

# First Steps



## Studying God's Word

How can you follow Christ if you don't know what He has to say?

The answers to all your questions in your walk with Christ are in His Word, the Bible (II Timothy 3:16,17).

Jesus said, "If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31,32).

He has a plan and a purpose for your life, one that will be a blessing to you and allow you to be a blessing to others, (Jeremiah 29:11, Ephesians 5:7, Ephesians 4:7-13).

Knowing His Word and prayer will lead you to find what that plan is (II Timothy 2:15).

He doesn't want us to be nominal believers, but people who will grow in the knowledge of Him, not only for our own wellbeing but for others, as well (Matthew 25:14-30).



Through studying His word, we learn what pleases and displeases Him (Psalm 119:11) and enter into an intimate knowledge of God's character, and that He is so worthy of all our praise.

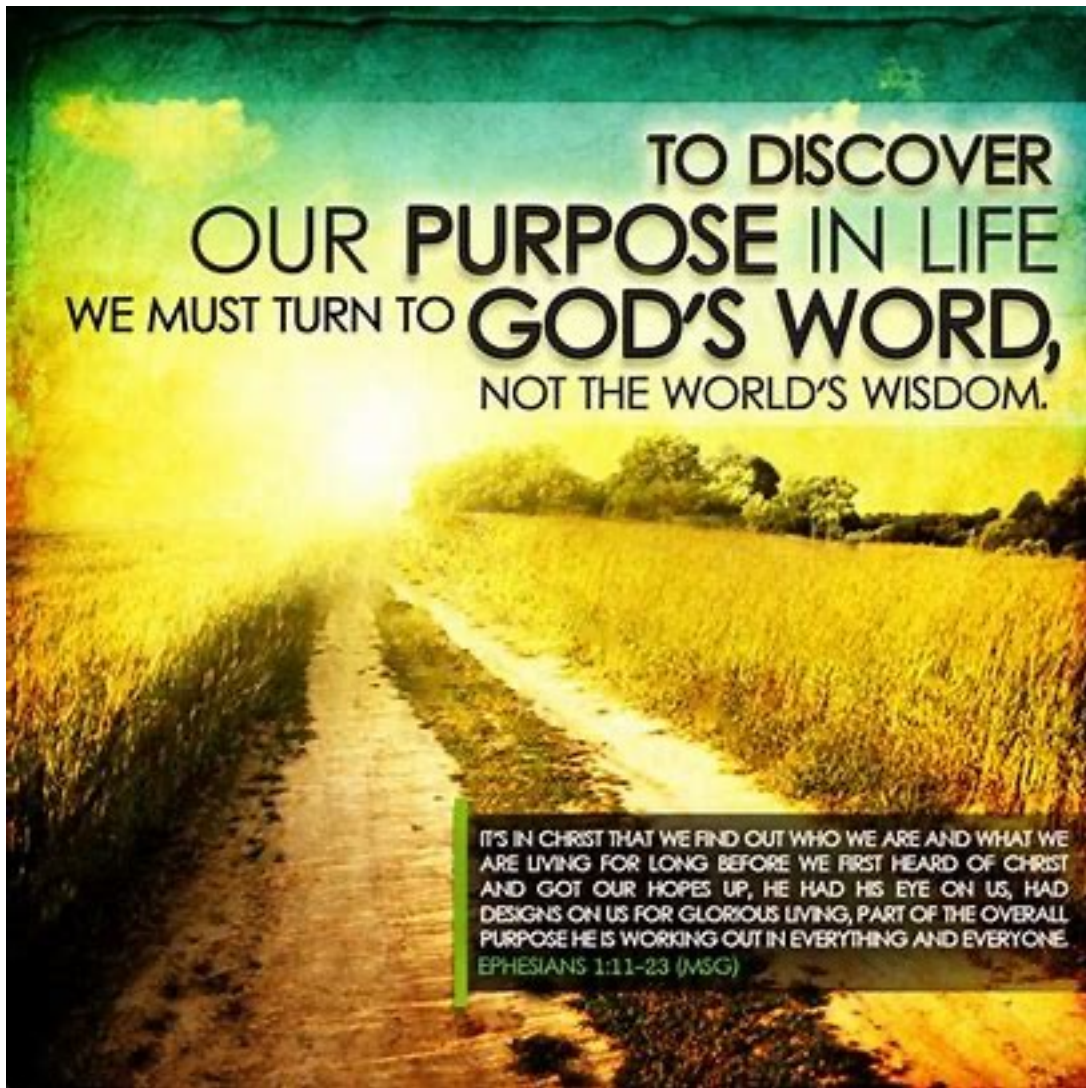
We also will not be led astray by false teachings, because we ourselves know what His word says (Ephesians 4:14,15).

By knowing His Word, we can also help other brothers and sisters in Christ grow.

He wants us to fully understand the gospel message, so that we can share the words of eternal life to those still stumbling around in darkness (Colossians 4:5,6).

He wants your life to be happy and productive, and that comes by leaving behind all the negative, toxic thinking and behavior that afflicts all of us.

"I have to come to give life, and life abundantly" (John 10:10)."



