

JOY THOMAS

THE NEW
LIFE IN
Christ

THE FIRST STEPS OF A BELIEVER



THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST



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SALVATION IN CHRIST

THE word salvation is commonly used to describe the act by which a person is delivered from a danger which threatens him. Suppose a man has been saved from drowning, In this act to save him 3 factors are involved.

- ❖ The person to be saved was in danger of death.
- ❖ Some one saw his peril and went to his rescue.
- ❖ The rescuer was successful in his mission and delivered the person from his perilous plight.

The word salvation has exactly the same meaning in the spiritual sense and the same THREE factors are involved.

❖ Roman 5:12 “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world and death by sin and **SO DEATH PASSED UPON ALL MEN**, for that all have sinned”.

❖ 1 John 4:9-10 “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His (only begotten son) into the world, that we might live through Him not that we loved God but that **HE LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON TO BE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS.**”

❖ Romans 4:25 “**HE (JESUS) DIED FOR OUR SINS AND ROSE AGAIN TO MAKE US RIGHT WITH GOD**, filling us with God’s goodness.”

SALVATION IS OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

To think that man can contribute anything toward being saved is to fail to understand, the finite cannot contribute to the infinite. It is to fail to realize the utter helpless and sinful condition of fallen man. It is therefore necessary to realize that salvation is of the Lord.

Bible says in Psalms 3:8 “Salvation belongeth unto the Lord” . Salvation, then is a work of God for fallen man and is prompted by this infinite love. Is it not an odd thing to say that man must or even can do something, however little, to contribute to its perfection?

❖ Acts 4:12 “Salvation is to be found through him [Christ] alone; for there is no one else in all the world, whose name God has given to man, by whom we can be saved:’

❖ John 14:6 “Jesus said, I’m the way, the truth and the life; no one can get to the father except by means of me,”

❖ 1 John 4:14 “Father sent the son to be the Saviour of the world.”

❖ John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son has everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but wrath of God abideth on him.”

❖ John 1:29 “He is the lamb of God which take away the sin of the world.”

❖ Col. 1:14 “We have redemption through his blood even the forgiveness of sins.”

Therefore there is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ. There is not one conceivable thing that God does for man in salvation that is done apart from the son of God (Jesus) and God’s word is very particular always to mention that fact. **THEREFORE, THERE CAN BE NO SALVATION FOR THE ONE WHO HAS NO PLACE FOR JESUS CHRIST AS THE SON OF GOD IN HIS LIFE.**

Since Jesus Christ has accomplished, by the sacrifice of Himself all the work needed for sinner’s salvation what must the sinners do in order to experience this salvation?

1. REPENTANCE

Before we learn what is repentance let's know what it is not.

✝ **REPENTANCE IS NOT FEELING:** Every man on earth feels miserable enough to say he lives 'in sin'. They have 'plenty of' such feelings. A man caught by the police for any crime at the time of 'trial may show a good deal of emotions and feeling of sorrow, but very often it is only because he has got into trouble, not because he has committed a crime or because his conscience tells him he has done evil in the sight of God. Feeling soon passes away.

✝ **IT'S NOT AFFLICTING THE BODY OR FASTING NOR IT IS REMORSE:** A man may fast and also some times suffer his body and yet not repent of one's sin. In the Bible we read about the disciple of Jesus who betrayed Him, whose name was Judas. Judas had terrible remorse enough to make him go and end his life by hanging himself but this is no repentance. If he had gone to his Lord, that is Jesus Christ and fallen on his face and confessed his sin, Jesus would have forgiven. Instead of this he went to the priests [Those who made him do this sin] and then put an end to his life. A man may do all sorts of penance but there is no true repentance in that. You cannot meet the just needs of God by offering the fruit of your body for the sin of your soul.

✝ **REPENTANCE IS NOT CONVICTION OF SIN:** It may sound strange. There are people who are under such a deep conviction of sin that they could not sleep at night; they could

not enjoy a single meal and yet they have not repented. We can find so many like that today. Are you one with such condition in life. Do not confound conviction of sin with repentance.

✝ **PRAYER IS NOT REPENTANCE:** Many people when they becomes anxious about their souls salvation then say they will pray and read God's Word [Bible] and they think that will bring about the desired peace. But it will not. Some may read the Bible and cry to God and, yet never repent. Confessing of one sin is not repentance toward God. Forsaking one vice or habit is like breaking off one limb of a tree, when whole tree has to come down. When God works He hews down the whole tree. He wants a man to turn from every sin. Suppose you *are* wounded in three or four places and you get remedy for one wound; if the other two or three are neglected, your life will soon be gone. True repentance is not merely breaking off this or that particular sin. It's turning away and confessing every sin .

