

My  
**STARTING  
POINT**



## Pathway to Purpose – Starting Point

### Welcome to the Family of God!

Welcome to the first step in the Pathway to Purpose! We here at New Horizon believe that every person is God's unique creation and has an even more unique purpose. For us to be able to fulfill our God inspired purpose we must start with a relationship with Him.

This book is designed to help you understand what it means to have a relationship and exactly what that looks like in a practical manner. This book can be used as a self-study guide or you can meet with another more experienced Christian and the two of you go through it together. By the time you are done you will have a greater understanding of the basics of Christianity including salvation, water baptism, communion, the Holy Spirit and the four habits of Christianity.

The next steps for you here at New Horizon would be the next steps of the Pathway to Purpose – Commit, Connect, Serve and Grow. We make every step very easy and informative but most of all it's our desire to provide you a Pathway to YOUR Purpose!



## Lesson 1: Salvation

### 1. Why do I need to be saved?

Life is full of questions. And if you're reading this booklet, your current question is most likely "Why do I need to be saved?" That's one of the most important questions you'll ever consider. Why? Because..

....Quite frankly, your entire life depends upon it.

### Getting saved answers the BIG QUESTIONS.

There are a few major questions that all of us deal with in life. Questions like:

Why am I here?  
How did all this come to be?  
What will happen when I die?

Every living person needs to answer these questions. We base every one of our life choices on the answers to these questions. So it is very important to get these answers right. Ignoring the questions will not make them go away.

We must understand that these are **spiritual** questions. Whether we want to admit it or not, we are all spiritual. The Bible teaches that we are made up of 3 parts: we are a **spirit** that has a **soul** that lives in a **body**.

When we are conceived, our body takes on life and it is formed in the womb. Our body gives our spirit the ability to live in a material world.

Our soul takes shape during the first years of life. Our soul is our mind (ability to think and reason), our will (ability to decide) and our emotions (feelings and discernment).



It is through our spirit that we connect with God. We were created in His image and therefore we have the ability to interact within the spiritual dimension. When we accept Christ or "get saved," God fills our spirit with His Spirit.

Until we come to Christ, our spirit feels empty and we are driven to find answers. Some people fill it with self-gratification, wealth, knowledge, philosophy, the occult, drugs, etc., and each one of these will give its own answers. They might answer the BIG QUESTIONS like this:

Why am I here?

No particular reason.

I am no more than a highly intelligent monkey.

There is no "purpose" or design for my existence.

My greatest good is to be happy.

How did all this come to be?

Random chance with no reason for the past, present or the future.

What will happen when I die?

Do not know and definitely do not want to find out.

(But probably empty darkness or oblivion.)

The problem is that there is no fulfillment in these answers. That's because they are not the truth.

The only thing that truly fits here is God. He answers these questions like this:

Why am I here?

Because God planned you, He has a purpose for you and you are the only one that can fulfill that purpose.

How did all this come to be?

Through the intelligent thought, purpose and design of God.



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What will happen when I die?

I will spend eternity with God in Heaven, a place of perfection where there is no sickness, no tears and no pain.

To have God answer these questions means you need to come into a relationship with Him. Your spirit needs to be filled with Him.

**.....You need to be saved, because a right relationship with God gives you the right answers to the BIG QUESTIONS of life.**

### Personal Study:

List some reasons you felt the need to be saved.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Look up the following verses and list some reasons that God created you.  
*Psalms 139:16-17, Psalms 8:3-8*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



## Getting saved fixes what is messed up.

### The Beginning, the mess-up and the fix.

The order of the Universe, the beauty and harmony of creation as well as the intricacies at the cellular level beg for an explanation. The odds of these things coming into existence by accident are enough to boggle the minds of even the best mathematicians. Statistics alone make the case for **intelligent design**.

*The heavens are yours, and yours also the earth; you founded the world and all that is in it.*

*Psalms 89:11*

Then we must consider how the universe is sustained day after day, year after year. Who holds it all together? Humanly speaking, it is impossible and screams the need for **supernatural strength**.

*This is what the LORD says, he who appoints the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar— the LORD Almighty is his name.*

*Jeremiah 31:35*

Finally, there is you. How do you fit in? You are one of billions of humans that have walked the face of the earth yet, you are the only one like you. You have no duplicate. You are absolutely one of a kind. You are not a plant- you talk and move at will. You are not a mindless animal- you have reasoning, intellect and a conscience that set you apart. And yet you are imperfect (and you certainly are not a God). You are amazing, yet you fail. You are intelligent, yet you do not know all. You are strong, yet you are extremely frail. You have an innate desire to do right and a sense of guilt when you do wrong.



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*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.*

*Psalms 8:3-8*

When God created man and woman, they were perfect. They had never sinned. They had close communion with the God of the Universe. Their spirits were alive and filled with God. God created man with a free will, the ability to **choose** to love Him and follow His directions for his existence. Chosen heart is far greater than forced heart. The fact that Adam and Eve chose to love God and obey Him made the **risk** of free will worth it to God. Their souls were pure and active. It was a wonderful time of **close relationship and provision** between God and man.

### Man chose to disobey.

A free will is only a free will when there are at least two options to choose between. God placed the first man and woman in a garden called Eden and gave them complete access to everything in it – as well as a command to not eat the fruit from one of the trees. There it was, free will at its finest. God's love provided everything they needed, **including** the ability to choose Him over their own desires. Think about it: God wanted the devotion of His creation to be their own choice. This is love at its highest level – it was not forced or demanded. Some would ask, "How could a loving God allow bad things to happen?" In actuality, it would be a very tyrannical, unloving God that demanded and forced devotion to Him. Instead, we all have choices. Bad things happen when humanity does not choose God. God says to love your neighbor as yourself. When we do this, things go well; when we do not then things go wrong. God says we should forgive. When we choose to forgive, we can be made whole: when we choose to harbor bitterness and unforgiveness, then we find ourselves trapped in our brokenness and heartache.



