



**GROWING
NEW
BELIEVERS**

Growing New Believers©
By: *Go Finish Content Team*
Introduction

Dear Bible Student:

Thank you for your great decision to put your trust in Christ. You have just made the most important commitment a person can make in life. As a result of receiving Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you have experienced what the Bible calls a new birth. As in any birth you begin to grow immediately. In your physical life, you entered the world as a baby and then grew to maturity.

The same is true in your spiritual experience. Now that you have experienced a spiritual birth, you need to grow into a mature follower of Jesus. Just as an infant needs help to grow physically, a new believer needs help to grow spiritually. Our interesting and informative ***Growing New Believers*** bible studies will help you to do just that. We offer five exciting sessions that will teach the basics of your new life in Christ. Here is an overview of the five lessons:

1. Learn to WALK
 - a. Understand the Concept of Sin
 - b. Be Sure of Your Salvation
 - c. Learn How to Live the Separated Life
2. Learn to TALK
 - a. Know How to Pray
 - b. Receive the Fullness of the Holy Spirit
 - c. Express the Fruit of the Spirit
3. Learn to SHARE
 - a. Find the TIME for Daily Devotions
 - b. Use Your TALENTS for Ministry
 - c. Give Your TREASURE as a Steward

Here are some guidelines to help you begin your new spiritual life journey:

1. Use an easy-to-read Bible to use with these sessions. If you wish to use an electronic version of the Bible we recommend the ***Olive Tree*** application. It is free, easy to use and is available on the Apple® and Android® devices and on any personal computer as well. The web address is: www.olivetree.com.
2. Choose a time and a place to complete these sessions (e.g., before breakfast in the family room or after the evening meal at the table).
3. It is quite possible that you will have a mentor or teacher from a local church to work with you as you study. The electronic format allows you to email the lessons back to this person(s) as they are completed. Email can also be used to communicate and “nudge” each other in order to keep updated and on track. In addition, a video session might be desired and is now possible through VoIP (Video-over-Internet Protocol). Apple® has FaceTime and there are others available such as Skype or “OoVoo.”

4. Be honest about your feelings and share your heart with other trusted Christian friends. Let them know what you are thinking and experiencing. Make this a personal, subjective experience.
5. Use several different versions of the Bible as you study. The great truths of the scripture that you will learn do not depend upon any one particular version—they would be equally clear in any other reliable version. The classic King James Version is always a great choice. Two others that are very popular are New King James Version (NKJV) and the New International Version (NIV). You should learn where to find each Book in the Bible, and to understand the system of abbreviating the name of the Books (such as “Matt” for the book of “Matthew” or “Heb” for Hebrews or “Rom” for Romans).
6. Throughout the lessons there are suggested memory verses. Please take the time to memorize them. In this way you will “internalize” God’s Word in your heart. It might be a good idea to cut and paste this verse on a small piece of paper that you can carry around with you.
7. There will be several types of questions used in these sessions. Sometimes you will be asked questions that will require you to go to a scripture and find the answer. There will be a place provided for you to fill in the correct answer(s). In addition there will be other types of questions such as multiple choice, true and false, and some with more than one correct answer. There are no “trick questions.” This is strictly a personal learning tool.
8. Don’t try to do the lessons too quickly. You don’t have to do them in one sitting. Read through each passage of scripture several times until you are sure of its meaning.
9. Remember that the purpose of our ***Growing New Believers*** series is to help you discover the truth in Scripture. Read the questions carefully, turn to the Scripture references, and read them. Think about the answers and write them down.
10. At the end of some sessions you might be given a discussion question that will require your thought and reasoning. These will be interesting and help you in your spiritual growth.

Our prayer is that these studies will be challenging and enjoyable as you get started in your spiritual growth. It is important to complete all of them.

Let’s get started with our first lesson!

Growing New Believers

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Session One Learn to WALK

Understand the Concept of Sin

Sin is an inward spiritual attitude of transgression (wrongdoing) towards God, which is expressed in outward acts of disobedience. To transgress means to go across the boundaries that God has set for us. Sin is not only an act of breaking one of God's commandments, but sin is a condition of the soul that results from continuing to sin. Sin is an offence against God. Other names for sin in the Bible are: transgression, iniquity, or evil. The Bible tells us that sin came through our first parents, Adam and Eve. When they disobeyed God and committed the first act of waywardness that sinful nature that they had was transferred to all who were born after them. From time to time you will hear people speak of our "Adamic nature." This is what they are talking about. We were born in that condition, with that kind of a nature and need to be converted from being a sinner by God's power. That is why Jesus said, "Except a man be born again he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Sin in a person's life has three main consequences: first, inward spiritual death, or alienation from God; second, the physical death of the body; third, the final and eternal banishment from the presence of God to a place of darkness and torment. Christ came to save us from our sins. He is God. One of His names is "Immanuel" which means "with us is God." So He came to this earth to take our sins upon Himself by dying in our place, and rose again from the dead, that we might be forgiven and receive eternal life.

How can a person tell when he or she has sinned? Jesus said that all the law of God and what the prophets said hang on two commandments. One of these commandments Jesus called "the first and greatest commandment."

1. Look up Matthew 22:37-40 and fill in the blanks to learn these two commandments:

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your _____, with all your _____, and with all your _____.' (38) This is the first and great commandment. (39) And the second is like it: 'You shall love your _____ as yourself.' (NKJV)

2. Galatians 5: 19-21 lists at least 15 examples of sins that people commit. Look up this passage of scripture and name at least ten of them:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. The last book in the Bible is Revelation. Look up Revelation 4:11 and answer this question: for what purpose were all things created?

4. That same verse lists three things which God is worthy to receive (Rev. 4:11). What are they?:

5. Do you believe that *everyone* has sinned?

☐ Yes / ☐ No

6. Go to Romans 3: 23 and explain in what way have all men sinned?

7. If we are able to do something good and we do not do it what does God call that? (James 4:17)

8. Many people who have never been saved by believing on Jesus refuse to admit that they have ever sinned. In fact, they become angry when told that “everyone has sinned.” Look up 1 John 1:8 and write down what they are doing to themselves.

9. What consequence has sin brought upon all men? (Rom. 5:12, 6:23, James 1:15)

10. What is the final end of all unrepentant (unremorseful) sinners? (Matt. 25:41, Rev. 20:12-15).

Be Sure of Your Salvation

To accept Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, as your personal Savior is the most important decision of your lifetime. Your old beliefs, your old ideas, your old attitudes are beginning to pass away. Your whole outlook on life is becoming new, is changing. Life to you is taking on a new meaning. You now see your friends, your family, your convictions, your beliefs differently - in a new light. It is now necessary that you understand more thoroughly God's plan of redemption in your life.

1. Many people believe that by doing good works we can earn our way into heaven. Do you think a person can be saved by doing good works? (Titus 3:5)

___ Yes or ___ No

2. Others believe that if they try hard to live by the laws and commands of the Bible that they will be saved. After reading James 2:10 and Galatians 2:16, do you think this is a good way to be assured of our salvation?

___ Yes or ___ No

3. Some people just simply rely on their own ideas with regard to the way of salvation? Where does this kind of thinking lead them? (Proverbs 14:12)

4. How can a person desiring salvation reach God? (John 14:6)

___ Be good and do the best you can

___ Believe that Jesus is the only way

___ Join a good church and be faithful

5. Whose sins did Christ bear in His body on the cross? (1 Peter 2:24)

6. Why was it absolutely necessary that Jesus, instead of some other man, bear our sins? (2 Corinthians 5:21)

7. What is the first great step in a person's being saved? (Acts 16:31)

___ Stop lying and cheating

___ Give up bad habits

___ Believe on the Lord

8. After reading 1 John 1:9 fill in these blanks:

If we _____ our sins, He is faithful and just to _____ us our sins and to _____ us from all unrighteousness. (NKJV)

9. In the New Testament in Luke 13:3 Jesus tells us that if we do not repent [turn] from our sins that we shall “perish.” What do you think the word “perish” means?

- ___ destroy
- ___ die
- ___ lose
- ___ mar
- ___ perish
- ___ all of the above

10. Romans 10:9 says we have to do two things before we are saved. What are they?

11. Why should a person not put off salvation until tomorrow? (Proverbs 27:1)

12. Write down three things now offered to all men in the name of Jesus (John 1:16-17, Acts 4:12)

Learn How to Live the Separated Life

In order to be a living witness for Christ, your life as well as your speech must be exemplary. You are to live a sanctified life, separated from the world of sin. Christ did not *take* you out but rather *sent* you back into the world to serve Him (John 17:15-18); however, you, like Christ, are not of this world of sin (John 17:16). John, the beloved disciple, said “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him,” (1 John 2:15). The Bible tells us that, as believers, we must live a life apart from sin. Here are some great scriptures that will help you as you try to live this “separated” life. Look up the Scripture references given and write the answers in the space provided.