What is Repentance ?

It is right about turn; it means that a man who has been walking in one direction has not only faced about or turned around but is actually now walking in an exactly opposite direction.

Repentance is our very first step to God. Repentance consists of change of mind, heart and will. It involves the total personality. In the change of mind our intellect is involved. In the change of heart our emotions are involved. In the change

of will, our decision is involved ; we want to turn from sin to God in all decisions. A real repentance will touch these three areas. There is an example Jesus quoted in the Bible.

Mathew 21:28-29 'A certain man had two sons and he came to the first son and said, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said I will not; but afterward he repented and went

In the example we find that he was not only convicted that he was wrong but he went off into the field in obedience. It was a change of his mind, heart and will. That is Christ's definition of repentance. If you say "By the grace of God I will forsake my sin and do His will" that is repentance a turning right about. Some one has said that a man is born with his face turned away from God. When he truly repents he is turned right around toward God, he leaves his old life.

Can a man repent at once?

Certainly he can, It does not take a long while to turn around. Bible says in Acts 17:30 , "God commands all men every where to repent". If you are convinced that you are on the wrong road, turn right about and say "I will no longer go on in the way of rebellion and sin as I have done". When you do this and turn toward God Salvation may be yours Bible says in Luke 13:3 "Unless you repent you will all like wise perish. Have you repented about your sins?

2. CONFESSION.

Proverbs 28:13 “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but who so confesseth and forsakes them shall have mercy”.

The conditions of attaining mercy of God are simple and just and reasonable. Confession of sins should be heart felt and freely expressed. The confession that is the outpouring of the inner most soul find its way to the God of infinite pity. The Bible says. “The Lord is near to them that are of a broken heart and saves such as be of a contrite spirit.’ All confessions should be definite and to the point acknowledging the very sins of which you are guilty. Past sins cannot just be overlooked or forgotten. All known sins past and present must be confessed to Christ.

Above all, it is much important to confess that one is a sinner. It is written in Bible in 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

3. CHRIST MUST BE RECEIVED BY FAITH.

You have repented and then confessed your sins and in heart put them away. You have decided to give yourself to God. Now by faith accept Jesus into your heart and life. Bible says in John 1 :12-13 “But as many as received him, to them He gave the right to become children of God. even to those who believe in His name; who were born not of blood nor of the

flesh, nor of the will of man: but of God: Believing in Christ must be receiving. Receiving Christ then becomes a definite personal act and experience. A believing which is only historical or mental is dead faith.

Revelation 3:20 "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and will dine with him and he with me."

As we do in inviting a friend into our home, Christ must be told He can have complete possession of our heart and life by a surrender to Him. Then He comes into our lives and indwells in us through the Holy Spirit.

Romans 10:9-10 "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with heart one believes, resulting in righteousness and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in Salvation."

Come with your whole heart to Jesus and you receive eternal life His blessing. As you draw near Him with repentance and confession; and accept Him into your life by faith, Jesus will come into your life and, change you and give you salvation that very movement



NEW BIRTH

THIS salvation experience through repentance brings us to a born again life in Lord Christ Jesus. In other words when one repents and receives Jesus Christ, He is saved and experience the new birth by the Holy Spirit. . You will have the assurance that Jesus is living in your heart and life. The Holy Spirit will bear witness with your spirit as we read in Romans

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

The greatest privilege given to man is to know God personally through the Lord Jesus Christ. The only way you can enjoy this privilege is by being born again by the Spirit of God. New birth is the door to eternal life. Just as the body without physical life is declared to be dead, so also is any person without spiritual life is described as being dead because of sin. The Bible talks of men who were once dead in their trespasses and sins (Eph 2:1).

Ephesians 2:1 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

WHAT NEW BIRTH IS NOT

It is not of natural reproduction or descent. Though one may be born of Christian parents, natural birth does not make one a Christian; one does not become a Christian because one is born into a Christian family.

It is not of self-determination. Just as a child cannot will itself to be born physically, so also no one can produce the 'new birth' by his or her own effort.