Humanity did well as long as they chose God. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve chose to disobey, and they took of the one thing that God told them not to. They rebelled; they did it their own way. Because of this, their relationship with God was broken. They had sinned and could no longer be in the presence of a perfect God. The curse of their sin was imposed, and life became hard. But the hardest thing was the distance that happened between God and His most prized possession- humanity.

## **God's love provides redemption.**

God knew from the beginning that man's free will would, at some point, tear us from Him. The Bible tells us that He made a plan to bring us back together before we were even created. His plan of redemption allows us to re-enter relationship with Him.

Any time we choose incorrect behavior towards another person it causes a breach in that relationship. Sin does that: it hurts and separates. All sin requires a payment. If I steal from you then I must repay. If I hurt you I owe you an apology. Yet how can I ever pay the penalty for all the wrongs I commit? It's impossible. God, in His great love for us, sent His perfect son Jesus to the earth as a man. Jesus lived as we live and yet He never sinned. His free will was completely subjected to God. When Jesus died on the cross He took on all the sin of humanity, at that moment, and paid the penalty for it with His perfect shed blood. There is only one way to come back to God and that is through Jesus' payment for my sin with His life sacrifice. I cannot earn my way into God's presence. I can not wish my way into God's presence. I can only choose to use my free will to give myself to God and to accept the payment of Jesus, which washes my life of all sin. When you give your life to Jesus Christ, His payment is applied to your sin so you don't have to pay. You are then saved from the consequences of your sin. The Bible is very clear that the wages (or payment) of sin is death. Without Christ, my only option is eternal separation from God (death and Hell).

**.....You need to get saved because a right relationship with God frees your life of sin and guilt and allows you to live close to Him.**





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## Personal Study:

Look up the following verses. Use them as a reference for you to list some of the things that you have done that have separated you from God.

*1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:16-22*

- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
- 
- 

## **2. What am I saved from?**

To be saved must mean that there was something to be saved from.

### **Hell and darkness.**

As we discussed before, one vital question that every person must answer is "what happens after I die?" According to the Bible, our body dies, but the real you -- your soul and spirit -- lives on forever. The big question then becomes; where you will spend this eternity? If you haven't accepted Christ as the payment for your sin, then you will spend eternity separated from God. Complete separation from God and His comfort, light, love and security is a horrible thing. This is Hell. Hell is a very real place, filled with complete darkness, void of all love, filled with complete fear.



*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

*Colossians 1:13*

**.....We are saved from hell and from the dominion of darkness.**

## **Times of trouble.**

Life is full of challenges, troubles and obstacles, and you probably have a lot of life left to live. However, your relationship with God not only saves you from Hell, but it also is meant to save you from your troubles today. God is concerned with your day-to-day life. The word salvation means "physical and moral safety" and "to be preserved." God wants to lend his strength and wisdom to help you throughout your life.

*The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD; he is their stronghold in time of trouble*

*Psalms 37:39*

**.....God saves us and is our stronghold in times of trouble.**

## **3. What happens when I'm saved?**

### **I am forgiven for my sins.**

A sin is anything that misses the mark of perfection. Humanity is blessed with a conscience that senses sin. We have all felt guilt from a sinful act. Simply ignoring our guilt long enough that we cease to feel it does not mean it's gone. We have only seared our consciences so that we don't feel it anymore.

The only way to truly be rid of guilt is to be forgiven -- for the person we have harmed or transgressed to say, "It's okay as I release you and forgive you." I would hope we all know how it feels to be given the gift of forgiveness.



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We don't deserve it and we could never do enough to earn it: it's something that is given out of kindness and mercy. It's the same way with God. We can never do enough or be good enough to rid ourselves of the wrongs we have done. Even if we are pretty decent people (hey, I've never murdered anyone!) we are still far from perfect. How could God allow someone with even the smallest imperfection into Heaven? Heaven is a perfect place and the imperfection in us would ruin it! Once again, we are in need of the forgiveness of sins to bring us into a place of perfection once again.

*...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
Romans 3:23*

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.  
1 John 1:9*

**.....When I am saved, God forgives my sins.**

### **I become a child of God.**

God becomes your heavenly father and you enter into a new family – The family of God.

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but  
fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's house  
hold*

*Ephesians 2:19*

**.....When I am saved, I am a member of God's family.**

### **I am redeemed by God.**

To redeem something means to buy it back. You are no longer separated from God and living alone- you have been bought back. God saw you and wanted you, so He sent His son to die for you and to buy you out of sin and death. When you accept His Son Jesus as your savior He redeems you.



*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace  
Ephesians 1:7*

**.....When I am saved, God loves me so much he redeems me and pays for my sins.**

## **I am set free from sin and death.**

Before I came to Christ I was a slave to sin, because a law that the Bible calls "the law of sin and death" is at work within the heart of every man. Anger, hatred, jealousy, addictions, pride, sickness and disease were a normal part of life and had power over me. I could try to resist it, but I rarely succeeded. When I accept Christ and the work of His blood in my life, however, I am no longer bound by these things. I am free. And you can be, too.

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.*

*Romans 8:1-2*

**....When I am saved, Christ Jesus sets me free from the law of sin and death.**

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### **Personal Study:**

Look up the following verses and list what God did for you through Jesus Christ and the Cross.

*Colossians 1:22; Colossians 2:13-15    Ephesians 2:4-6; Ephesians 2:13-14*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



### 4. How do I get saved?

Getting saved is a very easy two-step process.

