



*Now I'm a Christian ...*  
*What Next?*

A series of simple Bible studies for people who have recently – or not so recently – become Christians and want to know some of the major things which the Christian life involves.

**Brian Caughley**

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~ *Brian Caughley, Coordinator, Pray for the Nation* ~

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## INTRODUCTION

If a baby, three weeks old, could not walk, talk, write or feed itself, we would not be unduly worried. But if, ten years later, the child still cannot walk, talk, write or feed itself, then we would be concerned; something would be tragically wrong! Why? Because we expect a child to grow!

When we first become Christians we are "babies in Christ", as the Bible puts it. Becoming a Christian is a spiritual birth (sometimes called being "born again"), but babies in Christ should also grow. Many people have been Christians for years, and yet their spiritual growth has been insignificant compared to the length of time they have been Christians. This is both tragic and inexcusable. They have buried their God-given gifts and neglected God's ways to grow – spiritual food, wisdom and guidance.

These studies are designed to help new Christians to grow strong in the Lord. Many verses from the Bible which are quoted in these studies are very simple translations, written to help you understand the meaning of the verses. In every case the reference is given so that you can look it up in your Bible. You should do this especially when the reference given is to several verses, only part of which is quoted in these studies. Your Bible will list the books of the Bible, and their page numbers, near the beginning of the Bible.

The subjects dealt with in these studies are covered briefly, so they should be read carefully and prayerfully. These studies are intended to be primarily **practical**. Unless what you learn is actually put into practice, you will have missed its purpose. Don't let an intellectual interest take the place of practical application!

Each topic ends with some questions for further thought and study. We suggest you look up the Bible references given. Answering these questions should also help to clarify your thoughts.

May God bless, teach and guide you as you walk in His steps.

*"Many other signs Jesus did in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book [John's Gospel], but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you will have life in His Name" (John 20:30-31)*

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## GLOSSARY (what some Christian words mean)

Here are some words and what they mean in a Christian context:

**Confession:** Agreeing with God. Agreeing we have sinned and done wrong things, and asking God's forgiveness.

**Prayer:** Listening to God and talking to God. Speaking to God like we speak to our friends, either aloud or in our mind (heart).

**Repentance:** Changing our minds and the direction of our lives; turning away from wrong things and towards those things which are pleasing to God.

**Salvation:** God saves us from our sins and the penalty we should pay for our sins. We are saved from being separated from God, and now we have a living relationship with Him, forever! We receive God's forgiveness, and Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and follow Him.

**Sin:** Thinking or saying or doing anything which is not pleasing to God. Sin hurts people – other people, ourselves and God! That is why God is not pleased with sin.

**Temptation:** Wanting to do something we know is wrong, or not do something we should do.

**Witnessing:** Sharing our faith in Jesus Christ with other people.

## 1 ASSURANCE

### Are you sure?

First of all it is important that you are certain you are a Christian and are saved. Are you sure?

- If you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:30-31; John 3:16)
- If you have repented, confessed all sin to God and asked His forgiveness, and genuinely want to turn from all sin (1 John 1:9; Acts 2:38)
- If you have received Jesus Christ into your life (John 1:12)
- If you confess Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:9-10), and
- If you are living for Christ (Matthew 10:22)

... then you can be **sure** of your salvation.

1 John 5:11-13 says: "What has God said? That He has given us eternal life and this life is in His Son. Whoever has received God's Son has life; whoever has not received Him has not received life. I have written this to you who believe in the Son of God so that you may *know* you have eternal life." There is no uncertainty here – we can be sure!

John also said, "These things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through believing you *will* have life through His Name" (John 20:31).

### Three things may cause you to doubt your salvation

(a) **Satan.** Do not listen to him! He is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44).

(b) **Feelings.** Feelings are not always reliable. If you have fulfilled God's conditions for salvation, as outlined above, then God promises you salvation; and God does not lie!

