



**I'M A NEW BELIEVER!**

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## Welcome to the Family!

You have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour. This means that you have been born again – born of God. Your sins are forgiven, the peace of God can now reign in your heart and your eternal destiny has been decided - you will live forever with God. You are no longer under condemnation but are justified by faith in Jesus Christ. You have confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believed in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9). You believe that He is who He says He is - the one and only Son of God, the Saviour of the world, and has done what He has said He has done - defeated the devil, sin and death, rose from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Now that you have been born of the Spirit, God has become your Father and Jesus Followers around the world are now your brothers and sisters. All relationship with the devil has been severed; his hold upon you has been broken by the power of the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ and His resurrection from the dead.

You have been redeemed or bought back at the cost of the life and blood of Jesus Christ. You now belong to God and He considers you to be His prized possession. All of the divine promises in the Bible are now yours in Christ. You are an heir of God and a joint heir with Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:17) You are no longer living for yourself, but you now live to bring glory to God. You do this by receiving His love for you and by letting Him teach, grow and mature you. He will do this as you read His word and experience relationship with Him through Holy Spirit. He has begun to make you look like His Son Jesus, so that like Jesus, you can love the world for Him. Now you have begun to really live!

Here are several things to know as you begin this amazing walk of faith and your new life as a Jesus follower.

## What to do When Doubts Come

Your salvation is not based on what you think or how you feel. It is based on what Jesus Christ has done. Should you begin to have thoughts that encourage you to doubt your salvation, know that the devil is the father of lies (John 8:44) and will try to insert faulty thinking into your mind. Refuse to dwell on those thoughts but instead, focus on what God has said, Romans 10:13; John 6:37; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9. Salvation is a matter of faith not feeling. Even though you may not *feel* much different after you have surrendered your heart to Jesus, rely on His Word: *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the power to become children of God, to all who believe on His name."* (John 1:12) Your feelings may change like the weather, but God's Word is always true!

### ***Never Give Up***

If the devil can't get you to doubt your salvation, he will try and stop you from following through on your desire to live for Christ. Stay away from things that will try and pull you away from your new life in Christ and instead, surround yourself with things that will help you in your new way of living life as a Jesus follower. (Ephesians 5:11; 1 John 2:15-17)

### What to do When You are Tempted

It is important to realize that temptation is not sin. While we cannot always prevent temptations from happening, we can predetermine that we will not focus on them and let them take over our thinking. Instead, begin thanking and praising the Lord. Memorize scripture to help you stand strong when you are tempted. 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:12; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 1:12; Nehemiah 8:10 are great bible verses to know. Remember, if you never take the first step towards temptation, you will never take the second step.

### ***Things You are Not Sure of***

If you are not sure about something and cannot find a definitive answer in the Bible, ask Holy Spirit what you should do. Be sensitive

to His leading and if you do not have peace or if what you are thinking of doing leads you away from Jesus, do not do it. As you read your Bible and pray, God will give you wisdom to discern His will. You can also approach your pastor(s) for Godly perspective and biblical wisdom.

## What to do if You Sin

### **Romans 6:11** (*The Passion Translation*)

*"So let it be the same way with you! Since you are now joined with him, you must continually view yourselves as dead and unresponsive to sin's appeal while living daily for God's pleasure in union with Jesus, the Anointed One."*

### **Romans 6:14** (*The Passion Translation*)

*"Remember this: sin will not conquer you, for God already has! You are not governed by law but governed by the reign of the grace of God."*

If you do sin, immediately humble yourself before God and ask His forgiveness. Receive His forgiveness and move forward being watchful and prayerful so as not to give into the temptation again. (*See 1 John 2:1 and 1 John 1:9*)

## What About Others

Sometimes, people who say they are Christians do not behave like followers of Jesus are supposed to. Never allow their behaviour to change yours. Fix your eyes on Jesus. Keep looking at Him as your example. Know that there are genuine God-fearing, righteous living and Christ loving men and women and you are to be one of them.

### ***Expect Opposition***

Not everyone will be excited that you have given your life to Christ. People may even make fun of you for becoming a Jesus Follower and going to church. Remember, you are for Christ and He is for you.

*"Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world."* (1 John 4:4)  
The Bible encourages us to stand strong in the face of opposition and not to be surprised when it comes (1 Peter 3:17; 1 Peter 4:14-16; 2 Timothy 3:12; Matthew 5:10-12). God will give you the grace and strength to stand and to respond in love.

