

First STEPS



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STEP *one*

***Trust in the finished work
of Jesus to be saved.***

We believe we are here on earth to learn to let God love us and others through us. The only way this can happen is through the power of the Holy Spirit who comes to live in the heart of every believer at the moment they place their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross.

We exist: *To reach lost and hurting families and see them transformed by the power of God into effective disciples to the glory of Jesus Christ!*

We exist: *To know the Lord and enjoy Him forever.*

We exist: *To bring Praise and Glory to our King, Jesus Christ.*
(Through worship, service, and unity with like-minded believers)

We exist: *To share the Gospel with the lost, which is called evangelism.*

The very first step is to be born again. In **John 3:3** Jesus said, in order for a person to go to heaven, they must be born again.

A person cannot be saved by manipulation or persuasive words, but by the drawing that comes from the Lord. **John 6:44**



What is the condition of a person prior to New Life in Christ? *Ephesians 2:1-3, 1 Corinthians 2:14, Ephesians 2:12*

- They are spiritually dead.
- They are under the control of Satan.
- They are incapable of controlling sinful passions.
- They are without Hope.
- They are under condemnation for their sin.

What must I do to be saved?

We must realize we have sinned against God. (Perfection is needed and there are no perfect people). *Matthew 5:48, Isaiah 53:6, Romans 3:11-12, Romans 3:23*

There is a penalty for sin (lack of perfection).
Romans 5:12, Romans 6:23, Revelation 20:15, 1 Corinthians 6:9

Jesus took our place (paid the penalty that was due) by dying on the cross. *Romans 5:8, John 3:16-18, 1 Peter 1:18-21*

By Grace alone (an undeserved Gift) through Faith alone (Trust) in Christ alone, you can be saved.
Ephesians 2:8-9

Salvation is *NOT* found in a religion or by good works. It is only found in Jesus. You may doubt your salvation, but you should trust God and take Him at His word. *1 John 5:11-13, Acts 16:30-31, Romans 10:13, Romans 10:9, Galatians 3:25-26*



Call on the name of the Lord.

- a. Admit you have sinned against God.
- b. Admit you need Him to forgive you to escape eternal death.
- c. Ask Jesus to take over your life, so He becomes Lord and King.
- d. Turn away from your sin and turn toward the Lord.

If you have trusted in what Jesus did on the cross to forgive you of your sins, you are a Christian, welcome to the family.

Although salvation is totally and completely received by accepting Christ alone, there are some things you should do immediately after you're saved.



STEP *two*

The Lord comes to live within you through His Holy Spirit.

At the moment a person receives the forgiveness of sin, trusting in the finished work of Jesus on the cross, they are baptized with the Holy Spirit (the Spirit comes to live within a believer).

There are three main Baptisms in the New Testament; John's Baptism of repentance that became obsolete once Jesus was crucified; the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and finally, a believers' water Baptism.

1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 4:4-6

And I will ask the father, and he will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth (John 14:16-17).

The Holy Spirit is your down payment to eternal life until you go to heaven. ***Ephesians 1:13-14***

The Holy Spirit helps you know the mind of God and understand the Bible. ***1 Corinthians 2:14-16***

The Holy Spirit helps you pray. ***Romans 8:26***



The Holy Spirit helps you worship. God deserves our praise and worship. ***John 4:21-23***

The Holy Spirit helps you with your stress.
Psalms 27:4-6, Proverbs 3:5-6, 1 Peter 5:7

The Holy Spirit is your spiritual guide.
John 14:16-17, Romans 8:14

The Holy Spirit helps transform you.
Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

The Holy Spirit has a supernatural gift for you.
1 Corinthians 12:8-10, Ephesians 4:7-13, Romans 12:3-8



STEP *three*

Find a Bible teaching Church.

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching. (NIV)

Jesus considers every Christian to be a member of His body and His body is represented here on earth through the church.

While there are no perfect churches, there are many good churches; however, there are some churches that do not follow Jesus.

While looking for a healthy church, a person should be sure the church they choose:

- Worships Jesus first and foremost above all else.
- Teaches the Bible and seeks to be led by the Lord in its decisions and operations.
- Has people who love one another.
- The church should present the Gospel.
- Reaches its community.
- Teaches concepts that help you grow in Christ.