When trials, temptations, sin or disappointments come into a Christian's life, they may not

feel that they are saved. But our salvation does not depend on feelings; it depends only on our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and our relationship to Him. Memories of a sinful past may make us feel ashamed, but if we have sincerely confessed these to God and turned from them, then they are completely taken away. In Jeremiah 31:34 God says, "I will forgive their sin and I will remember it no more".

If it is possible to make restitution to someone, for some wrong thing that you have done to them, then do so, if this will help them. Zacchaeus was a man who had cheated many people. After coming to Jesus, he said "If I have cheated anyone out of anything, I will restore it, four times as much" (Luke 19:8).

We must also forgive others for what they have done wrong against us. Jesus said, "If you do not forgive others, then neither will God forgive you" (Mark 11:25-26).

(c) **Works.** You will not be perfect. All Christians still sin on occasions, but we are not saved by our good works or by our good lives. If we could be saved by our good works then there would have been no need for Christ to die for our sins. Ephesians 2:8-9 says "By grace (God's love in sending Jesus Christ to die for our sins) we are saved, and this is received through faith in Him. It is not because of our good works, so no-one can boast."

### **How can I be sure I am saved?**

1. God promises in His Word, the Bible, to save us if we fulfil His conditions, as outlined above.
2. We have the witness of His Holy Spirit within us. "The Holy Spirit witnesses with our spirits that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16).
3. Our lives show it. "If anyone is a Christian, then he is a new person; old things (sins and the old way of life) pass away, and everything becomes new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

### **QUESTIONS**

1. What are some of the things which show that a person has become a Christian? See Matthew 10:22; John 1:12; John 3:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 16:30-31; Romans 10:9-10; 1 John 1:9; 1 John 5:11-13. Have you done all of these things?
2. What are some of the things that may cause us to doubt our salvation? What can we do about each of these things if they cause us to doubt?
3. Can we earn our salvation? (See Ephesians 2:8-9). What place do good works have in a Christian's life? (See Ephesians 2:10).
4. What are three different things that enable us to be sure we are saved?
5. What should we do if we don't "feel saved"?
6. Why did John write his Gospel? (John 20:30-31).

## 2 CHURCH

The company we keep is important. If you want to grow strong as a Christian, then you will need good Christian company. This is especially important for unmarried young people: make absolutely certain that the person you go out with frequently is a Christian who is living for Christ. It is a great tragedy when a Christian marries someone who is not a Christian and this results in disharmony in the home and family, which could have been avoided if the Christian had listened to God's command: "Do not be unequally yoked together with an unbeliever; for what partnership can purity have with sin? And what does a Christian have in common with a non-Christian?" (2 Corinthians 6:14-15).

Just as a newborn baby needs the constant care and attention of its parents, so a new Christian needs the company of Christian friends to help and encourage them in times of need, and also to teach them more about the Christian faith. I would therefore recommend very strongly that you find a good evangelical church which you can attend regularly. Perhaps you already have your own church and find this satisfactory. If so, this is good, but if you do not already go to a live church where the Gospel is being preached and where you can find spiritual help, then I suggest you do so as soon as possible. No doubt you have some keen Christian friends who can guide you into such a suitable church. I have listed below some important things that you should look for in any church that you might consider belonging to.

Some people may say that you do not have to go to church to be a Christian, and this is true; but nevertheless, Christians do go to church whenever possible. Although going to church does not make you a Christian, it is one of several important things that Christians should do, for the following reasons:

- First, because you will be in the midst of Christian friends who can help and teach you.
- Second, because you will be encouraged to pray and to read and study the Bible.
- Third, because all of us get discouraged at times, and in times like this Christian friends can help us tremendously by encouraging us to go on with Christ.

### **What sort of church should I belong to?**

The name, or denomination, of the church is not nearly as important as the following. For your spiritual growth, both in receiving teaching and fellowship, and for a place where you can serve the Lord, you need to belong to church where:

1. The Gospel is preached, and Christ is honoured.
2. The Bible is taught and believed.
3. There are obvious signs of spiritual life, especially an outgoing witness (evangelism) to the community.

4. There are prayer groups and an active youth work.
5. You can find help when needed and can contribute to the life of the church; that is, you will want a caring, friendly church.