## Do I need to Read the Bible?

In a single word, yes! Reading the Bible is feeding your spirit just like eating healthy food is feeding your body. Read your Bible. Study it. God's Word tells us that we are to *"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom."* (Colossians 3:16) Jesus said that, *"Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."* (Matthew 4:4) The Word of God is one of our most powerful weapons when we come under attack or are tempted, *"...the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God."* (Ephesians 6:17) One of the most important reasons for reading your Bible is that it is one of the primary ways we get to know God and hear Him speak to us. It is how He guides and leads us. (Psalm 119:105).

## Your Most Powerful Weapons: Prayer-Thanksgiving-Praise

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 tells us God's will for us is to, *"be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* Prayer is simply having a conversation with God. Remember, healthy conversation is two-way communication. It is important to make room for God to speak to you and to listen to what He is saying. It is vital that we wait on Him, Isaiah 40:31 tells us that *"Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; and they shall walk and not faint."*

We thank and praise God in obedience to His word and out of the overflow of His goodness in our lives! (Philippians 4:6; Ephesians 5:20; Psalm 63:3) Hebrews 13:15 reminds us that it is not enough to have

praise in our hearts but, that we need to also make an audible expression of our praise for our wonderful God, *"By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name."* Psalm 150:6 *"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!"*

## Do I Have to Tell Others About Jesus?

You don't ever have to be ashamed of being a Christ Follower. Tell people what Christ has done for you, who Jesus is to you, and His love for all people. (Isaiah 43:10; Mark 8:38; Revelation 12:11) Remember when sharing Jesus with others, we want to represent Him well and always speak from a heart filled with His love. We do not save someone; Jesus and Jesus alone does that. We are to show people the kindness and goodness of God so that they too, will want to know Him.

## Water Baptism

After we become a Jesus follower, baptism is an outward sign of the inward work of the grace of God in us. It demonstrates our identification with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection.

(Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:4)

In obedience to God's Word and as a testimony of your faith we encourage you to be baptized as soon as you can.

## Be filled With Holy Spirit

You cannot act like who God says you are or do what He wants you to do without being filled and empowered by Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself did not enter His ministry until He was filled with Holy Spirit.

This gift of being filled with the Holy Spirit is available to all who believe in Him. (Ephesians 5:18; Acts 1:8)

## Do I Need to Go to Church?

Church is where we get to come together as a family. It is one of the main places we can learn about, grow in and practise living our Christian faith. The Bible tells us how important it is, and that we should gather together. (Hebrews 10:25)

Worshipping and serving together strengthens us and enables us to discover the gifts God has given us. It also helps us develop, mature and grow in Godly character.

We come to church knowing that God has something for us to receive and to give that day. We encourage you to spend time before service asking Him what He would have you do and who would He have you encourage. It is always exciting to be used by God and to share His love with your church family. (Psalm 122:1)

## Serving God

**Matthew 5:16** (*New International Version*)

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."*

We don't want to just to talk about God's love, we want to let Him demonstrate His love through us by serving others. We encourage you to sign up to serve in your church. Get involved in your community and wherever you sense God is leading you. We don't serve to get to heaven, we serve because it is a natural overflow of our love for Him.

## Giving

**Matthew 6:20-21** (*The Passion Translation*)

*"Instead, stockpile heavenly treasures for yourselves that cannot be stolen and will never rust, decay, or lose their value. For your heart will always pursue what you value as your treasure."*

As Christians, we believe that all that we have comes from God and belongs to God. One of the ways we acknowledge this is by investing our finances to support the work of God's Kingdom. The Bible

instructs Christians to give in several ways (before the law and after the law). A tithe (one-tenth of our income) is given to the church to be used for God. The tithe is to be seen as a baseline not a limit in giving. We always give willingly and generously, never under compulsion. We are also instructed in the Bible to give offerings (giving to the church over and above our tithe), alms to help the poor (1 John 3:17), and apostolic giving to support what God is doing in other places (Acts 4:34, Romans 15:25-26, Philippians 4:18-19). It is important to remember that we are to give not only of our finances but of ourselves as well (Romans 12:1-12). We give of our finances and of ourselves out of the overflow of our love relationship with God. A generous life reflects the goodness of our God. Do not be afraid of giving to the Lord. He gave Himself for you. (Proverbs 3:9-10, Luke 6:38 and Acts 20:35)

## Always Remember

Put God first – always and in everything. (Matthew 6:33)

God's primary purpose is to make us like Him. (Genesis 1:26-27)

As a Jesus Follower, our main goal in life is to glorify God. We do that by believing in, trusting in, imitating and obeying Jesus and His Word.