years ago, and some are yet to be fulfilled. Also known as “the major Prophets”

Books 28-39: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi. (Minor Prophets)

These books are sometimes called the books of the "minor" prophets. They are called "minor" because their books are short in length. Some of their prophecies were fulfilled during the time of Israel and many others were fulfilled by Jesus Christ about 2000 years ago, and some are yet to be fulfilled.

The New Testament:

Books 1-4: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. (The Gospels)

These four books are called the Gospels. They were written about 2000 years ago by the followers of Jesus. These books contain the good news about Christ. Which consists of historical details about the life, death, resurrection, and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Book 5: Acts (History)

The Book of Acts is the history of the 1st Century Church. After Christ’s resurrection.

Books 6-26: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude. (The Epistles)

These 21 books are Epistles, they are letters written by followers of Jesus sent to other people or whole Churches to help explain Christianity. Sometimes they were written to counter heresy, or wrongful interpretations of the teachings of Jesus.

Book 27: Revelation. (Prophecy)

This book is Prophecy, most yet to be fulfilled, explaining the end times.

Other Questions

What is Doctrine?

Doctrine is the belief or set of beliefs held and taught that is true.

Example: there is only One God. (Isaiah 43:10-11; 44:6; 45:5-6)

This is taught because it is what the bible teaches.

What is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1 *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

Faith is the complete trust in God and His Word. As you grow in the Word and your Lord, God will increase your faith. Because the more of God and God’s promises you know the more you trust Him.

NEW THINGS for NEW CREATURES!

- **NEW LOVE** . . .for communicating with God. Establish a daily devotional habit. Talk with Him through prayer, and let Him talk with you through His Word. Make this a part of your life.
- **NEW DESIRE** . . .to be like Christ. You will want to follow carefully in His footsteps, but be patient with yourself. Take one step at a time!
- **NEW EXCITEMENT** . . .to share the gospel. **Acts 2:38** salvation must be proclaimed boldly but with the utmost love and wisdom. Give your testimony!
- **NEW QUESTIONS** . . .from unbelieving friends. Is it real? Will it last? Why don't you do that anymore? Are you too good for us? A confident smile and a kind word is your best response.
- **NEW CHALLENGES** . . .from nominal Christians. You may be labeled a fanatic, a heretic, misguided or perhaps even "of the devil." Remember that Jesus received the greatest opposition from the traditional religionists of His day.
- **NEW FELLOWSHIP** . . .with other believers. You will be encouraged and refreshed by being with those of "like faith." Determine to become a vital part of a church that believes and preaches what the Bible teaches.
- **NEW AWARENESS** . . .of family responsibilities. Go out of your way to be what God want you to be at home. You have the greatest godly influence on those who know you best. However, resist the temptation to force salvation issues upon them.
- **NEW OUTLOOK** . . .Concerning right and wrong. The Lord will help you to see that many things you've said and done in the past just don't seem right any more. Be sensitive to His leading in dealing with old habits.
- **NEW POWER** . . .to overcome temptation. You have supernatural power to say no to the enticements of evil. If and when you do sin, ask the Lord's forgiveness and determine with His help not to continue in it.
- **NEW CONFIDENCE** . . .in the promise of Gods. Place your faith in His steadfast Word as the basis for salvation and not in your changing feelings. In Christ, you are a child of God, regardless of the doubts that may arise.
- **NEW AMBITION** . . .to be used of God. When Jesus becomes Lord, He becomes Lord of all. Dedicate your time, talent and treasure to Him. Make yourself available; God has a special plan for your life!

New Believer

When you chose to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you made the most significant decision you could ever make toward eternal life. We are delighted about your future as a believer and desire to enhance your walk with Christ.

We definitely suggest that you seek a church home in which they are committed to teaching and preaching the entire unadulterated Word of God without constraint because this Gospel will transform the lives of everyone that receives it.

It is essential that you as a believer study your Bible and establish a daily prayer life with God. We stand in covenant agreement with you concerning your needs and spiritual growth.

We encourage you to make every effort to complete your salvation. Do not stop seeking God for his wisdom and guidance for your life. You should seek constant growth in Christ for there is always room to learn more and draw closer to him.

I pray this booklet encouraged you and gave you some insight on the basics of a Christians walk with Christ. I pray you continue to grow in the grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray you grow in God's Word and He give you understanding in all things.

Should you have any concerns or need information, please feel free to talk to us about it. We look forward to fellowshiping with you.

Prayer Requests: prayer@lanisespeakslife.com

Support: support@lanisespeakslife.com

Get in Touch: lanise@lanisespeakslife.com