Pray that God will lead you to the right spiritual home. If you already have keen Christian friends you might like to join them at their church.

## QUESTIONS

1. Why is good Christian company so important?
2. Why is it important for Christians to go to Church? (List at least three reasons, if possible).
3. What are some characteristics of a good church?
4. In what ways can you be of help in your church? (List some ways you can serve).
5. What would you advise a new Christian, who wanted to find a suitable church to attend?
6. What does Hebrews 10:24-25 tell us about church life?

## 3 BIBLE STUDY

Apart from going to church to hear and learn more about Jesus Christ and what the Bible teaches, it is also important that we read the Bible ourselves, preferably each day, and let God speak to us personally and directly through it. If you do not already read your Bible regularly, there are three alternatives we would like to suggest:

**First**, start by reading through the whole of the New Testament, reading, say, one chapter each day. This only takes three or four minutes each day, but it is well worthwhile and will teach you God's Word. It also allows God to speak to you through it.

**Second**, ask at any Christian bookshop, the Bible Society, or Scripture Union, about what Bible reading notes they have available. They should be able to suggest a good Bible reading plan for you. Usually they publish small booklets containing a passage of Scripture to read each day, with a short commentary on it and a prayer or thought for the day. It is also a good idea to have a notebook in which you can write down, in a sentence or two, what you have learned or what God has shown you through your reading that day. Also write down any questions you might have – and see if you can find out the answers to them!

**Third**, some churches and Christian organizations offer simple Bible Correspondence



courses. See if you can arrange to do one of these. Ask your minister, pastor or Christian friends if they know of any.

Perhaps you do not have a Bible, or find the one you have is difficult to understand. Your pastor or minister, Christian friends, Christian bookshop or Bible Society should be able to recommend a good translation for you. Most are available in paperback form so that they are not too expensive.

A list of Bible Study books which I have written can be found on the last two pages of this book. These cover some basic Christian topics and will help you in your understanding of the Bible and in your daily life.

## **The structure of the Bible**

To help you understand how the Bible is arranged: it consists of 66 “books”, some of them quite long, and others very short. They are arranged in the following order:

### **The Old Testament:**

**Genesis** – the story of the beginning, from Creation to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel).

**Exodus to Malachi** – the story of the nation of Israel. In the middle of this section there are some books of poetry and other teaching: Job to Song of Solomon.

### **The New Testament:**

**Matthew to John** – the four Gospels which tell us about the life of Jesus on earth.

**Acts** – the story of the early Church.

**Romans to Revelation** – teaching for the Church throughout history (the past 2000 years).

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Why is it important for a Christian to read the Bible regularly? (Do you read it regularly?)
2. The way of salvation and the Gospel are most simply explained in which book or books of the Bible? (Have you read these books?)
3. Who can you go to if there are passages in the Bible which you find difficult to understand?
4. To “meditate” is to think slowly and carefully over something, with God's help and inspiration. Meditate on Psalm 1:1-3 and see what God shows you.
5. What do 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 2 Peter 1:20-21 have to say about the Bible (“Scripture”)?
6. What does Joshua 1:8 say about God’s Word?



## 4 PRAYER

Begin a regular prayer life and, if at all possible, go to an active prayer meeting each week. Jesus promised: “Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).

No doubt you have found by now that there are quite a few different ways in which your Christian life is tested. The Bible says “Give all your problems to God, for He cares for you. Be sensible; be on guard, for your enemy the devil (Satan) roams around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to destroy. Resist him, and be strong in your faith” (1 Peter 5:7-9).

Do not get discouraged. The devil will do all he can to discourage you, telling you that you are not a very good Christian, and tempting you to do wrong. Resist him! Watch out for these temptations and when they arise, pray and ask for God's help to overcome them. If you do sin, remember God says: “If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins, and wash us from all impurity” (1 John 1:9). God will forgive all sin, if we are truly sorry for it, and if we are prepared to turn from it with His help.

So one of the things we can pray for is forgiveness for sin, and for God's help in overcoming temptation. But there are many other things we can pray for, too.