1. Is it possible for a person to serve both Christ and the world? (Matthew 6:24; Matthew 12:3; and 1 Corinthians 10:21)

___ Yes or ___ No

2. If a person serves Christ, does he have to be separated from this world? (John 15:19; 2 Corinthians 6:14)

___ Yes or ___ No

Why? (James 4:4)

3. Some people believe that after you are saved “you have to sin a little every day.” If one serves Christ, does he to continue in sin? (Romans 6:1-23; 1 Corinthians 15:34; Galatians 2:17)

___ Yes or ___ No

4. What four names did Peter give to those who are separated from the world for the purpose of rendering service and praise to Christ? (1 Peter 2:9). Pick the correct names from this list:

___ Victorious winners	___ Royal priesthood
___ Chosen generation	___ Church members
___ Royal kings	___ Special [peculiar] people
___ Holy nation	___ Fundamentalist believers

5. Who suffered that we might be sanctified or separated from the world? (Hebrews 13:12)
-

6. Did Christ pray for our sanctification? (John 17:17-21)

___ Yes or ___ No

7. What kind of Church does Christ want to present to Himself? (Ephesians 5:25-27)
-

8. Can we be crucified to the world and the world to us? (Galatians 6:14; Galatians 2:20)

___ Yes or ___ No

9. What kind of vessel can Christ use? (2 Timothy 2:21)

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10. Many people today think that the word “sanctification” is sort of out of date or old fashioned. Look up 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and fill in these blanks:

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you _____; and may your _____ spirit, soul, and body be preserved _____ at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NKJV)

Memory verse: Romans 6:23

(Write out this verse from memory)

Summary thoughts:

Christianity is big! There are over two billion Christians in the world that absolutely, positively believe what you have just studied and learned. These people are not dummies—they are scientists, historians, PhD’s, philosophers, artists, rich, poor, young and old. They are from all walks of life. Our faith is not dead—it is alive because Jesus is alive. So many have Him still on the cross. He died on the cross for our Sins but then rose from the dead. He is now alive for evermore. Where is He? He is in Heaven at the right hand of God as our forever. He makes intercession for us. He knows you. He knows your shoe size, the number of hairs on your head. He has your address. He knows your thoughts, words, deeds, intent of your heart and your desires. That’s why we must pray to Him because he is the author and finisher of our faith.

Our faith is built on “fact.” As you have learned in this study, the gospel is based on three simple, historical facts: (1) Christ died for our sins, (2) He was buried and (3) He rose again the third day. Our job now is the same that we were created for: to glorify God. Man’s sin is his failure to fulfill his God-given function. The Bible says we have “come short of the glory of God.” Not all of the thirteen sins in question eight are actually committed by all men. But the “seeds” of all these sins are found in every heart. Character and circumstances, combined, decide which of these “seeds” will actually bring forth the corresponding actions in any individual life.

Unforgiven sin is the great barrier between God and man (Isaiah 59:2). When sin was put away by Christ on the cross, the way was opened for man to come back to God. Any barriers that now remain are on man’s side, not on God’s.

You have confessed your sins and you have been forgiven. It is as simple as that. They (your sins) are gone forever. What’s left is your heart and life. After you receive Christ, you really

have both the old and new nature within you. Yes, that's right. You still have to deal with this duality. Your "God nature" will want to run **to** Him, go to church, pray and do right. Your "old nature" will want to run **from** Him and stay away from church. On TV, you've seen the guy trying to make the right decision with a devil on one shoulder and an angel on the other. That's the way it is with us now. Until the Lord comes back for us we have to deal with fallen humanity. People will do wrong things to you—sometimes bad things. Have you ever heard someone say, "How can they be a Christian and do that?" Well, now you know.

Let me close with a story about an old man who late in life became a Christian. He was asked what it was like to have Christ's new nature within him. He said, "Well it's like having two dogs living inside of me. One is incredibly good and the other one is incredibly evil." "They are in there and they fight all day long." The interviewer then asked this question, "Which one is winning the fight?" His reply was, "The one I feed the most!" That's what we have to do: feed the right dog! We must feed on God's word, stay in church, pray every day. God will speak to you, I promise. He may not do it in an audible voice but He will direct your steps, help you with your decisions and show you the right way. It's all there for you—just ask Him!

Topic for discussion: how can I live a spiritual life in a sinful world?

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Session Two Learn to TALK

Know How to Pray

Conversing with God is called prayer. It is sort of like visiting and talking with a friend on a daily basis. Prayer is a two-way conversation, not a monologue. It includes speaking *to* God and hearing *from* God. A Christian can only be as strong as his prayer life. Prayer is simply your direct communication to God. The best way to get to know someone is to talk with that person often. God longs for you to know Him. The Bible is full of invitations to enter into a deep, personal relationship with God the Father. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you. (When you have your heart in it and are consistent). When you pray you get to know the mind and heart of God. You cannot grow in your relationship with the Lord without proper communication.

As we read the Bible we find that Jesus often communicated with God through prayer. He knew it was the best way to win the battles of life. It revealed His relationship with His Father. In Luke 18:1 the Word commands us to pray by saying, “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.” (NKJV). Prayer is *not* to change God’s will or His *mind*; it is for you to be conformed to His will. Our prayers should be for God to change *us*!

The purpose of this lesson is to teach the basics of a proper prayer life so that these lines of communication can be open and effective in your life. You should schedule your time of prayer just like you would an appointment. Someone once said, “Great men simply have great habits.” We should make prayer a daily habit in our lives. We make appointments with lawyers, doctors and friends. We must also make daily appointments with God because “If you seek him, he will be found by you” (1 Chronicles 28:9).

1. When did Jesus pray? (Mark 1:35).

___ Morning

___ Noon

___ Evening

2. The disciples of Jesus walked with Him for three years and saw many unbelievable miracles. When an opportunity arose for them to ask Jesus for this kind of supernatural power what did they ask Jesus to teach them?: (Luke 11:1)
3. Why should we pray continually (read 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)?

4. We are told that prayer is a daily activity that all Christians should practice. If we consider it an “act” then this acrostic will help you to begin developing your prayer life.

A doration
C onfession
T hanksgiving
S upplication

Adoration is praise focusing on who God is. Look up the following Scriptures. Write in the blanks what the verses say about God.

- a. Psalm 145:3

- b. Psalm 147:1, 5

Confession is simply acknowledging that Jesus is God. He says if we will confess Him before men He will confess us before the Father. We confess our faults, failures and mistakes. If we are true believers, we have already confessed our sins (and continue to do so when it is necessary) so we don't have to do that every day. As believers, we know we are saved but we do confess our need for forgiveness of some un-Christlike thought, word or deed. We confess our shortcomings. We confess that sometimes we just don't know all the answers so we pray that God will reveal knowledge to us.

5. What does James 5:16 say will happen to us if we confess our faults one to another? Choose the correct answer.

☐ That we will get a prize
☐ That we will be promoted in the Kingdom
☐ That we will be healed

6. What does this verse say is the outcome of the effectual, fervent prayer?

Thanksgiving is expressing gratitude to God for specific acts.

7. When does God say we should give thanks? (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

8. List things in the following areas for which you can give thanks; then spend time thanking Him for having them in your life.

Spiritual Blessings

People

Physical Blessings

Material Blessings

Supplication is making requests and expressing desires to God. They may take the form of personal petitions (requests) or intercession. Petition is asking God to help meet your needs.

9. Read John 15:7. If we abide in Christ and ask of Him what is the result?

10. If we pray regularly we live in confident expectation of God's blessing. What does God say we should be anxious for in Philippians 4:6-7.

11. Intercession is praying for the needs of others. What was Paul's "heart's desire" in Romans 10:1?

12. Without peeking back at the previous page, what do these letters stand for?

A _____
C _____
T _____
S _____

Did you ever stop to think about how big God is? Look around about you someday as you're enjoying the outdoors. Everything you see - the trees, the sun, the grass, the flowers - God made them. What? You see a house and an automobile, and you do not believe God made them? Just one moment, please! Let us think. Who made the materials man used to build the house and the auto? God did! Because God made the whole earth. And He made you and me as well. Let's pause right now and bow our heads and pray that God will help us to love and trust Him more:

"Dear heavenly Father, I thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die that I might be saved. And when I look round about me and see all the lovely things You have made for me to enjoy, I love and appreciate You so much. But Father, You've told me in Your Word, the Bible, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.' And I am not sure that I fully understand how to do this. Will you help me to love You more and draw me closer to You? Thank You, in Jesus' name. Amen."