It is not of human mediation. No human being, however eminent he may be as regards his ecclesiastical position, can impart the new birth to another person. All the rites and ceremonies of any or all the organized religions put together can never produce the 'new birth'.

It is not a physical change.

It is not an intellectual apprehension. A person can be religiously educated, or become a religious worker, or a preacher without being 'born again'!

It is not an evolutionary process. It is not a gradual development of some form of spiritual life from within. In the Word of God, sinners are described as spiritually dead. Life cannot be developed until it is birthed first.

It is not reformation or self-development or self-improvement. 'New birth' cannot come by a desire to improve, by relinquishing bad habits, or by some form of self-discipline. 'New birth' is not at all a change of manner, but the change of the whole person!

WHAT NEW BIRTH IS

The 'new birth' is a spiritual change which can be brought about only by God. It is an impartation of a spiritual or divine nature, by which a person can possess spiritual capacity to understand or come into a living and meaningful relationship with God.

How Can A Person Be Born Again?

The 'new birth' takes place the moment a guilty sinner looks to Christ and trusts Him to be His Lord and Saviour.



NEW LIFE

By new birth, you have only made a beginning in your life on the Christian pathway. That means you have to receive much more from God. There are great adventures ahead! God wants to make you like His pattern Son the Lord Jesus Christ. He wants to use you to bring other people to the Lord Jesus. Jesus said, **“I AM COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE AND ... HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY”** John 10:10.

Jesus wants you to co-operate with Him in leading you into this abundant life, this overcomers' life.

You have just entered through the gate of 'Salvation'. Do not be content with that. Go on and be what God wants you to be! It is so great a salvation as Bible say is Hebrews

Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*;

CHRIST IS YOUR MASTER

2 Cor. 5: 17. If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation, old things are passed away, behold all things are become new."

The work of the Spirit of God Is silent and imperceptible, but its effects are manifested. When your heart has been renewed by the Spirit of God, the life will bear witness to this fact. A change will be seen in the character, the habits and the pursuit.

- ❖ Now who has your heart?
- ❖ About whom are your thoughts?
- ❖ With whom do you love to converse?
- ❖ Who has your warmest affection and the best energies?

The answer should be, "the Lord Jesus Christ". We long

to reflect His image, breath His Spirit, do His will and please Him in all things.

Jesus said

“ONE IS YOUR MASTER, even Christ.” Mathew 23:10.

“YOU CALL ME MASTER AND LORD and you say well; for so I am” John 13 : 13.

In the beginning of this new life, one has to always remind himself of this fact.

Bible says in 1 Corinthians 6: 19, 20 “You are not your own. You are bought with a price.” Jesus has paid the price and we have become His. So, you belong to Christ. Before you came to this new life, you had a different master.

Who was he?

Now you may have thought you were not that bad: but the Bible says that **YOU WERE FORMERLY SLAVES OF SATAN.**

You may say, “Surely not I.” Because you used to live fairly respectable even before you came to Christ. Bible says it’s Satan who keeps us in sin. But from the moment you believed that Jesus died for you, you are set free from Satan’s hold on your life.

Romans 6: 22 “Now that you have been set free from sin and become slaves of God, the return you got is sanctification (a good clean life), and its end eternal life.”

Romans 6 : 14 "Sin shall not have dominion over you."

This is what you are!

Believe it right now!

Some are still slaves to old habits. May be because they have not understood that they have been set free from their old master-Satan.

In the olden days in many countries 'Slavery' was practised. Suppose, in a certain country the king decided that slavery must be abolished, a law is passed to that effect. Now by the law, every slave in his reason is a free man. But in those days, there was no quick communication as today. Hence it would take 8 week or even a month for this news to reach them. Therefore, their slave masters would try to keep back the good news from the slaves. 'The result would be that many slaves who were by law free men would still be labouring under the old mastership as slaves. Why? Because they were ignorant of the law of freedom.

Similarly today **MANY DO NOT KNOW THAT THEY WERE FREED AND THE DEVIL TRIES TO STOP THEM FROM HEARING THIS GOOD NEWS. AND SO THEY ARE IN BONDAGE TO EVIL THOUGHTS, DEPRESSION AND SINFUL HABITS.**

The Lord Jesus Christ wants you to learn at the beginning of your new life that at the moment of your new birth **THE AUTHORITY OF THE OLD MASTER SATAN HAS BEEN BROKEN.** You need no longer be afraid of him. He will try to hinder you in so many ways, but as you recognise Jesus alone as your

Master, you can avail the power available in Jesus to keep you. So Jesus is your Master.

