

**A GUIDE FOR NEW BELIEVERS**

# **NEW LIFE**

The next steps in your journey of faith

Jason McGehee

# ***New Life: The Next Steps In Your Journey of Faith*** ***A Guide for New Believers***

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# A New Beginning

Congratulations! You've made the most important decision of your life by saying "yes" to Jesus Christ. Whether you've just prayed to receive Him as your Lord and Savior or recently rededicated your life to Him, you are stepping into a brand-new life of faith, hope, and purpose. The Bible says:

***"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)***

This means that your past—your mistakes, your failures, and even your sins—are forgiven. You have been made new in Christ. You are now a child of God, and He has an incredible plan for your life!

As exciting as this journey is, you may also have questions. What happens now? What are the next steps you should take as a believer? How do you grow in your relationship with God? This short guide is designed to help you take your first steps with confidence. Each chapter will walk you through a key aspect of your new faith and provide practical ways to apply it to your daily life.

Following Jesus is more than a one-time decision—it's a lifelong journey. God desires for you to grow in your relationship with Him, to experience the power of the Holy Spirit, and to walk in His purpose for your life. The road ahead won't always be easy, but you are not alone. God has given you His Spirit, His Word, and a family of believers to support you every step of the way.

**Lets's begin this journey together. The best is yet to come!**

**Jason McGehee**

Pastor, Cornerstone Life Church

# FOUNDATION

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## ESTABLISHING YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

Now that you have made the decision to follow Christ, the most important thing you can do is develop a personal relationship with Him. Christianity is not just a set of beliefs; it is a relationship with the living God. Jesus loves you, and He desires to walk with you every day of your life.

### **Spend Time in Prayer**

Prayer is how we communicate with God. Just like any relationship, your connection with Jesus will grow stronger as you talk to Him daily. You don't have to use fancy words or long prayers. Just simply speak from your heart.

The Bible encourages us to pray continually:

***"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6)***

Make prayer a daily habit. Start your day by talking to Jesus, and continue throughout the day. Thank Him, ask for guidance, and share your heart with Him.

## **A Simple Guide to Prayer**

If you are new to prayer and unsure where to start, here is a simple way to pray:

*Praise and Thanksgiving* – Start by thanking God for who He is and what He has done for you. **Example:** “Lord, I thank You for saving me and for loving me unconditionally.”

*Confession* – Ask God to forgive any sins and help you grow spiritually. **Example:** ‘Lord, forgive me for anything I have done wrong today. Help me to walk in Your ways.’”

*Requests and Needs* – Share your concerns and ask for His help. **Example:** ‘Father, please guide me in my decisions today. Provide for my needs and give me wisdom.’”

*Listening to God* – Spend a moment in silence, allowing the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart.

*Closing in Jesus' Name* – End your prayer in faith. **Example:** ‘I ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.’”

## **Read the Bible Daily**

The Bible is God's Word, given to us to guide, instruct, and strengthen our faith. It is spiritual food that helps us grow in our relationship with Christ.

***"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."  
(Psalm 119:105)***

## **How to Read the Bible**

If you're not sure where to start, here's a simple guide to help you:

*Begin with the Gospels* – Start by reading about Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These books tell His life story, teachings, and sacrifice for us.

*Use a Reading Plan* – Many Bible apps provide daily reading plans to guide you. You can also download a free reading plan from the Cornerstone Life Church website (**[www.cornerstonelife.church/study-guides](http://www.cornerstonelife.church/study-guides)**)

*Pray Before Reading* – Ask God to help you understand and apply His Word to your life.

*Take Notes* – Write down key verses that speak to you and reflect on what they mean.

*Apply What You Learn* – The Bible is meant to be lived out. Ask yourself, "How can I put this into practice today?"



## Trust in God's Forgiveness

As a new believer, you may still struggle with thoughts about your past mistakes. Remember, Jesus has completely forgiven you.

***"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)***

Do not let guilt or shame hold you back. Walk in the freedom that Christ has given you.

*How can you make prayer a consistent part of your daily routine?*

*What steps will you take to begin reading and understanding the Bible?*

*Do you struggle with fully accepting God's forgiveness? If so, how can you remind yourself of His grace?*

# WATER BAPTISM

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## YOUR FIRST ACT OF OBEDIENCE

After saying “yes” to Jesus, one of the first steps of obedience in your new life is water baptism. Baptism is a public declaration of your faith and a symbol of your new life in Christ. Jesus Himself was baptized, and He commands His followers to do the same.