Receive the Fullness of the Holy Spirit

When we believe on the Lord and receive Christ as our Savior, God gives us power to become His sons and daughters: “As many as received him (Jesus), to them gave he (God) power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name,” John 1:12. Thus, receiving Christ gave us power to become God’s children; now we need power to witness for Christ. Witnessing for and confessing Christ as one’s Lord and Savior is one sign that a person is a Christian (1 John 4:15; Romans 10:9, 10).

1. What does the receiving of the baptism of the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit, Comforter) give one power to do? (Acts 1:8)

2. Read John 15:26 and fill in the blanks to this scripture:

But when the _____ is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of _____, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall _____ of _____: (KJV)

3. In addition to empowering the believer for service, what two other things does the Holy Ghost do for the Christian? (John 14:26)

4. How does the Holy Ghost help the Christian in prayer? (Romans 8:26)

The Bible is such a “miracle book.” We find that prophecies in the Old Testament given centuries before the New Testament have come to pass just as predicted. Before the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit was given primarily to the prophets and to the spiritual leaders of Israel. However, Joel, one of the Minor Prophets, prophesied that in the last days (the days since the resurrection of Christ) the Holy Ghost would be given to other people besides the prophets.

5. Who were and are those others on whom the Spirit was and is poured out? (Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:16-18)

6. When the first believers were filled with the Holy Ghost, (1) in what city were they, (2) on what day was it, (3) what did the Christians do when they were filled with the Holy

Ghost, and (4) what did the unbelievers and other onlookers think was wrong with the disciples? (Acts 2:1-13)

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

7. Sometime later, possibly a year or two following the Pentecostal outpouring, the Evangelist Philip had a successful revival at Samaria. What does the Bible specifically say happened to the believers following this revival? (Acts 8:15-17)

8. When Peter preached the gospel to the first Gentile congregation - at the house of Cornelius, the Roman Centurion, at Caesarea - about ten years after Pentecost, how did the Jews ("they of the circumcision"), who were with Peter, know that the Holy Ghost was poured out on these Gentiles? (Acts 10:45, 46)

9. Some twenty-five years after the first outpouring of the Holy Ghost at Jerusalem, Paul, on the final lap of his second missionary journey, found twelve disciples at Ephesus in Asia Minor. These disciples had heard John the Baptist's preaching about the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ; however, they had not yet heard about the baptism of the Holy Ghost. What did they do when the Holy Ghost came on them? (Acts 19:6)

10. Does one receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost at the time he is saved or does one always receive the gift of the Holy Ghost after an interval of some time? (Acts 10:44; Acts 19:1, 2)

11. Is a person always baptized in water before receiving the Holy Ghost Baptism? (Acts 8:15-17; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 19:5, 6)

___ Yes or ___ No

12. When the Apostle Paul refers to this prophecy in Isaiah, for whom does he say that tongues are a sign? (1 Corinthians 14:21, 22)

13. Just before His ascension, Jesus stated that speaking with new tongues would be a sign which would follow certain people. Who would these people be? (Mark 16:17)

14. Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost names the people to whom the gift of the Holy Ghost is promised. Who are they and into which category do you yourself fit? (Acts 2:38, 39)

15. What is one of the things that a person must do in order to be given the baptism of the Holy Ghost? (Acts 5:32)

16. What else may a person sometimes have to do before being endued with power from God through the outpouring of the Holy Ghost? (Luke 24:49)

17. Read John 14:16, 17. (Note that Jesus promises the Holy Ghost as a Comforter). After reading the verses indicated, answer the following questions: (1) To whom is Jesus speaking? (2) Who will pray that the Holy Ghost will be sent? (3) Who will send the Holy Ghost? (4) How long will the Comforter abide? (5) Why can the world (the unsaved, the sinners) not receive the Holy Spirit?

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

[Note to student: The term "speaking in (new, unknown or other) tongues" is used in the Bible in reference to the baptism of the Holy Spirit and in reference to the last two of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. In either case the term is used in association with a manifestation of the Holy Spirit of God.

Remember: you have already been born of the Spirit of God; therefore, He dwells with you and you should begin to confess Christ as your Savior and to witness for Him. If you

have not yet received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, which will give you greater power to serve and to witness for Christ, then begin now to be pray and to ask the Lord for this promised Gift. God gave of His Holy Spirit to Jesus without measure and God's Son was victorious in every battle with the devil. The more you are filled with the Spirit of God the more effective will be your endeavors to understand God's Word, share your faith in Christ and win souls for Jesus.]

Demonstrate the Fruit of the Spirit

The "Fruit of the Spirit" is a term used in the Bible but it is not always understood. Fruit of the Spirit is mentioned in several areas of the Bible. However, the most applicable passage is Galatians 5:22-23 where Paul actually lists the fruit. Paul used this list to show the contrast between a Godly character and one that is focused on fleshly concerns. Fruit of the Spirit is often used to describe the best aspects of a Godly character.

The fruit of the Spirit is meant to be a list of qualities we strive to have. If you look at your character and find that you are lacking in any of these areas, take heart. We are human beings and not one of us is perfect. However, God calls us all to strive for perfection (spiritual maturity). That was the purpose in Paul listing the fruit for the church at Galatia. These are qualities any Christian should strive to have in their character and pray for daily.

There are nine fruit(s) of the Spirit that are bestowed upon believers to define a person's character. Those listed in this passage include the following:

Love
Joy
Peace
Longsuffering
Kindness
Goodness
Faithfulness
Gentleness
Self-control

1. Love is such a loose word with many meanings in today's society. To really understand the real meaning of love we must look into God's Word. Read this scripture from 1 Corinthians 13: 1 and fill in the blanks:

"Though I speak with the tongues of _____ and of _____, but have not _____, I have become sounding _____ or a clanging _____. (NKJV)

2. Whom does the Bible say we should love? (1 John 4:7-8)

3. Read Nehemiah 8:10 and find this missing word:

“Then he said to them, ‘Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your _____.’” (NKJV)

4. When the Bible speaks of peace it refers to freedom from hostility or anxiety. What are the two results of having peace with God (John 14:27).

5. Longsuffering is the ability to “tough it out” when the going gets rough. Read James 1:2-3 and share the result of our being able to have the victory through testing and trials.

6. What are the four qualities of a servant in 2 Timothy 2:24?

7. The goodness of God is being pleasant, kind, proper, and agreeable.

Psalms 23:6 gives a wonderful promise to anyone who has this quality. Find the missing words: It says “Surely goodness and _____ shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the _____ of the Lord _____. (NKJV)

8. Someone said that the best way to define faith is with this acrostic:

Forsaking
All
I
Trust
Him

Who is the object of our faith in Mark 11:22?

9. To be gentle is to be kind, meek, humble, and compassionate.

What kind of person inherits the earth in Matthew 5:5?

-
10. Self-control refers to calmness and temperance. Acts 24:25 tells of a ruler by the name of Felix who was under so much conviction that he told Paul to “go away.” Read this verse and fill in the blanks:

“Now as he reasoned about _____, _____, and the _____ to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." (NKJV)

Memory verses: Galatians 5: 22-23

(Write out these two verses from memory)

Summary thoughts:

Well, we are in the process of growing. In this second lesson we have learned how to grow in prayer and in the spirit and we have seen how we can grow fruit!

As you can see when reviewing this lesson, God’s Word is powerful and has the ability to help change, transform, and sanctify not only you – but others around you. Your life will never be the same. Your wife or husband will see a difference and your children will know that a change has taken place in your life.

Nothing will draw nonbelievers and believers alike to the Lord than a truly sanctified saint in the Lord who is praying, full of the Holy Spirit and operating in all nine fruits taught here. If you are willing to allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life and your personality to some appreciable degree in this life – you will then become a light that will literally radiate the presence of God Himself through your soul and personality.

Jesus is coming back for a Bride that will be without spot or blemish. He is calling His Church to clean up their act and allow His Holy Spirit to begin this deeper sanctifying work in their lives. However, the choice is up to each individual believer. Sanctification is not something that can be forced upon anyone. God really respects everyone’s free will and He will never force His will or His ways on anyone.

To those of you who will decide to enter into this sanctification process with the Lord – realize that all of this will not occur overnight. The Holy Spirit will set the pace and timetable that He will work in and through you. You can perfectly trust Him to handle each of the areas in your life that He wants to change.

Our advice is to pray and stay close to God. Ask Him to walk with you every day and to teach you His will and His ways. Study God's Word, and ask Him to help you to be a fruit-bearing Christian . . . and He will! Jesus said, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive," Matthew 21:22. Let us pray together:

"Dear heavenly Father, search my heart and help me to empty it of all selfishness, pride, envy, and those things that are displeasing to You. Then, fill my heart, mind and life with love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance, that I might be truly like You and that others might see and know that I am a Christian. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Topic for discussion: how can I receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost?