YOU ARE FREE.

Yes.

Free to work together with your new Master, the Lord Jesus Christ and to enter fully into the wonderful plan of salvation that he has made for your life.



WATER BAPTISM

At all times, Jesus Christ must be the example to every person who has received Salvation through Him. **Jesus Is our new Master and He is our example.** In the gospel of Mathew chapter 3, we read about a man called John the Baptist. He was also recognized as a great prophet. Daily the banks of river Jordan were thronged with people who gathered from far distances to hear his preaching. When John had finished preaching, many people would step into water for baptism. Each one, after repenting of heir sins and confessing of them, was immersed in the water.

Mathew 3:13 & 14 Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptised by him. But John tried to prevent Him saying, "I have need to be baptised by you, and you come to me?"

Jesus wants to stand alongside mankind, taking His place in this Act of obedience to God, even as He took their place later on when He died on the cross. Jesus had no sin in Him to repent, but He obeyed in order to be an example for us. You have come to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord. It's good for us to obey every command that Jesus our Master has given us.

Who should be baptised?

In the days of Lord Jesus Christ, John the Baptist baptized those who repented. Mathew 3:11 "I baptize you with water unto repentance."

But, AFTER JESUS HAD DIED AND RISEN AGAIN, BAPTISM TOOK FURTHER MEANING.

Acts 2:14, 23&24, 37, 38 "But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them...'Jesus was nailed' to the cross by the hands of godless men and put him to death and God raised Him up again putting an end to the agony of death." Now when they heard this they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do ?" And Peter said to them, Repent and let each one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

The answer Peter gave on the first day of his preaching is the foundation of our spiritual life. Repent, be baptised and receive the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the answer is that **ONLY A REPENTED PERSON OR A BELIEVER IN LORD JESUS CHRIST AS HIS SAVIOUR IS QUALIFIED TO BE BAPTIZED.**

We read about the change of life of the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40). The Ethiopian asked Philip, "What prevents me from *being* baptized. And Philip *said*, "If you believe with all your heart you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God."

We see from these verses that those who have repented and put their faith in Jesus Christ should be baptized. We see from Bible that no infant was baptized. **AN INFANT CANNOT REPENT AND BELIEVE: AND THEREFORE DOES NOT QUALIFY TO TAKE BAPTISM.** We see in two places in the book of Acts, that the whole household was baptized. (Acts 10: 47,48 ;16:15)

If the children in these families were of the age of decisively repenting and believing, they must have been baptized, and certainly not the INFANTS. For example, at the time of election, if one says that his whole family voted for one party, will it mean that his 1 year old infant had also voted? No, surely not! Similarly, only those of the age to independently repent and believe were baptized.

Why believers should take Baptism ?

When Jesus came to John the Baptist to be baptized, John tried to prevent Him saying, "I have need to be baptized of thee, and 'how do you come to me ?" But Jesus answering

said unto him, 'Permit it at this time, *for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.*' Then he permitted Him.

Although Jesus had no sin that He should repent and be baptized, he did that to fulfil all righteousness of God.

❖ **Firstly**, the one who believes in Jesus should take baptism *to fulfil all righteousness of God*. If Jesus had to do it how much more you and I need to!

Luke: 7:29 & 30 "And all the people that heard him and the publicans *justified God*, being baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers *rejected the counsel of God* against themselves being not baptized of him.

❖ **Secondly**, the people who obeyed in baptism were *justified with God*. There were also many who *rejected the counsel of God* by abstaining from baptism. Therefore, to be *baptized is to be justified with God* and to disobey is to *reject the counsel of God* in life.

What is the meaning of Baptism?

BAPTISM IS A PICTURE OF THIS VERY TRANSFORMATION WHICH ALSO TAKES PLACE WITHIN THE BELIEVER.

Romans 8:3-5 "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death. Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father so we too might walk in the newness of life."

Colossians 2:12 "Having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."

In baptism the believer is totally immersed in the water and immediately raised to a standing position. Can you see the connection between baptism and the death and resurrection of Jesus?"

THE WATER IS LIKE A GRAVE. As the believer is raised out of the water something is buried. What is it ? It is our old man, the sinful nature or the self crucified. When Jesus died on the cross, your old nature which Satan used to rule was crucified with Jesus. One who dies has to be buried. Therefore, who rises out of water is a new man, a Christian, clothed with a new nature; the very life of Jesus within him. Apostle Paul says in Romans 6:2 "You must consider yourself dead to sin and live to God in Christ Jesus".

