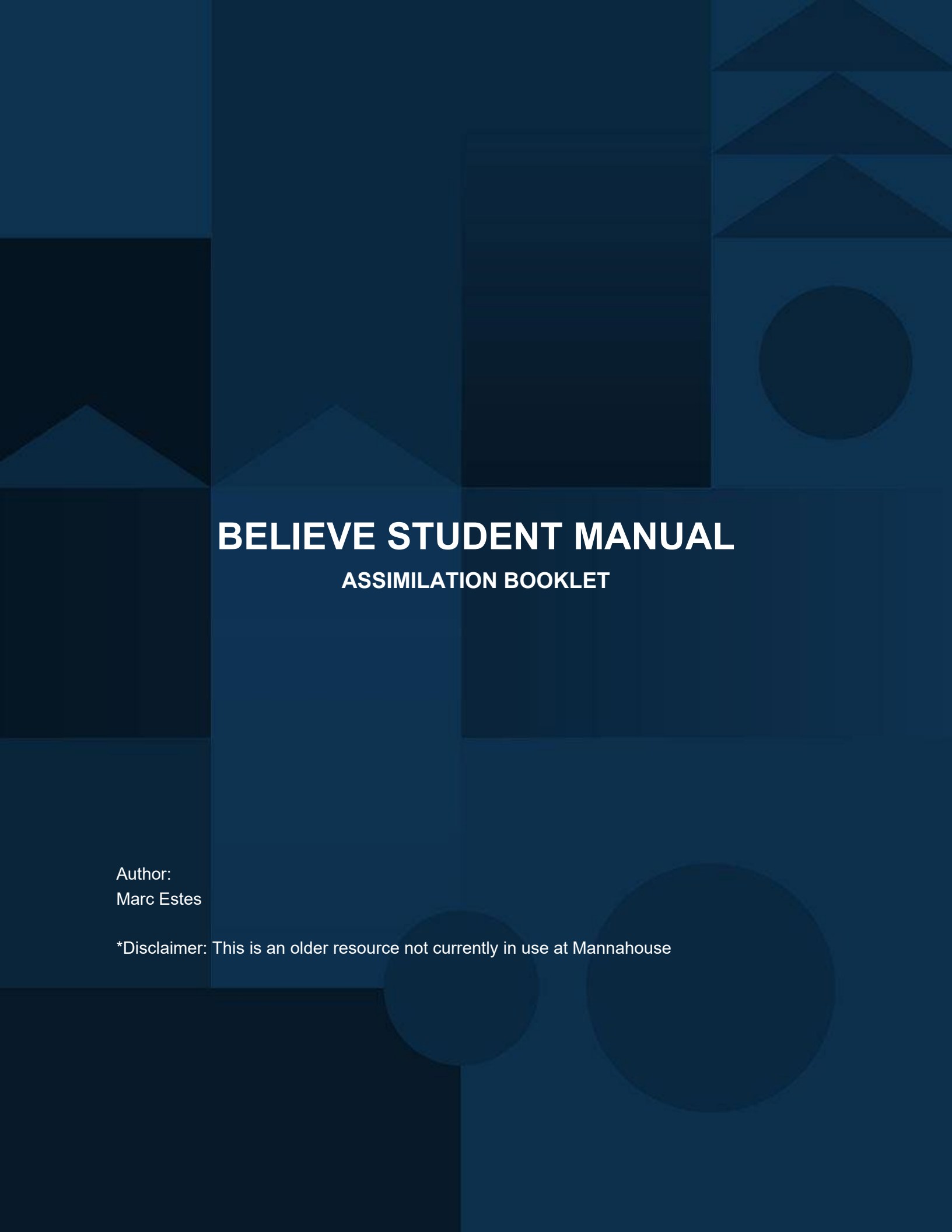




BELIEVE STUDENT MANUAL

ASSIMILATION BOOKLET

Author:
Marc Estes

*Disclaimer: This is an older resource not currently in use at Mannahouse

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Updated: 04/18/2022

Believe

City Bible Church

Marc Estes





Life Tracks



Welcome to the City Bible Church Life Tracks. This is a track strategically designed to assist and encourage you with your new life in Christ. Your decision to follow Christ is the most important decision you will ever make. Building this relationship on the proper foundation will determine the health of your relationship with God as well as determine the health of your life overall. We take your spiritual life development seriously. Nothing is more important than your life being firmly built on the rock foundation of Jesus Christ and His Word.

Thank you for taking your relationship with Christ serious enough to take this first Life Track, "Believe." We are convinced that every person should become a fully devoted follower of Christ who is passionate about extending the kingdom of God. Your decision to accept Christ as your Lord and Savior must reach far beyond your initial prayer to a life-long commitment of living wholeheartedly for Him.

The church is successful when all believers are true followers of Christ. The passage of scripture that sets the goal for the product Christ is seeking is in Acts 2:42-45, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need." The only way we will see a church like this is if every individual is fully devoted to Christ and His plan. That plan involves every person growing to spiritual maturity. It involves people who live as fully devoted followers of Christ. This track will help inspire you to grow to full maturity in Christ.

The Apostle Paul gives the strategy for this to happen in Ephesians 4:15-16 "...but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ — from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love." We are to grow up in all things. This track will help the believer to stimulate a growth attitude and practice growth principles.

Welcome to Believe: The New Life. Let us grow in God together!





Life Tracks



Seminar Schedule

8:30 – 8:50 am	Registration
8:50 – 9:00 am	Worship and Introduction
9:00 – 9:45 am	Session #1: Believe – the New Life
9:45 – 10:00 am	Breakout #1
10:00 – 10:10 am	Break
10:10 – 10:55 am	Session #2: Water Baptism – A Step of Obedience
10:55 – 11:10 am	Breakout #2
11:10 – 11:15 am	Break
11:15 – 12:00 pm	Session #3: Spirit Baptism – A Step of Faith
12:00 – 12:30 pm	Lunch
12:30 – 1:15 pm	Session #4: Growing in God
1:15 – 1:30 pm	Breakout #4
1:30 – 1:40 pm	Break
1:40 – 2:30 pm	Session #5: Taking the Next Step
2:30 – 2:45 pm	Breakout #5
2:45 – 2:55 pm	Break
2:55 – 3:15 pm	Session #6: Questions, Answers and Sign ups
3:15	Closing





Life Tracks



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Life Tracks



Life Tracks

Our Life Tracks are designed to help navigate the congregation in and through the core courses every person should accomplish. These tracks will equip City Bible Church members to thrive in Christ and serve the church. Each track has five lessons with added reading and equipping material, and a covenant to be signed by each member.





Life Tracks



BELIEVE: THE NEW LIFE



Session #1





Three things are necessary for the salvation of man; to know what he ought to believe; to know what he ought to desire; and to know what he ought to do.

St. Thomas Aquinas



Believe: The New Life

Thank you for choosing to take the first step in the Life Development Tracks. This material is designed to help you in your new relationship with Jesus Christ and to assist you in becoming all that God intended you to be: a fully devoted follower of Christ. You have begun a new life. 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 says, "Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ." Your old life, along with all of its mistakes and disappointments have been forgiven and you have been given the incredible privilege of beginning a new life.