Growing New Believers©

By: *Go Finish Content Team*

Session Three Learn to SHARE

Find the TIME for Daily Devotions

Many new Christians view the Christian life as a long list of “do’s” and “don’ts.” They haven’t yet discovered that spending time with God is a privilege that we get to do not a chore or an obligation that we have to do. Getting started with a daily devotional simply takes a little bit of planning. There is no set standard of what a daily devotional time should look like.

Research has proven that it takes 21 days to form a habit. Habits are an essential part of our life, without them we would fail in most things we try to accomplish. They help us to reach specific goals, stay focused along the way and keep on pushing when the going gets tough. At the same time, non-supportive habits can keep us from moving forward or even hurt our well-being. It is a truth that anything you do with repetition and emotion will become your reality.

We need to spend some portion of every day with God—thinking about God, reading His Word, learning His will, giving of our lives to help others, and understanding what it really means to be more like Christ in the 21st century. All of this is a part of having daily devotions.

Here are some pointers:

- Choose the best time and place. There is no “right” and “wrong” time of day. I prefer having my devotions very early in the morning before I exercise or eat. This is the least likely time of day for an interruption. Whatever time of day you choose, let it be the best time of day for you.
- Find the best place. Some place quiet. I usually study in a comfortable chair that is in our family room. It has a nice table beside it and a good reading light. I use a computer or my iPad to read and study the scripture.
- Decide on a time frame. It can be as brief as 15 minutes or as long as 60 minutes or more. Begin with a realistic goal that you can meet.
- Select a Bible Reading Plan or Bible Study. We have used the daily reading from Walk Thru the Bible for years. You can order them at: www.devotionals.org. Your Bible app on you cell phone or iPad has some great plans. There are many available.
- Spend some time in prayer and worship as part of your daily devotion. It doesn’t have to take long. Spend some quality time focused on Jesus!

The best way to study Bible passages is to ask these questions:

What did the passage mean at the time it was written and to the people who read it?
What does the passage mean to us in our modern time?
How should I change my lifestyle to conform to God's lesson taught in the passage?

There are numerous passages that tell us the importance of studying and praying the Word of God.

1. Do you believe that just by reading and remembering God's Word we can be kept from sin? (Psalm 119:1)

☐ Yes or ☐ No

2. Will the truths of the Bible ever pass away (Matthew 24:35)

☐ Yes or ☐ No

3. Read Psalm 119:105 and fill in the missing words:

"Your word is a _____ to my feet and a _____ to my path."

4. Why do we study the Bible? Choose the correct answer. (2 Timothy 2:15)

☐ Gain goodwill with man

☐ Gain approval from God

☐ Gain appreciation from the pastor

5. Romans 12: 1-2 is such a powerful scripture on how our lives can be acceptable to God. Read it and fill in the missing words:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living _____, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable _____.

(2) And do not be _____ to this world, but be transformed by the _____ of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect _____ of God. (NKJV)

6. How did Jesus answer the devil each time He was tempted (Matthew 4:4,7,10)

7. Write down two results which follow in our lives when we claim the promises of God's Word (2 Peter 1:4)

8. What does God say He will do if we will draw near to Him? (James 4:8)
-

Use Your TALENTS for Ministry

God has not called everyone into fulltime, pulpit ministry—the five-fold ministry positions listed in Ephesians 4:11: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."

When I first became a believer I thought I might become a preacher because I was so eager to be a witness for Christ. I found out early in my Christian walk that a person doesn't have to be a credentialed minister to do effective work for the Lord. All believers should be working for the Lord by giving of their talents, gifts, and resources. God has given each one of us different talents.

Romans 12: 4-8 says, "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, (5) so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. (6) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; (7) or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; (8) he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

If God has not spoken to your heart about a specific ministry, then I suggest asking yourself this question: "What natural talent do I have that I can use for the Lord to help further the Kingdom of God?" Whatever your talent is, whether it is doing deeds of kindness, visiting the shut-ins, ministering to the homeless, conducting music, art, cooking, cleaning, encouraging, or simply in being a good listener, make yourself available to volunteer in those areas of the church you attend.

In this portion of our study we will focus on how to share the message of salvation in Christ and how to win others to Christ.

Some Things God Wants Us to Tell Others

1. In the Bible God tells us some things He expects us to talk about to our friends and neighbors - and to everyone who does not know Him.
 - He wants us to tell them that all have _____ (Romans 3:23).
 - He wants us to tell them their own works of _____ will not save them. (Titus 3:5)
 - God wants us to tell others that Jesus has already made a way for them to be saved,

and if we believe on Him we shall not _____ (John 3:16)

- God wants us to explain to others about the “_____” Jesus has made. (John 14:6)

2. What did Christ tell His disciples that they were to be for Him? (Acts 1:8)

__ Servants

__ Warriors

__ Witnesses

3. To whom must the witness be extended before the end of this age? (Matthew 24:14)

4. What does a true witness do by his testimony? (Proverbs 14:25)

5. What should a wise Christian seek to do? (Proverbs 11:30)

6. When the Pharisees questioned the man born blind, what did he answer from his own experience? (John 9:25)

7. What will happen to lost men and women if we do not give them the gospel so they may be saved? (Revelation 20:10, 14, 15)

8. To whom are we to preach the gospel? (Mark 16:15)

- Where are we to preach the gospel? (Mark 16:15)

- Does this mean in schools, homes, jails, and in the market place as well as in the church?

__ Yes or __ No

9. What solemn warning does God give to His people? (Ezekiel 3:17-21)

10. What two ways do Christians overcome the devil? (Revelation 12:11)

11. What is the final reward laid up for all faithful witnesses of Christ (2 Timothy 4:8)

Use Your TREASURE as a Steward

Stewardship is the act of a steward. A steward is presented in the Bible as one to whom something has been committed and one who is engaged in service for another. Christ has committed to us the witness of the gospel both by mouth and by example.

This part of the lesson speaks of our stewardship of things material (money and possessions) and spiritual (the gospel) which God has committed to us. The word “tithe” means one-tenth or a tenth part” and has reference to the giving of one-tenth of our income to the work of the Lord.

1. To whom did Abraham pay tithe on one occasion? (Hebrews 7:1, 2; Genesis 14:18-20)

2. What was this man’s position? (Genesis 14:18)

3. Was this before or after the Mosaic law was given? (The commandment to pay tithe by the law was given in Leviticus 27:30.)

__ Before or __ After

4. Name another man who paid tithe to the Lord before the Mosaic law was given. (Genesis 28:16-22)

5. What then would be your reply to those who object to tithing on the basis that it is an old Mosaic law which no longer needs to be obeyed?

6. How had the people robbed God? (Malachi 3:8)

7. What command and what promise concerning the tithe are given by God in Malachi 3:10?

8. When Jesus pronounced. woe upon the scribes and Pharisees, (a) What weighty things did He say ought to be remembered? (b) What did He say in this same verse ought not to be left undone? (Matthew 23:23)

(a) _____

(b) _____

9. Is there a difference made between paying tithes and giving offerings? (Malachi 3:8)

__ Yes or __ No

10. Offerings to God other than the tithe ought to be given according to what three rules? (2 Corinthians 9:7)

11. What kind of giver does God love? (2 Corinthians 9:7)

12. What judgment is pronounced upon those who will not hear the cry of the poor? (Proverbs 21:13)

13. What promise is given to those who help the poor? (Prov. 14:21)

14. What did Jesus say we ought to do when the needy ask for help? (Matthew 5:42) (It is up

to each one of us to determine the need according to our conscience. Everyone who might ask for money does not especially come under the definition of the needy).

Acts 20:35 has a great closing word for us on the power of giving. Read it and fill in the missing words:

I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must _____ the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to _____ than to _____.'" (NKJV)

Summary thoughts:

Congratulations! You finished the third ***Growing New Believers***© study lesson.

As you have discovered, you are also at the beginning of a new relationship--a relationship with God that is possible because of Jesus Christ. As with any relationship, your relationship with God will grow stronger and deeper through communication and experiences. As you learn more about God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, you will grow to love God and trust Him more and more. You will develop a great prayer life; you will learn to be an effective witness for Christ and you will be generous in your giving. In doing these things, you will gain a better understanding of how Jesus is relevant to the details of your life. Your relationship will grow also as you see God's faithfulness in situations in your life, particularly situations that you have turned over to Him in prayer.

Be careful that you are not deceived into thinking that going to heaven instead of hell is the *only* benefit of being a Christian. If you believe this lie, you will tend to think that you have already received all that there is to receive as a Christian, and view the rest of your life as an obligation to pay God back for the gift of heaven. This erroneous view leads to the attitude that Christianity is drudgery, sacrificing all the "fun" things in the world for a life of rigidity and boredom.