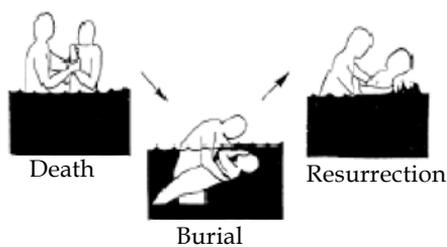
Satan will still come with subtle temptation, but you can now tell him that the old life that he once ruled has died and that he has no authority over the new life!

How a Person should be Baptized

The answer Bible gives is by immersion. It is clear from the picture that Apostle Paul paints for us in Romans Six. Accordingly baptism can be by no other method, but by immersion in water. Adopting the water sprinkling method, the significance of death, burial and resurrection according to Romani 6 is not brought out.

One cannot be buried in a cup or hand full of water.

John 3:23 “And John also was baptizing In Aenon near Salim, because there was **MUCH WATER** there: and they were coming and were being baptized.”



Mark 1 :6 “And all the country of Judea was going out to him and all the people in Jerusalem and they were being baptized by him **IN THE JORDAN RIVER.**”

From the above verses it is so clear that people were immersed in water. Immersion requires that both (the one baptizing and the one to be baptized) have to go down into water.

Acts 8:36, 38 “And the Eunuch said, Look! Water! what prevents me from being baptized. And they both **WENT DOWN INTO THE WATER**, Philip as well as the Eunuch and he baptized him.

When Should Believers Be Baptized

Based on the following verses recorded in the Bible a

believer has to obey the commandment as soon as possible.

AT ONCE Acts 8: 36 “Look! Water! what prevents me from being baptized” (It was an urgent request. The new Ethiopian believer was on a journey and desired to stop and be baptized *at once*)

SAME HOUR Acts 16:33 “And he took them that *very hour* of the night (midnight) and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized.” This Philipian believed, was saved and obeyed the command to be baptized the same hour as he was saved.

SAME DAY Acts 2 : 41 “So then, those who had received his word were baptized and there were added that day about three thousand souls.”

THIRD DAY Acts 9 : 9 “And he was three days without sight and neither ate nor drink and he arose and was baptized.” Apostle Paul was baptized after three days

The early church obeyed Jesus by baptizing believers as soon as possible. If you have really accepted Jesus as your Saviour baptism is for you. Jesus Himself said in Mark 16 : 16 “He that believeth and is baptised will be saved.” God’s word says to you “And now why do you delay? Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins calling on His name. “(Acts 22 : 16)

If you are convicted about this act of baptism please pray right now, “Lord, I am willing to obey you in water baptism and follow after you. Help me Jesus to be your obedient



disciple obeying you in all things. I ask this prayer in Jesus name. Amen.

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPRIT

WHEN you asked the Lord Jesus to forgive your sins and save you it was the Holy Spirit who caused you to be born again and to be born into the family of God.

John 14 : 16 "And I will pray the Father and He shall, give you another comforter that He may abide with you for

ever even the Spirit of truth.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK IN SALVATION

The Holy Spirit is at work in changing you. The Holy Spirit is now working continuously in you to transform your character. After we are born again the Holy Spirit shows us immediately when we do anything wrong. We all know the feeling of a nagging conscience. When a person speaks harsh word or a lie, how miserable he feels? That kind of unhappy feeling is of the Holy Spirit urging him to get things right, to confess to God and to apologize to the one he has wronged. This is what he is doing in each of us.

What then is the Baptism of Holy Spirit?

There is a further work that the Holy Spirit wants to do in the life of every Christian. We have already learnt that the foundation of our spiritual life is given in Acts 2 : 38 “Repent, be baptized receive the gift of Holy Ghost.” Just as the other two experiences Repentance and water Baptism, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is also a separate and different experience. As recorded in the Bible every person who believed in Jesus and followed Him had this experience. God’s pattern has not changed even today. Everyone should have the same experience.

Acts 1 :4-5;8 “And being assembled together with them (disciples), (Jesus) commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem but wait for the promise of

the Father **YOU SHALL BE BAPTIZED WITH HOLY SPIRIT NOT MANY DAYS HENCE** ... But you shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you and you shall be witnesses unto me”.