#### Step One – Turn towards God and put your faith in Christ.

First you turn toward the God of the universe, your creator, the One that knows and loves you the most. This requires you to **believe in your heart** and to seal that belief by **confessing with your mouth** that Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior.

*That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

*Romans 10:9*

The Bible is very clear that we are forgiven of our sin and enter into relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ and **NOTHING** else. Every other religion requires you to do things to qualify you for God's love and acceptance. These religions do not offer you any assurance that you are forgiven, or that you will enter heaven when you die.

Mormonism, the Jehovah's Witnesses, Buddhism and Islam (to name a few) all have heavy requirements on their members – so many that, in the end, their adherents can never know if they have done enough to warrant God's favor. All of these religions are based on man trying to reach God. However, the Bible teaches us that we can never DO enough in and of ourselves to overcome our sin or gain God's love. God already loves us. He is full of grace and mercy and compassion for us. Christianity is very different from all other religions because it is based on God reaching out to man. The Bible shows us that God reached out to man by sending His Son to die on a cross to forgive our sins and restore our relationship with Him. All we must do is to accept it and to put our faith in what God has already done for us.

Faith simply means to have total reliance and trust in something. When you jump out of an airplane, you must have complete faith that the parachute on your back will open. You are relying on that parachute to save your life.



God loves you so much that He made a way for you to be saved and to be restored in your relationship with Him. We do this by trusting in and relying on the saving work of Jesus. This is the way you are “saved by faith.” Just like that parachute is the only thing that can get you down to the ground safely, Jesus Christ is the only way that you can be restored to your Creator and be fulfilled in life. You cannot earn it and you do not deserve it- you just have to put your faith in Him.

*“And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

*Acts 2:21*

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

*John 3:16*

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

The Bible is very clear that believing or putting your faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and sealing that by putting it into words is the way you become saved.

## **Step Two - Turn away from sin and repent of wrong doing.**

Secondly, you turn away from sin, self-reliance and rebellion. The other half of putting your faith in Christ is to remove yourself from anything that opposes Jesus Christ in your life. Both must happen simultaneously. If you are going to become an Olympian runner, you have to START running and training and STOP eating junk food and laying around all day. The two have to happen together.

Accepting Jesus Christ as your savior means turning away from a life of independence and toward a life of reliance upon God. This is where repentance comes in.



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The word "repent" means to turn and go the other way. In this case you are turning to God and giving Him your life.

The Bible is very clear that, as we repent, confess our faults, turn away from our sins, and turn toward Him, that He will cleanse us of sin.

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

*1 John 1:9*

*First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.*

*Acts 26:20*

*"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

*Mark 1:15*

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

*Acts 2:38*

*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,*

*Acts 3:19*



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## Personal Study:

The following verses are what is known as the “Romans Road” to salvation. Look them up and fill in the following blanks.

*Romans 6:23*

For the wages of \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of God is \_\_\_\_\_ life in Christ Jesus.

*Romans 5:8*

But God \_\_\_\_\_ his own love for us in this; \_\_\_\_\_ we were still \_\_\_\_\_, Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for us.

*Romans 10:9*

That if you \_\_\_\_\_ with your \_\_\_\_\_ ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and \_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_ that God \_\_\_\_\_ him from the dead, you will be \_\_\_\_\_.

*Romans 10:13*

For, “\_\_\_\_\_ who calls on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord will be \_\_\_\_\_.”

*Romans 5:1*

Therefore, since we have been \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_, we have \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ through our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Putting it all together.**

There is not any specific prayer or formula that you must recite. A simple prayer that states your desire to turn toward God and away from sin would go something like this:

“Dear Heavenly Father, I want to give my life to you. I believe that you sent your Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross to forgive me of my sins. I choose to live for you and no longer for myself. Please forgive me for all the wrongs I have done and make me right with you. I make Jesus Christ the Lord of my life. Amen.”





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### 5. Now that I'm saved.

Once you have prayed and accepted Christ into your heart, there are some pretty big changes that have happened on the inside of you. Some people say they feel light or happy; others don't really feel anything. Regardless of feelings, the fact is that your spirit is alive and made new.

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

*When my husband and I got married, the ceremony lasted about 30 minutes. The pastor explained the meaning of marriage, we said our vows, kissed, and the pastor presented us as Mr. and Mrs. Dwain Wolfe. I remember thinking that those few words changed my life forever. My name had changed, my identity changed (I was now a wife) and my family changed. It's the same with getting saved. Just a decision and a few words change so much.* (narrated by Joel Wolfe)

#### **You are a child of God with a new name: Christian.**

Even though you still go by your given name, you now can add onto that the name Christian. Christian means "Christ-like one." In other words, just like a child resembles His father in looks, deeds and name, you now are to resemble your Heavenly Father.

*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children.*

*Ephesians 5:1*

*We act like Christ and live according to his teachings because we want to. I love watching my sons around their father. Dwain loves his sons and they respond by acting just like him -- not to earn his love, but in response to his love.* (narrated by Joel Wolfe)



## **You now have a new identity.**

You are no longer yourself! You have been made new on the inside.

*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

*Ephesians 4:22*

## **You have a new Father.**

You have been adopted into the family of God. Your Heavenly Father loves you beyond your comprehension. You also have many new brothers and sisters in Christ. The best place to get to know them is at church every Sunday.

*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

*Romans 8:16-17*

## **You have a new mind.**

When you are saved your spirit is made new. Now we get to work renewing our minds so that we begin to think like Christ thinks.

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

*Romans 12:2*

*to be made new in the attitude of your minds;*

*Ephesians 4:23*

*....but we have the mind of Christ.*

*1 Corinthians 2:16*



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## Personal Study:

Look up the following verses and list what is now yours in Christ.