The Christian life is not receiving the gift of heaven and then trying hard from that point forward to live according to the standards of the Bible. This is the truth: God wanted you to receive Christ, not only to be forgiven of sin, but to give you abundant life--contentment, joy, fulfillment, and fruitfulness in Christ. God wants you to know that, because of your faith, Christ actually lives in you, and has given you a new life--His life. God wants you to see the relevance of Christ to all issues in your life. Through Christ, the Father has given you an inexhaustible source of joy, contentment, power, and peace; and equipped you to be a great blessing to other people.

Discussion topic: money. The purpose of tithing is to secure not the tithe but the tither, not the gift but the giver, not the possession but the possessor, not your money but you for God. Do you agree or disagree? Why?



**GROWING
NEW
BELIEVERS**

ANSWERS

Growing New Believers
By: *Go Finish Content Team*
Session One

Learn to WALK

Understand the Concept of Sin

Sin is an inward spiritual attitude of transgression (wrongdoing) towards God, which is expressed in outward acts of disobedience. To transgress means to go across the boundaries that God has set for us. Sin is not only an act of breaking one of God's commandments, but sin is a condition of the soul that results from continuing to sin. Sin is an offence against God. Other names for sin in the Bible are: transgression, iniquity, or evil. The Bible tells us that sin came through our first parents, Adam and Eve. When they disobeyed God and committed the first act of waywardness that sinful nature that they had was transferred to all who were born after them. From time to time you will hear people speak of our "Adamic nature." This is what they are talking about. We were born in that condition, with that kind of a nature and need to be converted from being a sinner by God's power. That is why Jesus said, "Except a man be born again he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

Sin in a person's life has three main consequences: first, inward spiritual death, or alienation from God; second, the physical death of the body; third, the final and eternal banishment from the presence of God to a place of darkness and torment. Christ came to save us from our sins. He is God. One of His names is "Immanuel" which means "with us is God." So He came to this earth to take our sins upon Himself by dying in our place, and rose again from the dead, that we might be forgiven and receive eternal life.

How can a person tell when he or she has sinned? Jesus said that all the law of God and what the prophets said hang on two commandments. One of these commandments Jesus called "the first and greatest commandment."

1. Look up Matthew 22:37-40 and fill in the blanks to learn these two commandments:

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** with all your **soul** and with all your **mind**' (38) This is the first and great commandment. (39) And the second is like it: 'You shall love your **neighbor** as yourself.' (NKJV)

2. Galatians 5: 19-21 lists at least 15 examples of sins that people commit. Look up this passage of scripture and name at least ten of them:

adultery	fornication	strife
uncleanness	lasciviousness	seditions
idolatry	witchcraft	heresies
hatred	variance	envying
drunkenness	wrath	murders

3. The last book in the Bible is Revelation. Look up Revelation 4:11 and answer this question: for what purpose were all things created?

For his pleasure

4. That same verse lists three things which God is worthy to receive (Rev. 4:11). What are they?:

Glory
Honor
Power

5. Do you believe that *everyone* has sinned?

X Yes / __ No

6. Go to Romans 3: 23 and explain in what way have all men sinned?

We have fallen short of what God expects

7. If we are able to do something good and we do not do it what does God call that? (James 4:17)

Sin

8. Many people who have never been saved by believing on Jesus refuse to admit that they have ever sinned. In fact, they become angry when told that “everyone has sinned.” Look up 1 John 1:8 and write down what they are doing to themselves.

Deceiving themselves

9. What consequence has sin brought upon all men? (Rom. 5:12, 6:23, James 1:15)

Death

10. What is the final end of all unrepentant (unremorseful) sinners? (Matt. 25:41, Rev. 20:12-15).

Cast away from God into everlasting fire

Be Sure of Your Salvation

To accept Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, as your personal Savior is the most important decision of your lifetime. Your old beliefs, your old ideas, your old attitudes are beginning to pass away. Your whole outlook on life is becoming new, is changing. Life to you is taking on a new meaning. You now see your friends, your family, your convictions, your beliefs differently - in a new light. It is now necessary that you understand more thoroughly God's plan of redemption in your life.

1. Many people believe that by doing good works we can earn our way into heaven. Do you think a person can be saved by doing good works? (Titus 3:5)

☐ Yes or ☒ No

2. Others believe that if they try hard to live by the laws and commands of the Bible that they will be saved. After reading James 2:10 and Galatians 2:16, do you think this is a good way to be assured of our salvation?

☐ Yes or ☒ No

3. Some people just simply rely on their own ideas with regard to the way of salvation? Where does this kind of thinking lead them? (Proverbs 14:12)

Death

4. How can a person desiring salvation reach God? (John 14:6)

☐ Be good and do the best you can

☒ Believe that Jesus is the only way

☐ Join a good church and be faithful

5. Whose sins did Christ bear in His body on the cross? (1 Peter 2:24)

Our sins

6. Why was it absolutely necessary that Jesus, instead of some other man, bear our sins? (2 Corinthians 5:21)

He was without sin

7. What is the first great step in a person's being saved? (Acts 16:31)

☐ Stop lying and cheating

☐ Give up bad habits

☒ Believe on the Lord

8. After reading 1 John 1:9 fill in these blanks:

If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just to **forgive** us our sins and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness. (NKJV)

9. In the New Testament in Luke 13:3 Jesus tells us that if we do not repent [turn] from our sins that we shall “perish.” What do you think the word “perish” means?

___ destroy

___ die

___ lose

___ mar

___ perish

X all of the above

10. Romans 10:9 says we have to do two things before we are saved. What are they?

Confess with our mouth

Believe in our hearts God raised him up

11. Why should a person not put off salvation until tomorrow? (Proverbs 27:1)

Not promised another day

12. Write down three things now offered to all men in the name of Jesus (John 1:16-17, Acts 4:12)

Grace

Truth

Salvation

Learn How to Live the Separated Life

In order to be a living witness for Christ, your life as well as your speech must be exemplary. You are to live a sanctified life, separated from the world of sin. Christ did not *take* you out but rather *sent* you back into the world to serve Him (John 17:15-18); however, you, like Christ, are not of this world of sin (John 17:16). John, the beloved disciple, said “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him,” (1 John 2:15). The Bible tells us that, as believers, we must live a life apart from sin. Here are some great scriptures that will help you as you try to live this “separated” life. Look up the Scripture references given and write the answers in the space provided.

1. Is it possible for a person to serve both Christ and the world? (Matthew 6:24; Matthew 12:3: and 1 Corinthians 10:21)

☐ Yes or ☒ No

2. If a person serves Christ, does he have to be separated from this world? (John 15:19; 2 Corinthians 6:14)

☒ Yes or ☐ No

Why? (James 4:4)

If you are a friend of the world you are an enemy of God

3. Some people believe that after you are saved “you have to sin a little every day.” If one serves Christ, does he to continue in sin? (Romans 6:1-23; 1 Corinthians 15:34; Galatians 2:17)

☐ Yes or ☒ No

4. What four names did Peter give to those who are separated from the world for the purpose of rendering service and praise to Christ? (1 Peter 2:9). Pick the correct names from this list:

☐ Victorious winners

☒ Royal priesthood

☒ Chosen generation

☐ Church members

☐ Royal kings

☒ Special [peculiar] people

☒ Holy nation

☐ Fundamentalist believers

5. Who suffered that we might be sanctified or separated from the world? (Hebrews 13:12)

Jesus

6. Did Christ pray for our sanctification? (John 17:17-21)

☒ Yes or ☐ No

7. What kind of Church does Christ want to present to Himself? (Ephesians 5:25-27)

Spotless, without wrinkle, be hold without blemish

8. Can we be crucified to the world and the world to us? (Galatians 6:14; Galatians 2:20)

☒ Yes or ☐ No

9. What kind of vessel can Christ use? (2 Timothy 2:21)

Vessel of honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use

10. Many people today think that the word “sanctification” is sort of out of date or old fashioned. Look up 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and fill in these blanks:

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you **wholly** and may your spirit, soul, and body be preserved **blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (NKJV)

Memory verse: Romans 6:23

(Write out this verse from memory)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord

Summary thoughts:

Christianity is big! There are over two billion Christians in the world that absolutely, positively believe what you have just studied and learned. These people are not dummies—they are scientists, historians, PhD's, philosophers, artists, rich, poor, young and old. They are from all walks of life. Our faith is not dead—it is alive because Jesus is alive. So many have Him still on the cross. He died on the cross for our Sins but then rose from the dead. He is now alive for evermore. Where is He? He is in Heaven at the right hand of God as our forever. He makes intercession for us. He knows you. He knows your shoe size, the number of hairs on your head. He has your address. He knows your thoughts, words, deeds, intent of your heart and your desires. That's why we must pray to Him because he is the author and finisher of our faith.