Your new life in God will grow as God's grace changes the way you think, feel and behave. God has a definite plan as to how you should live. Understanding these important steps will set your feet in the right direction. You have a purpose and God has a plan. He desires that you fulfill all you were created to be. What you ultimately become will depend greatly on your choice to follow His plan and not yours. Make the decision today and commit to living an abundant life with Christ.

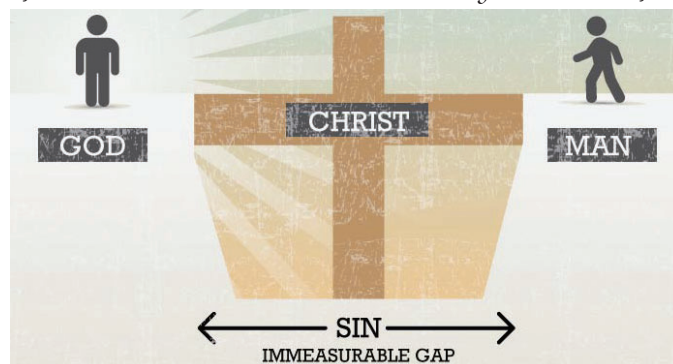
I. The Faith Attitude of a New Believer

A. Faith Attitude is the result of believing in Christ and the Word of God, not in my own feelings or thoughts. I now stand on the work of Christ and the powerful Word of God.

B. Faith Attitudes

1. The Faith Attitude that God has forgiven all my sins.

John 3:16; Matthew 9:13; 1 Timothy 1:15-16; 1 John 1:9



2. The Faith Attitude that I am a new person in Christ.
2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:4; Ephesians 4:22-24
3. The Faith Attitude that I have been given a fresh start in life.
Romans 5:18; Romans 6:13; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Colossians 2:12
4. The Faith Attitude that God has a purpose and plan for my life.
Jeremiah 29:11; Psalm 40:5; Isaiah 55:8-12; John 10:10
5. The Faith Attitude that I will spend eternity with Christ.
John 3:16; John 5:24; Acts 13:48; Romans 5:21; 2 Corinthians 5:1

II. Evidence of Being Born Again

Matthew 3:8; John 8:33-59

Jesus said that a tree would be known by its fruit. Your beliefs, attitudes and actions will produce a certain type of fruit; either good or bad. There should be clear evidence beyond your beliefs to validate the authenticity of your new relationship with Christ. Here is a list of some evidence that should be expressed in your life.

- A. There is evidence that you _____.¹
John 8:41; 1 John 2:29
- B. There is evidence that you _____²
as expressed in your desire to be with him.
Psalm 42:1; Psalm 63:1; Psalm 143:6
- C. There is evidence that you _____³
to live in your old carnal ways.
Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 3:9; 1 John 5:18
- D. There is evidence of a _____⁴
for yourself and others.
1 John 4:7-8, 11, 12; 1 John 3:16-18

*"We are saved
by someone
doing for us
what we cannot
do for
ourselves."
Donald Lester*



- E. There is evidence that you want to follow _____.⁵
1 John 5:1-3

III. The Rewards of New Birth

God has graciously and willingly changed our selfish and sinful life for His new loving, purpose-filled, eternal life. He has taken things that had little value or rewards and replaced them with something much more satisfying and rewarding (Mark 10:28-30). These rewards are for all those who are genuinely born again.

- A. _____⁶- Your slate is wiped clean. Your past is gone, you have been made brand new.
2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things have become new.
- B. _____⁷ - You have become a part of God's family. This should give you a new perspective on how you see yourself.
Galatians 3:26 For you are all Children of God by faith in Jesus Christ...
- C. _____⁸ - Your sins have been removed, and the power of sin has been broken.
Ephesians 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.
- D. _____⁹ - You now understand life through God's perspective and not your own. He gives you wisdom to understand life through His eternal wisdom.
Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.
- E. _____¹⁰ - Your life before Christ was filled with fear, condemnation and worry. Your future looked hopeless. Now that your trust is in Christ and not in temporary things, a new comfort and peace fills your life.
Isaiah 26:3 You will keep him in perfect peace...



- F. _____¹¹ - You were not just born again to go to heaven, but were saved with a purpose. You can enjoy the rest of your life being involved in God's purposes along with your church family.

1 Corinthians 12:12 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body.

- G. _____¹² - You have a great future ahead of you. This life on earth is only a preparation for spending eternity with God in heaven. You have been promised eternal life.

"Salvation is the beginning of the rest of your life."
Marc Estes

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

IV. My "New Life" Prayer Proclamation

- A. My New Life Prayer of Salvation

Lord, I thank you for my new life. I acknowledge that I am a sinner and that my sin caused you to go to the cross to die for my sins. You rose from the dead and conquered hell and death and now sit at the right hand of the Father. I am born again. I have been set free and have been given a new life. Amen!

- B. My New Life Prayer of Dedication

I will live for you all the days of my life. I will follow your Word and walk in your ways. I will live an abundant, purpose-filled life and look forward to spending eternity with you. Amen!

WATER BAPTISM: A STEP OF OBEDIENCE



Session #2



◆ ◆ ◆

As an outward testimony to the inward reality of what has happened to us in secret we outwardly declare to others our determination to follow Christ by being baptized. Baptism is our seal on the agreement that has occurred between us and God.

Pastor Frank Damazio

◆ ◆ ◆

Water Baptism

A Step of Obedience

Introduction: As a believer in Christ, it is vital that you are obedient to His commands in all areas of your life. Jesus said in John 14:15, “If you love me keep my commandments.” Following His ways are foundational to living a healthy, vibrant life in Christ. One of the first steps of obedience is to be water baptized. This important step of faith identifies you with Christ’s death, burial and resurrection, signifying your own death to self, burying your past, and rising to live a new life by the power of God’s grace.

Mark 16:16 *Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.*

Acts 2:38 *Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*

Matthew 28:19-20 *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...*

I. Defining Water Baptism

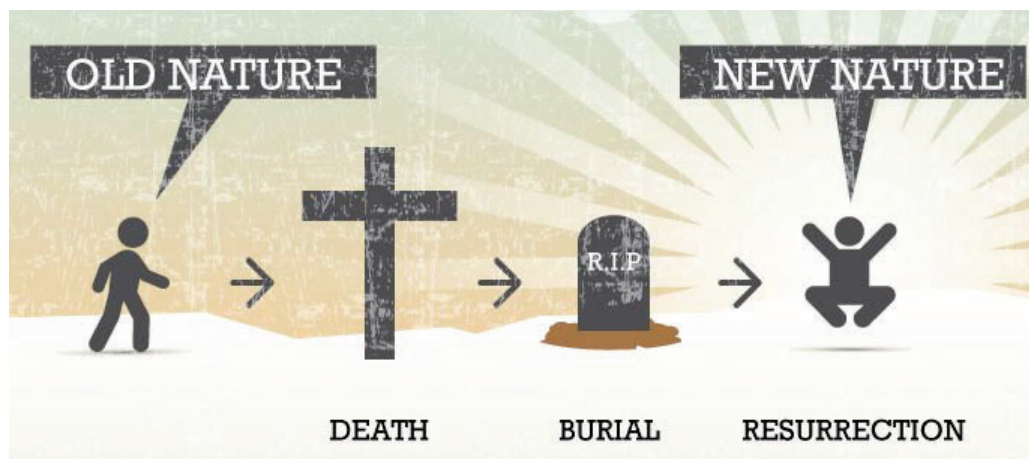
- A. The word “baptism” means to dip something into a fluid and then take it out or to cover with a fluid.

