

HOW YOU MAY BECOME A SUCCESSFUL CHRISTIAN



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CHAPTER 1

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You have made the great decision to live for Christ. From this day forward the whole direction and purpose of your life is changed. Heaven is your destination. You are now a person of destiny; as long as the stars of heaven shine, as long as God above lives, so you will live.

When a person accepts Christ, he usually has a deep desire in his heart to be a real Christian. The question is, how can this be done? It is the purpose of this little book to help new converts in this most important step of their lives.

Becoming a Christian is the most wonderful thing that will ever happen in your life. There are many joys and satisfactions awaiting you as you go along in your Christian experience. Nevertheless, we must be frank; being a Christian will not always be easy. There will be problems, temptations and trials you never expected to come your way.

Christ has promised He would never leave nor forsake you. Always remember this. It is a proven fact. Therefore, set your course resolutely ahead. Resolve that you will never turn back, and regardless of what happens, you are going all the way with Christ. You will surely reach your goal with that determination.

A Christian Never Looks Back

Jesus said, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back (to the thing behind) is fit for the Kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). In other words, a person of indecision never gets very far. In battling between two opinions, one loses the power of initiative and sows the seeds of his own defeat. Once you have made a decision for Christ, to look back is dangerous.

Keep Your Eyes On Christ

A Christian is one who has put his trust wholly in God. Young converts sometimes fail to do this. Too often they get their eyes on people, and when others do not come up to their expectations, they are disappointed. We need to understand from the beginning that human beings are subject to mistakes. Peter, who was one of Jesus Christ's closest friends and followers, denied he was ever acquainted with Christ. If you had witnessed Peter when he denied Christ, would you have stumbled over it? Some have lost their experience with God by stumbling over the blunders of others. Peter made the most serious mistake he could ever have made. Yet, in time, he became one of the greatest saints. We must not get our eyes on people or their mistakes. Instead, we should be thankful that God is so forgiving and long-suffering.

Therefore, put your whole faith in Christ from the very beginning. Although people may fail, Christ will never fail.

In becoming a Christian, you enter a race. As the Apostle Paul said, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run your race that you may lay hold of the prize and make it yours" (1 Corinthians 9:24 Amplified).

And again, "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong," but to the one who is faithful and obeys the rules.

Take A Public Stand For Christ

There is, of course, the proper time for all things; nevertheless, do not be slow to let others know you are a Christian. In this way you establish your true relationship with them from the start. The chances are they will respect you for your stand, and when they feel the need of spiritual help, it is likely they will turn to you.

Join A Spiritual Church

You may have been told, and rightly so, that salvation is more than joining a church. Many people who have never been converted are members of a church. Nevertheless, it is important after one has made his decision for Christ, he should begin to attend a spiritual church on a regular basis. Join with other Christians in carrying the load from the beginning. Lend your influence for Christ and what is right. Also, each Christian should do his part by serving within the church, supporting the pastor in prayer and doing whatever God has called and equipped him to do.

There is another important reason for joining a church. People are like sheep – defenseless when left alone. Sheep separated from the main flock are subject to

an attack from the enemy. Wolves are on the prowl for straying sheep. Especially, a young convert must stay with the flock. Within the church he has a measure of safety and protection. Remember what the Bible says on this subject, “Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together [as believers], as is the habit of some people, but admonishing – warning, urging and encouraging – one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25 Amplified).

Be Baptized

At the first opportunity you should be baptized in water. This is not the place to discuss the minor differences of opinion over the methods of water baptism. God looks at the heart. The important thing is for you to be baptized after your conversion. Water baptism is an act of obedience. “He who believes...who adheres to and trusts in and relies on the Gospel and Him Whom it sets forth – and is baptized will be saved [from the penalty of eternal death]; but he who does not believe...will be condemned” (Mark 16:16 Amplified). Believing comes first. If you were baptized as a baby or before your conversion, that does not count. The Bible says repent and be baptized. Babies cannot repent.

Baptism is an act of public confession. It is a testimony to the world you are a Christian, but it is also much more. It is symbolic. When you go down into the water, you are being covered or buried, just as it was with Christ. This act signifies the death of the old self and a resurrection unto the new life.