*Romans 8:15*

*Ephesians 1:3*

*2 Peter 1:3*

*Isaiah 53:5*

## 6. Conclusion

You have a new name. You are now called a Christian. You are now part of a group of people that come from every nation on earth. You are part of the largest religion in the world, one that is continuing to grow rapidly. It is estimated that there are two point one billion Christians in the world today. That's approximately one third of the globe's population. You stand with the likes of Constantine, Galileo, Sir Isaac Newton, J.R.R. Tolkien, Abraham Lincoln and many, many more.

Welcome to the Family!



## Lesson 2: Water Baptism, Communion, and the Holy Spirit

After you become a Christian you might wonder what's next. Accepting Christ is just the beginning of your walk with God. It is very important, at this point, to take some additional steps. The first thing you need to do is to get involved in a local church. Through that church you need be baptized, start taking communion and with the help of the Holy Spirit, begin growing in your faith. This lesson is designed to help you understand these three areas of your Christian walk.

### 1. Water Baptism

Water baptism is not salvation. It does not get you into Heaven. The only thing that can get you into Heaven is **faith** in Jesus Christ and His death on the cross to forgive you of your sins. Faith in Christ. That's it. You do not have to be good enough; you do not have to do enough good things or attend enough church. You are saved through **faith** and **faith** alone. Instead, water baptism is intended to help you live your life here on earth more focused on God and less on sin.

#### Personal Study:

How are we saved? \_\_\_\_\_

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

For it is by \_\_\_\_\_ you have been \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ and this not from yourselves, it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God – not by \_\_\_\_\_, so that no one can boast.

After you are saved, what is the next step? \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 2:38*

Peter replied, "\_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_, every one of you, in the name of \_\_\_\_\_ for the forgiveness of your sins.



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### What does water baptism do?

You are a **Spirit** that has a **Soul** and lives in a **Body**. Up until you accept Christ, your spirit had been cut off from God. When you were “born-again”, your spirit was given life and is now able to connect with God. Until now you have lived your life responding through your soul (mind, will and emotions) and your body (instincts, needs and desires). When you get ‘born-again’ and give your life to God, there has to be a shift in the decision-making process of your life. Your soul and your body need to give up leadership to your spirit and, ultimately, to God. This is not always an easy thing to do. When you give your life to God, you come to realize your great need for His help in your life. But when His “help” requires us to do difficult things (forgive someone) or to stop doing other things (addictions, jealousies or angry outbursts) we find ourselves locked in a struggle. Something will eventually win. Either your **spirit** - led by God - will win, or your **soul/body** - led by your own ways - will win. Baptism is a critical step to ensure your spirit, led by God, wins out.

God understands this struggle and so He instituted baptism as a reference to the transformation into the Christian life. We decide to leave the old life behind and enter a new life. The apostle Paul discussed this struggle when he wrote to the church in Rome.

*I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work (cont.)*



*(cont.) me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.*

Romans 7:15-25

**.....Water baptism gives my spirit the leadership of my life.**

## What is Water Baptism?

Water baptism is a symbol of Christ's death and resurrection in our own lives. Just as Christ died and rose again, baptism symbolizes our death to the old way of life and coming alive to our new life in God.

### Personal Study:

What does baptism in water symbolize? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Colossians 2:12*

Having been buried with him in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with him through your faith in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, who raised him from the \_\_\_\_\_.



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### A symbol of Christ's death.

When you are baptized and immersed in water, it is first of all a symbol of death. The water represents the earth and the Bible calls baptism a burial.

*We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death...*

Romans 6:4

Water baptism is a declaration of death to what the Bible calls the "sin nature" or "the Old Self." This is essentially the indwelling desire within each person to sin and rebel against God.

*"For we know that our old self was crucified with him... that we should no longer be slaves to sin..."*

Romans 6:6

In baptism you are saying you will no longer be ruled by your body or your soul. The Bible refers to this as the flesh. The flesh part of you is the opposite of your spirit. The fruit of the flesh are things like distrust, sin, rebellion, pride, hatred, sexual immorality and greed. Through your new life in Christ and baptism, you are dead to these things.

### A symbol of Christ's resurrection.

When you come up out of the waters of baptism it is similar to the resurrection of Jesus. You have died to your old way of life and now you are alive to Christ. Your spirit is now filled with the life of God and the fruit of following that spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness and self-control.

*So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft, (cont.)*



*(cont.) hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

*Galatians 5:16-26*

Baptism represents the new, resurrected life you now possess through Christ Jesus. You are now alive to the thoughts of God. You are choosing to live like Jesus Christ. You will choose to think His thoughts and carry His healthy emotions. Instead of anger and hatred to those who wrong you, you will choose to love them. Instead of fear, you can choose peace, knowing that God is your protector and provider. Godly thoughts were once not natural, but now the Holy Spirit is forming these new thoughts and desires within you.

### Personal Study:

*Romans 6:4*

We were therefore \_\_\_\_\_ with him through \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_ in order that, just as Christ was \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ through the glory of the Father, we too may \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_.

**.....Water baptism symbolizes Christ's death and resurrection.**





# Starting Point

## Preparing for water baptism.

Baptism has a lot to do with changing the way you have been living into the way God wants you to live. Before you are baptized it is important to take some time and think about what you need to change. What needs to “die” and what needs to “live” in your life? This is the definition of repentance. Repentance means to change your direction. Repentance is a four-step process.

- **RECOGNIZE** – Admit the thoughts, feelings and habits that need to die.
- **REPENT** - Ask for forgiveness and change your mind toward God's desires.
- **RENOUNCE** – Announce your changed mind in prayer and to others.
- **REPLACE** – Choose thoughts and behaviors that are like God's.