Luke 16:24; John 13:26; Revelation 19:13

- B. Water baptism is described in the following ways:

- 1. A symbolic act that represents the death and burial of the sinful nature. When you go down in to the water of Baptism you identify with Christ’s death and burial. When you come up out of the water you identify with Christ’s resurrection.





2. This is a picture showing the process of Christ's death on the cross, His burial and His resurrection. You too, are to follow His example. You have gone to the cross and allowed your old sin nature and its evil desire to die with Christ on the cross.

C. Water baptism was _____¹³

Jesus Himself was baptized in the Jordan River (Matthew 3:13). He then commanded all those that follow Him go and make disciples and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

D. Water baptism was _____¹⁴

The Apostle Peter told the first century followers, "each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ..." (Acts 2:38).

E. Water baptism is for those who have _____¹⁵

and are now born again. Throughout the Book of Acts, whenever people had accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior, they would immediately be baptized in water.

II. Reasons to be water baptized

A. Water baptism symbolizes the burial of _____¹⁶

Romans 6:3-10; Genesis 8 and 9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-2



- B. Water baptism signifies your willingness to identify with _____¹⁷
Romans 6:3-6; John 3:22
- C. Water Baptism acknowledges a willingness to _____¹⁸
John 15:14; John 2:5; Matthew 12:50
- D. Water baptism shows there has been a _____¹⁹
Colossians 2:11-12
- E. Water baptism is a _____²⁰
 to God, your church family and the devil that you are a follower of Christ. *Mark 1:4*

III. Common questions regarding baptism

- A. When should I be water baptized?
 Once you have begun your new relationship with Jesus, you should make every effort to be baptized as soon as possible.
Acts 22:16 "And now, why delay? Get up and be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on the name of the Lord."
- B. What if I was baptized before?
 This depends on whether you were a Christian at the time of the baptism. If you were a Christian, there is no reason to be baptized again.
- C. What about sprinkling?
 As previously stated, the biblical definition of baptism shows that total immersion was the mode of water baptism instituted by Jesus.
- D. What about infant baptism?
 No instance of infant baptism is ever recorded in the Bible. Because an infant cannot repent and have faith as described above, there is no benefit to the child who is baptized. Once a child reaches the age at which he or she can make a decision of faith and repentance, then baptism can take place with significant meaning. As long as the decision to become a Christian is made out of your own





Life Tracks

initiative and you comprehend repentance and faith, age is not a factor.

E. Is water baptism mandatory?

"God's people should be baptized because God commanded it, not because some church requires it."

John R. Rice

The thief who hung on the cross beside Jesus is evidence that salvation is assured without being water baptized. His conversion took place as he was dying, and Jesus promised that he would be in heaven that day even though he had no chance to be baptized. We receive salvation freely by faith and not through our own efforts. However, we should desire to be baptized because Jesus has commanded us to follow Him in this important act of obedience. If you refuse to be baptized, you are being willingly defiant, and this can hinder your relationship with Jesus.

IV. How to Get Water Baptized at City Bible Church

- A. Sign up today.
- B. The church office will call to schedule a date for the next baptism.
- C. Bring a set of modest clothes and a towel and meet at the set time.
- D. Invite all your friends and relatives to celebrate with you.
- E. You will receive a baptism certificate and a photo of your baptism.



Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand sould.

Acts 2:41



SPIRIT BAPTISM: A STEP OF FAITH



Session #3





◆ ◆ ◆

We must not be content to be cleansed from sin; we must be filled with the spirit.

John Fletcher

◆ ◆ ◆



Spirit Baptism: A Step of Faith

Introduction: We have laid the foundation of what it means to believe in Christ and live life as a new believer. The foundation of faith in Christ results in a new heart and a new life that leads the believer into the waters of baptism and into a fully-devoted life of a disciple. The new birth in Christ opens up our spirit to receive the Holy Spirit as the Spirit that works in us to bring a new spiritual life and the new filling of the Holy Spirit. In this session we will develop the truth of living in the power of the Spirit and being continually filled with the Spirit.

I. The Believer's Three Specific Holy Spirit Encounters

A. You are _____²¹ of the Spirit.
Entrance into the Kingdom of God

1. Regeneration: This describes a spiritual birth. It must come by the work of the Holy Spirit. Only the Holy Spirit can bring about the miracle of regeneration, that is, the miracle of new birth and of God abiding in us by the Holy Spirit.

2. Scriptures

*"Come, Holy Spirit our
souls inspire and ignite us
with your celestial fire."*

Rabanus Maurus

- a. **Ezekiel 11:19** Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh,
- b. **John 3:5-6** Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- c. **1 Corinthians 3:16-17** Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.
- d. **1 Corinthians 6:17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.



- e. **2 Corinthians 1:21-22** 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.
 - f. **John 14:16** And I will pray to the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever
 - g. **Titus 3:5** not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,
- B. You are _____²² in the Spirit.
After salvation, an endowment of the power of the Holy Spirit
1. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is to be filled or fully immersed with the Spirit. The word 'baptism' means, "to be completely covered, or fully immersed.
 2. Scriptures
 - a. **Luke 3:16** John answered, saying to all, "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.
 - b. **Acts 1:5** for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."
 - c. **Acts 2:4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
 - d. **Acts 8:14-17** Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.



- e. **Acts 10:44-48** While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.
- f. **Acts 19:1-6** And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

"What is my task? First of all, my task is to be pleasing to Christ. To be empty of self and be filled with Himself. To be filled with the Holy Spirit; to be led by the the Holy Spirit."

Aimee Semple McPherson

C. You are _____²³ with the Spirit.
An ongoing experience of being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit

1. Filled with the Holy Spirit is to be filled to overflowing with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit continually. It is an expansion of our capacity for praying, worshipping, witnessing, and a fresh touch of the power and influence of the Holy Spirit that totally permeates and saturates.

2. Scriptures

3.



- a. **Ephesians 5:18-19** And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.
- b. **Acts 4:31** And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.
- c. **Luke 4:1** Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,
- d. **Acts 13:9** Then Saul, who also is called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him
- e. **Acts 13:52** And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

II. The Believer's Baptism In the Holy Spirit

A. Pivotal Scriptures

1. **Luke 24:49** 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."
2. **Acts 1:8** 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.
3. **Acts 2:3-4** Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
4. **Acts 2:11** Cretans and Arabs — we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.
5. **Acts 10:46** For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.
6. **Acts 19:6** And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.



7. **1 Corinthians 14:5** I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.
8. **1 Corinthians 14:18** I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all
9. **1 Corinthians 14:39** Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

B. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

1. Spiritual language is a spiritual resource and benefit intended for and available to every born again believer who asks and is open to receive.
2. Spiritual language is the supernatural utterance by the Holy Spirit through the human vessel in languages never learned by the speaker and not understood by the speaker. It has nothing whatsoever to do with linguistic ability, nor with the mind or intellect of man. It is prayer and praise addressed to God.
3. Spiritual language opens a new flow of the Holy Spirit that strengthens the believer in prayer, worship and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. A spiritual language is an entrance into a new life in the Holy Spirit, a new partnership, a new outward flow of streams flowing forth from the inner man. Tongues is a heaven-sent, biblical experience for any believer in all ages.