Our faith is built on “fact.” As you have learned in this study, the gospel is based on three simple, historical facts: (1) Christ died for our sins, (2) He was buried and (3) He rose again the third day. Our job now is the same that we were created for: to glorify God. Man's sin is his failure to fulfill his God-given function. The Bible says we have “come short of the glory of God.” Not all of the thirteen sins in question eight are actually committed by all men. But the “seeds” of all these sins are found in every heart. Character and circumstances, combined, decide which of these “seeds” will actually bring forth the corresponding actions in any individual life.

Unforgiven sin is the great barrier between God and man (Isaiah 59:2). When sin was put away by Christ on the cross, the way was opened for man to come back to God. Any barriers that now remain are on man's side, not on God's.

You have confessed your sins and you have been forgiven. It is as simple as that. They (your sins) are gone forever. What's left is your heart and life. After you receive Christ, you really have both the old and new nature within you. Yes, that's right. You still have to deal with this duality. Your “God nature” will want to run **to** Him, go to church, pray and do right. Your “old nature” will want to run **from** Him and stay away from church. On TV, you've seen the guy trying to make the right decision with a devil on one shoulder and an angel on the other. That's

the way it is with us now. Until the Lord comes back for us we have to deal with fallen humanity. People will do wrong things to you—sometimes bad things. Have you ever heard someone say, “How can they be a Christian and do that?” Well, now you know.

Let me close with a story about an old man who late in life became a Christian. He was asked what it was like to have Christ’s new nature within him. He said, “Well it’s like having two dogs living inside of me. One is incredibly good and the other one is incredibly evil.” “They are in there and they fight all day long.” The interviewer then asked this question, “Which one is winning the fight?” His reply was, “The one I feed the most!” That’s what we have to do: feed the right dog! We must feed on God’s word, stay in church, pray every day. God will speak to you, I promise. He may not do it in an audible voice but He will direct your steps, help you with your decisions and show you the right way. It’s all there for you—just ask Him!

Topic for discussion: how can I live a spiritual life in a sinful world?

Growing New Believers

By: *Go Finish Content Team*

Session Two

Learn to TALK

Know How to Pray

Conversing with God is called prayer. It is sort of like visiting and talking with a friend on a daily basis. Prayer is a two-way conversation, not a monologue. It includes speaking *to* God and hearing *from* God. A Christian can only be as strong as his prayer life. Prayer is simply your direct communication to God. The best way to get to know someone is to talk with that person often. God longs for you to know Him. The Bible is full of invitations to enter into a deep, personal relationship with God the Father. When you read the Bible, God speaks to you. (When you have your heart in it and are consistent). When you pray you get to know the mind and heart of God. You cannot grow in your relationship with the Lord without proper communication.

As we read the Bible, we find that Jesus often communicated with God through prayer. He knew it was the best way to win the battles of life. It built His relationship with His Father. In Luke 18:1 the Word commands us to pray by saying, “Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.” (NKJV). Prayer is *not* to change God’s will or His *mind*; it is for you to be conformed to His will. Our prayers should be for God to change *us*!

The purpose of this lesson is to teach the basics of a proper prayer life so that these lines of communication can be open and effective in your life. You should schedule your time of prayer just like you would an appointment. Someone once said, “Great men simply have great habits.” We should make prayer a daily habit in our lives. We make appointments with lawyers, doctors and friends. We must also make daily appointments with God because “If you seek him, he will be found by you” (1 Chronicles 28:9).

1. When did Jesus pray? (Mark 1:35).

☒ Morning

☐ Noon

☐ Evening

2. The disciples of Jesus walked with Him for three years and saw many unbelievable miracles. When an opportunity arose for them to ask Jesus for this kind of supernatural power what did they ask Jesus to teach them?: (Luke 11:1)

How to pray

3. Why should we pray continually (read 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18)?

It is God’s will for us

4. We are told that prayer is a daily activity that all Christians should practice. If we consider it an “act” then this acrostic will help you to begin developing your prayer life.

A doration
C onfession
T hanksgiving
S upplication

Adoration is praise focusing on who God is. Look up the following Scriptures. Write in the blanks what the verses say about God.

- a. Psalm 145:3

God is great which is unsearchable and should be praised

- b. Psalm 147:1, 5

It is a good thing to praise God for He is great with great power

Confession is simply acknowledging that Jesus is God. He says if we will confess Him before men He will confess us before the Father. We confess our faults, failures and mistakes. If we are true believers, we have already confessed our sins so we don’t have to do that every day. We confess that sometimes we just don’t know all the answers so we pray that God will reveal knowledge to us.

5. What does James 5:16 say will happen to us if we confess our faults one to another? Choose the correct answer.

☐ That we will get a prize

☐ That we will be promoted in the Kingdom

☒ That we will be healed

6. What does this verse say is the outcome of the effectual, fervent prayer?

It accomplishes much

Thanksgiving is expressing gratitude to God for specific acts.

7. When does God say we should give thanks (read 1 Thessalonians 5:18)?

In everything

☐ Yes or ☐ No

8. List things in the following areas that you can give thanks for; then spend time thanking Him for having them in your life.

Spiritual Blessings
People
Physical Blessings
Material Blessings

Supplication is making requests and expressing desires to God. They may take the form of personal petitions (requests) or intercession. Petition is asking God to help meet your needs

9. Read John 15:7. If we abide in Christ and ask of Him what the result?

It will be done

10. If we pray regularly we live in confident expectation of God's blessing. What does God say we should be anxious for in Philippians 4:6-7.

Nothing

11. Intercession is praying for the needs of others. What was Paul's "heart's desire" in Romans 10:1?

For Israel to be saved

12. Without peeking back at the previous page, what do these letters stand for?

A= adoration

C= confession

T= thanksgiving

S= supplication

Did you ever stop to how big God is? Look around about you someday as you're playing out-of-doors. Everything you see - the trees, the sun, the grass, the flowers - God made them. What? You see a house and an automobile, and you do not believe God made them? Just one moment, please! Let us think. Who made the materials man used build the house and the auto? God did! Because God made the whole earth. And He made you and me as well. Let's pause right now and bow our heads and pray that God will help us to love and trust Him more:

"Dear heavenly Father, I thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die that I might be saved. And when I look round about me and see all the lovely things You have made for me to enjoy, I love and appreciate You so much. But Father, You've told me in Your Word, the Bible, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.' And I am not sure that I fully understand how to do this. Will you help me to love You more and draw me closer to You? Thank You, in Jesus' name. Amen."

Receive the Fullness of the Holy Spirit

When we believe on the Lord and receive Christ as your Savior, God gives us power to become His sons and daughters: “As many as received him (Jesus), to them gave he (God) power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name,” John 1:12. Thus, receiving Christ gave us power to become God’s children; we now you need power to witness for Christ. Witnessing for and confessing Christ as one’s Lord and Savior is one sign that a person is a Christian (1 John 4:15; Romans 10:9, 10).

1. What does the baptism of the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit, Comforter) give one power to do? (Acts 1:8)

Witness

2. Read John 15:26 and fill in the blanks to this scripture:

But when the **Comforter** is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of **truth** which proceedeth from the Father, he shall **testify** of **me** (KJV)

3. In addition to empowering the believer for service, what two other things does the Holy Ghost do for the Christian? (John 14:26)

Teach you

Bring things to your remembrance

4. How does the Holy Ghost help the Christian in prayer? (Romans 8:26)

He makes intercession for us

The Bible is such a “miracle book.” We find that prophecies in the Old Testament given centuries before the New Testament have come to pass just as predicted. Before the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit was given primarily to the prophets and to the spiritual leaders of Israel. However, Joel, one of the Minor Prophets, prophesied that in the last days (the days since the resurrection of Christ) the Holy Ghost would be given to other people besides the prophets.