***“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)***

### **What is Water Baptism?**

Water baptism is an outward expression of the inward transformation that has taken place in your heart. It symbolizes:

*Dying to your old life* – Just as Jesus died and was buried, baptism represents the death of your old sinful nature.

Being raised to new life – As you come up out of the water, it represents being raised with Christ into a new life of faith.

Publicly declaring your faith – It is a testimony to others that you belong to Jesus.

***"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:3-4)***

## **Why Should You Be Baptized?**

*Jesus set the example* – He was baptized to fulfill all righteousness (Matthew 3:13-17).

*It is a step of obedience* – Baptism does not save you, but it is an act of obedience to Jesus' command.

*It strengthens your faith* – Taking this step deepens your commitment and helps you grow spiritually.

*Have you been baptized since deciding to follow Jesus? If not, what is holding you back?*

*How does understanding baptism change your perspective on your new life in Christ?*

*Who can you invite to witness your baptism and share in your journey?*

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

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## POWER FOR YOUR JOURNEY

After accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior, God desires to empower you with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the presence of God living inside you, guiding you, strengthening you, and equipping you for the life He has called you to live.

**"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)**

### **Why Do We Need the Holy Spirit?**

The Christian life is not meant to be lived in our own strength. Jesus promised His followers that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit to live victoriously and to share the Gospel boldly.

### **The Holy Spirit helps us:**

*Understand and apply God's Word* – The Holy Spirit teaches us and brings the Scriptures to life. (John 14:26)

*Pray effectively* – He intercedes for us and helps us when we don't know what to pray. (Romans 8:26)

*Overcome sin and temptation* – The Spirit empowers us to resist the enemy and walk in righteousness. (Galatians 5:16)

*Share our faith with boldness* – The early church was filled with the Spirit and preached the Gospel fearlessly. (Acts 4:31)

*Live a Spirit-filled life* – The Holy Spirit produces godly character within us. (Galatians 5:22-23)

## **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

The Bible speaks of an experience called the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which empowers believers to live boldly for Christ. This experience is accompanied by speaking in tongues, as seen in the book of Acts.

***"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:4)***

Speaking in tongues may seem unusual if you've never experienced it, but it was a natural occurrence in the New Testament church.

The disciples and early believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues as a sign of their empowerment. This is not something strange or outdated. It is a gift from God that is available to every believer today.

*Paul encouraged the early church to embrace this gift, saying:*

***"I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all." (1 Corinthians 14:18)***

The gift of tongues is a way to pray in the Spirit, allowing the Holy Spirit to intercede through us beyond our natural understanding.

***"For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays..." (1 Corinthians 14:14)***

## **How to Receive the Holy Spirit**

Receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a step of faith, just like salvation. Here's how you can receive it:

*Ask in faith* – Pray and ask God to fill you with His Spirit. (Luke 11:13)

*Worship and yield to Him* – The Holy Spirit moves when we surrender ourselves in worship.

*Expect to receive* – Open your heart to the evidence of His presence.

*Step out in faith* – If you feel the Holy Spirit leading you to speak in tongues, don't hold back. Trust Him to give you the words.

Jesus promised that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled (Matthew 5:6). If you desire the baptism of the Holy Spirit, pray and seek God with an open heart.



*How do you think the Holy Spirit will help you in your journey with Christ?*

*Have you asked to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? If not, what is stopping you?*

*How can you rely more on the Holy Spirit in your daily life?*

# CONNECT

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## FIND A CHURCH AND BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

One of the most important steps you can take as a new believer is to become part of a local church. Christianity was never meant to be lived alone; God designed His people to grow together in community. Being part of a church will help you strengthen your faith, receive biblical teaching, and build relationships with other believers who can encourage and support you.