Acts 2 : 1-4 “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place and **THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST** and began to speak with other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance.

The whole of the book of Acts is full of the mighty things that were done through the power of Holy Spirit.

How to be filled with the Spirit?

God commands In Eph 5:18 “Be filled with the Spirit “; It is not an option but a command from God.

✝ **YOU MUST BE THIRSTY:** You cannot have this experience without a spiritual thirst or deep desire. Jesus said in John 7 :37, 38 “**IF** anyone thirst let him come to me and drink. He who believes on me as the Scripture has said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water. No he said about the spirit.” Have earnest desire for this experience.

✝ **YOU MUST BE OBEDIENT:** Acts 5 : 3 says “The Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him”. God desires total obedience from us. Holy Spirit is poured upon us to give us power to serve Him and to have a victorious life. Therefore, before you ask for this gift kneel down and

put your whole life at his disposal to be used as He wishes.

✝ **YOU MUST ASK IN FAITH:** Everyone can receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit at the very moment of their conversion. But very few do. If you have been saved and baptized, but have not received this great gift from God, this is for you to receive. Some receive all alone as they seek God for this blessing and ask in faith. Many need help from some spiritual elders, just as we find in Bible in many places. You may need help.

Seek out a church where this truth is taught. There will be those who are willing to lead you into this precious experience so, whether alone or In the company of godly men, the way to receive Is still to ask in faith. Do not be surprised if you feel new joy and peace as you receive the Baptism of the Spirit. And do not be surprised when you begin to speak strange tongues. The Lord gives “new tonques” to those who receive the Baptism of the Spirit. This new language from God is given for prayer, worship and to strengthen you in your daily walk with the Lord.

Luke 11 : 13 “(Jesus said) If you then who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.

So, are you thirsty?

Do you intend to obey Christ in all things?



Then ask and receive. Jesus your Saviour is ever ready to baptize you In His Holy Spirit.

THE FOUR IMPORTANT THINGS IN NEW LIFE

YOU are a spiritual baby after you are born again. Just as air is essential for breathing for a new born baby, prayer is essential for your spiritual life. Prayer is communion with God through Jesus Christ. Bible says "Pray without ceasing." This means that as we go about in our daily work, **WE CAN REMAIN IN FELLOWSHIP WITH CHRIST,**

LIFTING OUR HEART. IN THANKSGIVING, PRAISE AND REQUEST.

If we have displeased God in anything, **WE CAN CONFESS IMMEDIATELY** and our fellowship with the Lord shall not be discontinued. Yet it is necessary to spend definite times along with Jesus. Jesus did this.

1. PRAYER

Men and women who have this new life spend time in prayer.

❖ First of all, **BEGIN THE DAY WITH GOD IN THANKS GIVING.** Spend a while in silence sensing the presence of the lord. Then praise Him & thank Him for all He is, for all He has done for you. Tell Him how you love Him and desire to do His will. Realize that It is only because of Jesus and His sacrifice that you can come to God in prayer. Be very honest with God. He loves and understands you and you can tell Him all your desires. Then pray for others. Ask God to lead you concerning the ones you should pray for. As you pray it is good to quote promises from the Bible to encourage your faith. All our prayer must be asked in the name of Jesus. Jesus said in John 14: 14 “If you ask anything in my name I will do it.” Then, having asked and believed do not keep on asking Him but keep on thanking Him. Prayer is not an easy matter. We continue to learn about prayer throughout our lives. It is a work the devil does not want us to do. Devil will try to distract our thoughts while we pray. Resist him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you to pray. And keep on praying. He is our Teacher.

❖ Secondly, **STOP IN THE MIDST OF THE BUSTLE AND HUSTLE OF THE DAY** from time to time for thanks giving and prayer. A few minutes alone with God off and on throughout the day will keep you calm and triumphant in the midst of life's cares and turmoil's.

❖ Thirdiy, **CLOSE THE DAY WITH THANKGIVING AND PRAYER.** When you come to the end of the day before you sleep, review the blessings of the day and thank God for them in detail. At the same time, ask God to forgive you all things that you know have been displeasing to Him that day, Confess your sins honestly before Him for both forgiveness and cleansing. Pause for a while during your prayer and the le t Holy Spirit search your heart, to point out any sins of which you may not be conscious.

Prayer is our source of victory and fruitfulness.