First, you should pray for your friends and their needs, especially if they do not know Jesus as you do; pray that they too will become Christians. Second, you can pray about your own needs and problems, and ask for God's help in your daily life. Remember, God is concerned about everything you do, whether it is large or small. Third, do not forget to thank God for all the prayers of yours He has answered and for all His goodness, especially for sending Jesus to die for you, and take away your sins. Finally, praise God for Who He is: the Almighty God, King and Creator of the whole Universe, your Lord and Saviour.

Pray often during the day. You do not have to close your eyes every time you pray; sometimes it may not be convenient to do so. Also, your prayers do not have to be long; they may be only one or two sentences breathed out quietly to God, but He hears, He knows, He cares!

God says that if we have faith, then every prayer we pray that is according to His will, shall be answered. It may take time, and it may not be quite as we expect, but He will do what is best! (1 John 5:14-15; Romans 8:28).

Look at some of God's promises – these will encourage you to pray for:

- guidance (Isaiah 30:21)
- help (Isaiah 41:10)
- healing (James 5:13-18)
- forgiveness (1 John 1:9)
- material needs (Matthew 6:25-33)
- all we need (Philippians 4:19)

**Four different types of prayer** are conveniently remembered by the letters **A-C-T-S**:

**A**doration: praise and worship to God.

**C**onfession: confessing sin and confessing the truths of God's Word (the Bible).

**T**hanksgiving: giving God thanks for His goodness.

**S**upplication: - praying for the needs of other people  
- praying for our own needs  
- praying against the attacks of Satan (sometimes called "spiritual warfare")

It is good to make sure that our prayer-times are a balance between these various forms of prayer, so that we are not just asking all the time!

## QUESTIONS

1. What did Jesus say will happen if we ask, seek and knock? (See Matthew 7:7).
2. Why do we sometimes not receive things that God would like to give us? (See James 4:2-3).
3. Why is it good to pray with other Christians and not only by ourselves? (See Matthew 18:19-20).
4. What are some things we need to remember as we pray? (See Matthew 21:22; John 16:23-24; Romans 8:26-27).
5. What should we do when Satan attacks or tempts us in some way?
6. What are some of the things we should pray for? (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

## 5 OBEDIENCE

Did you realize that God does not like us confessing sin all the time? He would far rather that we were obedient and did not have to confess it! Jesus said, "If you love Me, do as I say" (John 14:15). He also said, "Blessed are those who hear God's Word and obey" (Luke 11:28).

As you read the Bible and pray, and as you hear people preach or teach from God's Word, there are many things God will tell you; it is very important to be obedient to these things. In the Bible God has promised to bless those who are obedient, but will punish those who are disobedient. Perhaps sometimes you have wondered why everything seems to have gone wrong. It may be because there is sin in your life that you have not turned from, or which you have not confessed to God. If so, do it right away so that God's blessing may continue in

your life.

God is not someone awful who likes to punish us; He punishes us because He loves us, wants us to repent, and wants what is best for us. The best thing we can possibly do is to obey God, because God knows what is best for others as well as for ourselves. All God's commands in the Bible are for our good. This is why it says in Psalms: "I delight to do Your will, O Lord" (Psalm 40:8).

Remember that God knows what is best, far better than we do. We may not always understand why God tells us to do something, or not to do something, but since He knows best, we should do as He says. It is just like little children who may not understand why they cannot play with a sharp knife, but it is best if they don't!

If we do disobey God and sin, then we should ask God's forgiveness, and ask Him to help us not to do that thing again. Remember Jesus said, "Watch and pray, so that you do not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing to be obedient but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41).

**Some specific points of obedience are as follows:**

### **GIVING**

God expects us to give regularly and cheerfully of our time, money, possessions and abilities for His work. God once accused the children of Israel of robbing Him because they did not give a tenth of their income to His work (Malachi 3:8-10). Christians have a responsibility to give, to support the church, missions, full-time Christian workers and the needy. Moreover, God said "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and overflowing" (Luke 6:38). If you expect God to give to you, then you need to give to others!