**Take some time to RECOGNIZE and list what you REPENT from and will not continue to live with after baptism.**

### Personal Study:

RECOGNIZE and REPENT of:

1.

2.

3.

4.

REPLACE it with:

1.

2.

3.

4.



Pray this prayer, naming them individually:

Father God, I repent of \_\_\_\_\_. I do not want this in my life. Please forgive me of \_\_\_\_\_ and renew my thinking. Instead I turn my heart toward \_\_\_\_\_.

**Take time to RENOUNCE these same items.**

Break ties with these things and declare that these things will not be a part of your life any longer. Pray this way:

I will not \_\_\_\_\_ any longer. I do not want this in my life. Thank you for helping me to change this right now.

**Take time to identify the Godly behavior you will REPLACE these items with.**

When you want to make a change, it is vital to not only stop doing one thing but to start doing another. For example, if you have identified anger as an issue that you are repenting from, then what will you strive to do instead? Anger can be a very fleshly activity that can destroy you and your relationships. The opposite of anger is love, patience and peace. Fill in the column above with the Godly behaviors that you want to see in your life.

Pray this prayer:

Father God, I am done with \_\_\_\_\_. I am changing my life. I choose to follow you with \_\_\_\_\_.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal savior and you understand that to live your life for Christ, it requires you to die to your old self and the way you have lived your life. Then you are ready to be baptized.

**...Prepare for water baptism by RECOGNIZING, REPENTING  
RENOUNCING sin and REPLACING it with righteousness.**



# Starting Point

## What if I was baptized as a baby?

Many churches baptize babies by sprinkling them, usually within the first year of life. This is a common way to declare that these children will serve the Lord. Unfortunately, this is not biblical. The New Testament is very clear that water baptism is to be done after a person has chosen to give their life to Christ. The person needs to be old enough to make this choice of their own free will.

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

Acts 2:38

If you were baptized as a baby and have since decided to accept Christ as your personal savior, it is perfectly acceptable and Biblically sound to be baptized in water.

**....Water baptism is to be done as a result of accepting Christ.**

## 2. Communion

Taking communion is another important part of your new Christian walk. There are a few things that you need to understand so that communion can have a greater significance for you.

### Where did communion come from?

Communion is a religious ceremony that began with Jesus Christ but really began hundreds of years before Christ. The Israelites found themselves in slavery in the country of Egypt. They cried out to God for deliverance and He heard their prayers. The king of Egypt would not free them, so God sent plagues upon Egypt to pressure the king. The last plague was the death of the first born. The Israelites were told to take a perfect lamb (one without any blemish) and sacrifice it. They were also to take some blood and smear it on the doorposts of their houses.



Every house that had the blood of a perfect lamb on its doorposts was saved from death. The Israelites were released from their bondage the next day. From that time, Jews have celebrated what is called the Passover – commemorating the fact that, because of the blood of that perfect lamb, the death angel had passed over and spared them.

## **Jesus gave communion new meaning.**

Jesus was celebrating Passover the night before He was betrayed and crucified. He spoke to his disciples, telling them that things were now changing. Jesus now represented the perfect lamb and, if anyone applied His blood to their lives, they would be saved. The wine that was served now represented His blood that was shed for them and the bread now represented His body that was broken for their freedom. Jesus instructed the disciples to take communion often to remember His sacrifice for them.

### **Personal Study:**

Read the story of Jesus taking what the Jews celebrate as the Passover and consider how He transfers it to what we celebrate as communion.

*Luke 22:15-20*

The wine now represents \_\_\_\_\_.

The bread now represents \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Communion means common union.**

Not only does communion help us to remember what Jesus did for us on the cross, it is also a key to declaring you are in covenant, or common union, with God. A covenant is a promise of a relationship between two parties that goes beyond acquaintance or friendship. It means that you are committed to that person with everything you have. Marriage is a perfect example of a covenant relationship.



## Starting Point

When you accepted Christ as your savior, you entered into a covenant relationship with God. When our ancestors celebrated a covenant they would commemorate the covenant with a meal. The meal, taken together, would represent a complete commitment to the other person. This commitment included giving everything to each other.

### Who should take communion?

Communion is meant to remind us of what Jesus did on the cross for us. The bread symbolizes His body that was broken for us. The wine symbolizes His blood that was spilled for us. It is senseless for anyone but those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior to take communion. *1 Corinthians 11:26* says that by taking communion you are proclaiming Christ's death. Communion is free to be taken by anyone who has committed his life to Christ.

*For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you  
proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

*1 Corinthians 11:26*

### How do you take communion?

It is important that we keep our covenant relationships very clean and pure. For example, a marriage covenant does not go very well when the husband and wife are at odds or distant from each other. In the same way, our covenant relationship with God goes the best when we are open and pure with God.

When you receive the elements of communion (bread and drink), you should ask yourself if there is anything you should repent of. Answer these two questions:

Do I have a good relationship with God?

Do I have good relationships with the people around me?

Take time to get things right with God and others. Ask for forgiveness, pray for your enemies and forgive those who have offended you.



*Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Master irreverently is like part of the crowd that jeered and spit on him at his death. Is that the kind of "remembrance" you want to be part of? Examine your motives, test your heart, come to this meal in holy awe.*

1 Corinthians 11:27-28

### **Personal Study:**

Read the following passage found in 1 Corinthians 11:24-29. Write down the instructions that are given for preparing to take communion and what the consequences of not preparing properly.