C. The Spiritual Language in Church History

1. "Irenaeus, writing in the 2nd century refers to the casting out of devils, and adds: 'As we hear, many of the brethren in the church who have prophetic gifts, and who speak in tongues through the Spirit, and who also bring to light the secret things of men.'
2. Tertullian also lived in the 2nd century, and speaks freely of the spiritual gifts, including the gift of tongues, operating amongst those with whom he worshiped.



3. Augustine, in the 4th century: 'We still do what the apostles did when they laid their hands on the Samaritans, and called down the Holy Spirit on them, in the laying on of hands. It is expected that converts should speak with new tongues.'
4. Chrysostom wrote in the 5th century: 'Whoever was baptized in apostolic days straightway spake with tongues.'
5. The Encyclopedia Britannica candidly asserts that the tongues of Pentecost '...recur in Christian revivals of every age.
6. Philip Schaff's History of the Christian Church reads: 'Speaking in tongues reappeared from time to time in seasons of religious revivals among the French, the early Quakers, the Methodists, the Readers, and in the Irish revival of 1859.
7. Thomas Walsh, one of John Wesley's foremost preachers, wrote in his diary dated the 8th March, 1750: 'This morning the Lord gave me languages that I know not, raising my soul to Him in a wonderful manner.'
8. Huguenots (French Protestants) in the year 1680 had amongst them those who spoke with tongues.

III. The Holy Spirit's Role in the life of the Believer

Through God's amazing grace and love for you, He promised to send you a Helper that would partner with you every day and in every situation. He wants you to recognize His role in your lives and place your total dependence in Him.

- A. The Holy Spirit gives _____.²⁴
Job 33:4 For the Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
- B. The Holy Spirit indwells the _____.²⁵
Romans 8:9 But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)



"I myself do nothing. The Holy Spirit accomplishes all through me."
William Blake

- C. The Holy Spirit brings strength _____.²⁶
Ephesians 3:16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit.
- D. The Holy Spirit sets us free from _____.²⁷
Romans 8:1-2 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.
- E. The Holy Spirit directs us towards _____.²⁸
Romans 8:27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.
- F. The Holy Spirit is our _____.²⁹
John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.
- G. The Holy Spirit renews our _____.³⁰
Romans 12:1-2 And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.
- H. The Holy Spirit helps us _____.³¹
Romans 8:26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.
- I. The Holy Spirit empowers us _____.³²
Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- J. The Holy Spirit helps us with _____.³³
Psalms 10:17 Lord, you know the hopes of the helpless. Surely you will hear their cries and comfort them.



- K. The Holy Spirit _____.³⁴
John 14:26 But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.
- L. The Holy Spirit _____.³⁵
John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.
- M. The Holy Spirit gives us the gifts of the Spirit _____.³⁶
Romans 12:6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.



Spiritual maturity isn't some daunting thing you have to strive to do; it's a natural progression of living a life of unswerving commitment to God.

Marc Estes



GROWING IN GOD



Session #4





◆ ◆ ◆

The word of God well understood and religiously obeyed is the shortest route to spiritual perfection. And we must not select a few favorite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian.

AW Tozer

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Growing in God

Introduction: Everything God created was intended to grow. This foundational truth is seen in every aspect of His creation. This same principle, seen in the natural world, is also carried over into our spiritual lives. God desires that everyone in the family of God grows into a fully devoted follower of Christ. To grow in Christ is to be emotionally, intellectually and spiritually sold out to Christ and doing all that is possible to become what He desires you to be. A growing disciple lives in complete submission to the Holy Spirit in both decision making and behavior, conforming to the dictates of scripture without trying to cut corners. A growing disciple of Christ is passionate about extending the kingdom of God. God's will is that you grow!

Psalms 92:12-13 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Ephesians 4:15 we will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more in every way like Christ, how is the head of the body, the church.

Ephesians 3:19 To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 4:13 Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

I. Growing Through the Word of God

One of the best ways to begin a healthy, balanced spiritual life is to begin a daily intake of God's Word. The Bible is not just a history book, a novel, or a compilation of poems and stories. It reveals the very nature of God.

A. The Bible is the Word of God

1. The Greek word "Biblos" simply means "Book" and from it is where we get the English word "Bible."



2. The Bible is much more than just a book; it is the perfect and inspired Word of God.
1 Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:17; Colossians 1:25
3. The Bible is the infallible Word of God and is a combination of 66 different books, written by 40 different men, in 3 languages, over a period of 1600 years. For the Bible to be completely harmonious in thought with these parameters is humanly impossible.
4. Though God is the author of Scripture, He chose to use men to write it. Thus, the Bible is a product of both God and man. Listed below is a brief overview of the Bible.*

The Old Testament			
Pentateuch Means "five volumes." Includes mostly narrative stories and the Law God gave to Israel.	Historical Books Narratives that follow Israel's up-and-down history.	Poetry & Wisdom Literature Artistic in form, these works incorporate poetic or proverbial elements.	Prophets During Israel's history, these prophets were the mouthpiece of God challenging rebellious people to turn back to Him.
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Joshua Judges Ruth 1 & 2 Samuel 1 & 2 Kings 1 & 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs (Song of Solomon)	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Michah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi
The New Testament			
Gospels & Acts Historical accounts that follow Jesus' life, death, resurrection & the rise of the early church.	Pauline Letters Letters written by Paul to individuals or churches explaining the nature of the Christian life.	General Letters Letters written by others focusing on the church in general.	Apocalyptic Literature Uses vivid imagery & cosmic narrative to portray God's ultimate consummation of history. A vision of the future bringing hope to the present.
Matthew Mark Luke John	Romans 1 & 2 Corinthians Galatians Ephesians Philippians Colossians 1 & 2 Thessalonians 1 & 2 Timothy Titus Philemon	Hebrews James 1 & 2 Peter 1, 2 & 3 John Jude	Revelation

*Chart taken from "Start Point" materials from North Point Ministries, Atlanta, Georgia

5. CBC has developed more teaching on the Bible in the Life Development Track, "Thrive" which every person is encouraged to attend.
- B. Reasons why you should study the Bible.

1. The Bible brings _____.



Everything that you will ever need to live a successful life can be found in the Word of God. Learning His truths and applying God's principles to your life will profit every aspect of your life.

2 Timothy 3:16 ALL scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable.

2. *"When you read God's Word, you must constantly be saying to yourself, 'It is talking to me, and about me.' "*
Soren Kierkegaard

The Bible brings _____.³⁸

The Bible is filled with valuable insights and wisdom that will give you direction in every area of your life and help you avoid costly mistakes.

Psalm 119:05 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path...direct my steps by your Word.

3. The Bible brings _____.³⁹

God's Word works as a cleaning agent in every area of your thoughts, will and emotions. It gives you insight on how to live a godly life and be free from the damaging affects of sin.
Ephesians 5:26 Washing of the water by the Word...

4. The Bible brings _____.⁴⁰

People are desperately searching for hope and freedom. The Bible is the source to fill their need. God's truth will set you free and help you to live a life with abundant hope.