### **THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness (humility), and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). Pray that God's Spirit will produce these fruit in your life, and with His help you will see them grow and develop. "By their fruit you will know them (those who are Christ's and those who not)", Jesus said (Matthew 7:15-20).

### **THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST**

We receive Christ not only as Saviour from the penalty we deserve for our sin, but also as Lord. "If you confess with your lips that JESUS IS LORD ... you will be saved" (Romans 10:9-10). Jesus must be constantly in full control of every aspect of our lives. If He is not Lord of all, then He is not really Lord at all! Jesus said "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' will be saved, but only those who do God's will" (Matthew 7:21-23).

### **THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS**

To be a true disciple of Jesus Christ will cost you all you have. Jesus warned His disciples: "If anyone wants to follow Me, let him deny his own desires and take up his cross and follow

Me” (Mark 8:34-38). He told them that they may have to leave their homes, friends, jobs; it would cost them their possessions and their lives – but it is well worth it! “Count the cost”, Jesus said (Luke 14:25-33). Make up your mind, and then do not turn back! (Luke 9:62).

## **TEMPTATION**

Temptation is when we want to do something which we know is wrong. It may be a bad habit we have; it may be because of our selfishness, lack of self-control; or the temptation may even come from the devil.

The Bible says that every temptation we face is common, but God will not allow us to be tempted more strongly than we can endure. With every temptation we are more than able to overcome through the strength that God will give us if we ask Him (1 Corinthians 10:13; Philippians 4:13).

Therefore Jesus said “Watch and pray, so that you do not give in to temptation. Your spirit does not want to sin, but in yourselves you are weak” (Matthew 26:41).

If we sin (although we should try *not* to!) God is always willing forgive us if we will sincerely repent, confess it and turn from it (1 John 1:7-9; 2:1). There is a great difference between living in sin, and sinning. The Christian does not live in sin; that is, he hates and resists sin, and does not live in a continual state of committing the same sin over and over again. He might sin, but after confessing it, with God's help he determines to turn from it and fights the temptation to do it again. For example, a habitual liar (whose life has never been transformed by coming to Christ) will not be saved (Revelation 21:8), but if we tell a lie and then, on realizing what we have done, say we are sorry and with God's help endeavour not to repeat this sin, then we will be forgiven. Either we choose to live for Christ and fight sin (and so are saved), or else we choose to live for sin and self (and so are lost eternally). God looks at our heart and our attitude towards Him – are they right with God?

## **BAPTISM**

“Repent (turn from sin), and be baptised in the Name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins”, Peter said (Acts 2:38). Baptism is a public witness to both Christians and non-Christians of the fact that you have chosen to live for Christ and to turn from sin. The water symbolizes the washing away of your sin. Romans 6:1-11 shows that:

- going down into the water signifies death to old way of life
- being under the water represents the burial of sin and our old way of life
- rising up again out of the water symbolizes rising to a new life in Christ.

Death to the old life, burial of our sins under the water (Micah 7:19), and resurrection to a new life, are all symbolized by water baptism. Jesus said, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). While baptism is not essential for salvation (we are not saved by outward works or deeds), it is essential for obedience.

## **COMMUNION**

The Lord's Supper (Communion) is a symbol of Christ's death and the shedding of His blood for our sins, just as baptism is symbolic of washing away our sins and rising to a new life in

Christ. Only true Christians should take part in the Lord's Supper, and then only after they are certain that they have repented, confessed and turned from all sin (see 1 Corinthians 11:23-32). When you have been washed clean from all sin through the death and shed blood of Jesus Christ, Communion will take on a new meaning for you.

### **GOOD WORKS (good deeds)**

Although we are not saved by what we do, as far as good works or good deeds are concerned, nevertheless they should follow as a result of our becoming a Christian. Ephesians 2:8-10 puts it clearly like this: "By God's grace you are saved and this grace is received through faith. This is not your own doing – it is a gift from God. This is not even earned by your good works, so no-one can boast. We were created by God, and have been re-created through faith in Jesus Christ, so that our lives will produce good works (good fruit) which God always intended us to do". 2 Corinthians 5:17 says "The old things (sin, selfishness, apathy towards God, etc.) have passed away; everything has become new." So we are saved by grace (God's loving gift of Jesus Christ), which is received through faith, and as a result our lives will produce good works.