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*Let me go over with you again exactly what goes on in the Lord's Supper and why it is so centrally important. I received my instructions from the Master himself and passed them on to you. The Master, Jesus, on the night of his betrayal, took bread. Having given thanks, he broke it and said, This is my body, broken for you. Do this to remember me. After supper, he did the same thing with the cup: This cup is my blood, my new covenant with you. Each time you drink this cup, remember me. What you must solemnly realize is that every time you eat this bread and every time you drink this cup, you reenact in your words and actions the death of the Master. You will be drawn back to this meal again and again until the Master returns. You must never let familiarity breed contempt. Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Master irreverently is like part of the crowd that jeered and spit on him at his death. Is that the kind of "remembrance" you want to be part of?*



## Starting Point

*Examine your motives, test your heart, come to this meal in holy awe. If you give no thought (or worse, don't care) about the broken body of the Master when you eat and drink, you're running the risk of serious consequences. That's why so many of you even now are listless and sick, and others have gone to an early grave.*

*1 Corinthians 11:23-30*

**...Take communion with a pure heart.**

### **3. Who is the Holy Spirit?**

The Holy Spirit comes to dwell in your spirit when you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior. The Holy Spirit is the representative of Jesus the Son and God the Father. God is one, but He reveals Himself in three distinct, but unified, persons: God the Father, Jesus Christ the son and the Holy Spirit.

Like an apple is three: skin, meat and core. Three parts - one apple. Like we are three: body, soul and spirit. Three parts - one person. God is three parts yet ONE God.

The Holy Spirit is the one who comes to abide in your heart, helping you live uprightly and in close communion with God. Through the Holy Spirit we can hear God and understand His will. He helps us to grow in our Christian walk.

#### **Personal Study:**

There is One God yet \_\_\_\_\_ parts.

*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*

*1 John 5:7*

Given the understanding that Jesus is quite often referred to as the "word" (see John 1:1-2 and John 1:14), list the three parts of God.



## Personal Study Continued:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### **Jesus called Him our helper.**

The Holy Spirit dwells within you to help you in life. He is there to give you boldness and encouragement as you go about your day.

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

*John 14:16-17*

*But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.*

*John 16:7*

### **Jesus called Him our teacher.**

The Holy Spirit is in you to help you understand God. Sometimes the things of God need understanding and the Holy Spirit is there to help you.

*"These things I have spoken to you, while abiding with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*

*John 14:25*

### **What does the Holy Spirit do?**

The Holy Spirit has four aspects of life that He brings to the believer; power, comfort life-style changes and speaking in new tongues.





# Starting Point

## Power.

First of all, He gives us gifts of power through spiritual gifts. These spiritual gifts give us power over the enemy in our lives.

These gifts are listed in *1 Corinthians 12:7*:

1. The Word of Wisdom is the God-given ability to advise or counsel.
2. The Word of Knowledge is the God-given ability to know things by God's spirit.
3. Faith is the God-given ability to believe and trust God.
4. The Gift of Healing is the God-given ability to experience restorative healing.
5. The Working of Miracles is the God-given ability to bring about miraculous interventions.
6. Prophecy is the God-given ability to see into the spirit realm with clarity.
7. The Discerning of Spirits is the God-given ability to identify evil spirits.
8. Tongues are the God-given ability to speak in other languages for the benefit of others.
9. Interpretation of Tongues is the God-given ability to interpret the gift of tongues.

## Comfort.

*But when the comforter which is the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance. Peace I leave with you..*

*John 14:26*



## Personal Study:

Acts 1:8

But you will receive \_\_\_\_\_ when the \_\_\_\_\_ comes on you; and you will be my \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the \_\_\_\_\_.

What will you receive with the Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

## Lifestyle changes.

Secondly, His presence in our lives shows itself by the way we act and live. The Holy Spirit is constantly drawing our lifestyle closer to that of Christ. The fruit of having the Holy Spirit in our lives is very obvious and is listed in *Galatians 5:16-22*.

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Gentleness
7. Self-Control

## Speak in new tongues.

The Holy Spirit dwells within every believer. Some believers have been filled with the Holy Spirit and speak in new tongues. A language given to you by God.

*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the spirit enabled them.*

*Acts 2:4*



# Starting Point

## Lesson 3: Four Habits of Christianity

*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

*Acts 2:42*

Personal growth in Christ is vital to the believer's life. From now on God will constantly be calling you into better things. There are four basic disciplines that are crucial in a Christian's life. They are incredibly life-giving and powerful.

These four habits are:

- Attending a great church.
- Prayer.
- Reading the Bible.
- Giving.

### **Habit #1 – Choosing and attending a great church**

Getting involved in a local church is so important to your Christian growth. There is a reason that the apostle Paul admonishes us to “not forsake the assembling together of the saints”. The care, support, teaching and wisdom you receive at church cannot be found anywhere else.

Choosing a church can be a challenge. There are so many out there; which one is the right one? Here are some ways to be sure to pick a great church.

#### **Select a Christian Church.**

Not all churches are Christian. There are many different religions. Religion is basically man's pathway to God. There is the Jewish Religion, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Mormonism etc. And then there's Christianity. The Christian religion is set apart from these other religions because Christians believe that instead of Man trying to reach God, it is God reaching down to man!



God sent His son, Jesus Christ to the earth, He died, rose again and it is through faith in Jesus Christ that we are saved. Christianity is based on the incredible power of God's sacrificial love for us so we can be in relationship with Him. Although other religions believe many different things - the one thing they have in common is that you get to heaven through **doing** good works. You have to be good enough, walk on burning embers, crawl across the country, visit enough people or get enough converts and maybe you will make it! It's all about earning your salvation. Christianity is about **believing** in what Christ did for us. There is a huge difference between all the world religions and Christianity. Be sure, as you are selecting a church, that it is a Christian church that believes in salvation through Jesus Christ.