STEP *four*

A Believer's Baptism.

Baptism is a ceremony conducted in Bible-believing Churches.

*Question #1: Who should be baptized?
Who is eligible for Baptism?*

A Biblical Baptism is described as a Believer's Baptism and is for those individuals who have placed their faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved. *Acts 8:37-38*

Question #2: Why should someone be Baptized?

Baptism was a command not only given by Jesus but one that was obeyed by Jesus as well. It is a picture and representation of the washing away of sins, as well as dying to our "old self" and the old way of life, and the beginning of a new life lived by faith in Jesus Christ.

Since it is a representation of the decision a person has previously made to put their faith in Christ and surrender their life to Him, it is not a requirement for infants or children who cannot make the decision for themselves. Baptism does not save a person, and infants and children are not held accountable by God for sin until they have had the chance to accept or reject God for themselves.



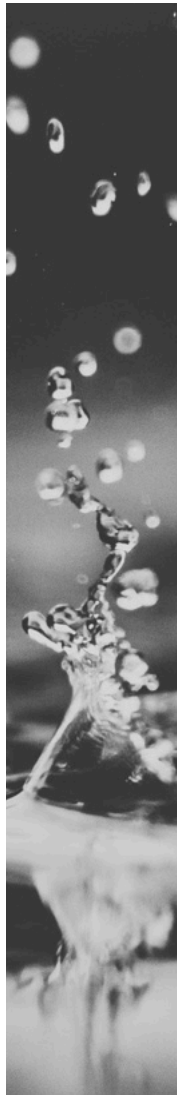
We encourage people to be baptized as a result of their own decision and their own faith. *Acts 8:36-38, Matthew 3:14-15, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 8:12, Acts 22:16, Romans 6:4*

Question #3: What is the meaning of Baptism?

1. Baptism is not part of someone's salvation.
Luke 23:40-43, Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, Colossians 2:11-14, Acts 10:45-48
2. Baptism is a public announcement of someone's personal decision to follow Jesus as Lord and Savior. *Romans 6:3-4* (pictures Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection) *1 Corinthians 15:1-4*

Question #4: How is someone Baptized?

Immersion (or submersion) is the only mode that accurately pictures Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. The Biblical meaning of the word Baptize, actually means complete immersion (always with large bodies of water). *John 3:23, Acts 8:38-39* ... going down into the water, and coming back up.



STEP *five*

Prayer Life.

We cannot have a relationship with anybody without there being real communication. When you read the Bible God talks to you and when you pray, you talk to HIM. It's an awesome privilege to talk to be able to talk to the One who created this beautiful world.

Because we are now in a relationship with almighty God, we have access to come to Him with our needs and our praise.

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



In *Luke 18:9-12*, there are two men mentioned in this parable.

1. The Pharisee = the self-proclaimed, *religious* good guy.

Because of their arrogance and thoughts of superiority, these men hindered the work of God rather than leading people to God

In *Matthew 23*, Jesus revealed to the religious leaders that they were only concerned with outward appearances, not clean hearts.

In this parable, who do you believe the Pharisee is praying to? *Luke 18:11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself.*

With this heart and attitude, do you think his prayer was effective? Now let's meet the other man...

2. The tax collector = the unreligious *bad* guy.
Luke 18:13-14

The first thing the Lord wants from us in prayer is authenticity. God knows everything about you.

Hebrews 4:13 there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (NKJV)

In prayer, we need to get rid of our masks and pretense and be real. *Who is the tax collector praying to?*

The proof this man was actually praying to the Lord is shown by the way he is overwhelmed by God's *presence*.



3. Humility is needed in prayer.

When we come before the Lord in prayer, we are to be authentic, honest, humble, and have a contrite heart; and then the Lord will not refuse us. *Isaiah 6:1-5*

Prayer is a vital link between us and God. It is so important.

Jesus said this tax collector (supposed bad guy) went away justified, a pronouncement of not guilty from the righteous judge! So, prayer is an honest conversation with the only One who can change the outcome of our situation.