John 8:31-32 If you abide in my Word, you are my disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

5. The Bible brings _____.⁴¹

Life is filled with trials and tribulations. Becoming a Christian will not eliminate these challenges from your life; however you can be assured that God will give you grace and strength when you need it most. You'll find comfort in his Word.

Psalm 119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction, for your word has given me life.

6. The Bible builds _____.⁴²



The Word is filled with stories and insights that will inspire you to pursue the purposes of God and His destiny for your life.

2 Tim. 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration by God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

7. The Bible shows _____.⁴³

The Bible is clearly the mind and will of God. Discovering God's purposes and will for your life can be released into your life as you partake of His Word daily.

Colossians 1:25-26 God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you. This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people.

8. Guidelines for effective Bible study can be found on page 59.
Appendix C

II. Growing Through Prayer

Consistent, quality communication is essential for any relationship to grow. Anyone who desires to have a thriving personal relationship with God must develop a quality prayer life.

A. What is Prayer?

*"Some people pray just to pray and some people pray to know God."
Andrew Murray*

1. The act of heartfelt communication with God; the offering of adoration, confession, supplication, and thanksgiving to God on behalf of yourself or others, both in private and public settings.
2. Prayer is the direct result of relationship with Christ and with the Holy Spirit. Prayer comes from the heart and is based upon a desire to connect with God and is not a mere habit, custom or ritual.



B. Different Types of Prayer

1. _____⁴⁴ Prayer – A prayer of great earnestness and perseverance regarding a need or request.
1 Samuel 1:17-27; Esther 5:6-7; Daniel 6:7-13
2. _____⁴⁵ Prayer – A humble entreaty or request to God soliciting his involvement, protection and blessing in both your natural and spiritual needs.
Psalms 6:9; 30:8; Daniel 6:11; 9:20; Acts 1:14
3. _____⁴⁶ Prayer – A prayer that offers thanks for something received from God.
Psalms 100:4; 96:2; 145:1; 1 Chronicles 29:13
4. _____⁴⁷ To seek God intently and stand in the gap for another.
Romans 8:26-34; 1 Timothy 2:1; Hebrews 7:25
5. _____⁴⁸ Prayer – Being stirred in your spiritual language and led by the Holy Spirit to connect with God regarding something on God's heart resulting in your spirit being edified.
1 Corinthians 14:14-15; Jude 20; Romans 8:26; Ephesians 6:18
6. _____⁴⁹ Prayer – The singing of an unrehearsed song placed on your heart by the Holy Spirit that is directed towards a need or desire.
Psalms 72; 2 Chronicles 20:20-22; Isaiah 56:7-8

C. Practical Guidelines for a Healthy Prayer Life

The most important aspect of prayer that is often overlooked is the application of prayer in a believer's life. It is not enough to understand it or define it, but one must actually pray in order for there to be any fruit. Like any other important component in your life, there must be an intentional, consistent prayer habit established in your daily life.



1. _____⁵⁰ – Prayer should be one of the highest priorities of your life. Set aside a time that best fits your schedule. Starting your day with prayer before the demands and pressures come is recommended.
2. _____⁵¹ – Personal prayer should be done in a quiet place alone where you can freely and openly express your heart to God. Jesus Himself said that we should go into a quiet place when we pray. *Matthew 6:6*
3. _____⁵² – There is no rule as to how long you should pray, but you can never really pray too much. Once someone realizes the power of prayer and how it radically affects every area of your life, their prayer life will automatically increase. Regardless of the length of your time in your personal time in prayer, consider praying throughout the day for all the needs that come your way.

"I have so much to do that I spend several hours in prayer before I am able to do it."
John Wesley
4. _____⁵³ – A list of needs and requests will greatly enhance your prayer time as well as focus your energies. There is always an abundance of needs in anyone's life and transferring those needs to a prayer list will be inviting God to partner with you. Consider developing categories for personal, family, health, finances, career, ministry, unsaved friends and nations. There is prayer journal located on page 67 for your use.
5. _____⁵⁴ – Reading a passage and then praying the scriptural truth into your life is another powerful way to enhance your prayer. A few scriptures you might consider are Matthew 6; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Corinthians 13.
6. Add different elements to your prayer time – Here are some practical things you might want to add to your prayer time.
 - a. Worship and singing.
Psalm 100:1; Matthew 6:9



- b. Confessing and cleansing.
Daniel 9:4; Nehemiah 1:5-11
 - c. Recognition of Christ as Lord.
Psalms 100:3; Nehemiah 9:4-6
 - d. Asking for daily provisions.
Matthew 6:11; 7:7-12
 - e. Bringing Him your needs.
Philippians 4:6-7
 - f. Thanking Him for answered prayer.
Psalms 100:4; Ephesians 1:7
 - g. Praying for others.
Romans 8:26
7. Prayer Guidelines can be found on Page 65. Appendix E





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TAKING THE NEXT STEP



Session #5





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No man has the mind of Christ, except him who makes it his business to obey him.

George MacDonald

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Taking the Next Step

Introduction: By this point you have realized that a decision to ask Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and Savior is much broader than praying a prayer. That prayer became the beginning of a new life. You have become a new person and your future is now in God's hands. It is imperative that as you move forward, you allow the Lord to direct your steps toward God's perfect will for your life.

I. Initial Steps Already Taken

Over the past few weeks, you have already taken several foundational steps in developing your relationship with God. These steps included:

- A. The step to ask Christ into your heart.
Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:37-38
- B. The step to repent for your sins.
John 3:16; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17
- C. The step to be water baptized.
Mark 16:16; John 14:15; Romans 6:4-5; Colossians 2:11-12
- D. The step to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
Acts 9:17; 10:45-46; 19:2; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 30; 14:18; Ephesians 6:8
- E. The step to live a Spirit-filled and Spirit-led life.
Romans 8:5-14; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Titus 3:5-6; Galatians 4:6
- F. The Step to Grow in your Personal Study of God's Word.
Isaiah 34:16; John 5:39; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 2:15
- G. The step to grow in your personal prayer life.
Psalms 6:9; Daniel 6:11; 9:20; Acts 1:14; Romans 8:26-34; 1 Timothy 2:1



II. Taking the Next Eight Steps

The first seven steps are just mentioned are truly the foundation stones to your life. The strength of these foundation principles in your life will greatly determine the strength and health of your life overall. In addition to these foundational truths, there are eight other steps that are important as you move forward in your walk with Christ. Each of these new steps deal with ongoing decisions and disciplines to becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ. These are truly some of the most important commitments you will ever make.

A. Commit to _____ 55

Your decision to follow Christ is the beginning of a life-long relationship with the One that should matter most in your life. This relationship must be based on your willingness to commit all you have and all you are to Him.

“Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

2 Corinthians 5:17 This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

Matthew 6:33 and he will give you all you need from day to day if your live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

John 15:4-5 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful apart from me.

1. A commitment to follow Christ means you make Him your number one priority.
2. A commitment to follow Christ means you faithfully follow His ways in every aspect of your life.
3. A commitment to follow Christ means your life is no longer your own and you recognize that He is now the Lord of your life.

4. A commitment to follow Christ means you will follow Him all the days of your life, regardless of what trials, tragedies or disappointments come your way.