## Select the right kind of Christian Church.

The Christian religion began with Jesus Christ. The people who followed Him during His life began to meet together after His death and resurrection to worship God. About 100 AD they began calling their church the "catholic" church meaning the "universal" church. From that time on, new denominations of churches have come into existence as believers have desired new expressions of worship. Some of these denominations include Baptist, Methodist, Assemblies of God, Four Square, Lutheran and Presbyterian. All of these different churches are considered denominations, though they are all still a part of the Christian church or religion. They all believe that salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone and not by anything we can do.

Each denomination has a few differing beliefs, but they remain unified regarding the most important issue - salvation. The most notable difference in denominations is in the way they worship. Some churches are very quiet and traditional, while others are more modern and exuberant. It is important for you to find a Christian church with a style of worship that you feel comfortable in and can draw life from the teaching and community it offers. Church is so important to God. It's His body here on earth and yet it is led and run by very human, imperfect people. It is important that the Christian church that you select is led by strong, humble, godly leadership and that follows the biblical model of worship.



## Starting Point

Find a church that loves and encourages prayer:

*And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: "'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'..."*

*Mark 11:17*

Find a church that worships significantly:

*The whole earth falls to its knees-- it worships you, sings to you, can't stop enjoying your name and fame.*

*Psalms 66:4*

Church is meant to be full of community. As you attend, be sure that you are reaching out and that the heart of the church is to encourage family and relationships.

*The whole congregation of believers was united as one--one heart, one mind! They didn't even claim ownership of their own possessions. No one said, "That's mine; you can't have it." They shared everything.*

*Acts 4:32*

*And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met. They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful,*

*Acts 2:44-46*

Finally, be sure you keep church a priority. Other things in life want to crowd out church. Church is the thing that will make a difference in your life, your relationships and your family; mowing your lawn or sleeping in will not--those things can wait. Take time every week to worship God together as a family, learn and grow and then come home and mow the lawn or take a nap. You will be much better for it!



## Habit #2 - Reading the Bible

God speaks to us in different ways. He teaches and cares for us through His written word, or Logos (a Greek word meaning “written word” which, in this case, specifically refers The Bible) and through His Spirit to our spirit, Rhema (which is often heard of as a still small voice or an impression). Every day we need to be in the Bible – reading, hearing and learning what He is saying through His writings to you personally at that moment. Journaling is a good way to grab onto what we hear from God and make it ours. Because writing things down helps us to retain what is most important. There is nothing more important than a word of comfort or direction from God. The following is some basic information to introduce you to your Bible and how to read it.

### The Bible.

1. It is a trustworthy document.

*All your words are true; all your righteous laws are eternal.*  
*Psalms 119:160*

The Bible has been shown to be trustworthy from a number of standpoints. Technically speaking, it is accurate. It is a confirmed historical document, an archeologically sound document and a proven prophetic source. The Bible has also proven itself in wisdom for relationships, financial dealings, and spiritual insight.

### **Personal Study:**

The Bible is God's Word that He inspired through 40 different authors. Everything that was written is trustworthy and true.

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.” *Revelation 21:5*



## Starting Point

- It is inspired by God in such a way that all 66 books and 40 authors over 1,600 years of writing (approximately 1500 BC-100 AD) are congruent and all speak the same message.
- The books of the Bible were hand-copied by scribes who had their work constantly checked and who were under heavy reprimand for even a small mark or stroke of a pen that was not correct. If an error occurred then the scroll was destroyed and a new one started.
- The Dead Sea Scrolls are a set of various books of the Old Testament that were found in recent years. They are dated at about 150 AD and earlier. Comparing them to our Bible of today, they are 95% textually identical with the 5% of differences being made up of variations in the styles of forming letters and spelling. There are no doctrinal changes after nearly 2000 years, many translations and the lack of modern copying machinery.
- Textual critics say that the New Testament has a smaller amount of textual error than any ancient document. There is a 0.5% variance with no doctrinal questions. The Iliad (a famous book written by Homer in the 8th century BC) has 5% corruption. The National Epic of India (A historical writing of India written in 400 BC) has 10% corruption. The New Testament is more textually correct than the 37 Shakespearean plays that were written after the invention of the printing press.
- Historical information within the Bible is completely congruous with secular historical writings. Modern archeology continues to confirm the historical accounts of nations and peoples of the Old Testament.



2. It is a complete document.

*I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book; if anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book.*

*Revelation 22:18*

Any other books and writings must subject themselves to the Bible. Other religions and cults add books or use their own translation of the Bible to verify their own teachings. If there is a discrepancy between the Bible and their own writings then they choose their writings.

**Salvation must be based on the writings of the Bible and not on anything man has added to it.**

3. It is a firm foundation of wisdom for your life.

*Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.*

*Matthew 7:24-25*

If you follow the guidelines in the Bible your life WILL be better. It teaches us to not lie, steal, kill or speak evil, but rather to love, confront, reconcile, work hard, save, give, be at peace, etc. There is nothing that isn't covered somehow in the Bible. Even if you never accept Christ as your personal savior and yet follow the instruction of the Bible, your life will be better. It is full of wisdom and direction that solves life issues.

4. It is a comfort and brings healing in hard times.

Humans were not made to be able to bear up under the stress of life alone. We were meant to do life with our Maker and Protector by our side. While reading the Bible you will find encouragement, strength and courage to keep going through the tough times.





## Starting Point

### How to read and study the Bible.

The Bible is made up of two sections called the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament covers time from creation until the birth of Jesus. The New Testament was written from approximately AD 50-70 and covers the life of Jesus and the years that follow His death and resurrection, as well as the book of Revelation which discusses the end of the Age. The Bible generally flows in chronological order, though this is not always true. Don't let this confuse you-deeper study can bring clarity if needed.

