

Welcome to the Family: Your First Steps with Jesus

Congratulations on your decision to follow Christ! This is the beginning of the most significant journey of your life. While "growing in faith" is a lifelong process, these five steps provide a solid foundation for your first few weeks.

1. Talk to God (Prayer)

Prayer isn't a formal ritual; it's a conversation. God wants to hear from you exactly as you are.

- **Action:** Take five minutes each morning or evening to thank God for the day, tell Him what you're worried about, and ask for His guidance.
- **Key Verse:** *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."* (Philippians 4:6)

2. Listen to God (Reading the Bible)

The Bible is God's primary way of speaking to us. It serves as a "lamp" to show you the path ahead.

- **Action:** Don't feel pressured to read the whole book at once. Start with the **Gospel of John** in the New Testament. It focuses on the life, miracles, and love of Jesus.
- **Key Verse:** *"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."* (Psalm 119:105)

3. Find Your People (Church & Fellowship)

Christianity was never meant to be lived alone. We need other believers to encourage us, challenge us, and support us when things get tough.

- **Action:** Look for a local church that teaches the Bible and focuses on the grace of Jesus. Don't be afraid to visit a few different ones until you find a place that feels like home.
- **Key Verse:** *"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together..."* (Hebrews 10:24-25)

4. Go Public (Baptism)

Baptism is an outward symbol of the internal change that has happened in your heart. It's a way of telling the world, "I'm with Jesus now."

- **Action:** Ask a pastor or a Christian friend about the process of baptism. It is a beautiful milestone and a command Jesus gave to all His followers.

- **Key Verse:** *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."* (Matthew 28:19)

5. Give it Away (Service & Sharing)

One of the best ways to grow is to look outward. As you experience God's love, you'll naturally want to help others.

- **Action:** Find one small way to serve this week—whether it's helping a neighbor, volunteering, or simply telling a friend about the peace you've found.
- **Key Verse:** *"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..."* (Mark 10:45)

A Final Thought: You will have days where you feel "on fire" and days where you feel distant. Your relationship with God is based on **His faithfulness**, not your perfect performance. Just keep showing up!