### **SANCTIFICATION**

The word "sanctified" means "set apart for God's use". If you have truly repented, confessed and turned from all sin; if you have truly made Jesus Christ the Lord of every area of your life; if you have completely surrendered yourself to His will; if you have given your life entirely for His service, then you are sanctified. "This is God's will for you, that you should be sanctified" (1 Thessalonians 4:3). Since Jesus Christ will soon return to this earth to take Christians to be with Him in Heaven, surely obedience and sanctification should be a vital part of our Christian lives (Revelation 22:20; Matthew 24:42-51).

### **QUESTIONS**

1. If we really love God, what will we do? (See John 14:15).
2. Look up the following verses and see what the Bible has to say about these words: repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10; Matthew 3:2, 8); confession, forgiveness, and cleansing (1 John 1:7-9).
3. Several areas of obedience are mentioned in this study. Are you trying to be obedient in all of these areas?
4. What does the Bible have to say to Christians about faith and works? (See James 2:14-26).
5. What do baptism and communion symbolize?
6. What is the relationship between: grace, faith, and good works? (Ephesians 2:8-10).

## 6 WITNESSING

Witnessing is simply telling other people what Jesus Christ has done for you. It is God using you to help someone else find Christ. Someone told you, so now you can tell others!

Whatever we love the most, and are most interested in, we will talk about the most! So if we really love the Lord Jesus, and if He means a lot to us, we will want to tell others about Him. We would encourage you to pray for opportunities to witness, and when they come, just simply share what Jesus Christ means to you, and how you came to know Him as your Lord and Saviour. Share with the person what your life was like before you became a Christian, how you became a Christian, and how your life has changed since. See Paul's testimony in Acts chapters 22 and 26.

If you would like some booklets to give to your friends, to help you witness, we suggest you ask at a Christian bookshop, or at your church, or some evangelistic Christian organisation which uses booklets or leaflets for witnessing.

One of the important things about witnessing is this. If you are regularly sharing your faith with others, then prayer, Bible study, church attendance and obedience will tend to be no problem to you – you will want to pray for your friends and for God to help you witness; you will want to read the Bible so that you know more about the Christian life; you will want to meet with other Christians so that they can help and encourage you; and you will want to be obedient to God so that God does not convict you of sin when you show others how they need to confess and repent of their sin!

Prepare to witness, by prayer. Ask God to give you the opportunities, the openings, the words to say, and the love, wisdom and boldness to say them. Pray that God will prepare those people who you will speak to.

Remember that your life is just as important as your words, especially to those who know you well (family and close friends). No-one takes too much notice of what hypocrites say! This is especially important if your husband or wife, father or mother, brother or sister is not a Christian – a changed life will add great weight to your testimony, but a changed life is not sufficient by itself – they need to know what happened and how! With people you meet often, you can spend much more time witnessing to them, and over a longer period of time, so be patient, pray for them and wait for the right opportunities to speak.

### **Some good verses to learn**

Some good verses to learn off by heart, to use when witnessing are:

- Romans 3:23 “All have sinned ...”
- Romans 6:23 “The penalty for sin is death ...”
- Romans 5:8 “God shows His love for us ...”
- Acts 2:38 “Repent (turn from sin) and be baptized ...”
- 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins God will forgive us ...”
- John 1:12 “All who receive Him and believe in His name ...”
- Romans 10:9-10 “If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord ...”

## **Be filled with the Spirit**

“Be filled with the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). To be effective when we witness we need to be Spirit-filled Christians (see Luke 24:45-49). Jesus promised: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be witnesses to Me” (Acts 1:8). Confess all known sin to God and ask His forgiveness. Pray that He will fill you with His Holy Spirit and give you the power, the boldness and the authority you need to be an effective witness. Believe that He will! See Matthew 3:11; Luke 11:13; Luke 24:49; Hebrews 11:6.