All counsel given in the Bible is for our own well-being, and that of others. For example, it teaches us that we shouldn't overdrink (Ephesians 5:18). How many millions of lives, families destroyed and lives lost because we let alcohol run our lives?

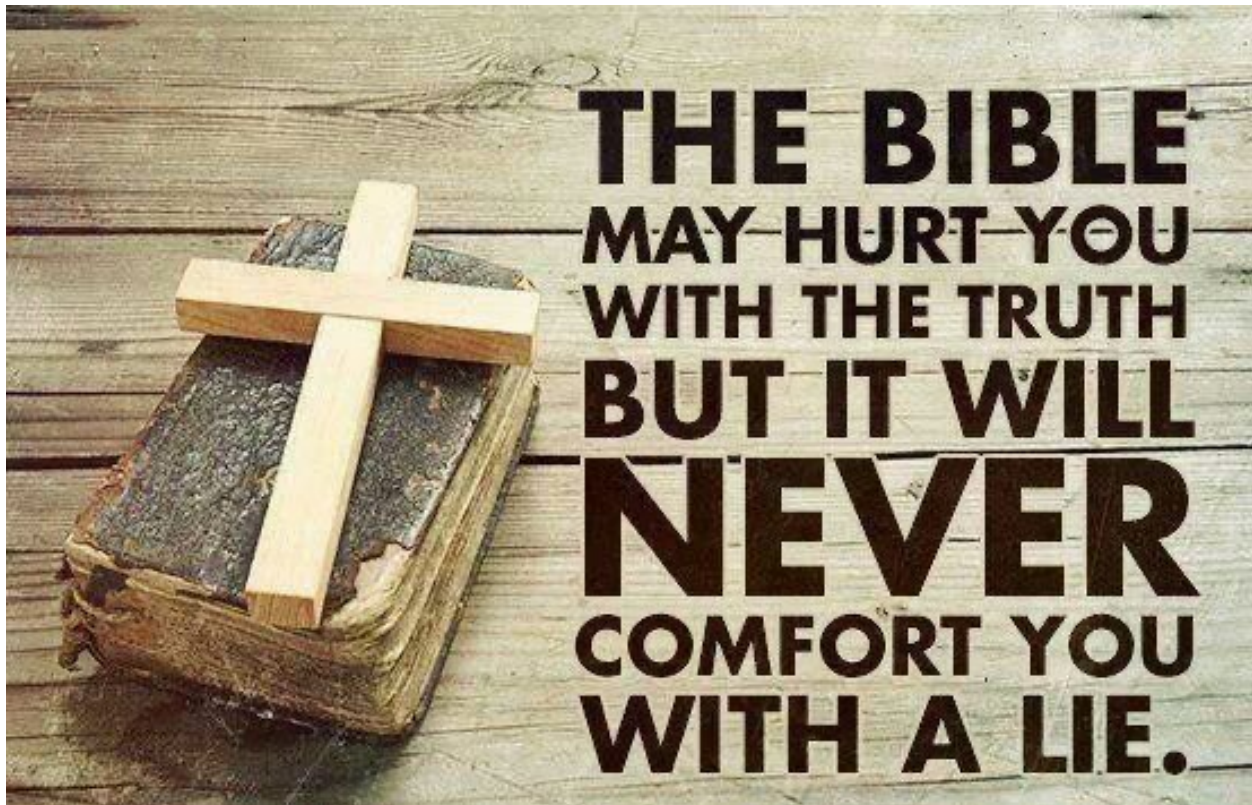
The same applies to using drugs, committing adultery, theft, greed, bitterness, lack of forgiveness, pride, hatred, selfishness. At the end of the day, we end up hurting not only ourselves, but those around us.

Entering a living relationship with Christ will enable us to be immersed in a rare commodity these days \_ peace. In fact, He laid down His life on Calvary so that we could inherit His peace (Philippians 4:7, John 16:13, Isaiah 9:6, Colossians 3:15).

Knowing Him and His Word helps us persevere through stormy, difficult times (Matthew 5:4, 11:28; 2 Corinthians 1:4; Romans 8:28; Psalm 119:50).

There are promises and assurances that will lift you up in hard times, and put you in a position to help others also (James 1:12).

It allows grants us practical wisdom in dealing with day-to-day issues (Isaiah 11:12, Job 12:13, 2 Timothy 3:16 and the entire book of Proverbs).



We all have what the Bible calls, the sin nature, which means we are just given to committing sin. With God's help, we can be free of sinful behavior and know through His Word that we can come to Him for forgiveness when we fall (Hebrews 4:16, I John 1:9).

But, like anything worthwhile, we need to make a commitment in order to live the life He wants us to live (Matthew 22:37-40).

Taking time daily to study God's Word will help you grow spiritually into the man/woman of God that He wants you to be (II Timothy 2:15).

Some people set aside an hour daily, others 15 minutes. It all depends on how fast you want to grow in your walk with Christ.

Start with the New Testament at first and try to stick with one book, the gospel of Luke for example, and make it a point to meditate on what you've read and then try to put it into practice.

You'll be amazed at the amazing transformation in your life and will fully understand what Jesus meant when He said, "I've come to give life, and life abundantly."