2. MEDITATING ON THE WORD OF GOD (BIBLE)

Every person needs food. Without food we cannot grow and finally die of starvation. Our spiritual life also needs food if we are to grow and keep spiritually strong.

What is this food?

It is the Word of God, the Bible.

1 Pet 2 : 2 "As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that you may grow thereby?"

If you have not a copy of Bible you may obtain it in your own mother tongue. Usually prayer and Bible reading go hand in hand. **As we pray we are talking with God and as we read the Bible He is speaking with us.**

The Bible is not an ordinary book. Our natural mind cannot understand the deep things it teaches. So we should read it, with the help of the Holy Spirit who is the author, to explain to us. It is best to start reading the New Testament and then the Old Testament.

Take a particular book and start with chapter one. If you find them too long, then select a few verses and the next time you read start from where you left.

As you read, ask yourself

- ◆ What the Lord is saying to me in these verses?
- ◆ Are there any commands for me to obey?
- ◆ Are there any special promises from God to claim?
- ◆ Are there any examples of Godly men or women to follow?
- ◆ Is there any thing fresh about the Lord Jesus in this passage?

If there are some helpful verses **MEMORIZE** it.

MEDITATE ON IT throughout the day.

When satan tempted Jesus. He quoted the word of God. We too can overcome satan by confessing the word of God. Underline helpful verses. You can carry small portion of New Testament in your pocket or bags and read it at leisure. As you begin to explore the Bible, you will find it to be a mine of treasures.

3. WITNESING JESUS CHRIST

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO LIVE THE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST IN SECRET, although some erroneously attempt to do so. The new life which is imparted to every person at his acceptance of Christ as Saviour must manifest itself out rightly.

The only way to live a successful Christian life is to live it out in the open, without shame and without fear. If you desire to live for Christ, confess your savior and your faith in Him and love for Him openly before the world.

Luke 24: 48 "You are witnesses of these things".

The word **WITNESS** is actually a legal term; a judicial court word.

A WITNESS IS ONE WHO KNOWS SOMETHING: No one will ever be called up to the witness stand in a court who does not know something about the case. That person must know something **positively, definitely, personally.** His

knowledge must be through one of his physical senses. He must relate what he knows to be the facts through his own senses, through personal experience and contact. If one has to be a witness for Christ, he must know something by personal contact.

- ❖ Must know by personal experience that you are saved before you bear effective witness to anyone that Jesus saves.

- ❖ Must know by personal experience that God answers prayers, if you testify to others of that fact. Relate personal experiences.

- ❖ Must know by personal experience that Jesus can satisfy the inner longings before you bear unfaltering testimony to others to that effect.

- ❖ Must know personally that Jesus Christ gives victory over sin, if you would convince your friends of the fact.

- ❖ A witness is one who is willing to tell what he knows.

One who is unwilling to tell that which he knows, no matter how well he knows it or how important it is, is not a witness. A witness must speak up. He must be willing to declare what he personally knows and also to answer any question. Imagine a man remaining silent, while another is being condemned to death, when he knows that his witness would save other man's life. It is tragic to remain silent when it is imperative to speak. We must tell that which we know.

A WITNESS MUST LIVE A GOOD LIFE: The personal character of any court witness largely determines the worth and weight of his testimony, to the jury. If the witness is a bad character in the community, his words will not be given much weight by the jury. But if he is a man whose uprightness and honesty are known through out his community and by all who know him, his words will bear tremendous weight. So it is with our Christian witness. Our walk must conform to our words. We cannot profess one thing and live another. Our lives must be true, if people are to hold our words as true, Therefore, we must use the Grace of God strive to keep our life true and clean.

A WITNESS NEVER RETRACTS HIS TESTIMONY: Once a witness gives his testimony, he stands for it. He will never alter his word or compromise his own witness. A true witness will die, for his testimony. He will never alter or retract it. The Greek word for 'witness' in the Bible is the same Greek word one from which we the word 'Martyr'. Many Christians in the past have died for the witness of Jesus. Thousands and thousands of them, have become martyrs for Christ They were burned at the stake, put in boiling tar, thrown to wild beasts in public arenas, they were crucified, pulled apart into, two tongues cut out, but they would not retract their testimony, and they died singing His praises.