- B. Commit to _____ 56
- The local church is God's instrument used to fulfill His purposes in the earth. The church is not a building or an organization, but His people connected together fulfilling His purposes. Your purpose in life will only be reached in its entirety through the local church. The church is God's family. The church is God's vehicle. The church is God's expression to all of humanity.

Matthew 16:18 Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it

Hebrews 10:25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

"Your church family is where most of your life's purposes are discovered, developed and deployed."

Marc Estes

1. Being connected to the church means that you accept God's church as your spiritual family.
2. Being connected to the church means that you are a faithful attender to weekly services and small groups.
3. Being connected to the church means that you commit yourself to becoming an official member of your local church.
4. Being connected to the church means that you fully embrace and support the vision, values and leadership of your church.
5. Being connected to the church means that you willingly live life beyond yourself and faithfully serve and care for the others in your church family.



C. Commit to _____ 57

Character is the sum of the traits that form an individual. The fabric of your character is shaped by your commitment to moral and ethical excellence. Your character is what defines you to the world as well as determines your destiny in God. Godly character is one of the highest qualities one can possess.

Romans 6:22 But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life.

Hebrews 12:14 Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord.

"A man's reputation is what other people think of him; his character is what he really is."

Abraham
Lincoln

1. Living a life with godly character means that you will follow God's Word regardless of the cost to your own personal life and reputation.
2. Living a life with godly character means that you are more concerned with God's approval than man's approval.
3. Living a life with godly character means you don't compromise in your convictions even when no one is around.
4. Living a life with godly character means that you place character over gifting and talent.

D. Commit to _____ 58

God has placed people of authority over you in every area of your life, not for the purpose of controlling you, but to protect you. One of the greatest revelations you will ever possess is the value of submission to authority. God's will is that all those placed in authority understand the importance of their role and do not abuse this special responsibility. At the same time, those under authority should respect and honor those placed over their lives.

Romans 13:1-5 Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience.

1. Supporting leaders over you recognizes that God has set those He chooses into places of authority (civil and spiritual).
2. Supporting leaders over you means you will pray for them and ask God to protect them and direct them in making godly, wise decisions.
3. Supporting leaders over you acknowledges that you may not have all the facts that went into their decisions; therefore, you will believe the best.
4. Supporting leaders over you means that you will speak highly of them and the office they hold.
5. Supporting leaders over you means that you are willing to serve and accept assignments that advance the church and its purposes.

"A true friend is the gift of God, and only he who made hearts can unite them."

Robert South

- E. Commit to _____⁵⁹
- You were created for relationships. Life was never meant to be lived alone. From the beginning of time, God created man to live together and develop healthy, lasting, purpose-driven relationships. The church is also built on the foundation of relationships and is a compilation of people from all different races,



ages and gender that are intended to do life together. The types of relationships that exist in our lives ultimately determine who we become. As a new believer, it is important to establish healthy relationships that point you in the right direction.

1 Corinthians 15:33 Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for "bad company corrupts good character."

Ephesians 5:6-9 Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Don't participate in the things these people do. For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

1. Healthy relationships are properly established when the foundation of the relationship is based on God's principles.
2. Healthy relationships are developed through sharing the same values.
3. Healthy relationships thrive when you have the other's best interests in mind.
4. Healthy relationships means looking for ways to serve the needs of others before your own.
5. Healthy relationships can be found and developed through small groups offered in the church.
6. Healthy relationships can be found and developed through serving in areas of ministry in the church.

- F. Commit to _____⁶⁰
 God built in the heart of every person the desire to make a difference. This desire can only be fulfilled when you possess a genuine love for people and a passion to serve others, which runs

counter to the world in which we live. Yet, the kingdom of God is based on a different value system. The Bible declares that serving is

the highest calling one can possess. Anyone can become great because everyone can serve. Even Jesus Himself modeled this truth in His own life.

"Everyone can be great because anyone can serve."

Martin Luther King Jr.

Matthew 20:28 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

1. Serving is not just what we do, but is who we are.
2. Serving is the foundation to all ministry involvement.
3. Serving is based upon what you contribute to others, not what you receive for your efforts.
4. Serving is the vehicle God uses to build His kingdom.
5. Serving is the responsibility of every believer and should result in every person in the church finding a meaningful place of service.
6. Serving with the right motives will produce eternal rewards.

G. Commit to _____ ⁶¹

"We are most like God when we are giving."
Dixie Fraley

Each of you has been given valuable resources by God. These resources were entrusted to your care for their use in God's kingdom. You simply are stewards of God's resources. Everything that you have ever received has been handed to you by God. These resources consist of your time, energy, possessions and finances. God's Word has a great deal to say about our willingness to use these resources for His purposes. One who willingly invests what God has given leads an abundant, prosperous life. Those who



choose to refrain from investing their valuable resources ultimately live a life absent of God's blessings and favor.

God requires you to trust in him by obeying His word and releasing your resources through the local church for advancing His kingdom. This is both a step of faith and obedience. Two of the main areas where we are asked to participate are with our tithes and offerings.

Tithes:

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honor the Lord with your possessions & with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.

Malachi 3:10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

Offerings:

Proverbs 11:24-25 There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

1. A generous person recognizes that all of their resources are a gift from God.



2. A generous person recognizes that they are simply stewards of these valuable resources.
3. A generous person finds joy in releasing their resources to build God's kingdom and advance the cause of Christ.
4. A generous person recognizes their generosity invokes the favor and protection of God upon their life.
5. A generous person understands the one tenth of their income, called the tithe, is God's portion and should be given freely and willingly.
6. A generous person lives with the desire to build the church and bless others through the giving of offerings, which are above the tithe.

- C. Commit to _____ 62
- The primary mission of Christ was to come and seek those who were lost. He lived His life sharing the good news with those who desperately needed a Savior. You too, have the same primary purpose; to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with those that God has placed in your life. As a new Christian, there are many friends, neighbors, relatives and co-workers that God has placed in your life. You were not only saved 'from' something, but you were also saved 'for' something. Sharing your faith with others is one of the most vital commitments you will ever make.

"It is the duty of every Christian to be Christ to his neighborhood."
Martin Luther

Mark 16:15 And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

2 Corinthians 5:18 And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.

1. The commitment to share your faith means that you understand the eternal state of those around you and that





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2. you are compelled to share the same love you received to save them from an eternity without Christ.
3. The commitment to share your faith is the responsibility of every believer, not just a few chosen leaders.
4. The commitment to share your faith is something that should take place daily. It is an action and not just an intention.
5. The commitment to share your faith brings great pleasure to the heart of God and produces eternal rewards.
6. The commitment to share your faith will be met with resistance from the evil one.



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The church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose.

C.S. Lewis

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APPENDIX





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Appendix A: New Life Covenant

I have made a decision to begin a life long relationship with Christ. I recognize that my sins caused me to fall short of God's glory and the result was eternal separation from God. I understand that a penalty had to be paid for my sin and the penalty was Christ's death on the cross. I believe that due to God's unfailing love for me He chose to send His one and only Son to the cross to die in my place, allowing me the opportunity to have a new life in God as well as eternal life in heaven.

