

▶ DAY ONE: MY NEW LIFE

What does it mean to become a Christian?

Becoming a Christian means several things. It means you have decided to put your faith in Jesus Christ. It means you are trusting in what he did on the cross to pay the penalty for your sin. It means you are intentionally turning from a life of sin and self-rule to a life where Christ becomes your focus and pleasing him becomes your desire. Being a Christian means you now have a home in heaven and your time here on earth is in preparation for your eternal life with Christ. How do we know all this? Because God has revealed these truths to us in his Word, the Bible.

Let's look at several passages of Scripture that help us understand this new life you have in Christ. Write down the things you discover about your new life as a Christian.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Ephesians 2:4-5

John 1:12

What does it mean to you be a child of God?

Read John 10:10. What does Jesus desire for us?

Spend some time praying, thanking God for this new life. As you go through the day, keep in mind these truths. Consider how they change your perspective on situations you face.

DAY TWO: HOW DO I GROW?

Just as there are healthy habits and disciplines that can help you grow physically, there are some important things you can engage in to grow and develop in your spiritual life.

Over the next few days, we'll look at a few practical steps you can take to grow spiritually strong. These daily disciplines are vital to your Christian growth. But first, let's see what God's Word tells us about the importance of growing in our relationship with Christ.

What do the following verses reveal to you about growing as a Christian?

2 Peter 3:18

Ephesians 4:14-15

1 Peter 2:2

What things has God provided for you to help you spiritually grow?

What may be keeping you from growing?

What changes do you need to make?

Take time to pray. Ask God to help you to grow in your faith, and to take away those things preventing you from growing strong.

▶ DAY THREE: GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

The Holy Bible is unlike any other book in the world. It's unique in its purpose and power; it's God's autobiography and his instruction manual for life. In it, you'll discover how he desires you to live in accordance with his will and how his Spirit empowers you to live in a way that blesses you and pleases him.

God's Word is also a love letter to you. The pages of Scripture will unfold an amazing love story for you to enjoy, and you'll discover that YOU are the object of your Heavenly Father's love.

Let's look at a few verses that describe benefits and blessings of the Bible. What do the following verses reveal to you about God's Word and its importance in your life?

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Hebrews 4:12

In Joshua 1:8, God commands us to meditate on and do all that is in his Word. Obedience to this command is accompanied by a powerful promise: *"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."* Commit God's Word to memory and obey it!

What steps will you take to spend time in God's Word each day?

▶ DAY FOUR: PRAYER

Every loving father loves to have meaningful conversation with his kids. Our Heavenly Father is no different. Prayer is our opportunity to talk to God about whatever is on our hearts and minds. You can tell him what you are concerned about, thankful for, or challenged by.

In Matthew 6, Jesus demonstrated in a very simple way how we should pray. Prayer is our own personal intimate conversation with our Heavenly Father. It gives us a great sense of freedom when we look to the Biblical instructions given regarding prayer and consider how pure and simple God designed prayer to be.

To learn about prayer and how it's a powerful part of our growth as Christians, let's look at the following verses. Record what you learn from each verse.

Matthew 6:5-13

1 Peter 5:7

Philippians 4:6-7

Make a prayer list. Write out what you are thankful for, those things you are asking God to help you with, and your prayers for others. You may find it helpful to create a prayer journal and keep track of how God answers your prayers!

▶ DAY FIVE: SHARING MY STORY

God loves you. He saved you. He blesses you. By his grace, he's given you everything you need to grow in him. Truly amazing isn't it? Even though you may not fully understand all that God is up to in your life, you do know enough to declare without hesitation that God is good!

So, in light of his goodness and grace, why not share it? Is there someone you know who needs to hear about the amazing love of Jesus Christ? Maybe someone is coming to your mind right now--someone who needs to hear what God has done in your heart, so that they might allow him to do the same in theirs!

Take a minute now to pray. If someone's name comes to mind, pray for them. If not, pray that God would bring someone to your heart and open doors.

Your faith in Jesus Christ is something you will have opportunities to tell others about. When those times come, be ready to share your story!

Simply sharing what Jesus Christ has done for you can make a powerful impact on those who hear and can lead them to know God personally. Read these verses and write down what stands out to you:

Mark 16:15

1 Peter 3:15-16

▶ DAY SIX: CONNECTING WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS

God never intended for you to walk the Christian life alone! His plan and purpose includes you being connected to other Christians. Developing Christ-centered friendships is critical to your growth as a believer.

As a Christian, you need to be aware of the danger of isolation. Trying to follow Jesus without the encouragement, support, and accountability of other Christians is nearly impossible. That's why staying connected with other Christians is essential!

As you explore the Bible, you'll see how first century believers found it absolutely necessary to meet together regularly for strength and support. It was also in that context that they grew, learning more about Jesus as they shared their lives of faith together. Today, followers of Christ still need the blessing of belonging. As a Christian, you belong to the family of God, and that means there are both privileges and responsibilities. To know and be known, to love and be loved, to serve and be served— this is what the family of God is all about.

What do the following verses say about the importance of connection with other Christians?

Acts 2:42-47

Hebrews 10: 23-25

1 Corinthians 12:26-27

What opportunities are there for you to regularly connect with other Christians?

What may be keeping you from developing Christian friendships?