5. Who were and are those others on whom the Spirit was and is poured out? (Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:16-18)

Upon all flesh

6. When the first believers were filled with the Holy Ghost, (1) in what city were they, (2) on what day was it, (3) what did the Christians do when they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and (4) what did the unbelievers and other onlookers think was wrong with the disciples? (Acts 2:1-13)

- (1) Jerusalem
- (2) Day of Pentecost
- (3) Spoke in tongues
- (4) Drunk

7. Sometime later, possibly a year or two following the Pentecostal outpouring, the Evangelist Philip had a successful revival at Samaria. What does the Bible specifically say happened to the believers following this revival? (Acts 8:15-17)

Received the Holy Ghost

8. When Peter preached the gospel to the first Gentile congregation - at the house of Cornelius, the Roman Centurion, at Caesarea - about ten years after Pentecost, how did the Jews (“they of the circumcision”), who were with Peter, know that the Holy Ghost was poured out on these Gentiles? (Acts 10:45, 46)

They spoke in tongues

9. Some twenty-five years after the first outpouring of the Holy Ghost at Jerusalem, Paul, on the final lap of his second missionary journey, found twelve disciples at Ephesus in Asia Minor. These disciples had heard John the Baptist’s preaching about the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ; however, they had not yet heard about the baptism of the Holy Ghost. What did they do when the Holy Ghost came on them? (Acts 19:6)

Spoke in tongues and prophesied

10. Does one receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost at the time he is saved or does one always receive the gift of the Holy Ghost after an interval of some time? (Acts 10:44; Acts 19:1, 2)

Interval of time

11. Is a person always baptized in water before receiving the Holy Ghost Baptism? (Acts 8:15-17; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 19:5, 6)

___ Yes or X No

12. When the Apostle Paul refers to this prophecy in Isaiah, for whom does he say that tongues are a sign? (1 Corinthians 14:21, 22)

For the unbeliever

13. Just before His ascension, Jesus stated that speaking with new tongues would be a sign which would follow certain people. Who would these people be? (Mark 16:17)

Christian believers

14. Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost names the people to whom the gift of the Holy Ghost is promised. Who are they and into which category do you yourself fit? (Acts 2:38, 39)

Those there, their children, those down through history

15. What is one of the things that a person must do in order to be given the Holy Ghost? (Acts 5:32)

Obey Him

16. What else may a person sometimes have to do before being endued with power from God through the outpouring of the Holy Ghost? (Luke 24:49)

Wait

17. Read John 14:16, 17. (Note that Jesus promises the Holy Ghost as a Comforter). After reading the verses indicated, answer the following questions: (1) To whom is Jesus speaking? (2) Who will pray that the Holy Ghost will be sent? (3) Who will send the Holy Ghost? (4) How long will the Comforter abide? (5) Why can the world (the unsaved, the sinners) not receive the Holy Spirit?

- (1) **His disciples**
- (2) **Jesus**
- (3) **Father**
- (4) **Forever**
- (5) **They do not know Him**

[Note to student: The term "speaking in (new, unknown or other) tongues" is used in the Bible in reference to the baptism of the Holy Spirit and in reference to the last two of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. In either case the term is used in association with a manifestation of the Holy Spirit of God.

Remember: you have already been born of the Spirit of God; therefore, you should begin to confess Christ as your Savior and to witness for Him. If you have not yet received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, which will give you great and greater power to serve and to witness for Christ, then begin now to be importunate and to ask the Lord for this promised Gift. God gave of His Holy Spirit to Jesus without measure and God's Son was victorious in every battle with the devil. The more you are filled with the Spirit of God the more effective will be your endeavors to win souls for Jesus.]

Express the Fruit of the Spirit

The "Fruit of the Spirit" is a term used in the Bible, but it is not always understood. Fruit of the Spirit is mentioned in several areas of the Bible. However, the most applicable passage is Galatians 5:22-23 where Paul actually lists out the fruit. Paul used this list to show the contrast

between a Godly character and one that is focused on fleshly concerns. Fruit of the Spirit is often used to describe the best aspects of a Godly character.

The fruit of the Spirit is meant to be a list of qualities we strive to have. If you look at your character and find that you are lacking in any of these areas, take heart. We are human beings and not one of us are perfect. However, God calls us all to strive for perfection. That was the purpose in Paul listing out the fruit for the church at Galatia. These are qualities any Christian teen should strive to have in their character, and they take work.

There are nine fruits of the Spirit that are bestowed upon believers to define a person's character. Those fruits include the following:

Love
Joy
Peace
Longsuffering
Kindness
Goodness
Faithfulness
Gentleness
Self-control

1. Love is such a loose word with many meanings in today's society. To really understand the real meaning of love we must look into God's Word. Read this scripture from 1 Corinthians 13: 1 and fill in the blanks:

"Though I speak with the tongues of **men** and of **Angels** but have not **love** I have become sounding **brass** or a clanging **cymbal**. (NKJV)

2. Whom does the Bible say we should love? (1 John 4:7-8)

One another

3. Read Nehemiah 8:10 and find this missing word:

"Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet, and send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your **strength**'" (NKJV)

4. When the Bible speak of peace it refers to freedom from hostility or anxiety. What are the two results of having peace with God (John 14:27).

Heart is not troubled

You are not afraid

5. Longsuffering is the ability to “tough it out” when the going gets rough. Read James 1:2-3 and the result of our being able to have the victory over testing and trials.

Testing produces patience

6. What are the four qualities of a servant in 2 Timothy 2:24?

Not strive

Gentle

Apt to teach

Patient

7. The goodness of God is being pleasant, kind, proper, and agreeable.

Psalms 23:6 gives a wonderful promise to anyone who has this quality. Find the missing words: It says “Surely goodness and **mercy** shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the **House** of the Lord **forever**. (NKJV)

8. Someone said that the best way to define faith is with this acrostic:

Forsaking
All
I
Trust
Him

Who is the object of our faith in Mark 11:22?

God

9. To be gentle is to be kind, meek, humble, compassionate.

What kind of person inherits the earth in Matthew 5:5?

Meek

10. Self-control refers to calmness and temperance. Acts 24:25 tells of a ruler by the name of Felix who was under so much conviction that he told Paul to “go away.” Read this verse and fill in the blanks:

“Now as he reasoned about **righteousness**, **temperance**, and the **judgement** to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you." (NKJV)

Memory verses: Galatians 5: 22-23

(Write out these two verses from memory)

But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law.

Summary thoughts:

Well we are in the process of growing. In this second lesson we have learned how to grow in prayer and in the spirit and we have seen how we can grow fruit!

As you can see when reviewing this lesson, God's Word is powerful and has the ability to help change, transform, and sanctify not only you – but others around you. Your life will never be the same. Your wife or husband will see a difference and your children will know that a change has taken place in your life.

Nothing will draw nonbelievers and believers alike to the Lord than a truly sanctified saint in the Lord who is praying, full of the Holy Spirit and operating in all nine fruits taught here. If you are willing to allow the Holy Spirit to work in your life and your personality to some appreciable degree in this life – you will then become a light that will literally radiate the presence of God Himself through your soul and personality.

Jesus is coming back for a Bride that will be without spot or blemish. He is calling His Church to clean up their act and allow His Holy Spirit to begin this deeper sanctifying work in their lives. However, the choice is up to each individual believer. Sanctification is not something that can be forced upon anyone. God really respects everyone's free will and He will never force His will or His ways on anyone.

To those of you who will decide to enter into this sanctification process with the Lord – realize that all of this will not occur overnight. The Holy Spirit will set the pace and timetable that He will want to work with you on. You can perfectly trust Him to handle each of the areas that He will want to get into.

My advice is to pray and stay close to God. Ask Him to walk with you every day and to teach you His will and His ways. Study God's Word, and ask Him to help you to be a fruit-bearing Christian . . . and He will! Jesus said, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive," Matthew 21:22. Let us pray together:

"Dear heavenly Father, search my heart and help me to empty it of all selfishness, pride, envy, and those things that are displeasing to You. Then, fill my heart, mind and life with love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance, that I might be truly like You and that others might see and know that I am a Christian. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Topic for discussion: how can I receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost?

Growing New Believers©

By: *Go Finish Content Team*

Session Three

Learn to SHARE

Find the TIME for Daily Devotions

Many new Christians view the Christian life as a long list of “do’s” and “don’ts.” They haven’t yet discovered that spending time with God is a privilege that we get to do not a chore or an obligation that we have to do. Getting started with a daily devotional simply takes a little bit of planning. There is no set standard of what a daily devotional time should look like.

Research has proven that it takes 21 days to form a habit. Habits are an essential part of our life, without them we would fail in most things we try to accomplish. They help us to reach specific goals, stay focused along the way and keep on pushing when the going gets tough. At the same time, non-supportive habits can keep us from moving forward or even hurt our well-being. It is a truth that anything you do with repetition and emotion will become your reality.

We need to spend some portion of every day with God—thinking about God, reading His Word, learning His will, giving of our lives to help others, and understanding what it really means to be more like Christ in the 21st century. All of this is a part of having daily devotions.

Here are some pointers:

- ☐ Choose the best time and place. There is no “right” and “wrong” time of day. I prefer having my devotions very early in the morning before I exercise or eat. This is the least likely time of day for an interruption. Whatever time of day you choose, let it be the best time of day for you.
- ☐ Find the best place. Some place quiet. I usually study in a comfortable chair that is in our family room. It has a nice table beside it and a good reading light. I use a computer or my iPad to read and study the scripture.
- ☐ Decide on a time frame. It can be as brief as 15 minutes or as long as 60 minutes or more. Begin with a realistic goal that you can meet.
- ☐ Select a Bible Reading Plan or Bible Study. We have used the daily reading from Walk Thru the Bible for years. You can order them at: www.devotionals.org. Your Bible app on you cell phone or iPad has some great plans. There are many available.
- ☐ Spend some time in prayer and worship as part of your daily devotion. It doesn’t have to take long. Spend some quality time focused on Jesus!