I am forever grateful for His grace and mercy and as a result have asked Jesus Christ to come into my heart and become my Lord and Savior. I choose to turn from what the Bible calls sin and to direct the rest of my life to following His ways. I will be passionate about establishing a quality prayer life. I will continually immerse myself in God's Word. I will live a spirit-filled life. I will commit myself to growing daily in God. I will commit my life to His church. I will find a place to serve. I will give of my resources. I will live a life of character and integrity. I will share my faith with all that God brings into my path. I desire to be a disciple and not just a decision. My life goal is to become what God wants me to become: a fully devoted follower of Christ.

Signed: _____

Date: _____





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Appendix B: CBC Statement of Faith

The fundamental teachings of City Bible Church are reflected in the following, clear statements:

- We believe in the plenary-verbal inspiration of the accepted canon of the Scriptures as originally given and that they are infallibly and uniquely authoritative and free from error of any sort in all matters with which they deal, including scientific and historical as well as moral and theological.
2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:13
- We believe in the Eternal Godhead who has revealed Himself as ONE God existing in THREE persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; distinguishable but indivisible.
Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14
- We believe in the literal, special creation of the existing space-time universe and all of its basic systems as indicated in Genesis.
Genesis 1:1-25
- We believe in the full historicity and perspicuity of the Biblical record of primeval history, including the literal existence of Adam and Eve as the progenitors of all people, the literal fall and resultant divine curse on the creation, the worldwide cataclysmic deluge, and the origin of nations and languages at the tower of Babel.
Genesis 1-11
- We believe in the creation, test and fall of man as recorded in Genesis; his total spiritual depravity and inability to attain to divine righteousness
Romans 5:12,18; Genesis 3:1-24
- We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of men, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, very God and very man.
Luke 1:26-35; John 1:18; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6
- We believe Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day, and personally appeared to His disciples.
1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Romans 4:25



- We believe in the bodily ascension of Jesus to heaven, His exaltation and personal, literal and bodily coming again the second time for the Church.
John 14:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- We believe in the salvation of sinners by grace, through repentance and faith in the perfect and sufficient work of the cross of Calvary by which we obtain remission of sins.
Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:12, 22; Romans 5:11
- We believe in the necessity of water baptism by immersion in the name of the Eternal Godhead in order to fulfill the command of Christ.
Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38-39; 19:1-6
- We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit as an experience subsequent to salvation and a distinct aspect of the Christian foundational experience.
Acts 2:1-4; 8:14-17; 19:6
- We believe in the operation of the gifts of the Spirit as enumerated in 1 Corinthians 12-14, as manifested in the Early Church.
- We believe in the Spirit-filled life, a life of separation from the world and perfecting of holiness in the fear of God as an expression of Christian faith.
Ephesians 5:18; 2 Corinthians 6:14; 7:1
- We believe in the healing of the body by Divine Power, or Divine healing in its varied aspects as practiced in the Early Church.
Acts 4:30; Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 12:9; James 5:14
- We believe in the Table of the Lord, commonly called Communion or the Lord's Supper, for believers
1 Corinthians 11:23-32
- We believe in eternal life for believers and eternal punishment for unbelievers.
John 5:24; 3:16; Mark 9:43-48; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:10-15
- We believe in the reality and personality of Satan and eternal judgment of Satan and his angels.
Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10-15



Appendix C: Guidelines for Bible Study

God knows what is best for us. He knows that a balanced daily, practical, systematic Bible study will help in living a long, healthy, prosperous life. Here a few scriptures concerning God's desire for us to read his Word:

John 5:39 Search the Scriptures...

Isaiah 34:16 Search from the book of the Lord, and read...

Acts 17:11 They received the Word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to show yourself approved unto God....rightly dividing the Word of truth...

I. Practical suggestion for successful study.

A. Choose a Translation

There are many versions of the Bible today. Find a Bible that best fits your background, reading style and individual tastes. For most new Christians we recommend the New Living Translation or the New International Version.

B. Use a Bible Reading Chart

Refer to Appendix D on page 63. It is highly recommended that you begin your reading disciplines by using this chart as it will help you to create healthy Bible intake and give you variety. As a new Christian, we don't recommend beginning by reading in Genesis and just read the entire way through like a book.

C. Develop Consistent Study Habits

Revelation 1:3

1. Time: Early mornings work for some, while others may read at bedtime. Pick the time where you are most alert and where distractions are minimal.



2. Day: We highly recommend a daily reading schedule. Skipping days is like skipping meals.
3. Location: Find a place where there are no distractions, such as a bedroom, quiet family room, or vacant office at work.

D. Keep a Journal

Habakkuk 2:2

1. Each day, God's Word will come alive. God can, and will speak to you through the Bible. Writing down the thoughts you receive will allow you to re-examine from time to time, and remind you what God is doing in your life.
2. Write down in a journal book the following items:
 - The date in which you read it
 - The Scripture that you read
 - What the scripture was saying
 - What God was saying to you through the scripture
 - What change should I make to obey what God is saying
 - How and when will I make the changes

E. Meditate on God's Word

Psalms 1:2-3

1. We read the Word so it can shape our lives into the likeness of Christ. Quick reading of scriptures will not allow you to examine the scriptures and see how they apply to your life.
2. How to meditate on the Word of God
 - Select a scripture that you desire to read.
 - Repeat the verses and think about every word.
 - Think of how that scripture applies to your life.
 - What changes must I make, now that I have this truth?
 - Stop and pray for the truth in the scripture.
 - Write out at least one scripture per day on an index card.
 - Carry a card with you and read it throughout the day.
 - Place the card in a card file, or drawer.
 - Repeat this process daily.



F. Memorize God's Word
Psalms 119:9-11

One of the best ways to make the Word of God come alive is through memorization. You will find that a person with heart filled with scripture is like a skilled mechanic. He always has the right tool for the job. No matter what circumstance comes his way, he simply has take the appropriate tool out and tackles the challenge.

G. Keep it Simple and Enjoyable

Enjoy that special time with God, reading His word. Allow it to be a time where you meet with Him and just listen. Simply follow your reading schedule and keep it enjoyable and simplistic.

II. Activating God's Word

A. The intent of any Bible reading and study is to transform your life. Application of what you have read to your daily life is the single most important aspect of reading the Bible.

B. Scriptures

1. James 1:22 "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."
2. Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

C. The Rewards of a Word-Filled Life

1. The Word of God promises us that there is a great reward that awaits those who study the word and apply them to their life. This blessing is not only for this life, but the life to come.
2. John 13:17 Jesus said, "Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."