Notice in Matthew 3:8-12 that baptism with water is for washing from sin (repentance); baptism with the Holy Spirit is for power to witness (Acts 1:8); and baptism with fire is for sanctification.

Often a person receives the fulness of the Spirit when another Spirit-filled Christian lays hands on them and prays. See Acts 8:14-17; 9:17. The gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11) often accompany, or follow, the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Power to witness (Acts 1:8) and the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) will also follow in a greatly increased way.

*Witnessing should be the spontaneous (natural) overflow of a Spirit-filled life.*

### **QUESTIONS**

1. What should we do if we feel too afraid to witness? (See 2 Timothy 1:7; Ephesians 6:18-19).
2. Why is it not sufficient just to witness by our life? (See Romans 10:13-17).
3. What verses of the Bible have you memorised, so that you can use them when witnessing and sharing the Gospel?
4. Briefly explain how you became a Christian.
5. Why is it important to be filled with the Holy Spirit? (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8)
6. What verses in the Bible give us the assurance that God forgives us if we repent and confess our sin?



## CONTINUING – DON'T GIVE UP!

God says in the Bible: “Whoever endures to the end will be saved” (Matthew 10:22). Jesus also said: “No-one who puts their hand to the plough and looks back, is fit for the Kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). In other words, now that you have begun in the Christian life, continue! When things get tough, look to God and ask for His help. These tough times will actually help you to grow in the Christian life, so don't be discouraged.

“Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all the things you need will be given to you”, Jesus promised (read Matthew 6:24-34). As we put God first in our lives, and as we live for Him, lives which honour Him, God will never let us down; He will always make sure we have everything we need.

The Christian life will not always be easy, but never turn back! There may be problems, temptations, trials, discouragement and times when you want to throw it all in. **DON'T!** Christ has promised us help and strength, and He has promised never to leave us or fail us. Do not go back to your old way of life; rather, go on in your new life in Christ!

Keep your eyes on Christ, not on people. People may disappoint you or fail you, but Jesus never will. The Bible constantly encourages us to be faithful in our commitment to the Lord. Jesus has told us that we need to take up our cross daily, and follow Him (Luke 9:23). It costs us nothing to get saved but it costs us everything once we are saved! If that doesn't sound very nice to you, remember that there really is no better, no more satisfying, life than that of following Christ. It is worth it all!

“Those who carry on to the end (and do not turn back to their old way of life) will be saved”, Jesus promised (Matthew 10:22). “The one thing I do”, Paul said, “is to forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead. I am pressing on towards the goal for the prize of being called to be with the Lord Jesus Christ” (Philippians 3: 13-14).

### FINALLY...

In these studies I have briefly covered a large number of subjects. I hope you will want to learn more! If so, I suggest that you speak to some keen Christians you know – maybe a friend, minister, pastor or Christian leader in your church.

Remember that there are some people (sometimes even people in the church) who do not believe all of the Bible. Pray that God will lead you to the right Christian people who can help you further. If a person keenly and enthusiastically witnesses for Jesus Christ and their life shows the fruit of a true follower of Jesus, speak to them.

May you be like the Christians in the early New Testament Church, who “committed themselves to the apostles’ teaching (learning the Bible), to fellowship (meeting together as a church), to the breaking of bread (communion), and to prayer” (Acts 2:42).

May God give you the strength and wisdom to follow Him all the days of your life.

## QUESTIONS

1. When the going gets tough, who can you always turn to? (See Matthew 11:28-30). Also, humanly speaking, who can you turn to?
  2. What two things has God promised us in Hebrews 13:5?
  3. What must we do if we are to “win the race”? (See Philippians 3:13-14 and Hebrews 12:1-2).
  4. Read Romans 12:1-2 and put these verses in your own words.
  5. What is the goal we are heading towards, as Christians? (Philippians 3:13-14).
  6. If you feel like giving up being a Christian, what should you do?
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