Authenticity, humility, and repentance are necessary to receive forgiveness and favor from the Lord.



STEP *six*

Love one another!

The best way to show others that following Christ can transform their life happens as we live for Jesus and love one another.

John 13:34, 1 John 4:7-12

Your new life should be marked by care and compassion for all people, but we should especially love and take care of other believers.

Loving other Christians may be difficult enough, but showing love to everyone is impossible. You are not able to love others in your own strength, but only through the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.

1 John 3:23, 1 John 3:11, 1 John 1:7



STEP *seven*

Spiritual Nutrition.

Besides salvation, followed by regular church attendance, and prayer; in order to grow, you should read your Bible and pray daily. (We recommend new believers to begin with the *Gospel of John*)

Just like a newborn baby in this world must immediately have milk to live ... you need spiritual food to grow as a Christian. If you want to grow in Christ, it's not optional!

*Psalm 119:105, Psalm 119:9, John 15:3,
Proverbs 3:5-6, Proverbs 1:7,
Psalm 1:1-4, 1 Peter 3:15*



STEP *eight*

Reaching others.

When God begins His work in you, He changes you. Some of the things God produces in you ... *Galatians 5:22-23*, *2 Corinthians 5:17*, *Romans 12:1-2*

Accepting Christ is the greatest decision anyone can make. Once we realize what we have been saved from, it is time to tell others as well. *Matthew 28:18-20*, *Acts 1:8*, *Acts 2:41*

Sharing Christ, both by how you live and by what you say, is very important.

John 3:1-21, *Romans 1:16*, *Mark 16:15*

Matthew 28:16-20 is commonly known as the Great Commission given by our Commander in Chief, Jesus Christ.

How are we to fulfill our God-given mission? With His authority and power! *Zechariah 4:6*

The Lord does not call us to serve Him in our own strength or with our own abilities; instead, when He calls us to do something, He empowers us to do it as well. In fact, if you want any lasting results or fruit from your endeavors for the Lord, it has to be done in His authority and empowered by His Spirit.



We are not to be timid in fulfilling things for the Lord, but His authority sends us, guides us, and empowers us. His work and message continue to the world through His Disciples.

By witnessing for Jesus, we are not to make supporters of a cause, not develop fans of a theology; we are to make Disciples of Jesus Christ; students who are willing to follow and obey the Lord.

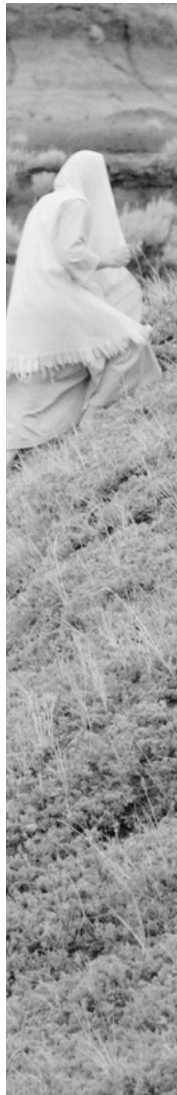
In *Not a Fan*, Kyle Idleman said, “*Jesus makes it clear that he will not share your affection. Following him requires your whole heart.*”

In *Gods at War*, Kyle Idleman said, “*Being a devoted disciple means they must acknowledge their own helplessness and their ultimate need — the need for rescue.*”

Disciples are those who have committed themselves to follow Jesus. We learn how to follow by learning what Jesus taught. Of course, this happens as we learn His Word, the Bible.

Jesus ends *Matthew 28:20* with the words, “*I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*” Jesus does not leave us as orphans trying to navigate this life alone.

He empowers us to go. He empowers us to follow and then promises there will not be one single moment He will leave us alone.



When we think about His resurrection, we have a marvelous story to share.

Our relationship with the Lord is the very reason we were created.

Our Worship is for God alone, and He must be our deepest love and He is the source of every other love.

First, we are to come and see who Jesus is and all that He has done for us; then we are to go and tell all who need to hear!

Every person who hears the Gospel message needs to respond to the Lord for themselves. The response that pleases the Lord is to *come and see and then go and tell.*





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