Today, there is no special mark or disgrace in being baptized. In fact, in some quarters it is even fashionable. This was not so in the days of the Early Church. In those times, a Roman officer might come and take down the name of each person who was baptized. Often the property of those who became Christians was confiscated and their citizenship was taken away. Others were imprisoned, and some even gave their lives for their faith. It meant something to be a Christian in those days. It should mean as much today.

CHAPTER 2

Some Important Instructions For Living A Christian Life

When a man goes into any business, he will, if he wishes to make a success, learn all he can about it. Many Christians never bother to learn the rules of life. Jesus took note of this when He said, “The sons of this age are shrewder and more prudent and wiser in their own generation than are the sons of light” (Luke 16:8). He meant that in the issues or matters of this world, men were apt to be more business-like and to exercise more common sense and discretion than the children of God. Of course, in matters that pertain to the world to come, the poorest Christian is indefinitely wiser than the shrewdest man of the world.

Jesus pointed out that if a man builds a tower, he should first figure out what it will cost to see if he has enough money to finish the job. Christians should use good business sense in all their affairs.

“For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it – lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish?’” (Luke 14:28-30).

Begin A Regular Prayer Life

If a person is going to be a successful Christian, he must utilize the means God has provided for that purpose. For example, the first thing he should do is to begin a regular prayer life. This cannot be emphasized too strongly. It is amazing the things that can be accomplished in a lifetime by a man or woman who prays regularly. Prayer is the means of getting things from God. Here, for example is a promise Jesus gave:

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened” (Matthew 7:7-8).

Note the power of faith as declared by Jesus in Mark 11:22-24:

“So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he

will have whatever he says. Therefore, I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”

Perhaps my most important advice to you is to make prayer a daily habit. On a daily basis you should bring every important matter of your life before the Lord – your daily activities, your finances, your problems, your family, your work, your hopes, your career. If you are faithful in doing this everyday, you will find your life unfolding to the pattern God intended for you. Remember this: God has a special blueprint for every life. It is the best plan possible for that life. It may be you are called to the ministry, to be a missionary or to be a trained worker in the church. Or, you may be called to be in business or a stay-at-home wife and mother. God’s will for you is perfect, but you must get into His will by praying.

Many Christians apparently miss-out on God’s best. Too often this is true in marriage. If a person does not pray earnestly, he may marry the wrong partner. As a consequence, his whole life may be adversely affected. There is no place for second guesses when you’re choosing a life companion.

Establish a regular time of prayer as they did in the Early Church (Acts 3:1). In this way you may save yourself from many mistakes.

Also, one of the most important tasks any Christian can do is to pray for others and their problems and needs. This is a ministry of intercession. There is no higher calling than of an intercessor. And this calling is open to all. It is open to you! If you would learn the power of intercessory prayer, the answer is in Ezekiel 22:30-31.

“So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads,” says the Lord GOD.”

In other words, God is saying He looked for a man to pray for the people that they might return back to God. Because He could find no one to pray, He punished them and destroyed their land because of their wickedness.

Read The Bible Daily

To understand the Bible properly, you must study it with the idea God is speaking to you through His Holy Word. Now you know the Author of the Book – He is your heavenly Father – you will find great encouragement and instruction from its pages.

It is true there are books of the Bible which are more difficult to understand

than others. The Bible is divided into two sections – The Old Testament and The New Testament. The Old Testament was written before Christ Jesus was born into the earth. It tells of how God dealt with man through the ages. It also foretells in many places of the birth and death of Jesus Christ the Son of God, who would come to redeem man.

The New Testament was written after Christ lived on earth, died and rose from the dead. The first four books of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) are called the Gospels and give the story of Christ and His mission on earth. Every Christian should begin with these books. The next book, called the Acts of the Apostles, tells how after Christ ascended into heaven, His disciples or followers carried on His work and formed the beginning of the Church. Acts gives the blueprint for the Christian Church today. Most of the remainder of the New Testament was written by the Apostle Paul, guided by the Holy Spirit, to churches in various towns and countries. His instructions are just as valuable to us today as they were to the Christians of the Early Church.

Read the New Testament straight through, chapter by chapter; do not skip around. The New Testament is your guide for your Christian life.