The Old Testament is made up of different kinds of books:

- Historical books – Historical accounts of men and women that were of significance to God and his plan. Some Old Testament historical books are Genesis, Exodus, Ruth and Nehemiah.
- Prophetic books - Declarations of what was going to happen to Israel and other nations (all of which have been proven to be true thus far) Some Old Testament prophetic books are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah and Nahum.
- Poetic books – The Old Testament poetic books are Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon and Proverbs.

The New Testament also has different kinds of books:

- Historical books – Historical accounts of the life of Jesus and the apostles who succeeded him. These accounts are found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts.
- Epistles – Letters from men that knew Jesus and wrote of His teachings. Examples of these are Galatians, Titus and James.
- Prophetic – The book of Revelation speaks of the end of the age.



## Personal Study:

Take a minute and look at the table of contents of your Bible. Find the following:

The Old and New Testaments.

The first and last books of the Old Testament are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The first and last books of the New Testament are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Find and read the first chapter of Psalms.

How many verses does Psalms 119 have? \_\_\_\_\_.

How many chapters does Proverbs have? \_\_\_\_\_ (That's one for every day of the month!)

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Read it.

Depending on your ability, it would be great to read the entire Bible in the first year of accepting Christ. It would be advisable to do this along with someone that understands and can answer your questions. If you are unable to get through the entire Bible, we suggest you start with the New Testament, reading a chapter a day, starting with John. If you can, add a chapter out of Psalms and Proverbs every day.

Study it.

Feel free to mark up your Bible. Get a highlighter or use a pen to underline anything that really jumps out at you. Write down any questions you might have so you can be sure to ask and get a good understanding of the scripture.



# Starting Point

Journal it.

After you read your Bible, take a minute to journal. It can be as easy as one sentence describing what you read or as much as a full discourse of what it meant to you. Start by entering a date, the chapter you read and what you feel it was saying. This way you begin to process the information with a bit of thought.

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## Personal Study:

Take some time to get yourself a journal. Use the Personal Journal provided in your Starting Point pack, or a paper or electronic notebook:

- Daily Bible reading
- Prayer requests
- What God is saying to me

If you do not have either of these, just take some papers and staple them together and you are ready to get started. Enter the date and what you read, then fill in the remainder of the categories.

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## Habit #3 - Prayer

*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

*Hebrews 4:16*

God wants us to pray to Him. Prayer is something that you can do at any time, day or night. Don't worry if you feel inept at praying. Even the disciples asked Jesus how they should pray, and He responded in this manner:



*“This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”*

*Matthew 6:9-13*

This is a great prayer, and many people use it. Some churches encourage you to memorize and recite it. We use it as an outline to pray our own prayers. The outline is as follows:

## Pray.

1. Adoration: **“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”**  
Take time to praise and thank Him for all that He is and all that He has done for you.

*My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long.*

*Psalms 71:8*

2. Intercession: **“Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”**  
Declare and intercede for things that you need God's help in.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

*Philippians 4:6*

3. Provision: **“Give us today our daily bread.”**  
Ask God for His provision in your daily needs and for the needs of others.

*Your Heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

*Mathew 6:33*



## Starting Point

4. Confession and forgiveness: **“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”**

Confess any sins that you know you have committed and forgive those that you need to forgive.

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

*1 John 1:9*

5. Protection and setting the course of the day: **“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”**

Ask God to keep you from sin, give you the strength to overcome and declare the day will be dedicated to God.

*My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.*

*John 17:15*

### Listen.

*The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing.”*

*Zephaniah 3:17*

*“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”*

*Psalms 46:10*

### Journal.

*Then the LORD replied: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it.*

*Habakkuk 2:2*



## Personal Study:

Read *Matthew 6:5-15*. In this passage Jesus gives us some important instructions concerning prayer.

Where are you supposed to pray? \_\_\_\_\_

How important is it for us to forgive those around us? \_\_\_\_\_

What happens if we don't forgive? \_\_\_\_\_

Take some time to write down some people you need to forgive. Pray over the list and commit yourself to forgiving them.

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## Habit #4 - Giving

Regular giving is a mark of a growing follower of Jesus. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, giving has been an important part of our worship toward God.

*Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.*

*1 Timothy 6:18*

God's intent is to bring His best into every aspect of our lives. Our finances are such an important part of our day-to-day world. We spend the vast majority of our time either making money or spending it. Money is essential to all that we do. Our money is tied to our security and it's very easy to begin to trust in it more than we trust in God. God's desire is to be the center of all that we do.



## Starting Point

God wants to instill in us a generous heart towards both Him and our fellow man. God calls us to trust and be secure in Him and give freely of what we have in our hand. In this way we are demonstrating and practicing trust in God as well as loving others as we love ourselves.

*And blessed be The High God, who handed your enemies over to you. Abram gave him a tenth of all the recovered plunder.  
Genesis 14:20*

This verse shows us that a key principle of worship is giving. Abram had just experienced a miraculous victory and his response of gratefulness was to give a tenth to the priest of God. This is a pattern that we follow today. Giving a tenth, or a tithe to the church is your way of worshiping and honoring God for all that He has done for you, big or small. As we obey God in this arena, God promises to bless and reward us.

*Bring your full tithe to the Temple treasury so there will be ample provisions in my Temple. Test me in this and see if I don't open up heaven itself to you and pour out blessings beyond your wildest dreams.*

*Malachi 3:10*

God is actually throwing down a challenge for us to test Him in giving! He cares so much for us and is so capable of taking care of us that He tells us to step up, trust Him, give and that He will prove to us His word is true! It reminds me of my kids standing on the edge of the pool. I am wanting them to learn to swim and I am perfectly capable of keeping them from drowning but they HAVE to jump. They have to trust me and then I can show them how wonderful it is to swim.

*And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.  
Malachi 3:11*

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