

NEW BELIEVERS GUIDE

If you have received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, we welcome you to the Family of God. By making this decision you have positioned yourself to have a personal relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. Receiving Christ as your personal Savior is the best decision you will ever make.

As you begin this journey with your Heavenly Father there are certain things you need to do in order to enhance your relationship with the Lord. Here is a list of things that will help you grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Find A Home Church

First of all you need to locate and attend a Bible-believing church that will nurture your personal relationship with Christ. You need to sit under the preaching and teaching of a godly pastor that will help instruct you as you increase in your knowledge of God and His Word. The Church is called the Body of Christ (Colossians 1:18) and has many members (I Corinthians 12:12). Just like your physical body has many parts or members, so is the Body of Christ. The members help each other and minister to one another as we are one together in Him. It is okay to visit churches that may appeal to you, but make sure that you ask your Heavenly Father what church does He want you to be a part of and then follow His direction. He knows what is best for you because He has a purpose and a plan for your life.

Be Baptized In Water

After God directs you to the church body that He wants you to fellowship with, let the pastor know that you have become a new believer and would like to be baptized in water according to Matthew 28:19-20. What is the purpose of water baptism? Water baptism is a public profession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Being baptized in water does not save you. You were saved when you repented, believed, received and confessed Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. Water baptism is a physical profession of your belief in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a profession to the world that you are now identified with, and a follower Christ.

Have Personal Time with the Lord on a Daily Basis

Set aside some time every day to have personal time with the Lord. It is better to do this before you start your day. A person does not wait until they get to their destination to read the road map. You read the road map before you start your journey. It is easier for some people to have their personal time in the morning, while some prefer to have it in the evening. While it is better to have your time in the morning, there is no set rule. Whatever works for you is what you should do as long as you set time aside in your daily schedule to develop your relationship with your Heavenly Father.

How much time do you spend? That is up to you. It is best to establish a set length of time each day. Start small and make it achievable. You can increase the length of time as you grow spiritually. This activity over time will pay big dividends in your life. Don't attempt to live off what you receive from a few minutes on a Sunday morning. It will not be enough to sustain your spiritual life thru the week. God receives so much pleasure from us spending time with Him.

What do you do during this time? The next activities will answer that question.

Read the Bible

If you are going to develop your personal relationship with the Lord and increase in the knowledge of God, then you need to read the Book that He left us. If you don't have a Bible, we recommend doing some research before you purchase a Bible.

Every believer has their own opinion of which Bible version they prefer. The opinions of others may be good but if you cannot comprehend what you are reading in a particular version of the Bible what good is it doing you. You need to personally check out different versions of the Bible in order to identify which version of the Bible is best suited for you and will maximize your understanding of what you are reading.

A great website where you can check out Bible versions is www.BibleGateway.com. This site has all the major Bible versions for you to review before you make your purchase. Later on as you grow in the Lord, you will want to add other versions for comparison for an even better understanding and application of the Word.

Where should you begin reading? Some suggest starting at the beginning. The entire Bible is important but all of it is not relevant to you as new believer. Why not begin reading in the New Testament with the book of Matthew? Read the Four Gospels which is Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Focus your attention particularly on Matthew chapters 5, 6, and 7. These chapters are called the *Sermon*

on the Mount, the first recorded sermon of Jesus in the Bible. In these three chapters Jesus gives scriptural insight into living an effective life as a believer.

After you read the Four Gospels, another great book of the Bible for a new believer to read is the book of I John. It only consist of 5 power packed chapters. The book of I John will provide you with valuable information to help you begin your life as a new believer. Remember it is important to believe and apply everything you read to your new life in Christ.

Develop Your Prayer Life

Prayer is such a vital part of the life of a new believer. Actually it should be important in the life of every believer. It is through the avenue of prayer that we receive answers to our requests and petitions to God.

Religion has made prayer complicated. But it should not be complicated or difficult. Religion has defined prayer as talking to God and telling Him how you feel. That is not the true meaning of prayer. Prayer is simply telling God what He said and then asking Him to do it. Is that simple enough?

This means you will have to have some knowledge of what the Bible says. This is why Bible reading is so important. Every prayer of petition that you pray to God should be based on a promise in the Word of God. God will always honor what He has promised to His children.

A great tool to assist you in developing a powerful prayer life is a book entitled *“Prayers That Avail Much 25th Anniversary Edition”* by *Germaine Copeland*. The publisher is Harrison House in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This book shows the scriptural promises that you can base your prayer upon. Your spiritual life will be enriched as you couple the Word of God and prayer together.

Study the Bible

As you begin to read the Bible and develop your prayer life, you will desire to grow deeper in your spiritual understanding as you begin to mature in Christ. As you read the Bible you will develop a desire to learn how to apply the Word of God to situations and circumstances in your life. This means that you will not only have to read the Bible but study as well. Of course you will not have to study like your pastor does, but you need to do some Bible study for yourself.

A great Bible study tool for a new believer is a 365 day devotional entitled *“Sacred Gems From The Greek”* by *Rick Renner*. This is a resource that you can

use as a daily devotional but also as a Bible study help. You will be amazed at the knowledge of the Word of God that you will gain from it.

Combining all of these disciplines into your life as a new believer will greatly enhance your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. It will also provide you with the spiritual equipment you need to be victorious in your daily living as a Christ follower.

It is our prayer that you will be filled with all wisdom and spiritual understanding and that you would walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God!