After you have read the New Testament, you may start with the Old Testament. In it you will read of men and women who served God and others who did not, and how God dealt with them. Ask God to enlighten the Scriptures to you, so you will learn the important lessons the Old Testament teaches. However, the New Testament was written especially for us – the true believers of the Church Age – so you will find great help there. It is good for a Christian to read at least three chapters a day. Ask your pastor to start a study group to explain the Scriptures. It will be a rich experience for all. However, if you still have difficulty in knowing God's will, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Be Faithful In Giving To God

The Bible tells about Jacob; a man who had some very unpleasant traits. His meanness grew worse until finally God came into his life. One day, after he had gotten himself into serious trouble through his cheating, he had to run away from home. That night God gave him a vision of heaven. The vision changed his life, and right then he made a vow to God that he would be faithful in giving a tithe (that is, a tenth) of all he had earned to Him.

“Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, so that I come back to my father's house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You” (Genesis 28:20-22).

It is truly sad when some professing Christians become so greedy they do not pay their tithes. God called them thieves and robbers. They have not robbed man; they have robbed God.

“Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. ‘Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it’” (Malachi 3:8-10).

On the other hand, God has promised to pour out a special blessing on those who are faithful stewards in their giving to Him. Tithing is the returning to God one-tenth of all we earn or receive in wages or goods. All we have has come from God. He asks us to offer to Him at least one-tenth for His work.

The support of the Lord’s work should come first. Each time you receive money or goods from your work or sales, God asks that you first give Him at least one-tenth of it all.

Do not overlook the responsibility of Christians toward world missions. All of us have a debt to those who do not know Christ. Christ said, “Go into all the world and preach and publish openly the good news (the Gospel) to every creature...” Perhaps God will call you as a minister or missionary. If not, you have a responsibility to help make it possible for someone else to take the message.

CHAPTER 3

Problems In A Christian's Life

Sometimes people suppose that when they become Christians all their problems will be solved. Then, when they have trials, they are surprised and confused. The truth is, faith in Christ does solve certain kinds of problems – those that involve sin and its consequences. The sin question is the greatest problem, and through Christ, it is solved once and for all. However, conversion does not automatically remove all problems of life. The new convert will meet trials and temptations. To expect anything else is to face disappointment. There is a devil loose in the world, and as the Scriptures declare, “Be well-balanced – temperate, sober-minded; be vigilant and cautious at all times, for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring...seeking someone to seize upon and devour” (1 Peter 5:8). We have to resist him. Christianity cost Christ his life on the cross. We should expect to pay the price, also. In fact, Jesus told those who would follow Him to count the cost first, before they became His disciples. Nonetheless, with each temptation, Christ has promised a way of escape.

“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).

Read the story of Paul, especially the list of things he endured as it is recorded in 2 Corinthians 11 of the New Testament. In the end he could say, “The Lord will certainly deliver and draw me to Himself from every assault of evil. He will preserve and bring [me] safe unto His heavenly Kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen – so be it.”

Distinguishing Between Committing A Sin And Living In Sin

This is something every new convert should know. There is a great difference between committing a sin and actually living in sin as a result of falling into temptation. Many who have just accepted Christ do not understand this, and having committed a sin, they feel all is lost and are even ready to give up. They made earnest resolutions to live for Christ and were certain they would not fail. Suddenly, at an evil moment, temptation came their way, and they did the very thing they did not intend to do. Satan may then whisper in their ears they were

never saved. He may even make them feel like giving up.

This indeed is just what Satan would like for them to do, but it is just what they should not do. A new convert is like a baby when it comes to spiritual things, and a baby must learn to walk before he can run. We have mentioned Peter, the follower of Christ, who once committed a grievous sin. He even lied and denied the Lord, but Christ forgave him. Afterwards, he became a leader of the apostles. It is important to remember, if we confess our sins, the Lord will forgive us of our sins.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness...My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 1:9, 2:1).

Willfully living in sin is something else. A person who chooses to give himself over to sin is in a dangerous position. Having no thought or regard for the consequences when committing a sin causes people to go into darkness and delusion. The Apostle John, who wrote the above words, gave a warning about a man continuing to commit a sin when he knows better. He spoke of those who were guilty of doing this as being of the evil one, Satan.

“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8).