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Appendix D: 30 Day Bible Reading Plan

	DAY	CHAPTER	DESCRIPTION
☐	Day 1	Genesis 3	The first sin creates a need.
☐	Day 2	Isaiah 52	Salvation prophesied.
☐	Day 3	Isaiah 53	The role of the suffering servant.
☐	Day 4	Luke 15	Three stories about God's love.
☐	Day 5	John 3	Jesus explains "born again."
☐	Day 6	John 10	The good shepherd.
☐	Day 7	Acts 8	Conversions spread outside the Jewish community.
☐	Day 8	Acts 26	Paul testifies of his conversion before a king.
☐	Day 9	Romans 3	God's provision for sin.
☐	Day 10	Romans 5	Peace with God.
☐	Day 11	Romans 8	Life in the Spirit.
☐	Day 12	Galatians 3	Salvation unavailable by obeying the law.
☐	Day 13	Ephesians 2	New life in Christ.
☐	Day 14	Romans 8	Life in the Spirit
☐	Day 15	1 Peter 1	Future rewards of salvation.
☐	Day 16	2 Peter 1	Making your salvation sure.
☐	Day 17	Luke 1	Preparing for Jesus' arrival.
☐	Day 18	Luke 2	The story of Jesus' birth.
☐	Day 19	Mark 1	The beginning of Jesus' ministry.
☐	Day 20	Mark 9	A day in the life of Jesus.
☐	Day 22	Matthew 5	The Sermon on the Mount.
☐	Day 22	Matthew 6	The Sermon on the Mount.
☐	Day 23	Luke 15	Parables of Jesus.
☐	Day 24	John 3	A conversation with Jesus.
☐	Day 25	John 14	Jesus' final instructions.
☐	Day 26	John 17	Jesus' prayer for his disciples.
☐	Day 27	Matthew 26	Betrayal and arrest.
☐	Day 28	Matthew 27	Jesus' execution on a cross.
☐	Day 29	John 20	Resurrection.
☐	Day 30	Luke 24	Jesus' appearance after resurrection. ¹

1- Modified from <http://www.zondervan.com/Cultures/en-US/Product/Bible/Plans.htm?QueryStringSite=Zondervan>





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Appendix E: Prayer Guidelines

I. Why Should I Pray? Because...

- A. Christ modeled the importance of prayer.
Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12; 3:21; 5:16; 9:18
- B. Prayer is a way for receiving God's joy.
John 16:24; Acts 16:25
- C. Prayer makes us spiritually alert and fit.
Matthew 26:41; Luke 21:34-36; 1 Peter 4:7; Jude 20
- D. Prayer brings us wisdom and the mind of God.
James 1:5; Acts 1:24; 10:9; 13:3; 14:23; Luke 6:12-13
- E. Prayer makes us more like Jesus.
Luke 9:28-29
- F. Prayer assists in obtaining spiritual and material desires.
Matthew 7:7-8; John 14:13-14; 15:7; 16:23-24
- G. Prayer moves God to act on our behalf.
Exodus 3:7; 14:10-11; 10:15; Jonah 2:1; Acts 12:5; James 5:17
- H. Prayer shows God we are dependent on Him.
John 15:5; Zechariah 4:6
- I. Prayer brings us freedom from worry and strife.
Philippians 4:6-7; Psalm 22:1-5
- J. Prayer brings the power and blessing of God to our lives.
2 Chronicles 6-7; Acts 1-2; 4:23-31
- K. Prayer allows us to know Christ more personally.
Jude 20-21; Philippians 3:10; Colossians 1:9



II. Hindrances to Prayer

A. Prayer is the single most resisted activity on planet earth. The devil doesn't want you praying and your flesh is not an advocate for prayer either. There are subtle things that can spring up in your life that will affect your prayer life and we should be careful to guard our lives against any of these intrusions.

B. Prayer Hindrances

1. Sin and iniquity in your life
Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18
2. Marital problems
1 Peter 3:17
3. Willful disobedience to God's Word
Proverbs 28:9
4. Unforgiveness
Matthew 5:23-24; 6:9-13; Mark 11:25
5. Selfish motivations
James 4:3
6. Putting other things before God
Exodus 14:3
7. Stinginess
Proverbs 21:13; Luke 6:38; 1 John 3:22; Philippians 4:19
8. Unbelief
James 1:5-7

Appendix F: Prayer Journal

Prayer is one of the most important ingredients in your Christian walk. Prayer is simply talking with God. Take time daily to spend some time alone with God and pray. The simple chart below will help you on your journey of developing a quality prayer life. As requests come to mind, take a moment and write the date of the request and the prayer request. Pray daily for these requests until God answers your prayer. Once the prayer is answered write down the date and how God answered your prayer. You will find this discipline to be filled with great rewards and surprises.

Date of Request	Prayer Request	Date Answered	How God Answered Your Prayer





Appendix G: PREPARING & SHARING YOUR STORY

BEFORE CHRIST	OUTWARD SIN What was your life like before becoming a Christian? (May include attitudes, habits, actions, obvious sin)	RESPONSE
	INWARD NEED What type of inward needs or voids existed before you were a Christian? (May include loneliness, anger, depression, relationship, security, hope, etc.)	RESPONSE
CONVERSION	REASONS FOR CONVERSION What caused you to consider turning your life over to Jesus Christ?	RESPONSE
	SPECIFICS OF CONVERSIONS Give some specifics regarding your conversion experience: -When it happened -How it happened -Where it happened	RESPONSE
NEW LIFE	NEW LIFE CHANGES What changes were made in your life as a result of turning your life over to Jesus Christ?	RESPONSE
	NEW LIFE BENEFITS What benefits do you now see in your life from your conversion experience and from all the life-changes you have made?	RESPONSE





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Appendix H: Fill-In Key

- ¹ Living righteously
- ² Love God
- ³ No longer desire
- ⁴ Fresh new love
- ⁵ Christ's commands
- ⁶ A fresh new start
- ⁷ A fresh new identity
- ⁸ A fresh new strength
- ⁹ A fresh new wisdom
- ¹⁰ A fresh new hope
- ¹¹ A fresh new purpose
- ¹² A fresh new future
- ¹³ Instituted by Jesus
- ¹⁴ Practiced by the New Testament Church
- ¹⁵ Repented of their sins
- ¹⁶ Your old sin nature
- ¹⁷ Christ's death, burial and resurrection.
- ¹⁸ Obey Christ
- ¹⁹ Change of Heart
- ²⁰ Public Confession
- ²¹ Born
- ²² Baptized
- ²³ Filled Continually
- ²⁴ New Life
- ²⁵ Spirit of the Believer
- ²⁶ To our inner man
- ²⁷ The power of sin
- ²⁸ God's will
- ²⁹ Comforter-Helper
- ³⁰ Minds
- ³¹ To pray
- ³² To spread the good news
- ³³ Our infirmities
- ³⁴ Teaches us
- ³⁵ Guide us
- ³⁶ To do his work
- ³⁷ Life success
- ³⁸ Wisdom and guidance
- ³⁹ Cleansing from sin
- ⁴⁰ Hope and freedom
- ⁴¹ Help and comfort
- ⁴² Faith and equips you for your future
- ⁴³ The mind and will of God
- ⁴⁴ Petition
- ⁴⁵ Supplicaiton
- ⁴⁶ Thanksgiving
- ⁴⁷ Intercession

- ⁴⁸ Speaking in Tongues
- ⁴⁹ Spiritual Song
- ⁵⁰ Consistent Time
- ⁵¹ Quiet Location
- ⁵² Adequate Time
- ⁵³ Prayer Journal
- ⁵⁴ Pray Scripture
- ⁵⁵ Follow Christ All Your Life
- ⁵⁶ Connect to Church
- ⁵⁷ Living with Character
- ⁵⁸ Support the Leadership
- ⁵⁹ Establish Healthy Relationships
- ⁶⁰ Serve God, His Church and Others
- ⁶¹ Generosity with Your Resources
- ⁶² Share your Faith