The best way to study Bible passages is to ask these questions:

What did the passage mean at the time it was written and to the people who read it?
What does the passage mean to us in our modern time?
How should I change my lifestyle to conform to God's lesson taught in the passage?

There are numerous passages that tell us the importance of studying and praying the Word of God.

1. Do you believe that just by reading and remembering God's Word we can be kept from sin? (Psalm 119:1)

☒ Yes or ☐ No

2. Will the truths of the Bible ever pass away (Matthew 24:35)

☐ Yes or ☒ No

3. Read Psalm 119:105 and fill in the missing words:

"Your word is a **lamp** to my feet and a **light** to my path."

4. Why do we study the Bible? Choose the correct answer. (2 Timothy 2:15)

☐ Gain goodwill with man

☒ Gain approval from God

☐ Gain appreciation from the pastor

5. Romans 12: 1-2 is such a powerful scripture on how our lives can be acceptable to God. Read it and fill in the missing words:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living **sacrifice** holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable **service** (2) And do not be **conformed** to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing** of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect **will** of God. (NKJV)

6. How did Jesus answer the devil each time He was tempted (Matthew 4:4,7,10)

By using the Word of God (he said "It is written.")

7. Write down two results which follow in our lives when we claim the promises of God's Word (2 Peter 1:4)

Be partakers of the divine nature

Escape the corruption in the world

8. What does God say He will do if we will draw near to Him? (James 4:8)

He will draw near to us

Use Your TALENTS for Ministry

God has not called everyone into fulltime, pulpit ministry—the five-fold ministry positions listed in Ephesians 4:11: "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers."

When I first became a believer I thought I might become a preacher because I was so eager to be a witness for Christ. I found out early in my Christian walk that a person doesn't have to be a credentialed minister to do effective work for the Lord. All believers should be working for the Lord by giving of their talents, gifts, and resources. God has given each one of us different talents.

Romans 12: 4-8 says, "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, (5) so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. (6) Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; (7) or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; (8) he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

If God has not spoken to your heart about a specific ministry, then I suggest asking yourself this question: "What natural talent do I have that I can use for the Lord to help further the Kingdom of God?" Whatever your talent is, whether it is doing deeds of kindness, visiting the shut-ins, ministering to the homeless, conducting music, art, cooking, cleaning, encouraging, or simply in being a good listener, make yourself available to volunteer in those areas of the church you attend.

In this portion of our study we will focus on how to share the message of salvation in Christ and how to win others to Christ.

Some Things God Wants Us to Tell Others

1. In the Bible God tells us some things He expects us to talk about to our friends and neighbors - and to everyone who does not know Him.
 - ☐ He wants us to tell them that all have **sinned** (Romans 3:23).
 - ☐ He wants us to tell them their own works of **righteousness** will not save them. (Titus 3:5)
 - ☐ God wants us to tell others that Jesus has already made a way for them to be saved,

and if we believe on Him we shall not **perish** (John 3:16)

☐ God wants us to explain to others about the “**way**” Jesus has made. (John 14:6)

2. What did Christ tell His disciples that they were to be for Him? (Acts 1:8)

___ Servants

___ Warriors

X Witnesses

3. To whom must the witness be extended before the end of this age? (Matthew 24:14)

To all the world

4. What does a true witness do by his testimony? (Proverbs 14:25)

Deliver souls

5. What should a wise Christian seek to do? (Proverbs 11:30)

To win souls

6. When the Pharisees questioned the man born blind, what did he answer from his own experience? (John 9:25)

I know I was blind but now I see

7. What will happen to lost men and women if we do not give them the gospel so they may be saved? (Revelation 20:10, 14, 15)

Cast into the lake of fire

8. To whom are we to preach the gospel? (Mark 16:15)

To every person

☐ Where are we to preach the gospel? (Mark 16:15)

Into all the world

☐ Does this mean in schools, homes, jails, and in the market place as well as in the church?

X Yes or ___ No

9. What solemn warning does God give to His people? (Ezekiel 3:17-21)

We are watchmen and are held accountable

10. What two ways do Christians overcome the devil? (Revelation 12:11)

Blood of the lamb

Word of our testimony

11. What is the final reward laid up for all faithful witnesses of Christ (2 Timothy 4:8)

A crown of righteousness

Use Your TREASURE as a Steward

Stewardship is the act of a steward. A steward is presented in the Bible as one to whom something has been committed and one who is engaged in service for another. Christ has committed to us the witness of the gospel both by mouth and by example.

This part of the lesson speaks of our stewardship of things material (money and possessions) and spiritual (the gospel) which God has committed to us. The word “tithe” means one-tenth or a tenth part” and has reference to the giving of one-tenth of our income to the work of the Lord.

1. To whom did Abraham pay tithe on one occasion? (Hebrews 7:1, 2; Genesis 14:18-20)

Melchizedek

2. What was this man’s position? (Genesis 14:18)

King of Salem, priest of God

3. Was this before or after the Mosaic law was given? (The commandment to pay tithe by the law was given in Leviticus 27:30.)

X Before or ___ After

4. Name another man who paid tithe to the Lord before the Mosaic law was given. (Genesis 28:16-22)

Jacob

5. What then would be your reply to those who object to tithing on the basis that it is an old Mosaic law which no longer needs to be obeyed?

It was done before the law was given

6. How had the people robbed God? (Malachi 3:8)

In tithes and offerings

7. What command and what promise concerning the tithe are given by God in Malachi 3:10?

Give your tithes and God will bless you abundantly

8. When Jesus pronounced woe upon the scribes and Pharisees, (a) What weighty things did He say ought to be remembered? (b) What did He say in this same verse ought not to be left undone? (Matthew 23:23)

(a) Judgment, mercy, faith

(b) Tithing

9. Is there a difference made between paying tithes and giving offerings? (Malachi 3:8)

X Yes or ___ No

10. Offerings to God other than the tithe ought to be given according to what three rules? (2 Corinthians 9:7)

As he purposes in his heart

Not grudgingly

Of necessity

11. What kind of giver does God love? (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Cheerful giver

12. What judgment is pronounced upon those who will not hear the cry of the poor? (Proverbs 21:13)

They will cry and not be heard

13. What promise is given to those who help the poor? (Prov. 14:21)

They are happy

14. What did Jesus say we ought to do when the needy ask for help? (Matthew 5:42) (It is up

to each one of us to determine the need according to our conscience. Everyone who might ask for money does not especially come under the definition of the needy).

Give to them

Acts 20:35 has a great closing word for us on the power of giving. Read it and fill in the missing words:

I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must **support** the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to **give** than to **receive**' (NKJV)

Summary thoughts:

Congratulations! You finished the third ***Growing New Believers***© study lesson.

As you have discovered, you are also at the beginning of a new relationship--a relationship with God that is possible because of Jesus Christ. As with any relationship, your relationship with God will grow stronger and deeper through communication and experiences. As you learn more about God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, you will grow to love God and trust Him more and more. You will develop a great prayer life; you will learn to be an effective witness for Christ and you will be generous in your giving. In doing these things, you will gain a better understanding of how Jesus is relevant to the details of your life. Your relationship will grow also as you see God's faithfulness in situations in your life, particularly situations that you have turned over to Him in prayer.

Be careful that you are not deceived into thinking that going to heaven instead of hell is the *only* benefit of being a Christian. If you believe this lie, you will tend to think that you have already received all that there is to receive as a Christian, and view the rest of your life as an obligation to pay God back for the gift of heaven. This erroneous view leads to the attitude that Christianity is drudgery, sacrificing all the "fun" things in the world for a life of rigidity and boredom.

The Christian life is not receiving the gift of heaven and then trying hard from that point forward to live according to the standards of the Bible. This is the truth: God wanted you to receive Christ, not only to be forgiven of sin, but to give you abundant life--contentment, joy, fulfillment, and fruitfulness in Christ. God wants you to know that, because of your faith, Christ actually lives in you, and has given you a new life--His life. God wants you to see the relevance of Christ to all issues in your life. Through Christ, the Father has given you an inexhaustible source of joy, contentment, power, and peace; and equipped you to be a great blessing to other people.

Discussion topic: money. The purpose of tithing is to secure not the tithe but the tither, not the gift but the giver, not the possession but the possessor, not your money but you for God. Do you agree or disagree? Why?