The man who loves sin and willingly continues in it is a child of the devil. First John 3:10 in the Amplified Bible says, “By this it is made clear who take their nature from God and are His children and who take their nature from the devil and are his children: no one who does not practice righteousness [who does not conform to God’s will in purpose, thought, and action] is of God; neither is anyone who does not love his brother (his fellow believer in Christ).” This is something very different from committing sin under sudden temptation. If you have sinned, confess your sin to God, and then, accept His forgiveness.

All of us will make mistakes. Some of them are bad ones. The most important thing is we never make a mistake of the heart. Our soul must always be turned toward God. Our love must be for Him first.

The Problem Of Feelings

At this point, there is something else that should be mentioned. You cannot go by your feelings. Feelings have nothing to do with your salvation and can change from day to day. Many a new convert in the joy of his new-found

experience supposes that his exhilaration will continue indefinitely. When trials and temptations come and these feelings subside, he may think he has lost his salvation. This is a great mistake. Our salvation does not stand upon our feelings, but upon the finished work at Calvary. Christ's death makes eternal life ours, if we accept it.

It would be good if every new convert carefully reads again the parable of the sower. There were four kinds of hearers, and the effect of the Word upon each class was different. Jesus spoke this parable in Matthew 13:3-9. He interpreted it in verses 18-23.

“Listen then to the [meaning of the] parable of the sower: While anyone is hearing the Word of the kingdom and does not grasp and comprehend it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the roadside. As for what was sown on thin (rocky) soil, this is he who hears the Word and at once welcomes and accepts it with joy; yet it has no real root in him, but is temporary (inconstant, lasts but a little while); and when affliction or trouble or persecution comes on account of the Word, at once he is caused to stumble [he is repelled and begins to distrust and desert Him Whom he ought to trust and obey] and he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is he who hears the Word, but the cares of the world and the pleasure and delight and glamour and deceitfulness of riches choke and suffocate the Word, and it yields no fruit. As for what was sown on good soil, this is he who hears the Word and grasps and comprehends it; he indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundred times as much as was sown, in another sixty times as much, and in another thirty” (Amplified).

Have you read this parable carefully? In which class of hearers are you? The choice lies with you.

The Problem Of Disappointments

One of the most important things a Christian should learn is what appears to be a disappointment to him may turn out later to be a blessing in disguise. It is a serious mistake to give into feelings of bitterness because something you had your heart set on failed, and if someone has wronged you, do not attempt to do something to ‘get even’ with them or to pay them back. God says we should leave that to Him. “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave the way open for [God’s] wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay...says the Lord” (Romans 12:19). You, as a Christian, must put your problems in His hands and not try to get even by returning evil for evil. Romans 12:17-18 says, “Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is honest and proper and noble [aiming to be above reproach] in the sight of everyone. If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone” (Amplified).

Winning The Unconverted Husband Or Wife

It is not unusual for one member of a family to be converted before the other one is. Quite often the unsaved person does not fully understand what has taken place in another one's life. Although the unconverted member may speak negatively about the conversion experience, the Christian must display patience, love and wisdom. The Scripture tells us, "In like manner, you married women, be submissive to your own husbands [subordinate yourselves as being secondary to and dependent on them, and adapt yourselves to them], so that even if any do not obey the Word [of God], they may be won over not by discussion but by the [godly] lives of their wives, When they observe the pure and modest way in which you conduct yourselves, together with your reverence..." (1 Peter 3:1-2 Amplified).

It is often a tendency of new converts to put undue pressure on their companion to become Christian, too. This may result in an attitude of hostility or resistance. The best way to win an unsaved mate is to give a demonstration of what Christ has done in your own life. When the other sees that a definite change has taken place, a real desire to have a similar experience may come into their heart.

And, of course, the Christian should steadfastly pray for the other one. Conversion is more than human persuasion. There is a supernatural revelation involved. One of the most quoted verses in the Bible is, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest – I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls" (Matthew 11:28 Amplified). The Words of Jesus in the preceding verse are rarely noticed: "All things have been entrusted and delivered to Me by My Father; and no one fully knows and accurately understands the Son except the Father, and no one fully knows and accurately understands the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son deliberately wills to make Him known" (Verse 27 Amplified). Men and women are converted because Christ reveals the Father to them. This is brought about through prayer and intercession of God's people. Earnest prayer should precede attempts of persuasion.