Start witnessing, first to your relatives and your friends. Begin in your own home circle. How can you expect to live a true Christian life if you do not let those who are closest to you know that you belong to Christ If you fail here, among those closest to you, you will not be strong in the Lord else

where. Some think that they will lose their friendship or intimacy if they speak Christ to them. But remember such are not true friends who stand in the way of your spiritual growth. Never be afraid or ashamed.

Make Him known to all with whom you come in contact. Let them all know that you love and serve Christ. Every time a person confesses Christ, he is strengthened spiritually. Public testimony makes one strong and further more, it is a course of genuine joy.

When worldly and ungodly people know that a person is out and out for Christ, they will stop trying to urge him to go to unwanted amusements and to participate in unholy activities. Let them know right from the beginning that you are a new person in the Lord Jesus Christ and your priorities activities and preferences have changed.

4. FELLOWSHIP WITH BELIEVERS AND WORSHIP

The company a person keeps has a great deal to do with the character he develops. One's spiritual life, as well as intellectual and social life, is helped or hindered by the friendship he habitually chooses. It's important, therefore, for every saved and born again person to choose like minded spiritual friends and to deliberately cultivate fellowship with God's people. Bible says in

Proverbs 13:20 "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. "

Proverbs 22.24-25 “Make no friendship with an angry man; and with furious man thou shalt not go: lest thou learn his ways and get a snare to thy soul.”

NO MATTER WHO WE ARE OR HOW STRONG OUR CHARACTER AND DECISIONS MAY BE, WE ARE ALL AFFECTED BY THE COMPANY WE KEEP. God shall definitely help you to find out some born again persons in your locality to have fellowship. You will surely find that such Christians who are serious about their spiritual growth are true friends to you. If you want to succeed and grow in your Christian life, seek fellowship with such God’s people. Bible teaches always about walking together and working together. You may fall if you walk alone. You may get discouraged at times but if you walk in company with God’s children there will always be some one to encourage and strengthen you.

Jesus said to ‘the woman of Samaria in John 4:24 “God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.” **THE WORSHIP OF GOD, TO A BORN AGAIN PERSON, IS PRIMARILY SPIRITUAL EXERCISE** that is to say, he worships God in his heart and should be constantly in the spirit of worship. Yet, one must set apart special times for the purpose of worship, times when all other activity is put aside.

It was on the first day of the week that the Lord Jesus Christ rose again from the dead. Hence it’s on the first day of the week i.e. Sunday that Christians come together to worship God.

For the spiritual growth, one should unite and be in

fellowship with one local church. Be part of a church where their teachings are most closely akin to your own but according to the New Testament pattern. It's better to unite with a living church than to unite with a dead church or traditional church system.

If you cannot find a living church in your locality that agrees to the pattern in the Bible, find the church that comes nearest to it.

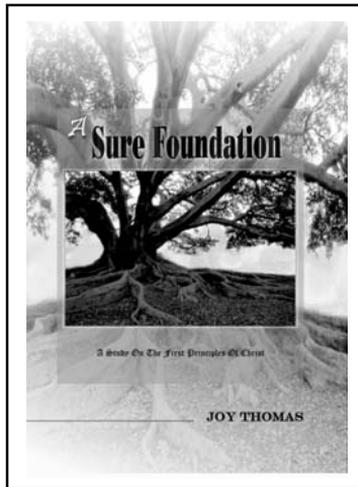
Do not be part of a church unless it holds the Bible as the inspired Word of God, the necessity of the shed blood of Christ for the new birth, and true prayer.

The purpose of being part of a church is that you may worship the Lord each Sunday with God's people and grow.

Your attendance should not be sporadic. If anyone neglects in this area, the person will probably drift away in his or her spiritual life. Bible says in Heb 10:25 'Let us not give up the habits of meeting together,' You need the inspiration that comes from united worship with other Christians. You need the strength that comes from the word of God as it is preached during the worship. The church is the Christian's spiritual home while he is on earth. It is there that a person is spiritually supported, comforted and built up to have fellowship with other members of God's family. It's there that one will be instructed in the word of God and built up in the most holy faith.



A SUPPLEMENT TO THIS BOOKLET



A SURE FOUNDATION **(Teachings on the first principles of life)**

There is so much confusion and compromise that has set in. In many cases, the foundations that have been laid are so weak because the traditions of men have utterly destroyed and damaged them. In some cases, those ancient foundational landmarks have been marred and changed due to the choice and likings of man. The burden of this book is not to criticize others, but to show God's people their true spiritual plight and condition so that they may turn and return to the Lord of their lives.