**"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)**

### **Why Is Church Important?**

*Spiritual Growth* – A church provides sound teaching from God's Word to help you grow in your faith. (Acts 2:42)

*Encouragement and Fellowship* – Other believers will uplift and strengthen you in your journey with Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

*Worship and Prayer* – Coming together to worship and pray deepens your connection with God. (Matthew 18:20)

*Accountability and Guidance* – A strong church community will help you stay on the right path. (Proverbs 27:17)

*A Place to Serve and Use Your Gifts* – God has given you unique talents to bless others in the body of Christ. (1 Peter 4:10)

## **How to Find the Right Church**

Not all churches are the same, so it's important to find one that aligns with biblical teaching and encourages spiritual growth. Here are some things to look for:

*A church that preaches the full gospel* – Look for a church that teaches salvation through Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the authority of God's Word.

*A welcoming and loving community* – A good church should be a place of love, encouragement, and support.

*A commitment to prayer and worship* – A strong church will prioritize prayer, worship, and seeking God's presence.

*A church that challenges you to grow* – Look for a place that encourages you to deepen your relationship with Christ and live according to His Word.

## **How to Get Involved**

Once you find a church, don't just attend—get involved! Here's how:

*Join a small group or Bible study* – This is a great way to build deeper relationships and learn more about God's Word.

*Attend regularly* – Make it a habit to be present in worship services and gatherings.

*Serve in a ministry* – Whether it's helping with hospitality, music, teaching, or outreach, find a way to use your gifts for God's glory.

*Develop relationships* – Spend time with other believers outside of church to build strong, godly friendships.

*Stay accountable* – Find a mentor or trusted leader who can guide and encourage you in your walk with Christ.

**"They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42)**

*Why do you think God designed the Christian life to be lived in community rather than alone?*

*What qualities do you think are important in a church? Have you found a church home yet?*

*How can you begin to serve and build relationships within your church?*

# LIVE

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## WALKING IN YOUR NEW LIFE

Now that you have committed your life to Christ, your journey as a believer truly begins. Being a Christian is not just about attending church or reading the Bible. It is about living a transformed life every day. Jesus calls us to follow Him wholeheartedly, to grow in faith, and to become more like Him.

**"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."  
(Galatians 2:20)**

### **Living a Life of Worship**

Worship is more than just singing songs at church, it is a way of life. Worshiping God means honoring Him in everything we do: our words, our thoughts, and our actions.

**"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31)**

## **Ways to live a life of worship:**

*Give thanks daily* – Develop a habit of gratitude, thanking God for His goodness. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

*Honor God with your choices* – Make decisions that reflect His truth and righteousness.

*Serve others* – True worship is expressed in loving and serving others as Jesus did. (Matthew 25:40)

## **Overcoming Temptation & Walking in Victory**

As a believer, you will face spiritual battles and temptations, but God has given you the power to overcome them. You no longer have to be controlled by sin because Jesus has set you free!

**"No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)**

## **How to overcome temptation:**

*Stay connected to God* – Regular prayer and Bible reading strengthen your spirit.

*Guard your heart and mind* – Be mindful of what you watch, listen to, and think about. (Philippians 4:8)

*Surround yourself with godly friends* – Being around other believers helps you stay accountable. (Proverbs 27:17)

*Rely on the Holy Spirit* – He gives you the strength to resist temptation. (Galatians 5:16)

## **Sharing Your Faith Boldly**

Jesus calls every believer to share the Good News with others. You don't have to be a preacher or missionary—just telling your story of how Jesus changed your life can impact those around you.

**"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)**



## **Ways to share your faith:**

*Live as an example* – Let your actions reflect Christ's love. (Matthew 5:16)

*Share your testimony* – Tell others how Jesus transformed your life.

*Pray for opportunities* – Ask God to give you chances to speak about Him.

*Invite others to church* – Bring friends and family to hear the message of Christ.

## **Keep Growing – The Journey Never Ends**

Christianity is a lifelong journey of learning, growing, and deepening your relationship with God. There is always more to discover about Him, and He wants to reveal more of Himself to you.

**"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)**

## **How to continue growing:**

*Stay rooted in God's Word* – Never stop reading and studying the Bible.

*Seek discipleship* – Learn from mature believers who can mentor and guide you.

*Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit* – Allow Him to lead you in your daily life.

*Step out in faith* – Take bold steps in your walk with God, even when it's uncomfortable.

*What changes do you need to make to ensure you are living a life that honors God?*

*In what areas of your life do you need God's strength to overcome temptation?*

*How can you share your faith with others in your daily life?*

*What steps will you take to keep growing in your relationship with Jesus?*