Memories Of An Evil Past

Many Christians are filled with shame as they remember their evil past. Sometimes it almost brings them to the point of despair. It is at this time they should remember the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

It is important to repent of our sins. When we have repented, we can face life with a fresh new start. Sometimes, it is hard to forgive ourselves, but the Apostle Paul, in the New Testament, tells us to forget the things of the past and press

on toward the mark of the high calling of our God (Philippians 3:14). The most wonderful thing about salvation is that God has promised to wipe out the past and remember it against us no more. “For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will... remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31:34).

One thing a new convert should do is to make restitution whenever possible. Zaccheus, a tax collector who received Christ into his home said, “See, Lord, the half of my goods I [now] give...to the poor; and if I have cheated anyone out of anything, I [now] restore four times as much” (Luke 19:8 Amplified).

Another point of encouragement to such persons is that some of the worst sinners have become the greatest of saints. St. Augustine, considered one of the leading Early Church fathers, spent many years of his youthful life morally unrestrained. We see numerous examples in the Scriptures of God forgiving great sinners who repented in their hearts. Among them was the woman at the well (John, 4th Chapter), Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:2), the adulteress (John 8:3) and others.

The Problem Of Forgiveness

Some persons have suffered a great wrong from another. When they come to Christ, they may find bitterness has not entirely left their hearts. This is a very dangerous matter. Jesus, after giving His great promises of answering our prayers, said, “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your failings and shortcomings” (Mark 11:25-26 Amplified).

We must at all times be ready to forgive. Jesus spoke a solemn parable about the man who was forgiven a debt of money. Because he had no means of paying, his lord forgave him the entire debt. Unfortunately, the ungrateful servant went out and threw one of his debtors in prison because he could not repay a very small amount of money. In the end, the lord of the evil servant, hearing of his ingratitude, threw him into prison until he could repay the whole debt. The Lord used this parable to teach the need for forgiveness saying, “So also My heavenly Father will deal with every one of you if you do not freely forgive your brother from your heart” (Matthew 18:35 Amplified).

Even though we may forgive them, there may be a change in the relationship of the one who has sinned against us. If he has betrayed a trust, it would be poor judgment to permit a similar situation to develop, whereby a person would be tempted to repeat his wrong-doing.

Then, again, there are those who because of ambition, greed and self-

centeredness commit a great wrong against another and then justify themselves in their evil. In the very same chapter we mentioned above, the Lord says concerning such, “If he pays no attention to them – refusing to listen and obey – tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a pagan and a tax collector” (Matthew 18:17 Amplified).

The important principle that must be maintained in all cases is to not allow a root of bitterness to grow in the heart (Hebrews 12:15). The moment forgiveness is asked; it must be given freely and without reservation, even if the person has sinned against him many times. God, for Christ’s sake, has forgiven us so much more that the least we can do is forgive our brother.

CHAPTER 4

Choosing Christian Companions

All of us have to mingle with the world in our daily life, whether with neighbors, at the office or elsewhere. When it comes to the point of choosing our companions and the places to which we go for amusement, it is within our power to choose. The kind of people with whom one associates is the kind of person one will eventually be like; the friends you choose will determine to a large extent your destiny. If you seek and enjoy non-Christian or worldly companions, rather than Christian people, you will gradually become like them. This does not mean you are not to be friendly with all persons with whom daily life brings you in contact. Jesus Himself dined with sinners, but He did that in order to win them to His lifestyle. If you find that you have the liberty to testify of Christ to your companions, it is a good sign that you are leading them in your direction rather than they are leading you in theirs. Of course, you must never give the impression of a superior attitude, but should always remember that you, yourself, are only a sinner saved by the grace and the love of God.

The Problem Of Worldliness

Worldliness is a subject every new convert should thoroughly understand. The Bible definitely speaks against conformity with the world. James, one of the writers of the New Testament, makes a very strong statement about those who profess Christ, and yet, live worldly lives.

“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (James 4:4).

James compared friendship of the world to spiritual adultery. And he who “chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God.” No Christian wants to be an adulterer. Yet, the apostle states this is what the worldly Christian becomes. In order to understand just what this means, we must remember that the Bible teaches the Church is the Bride of Christ. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 11:2 that he has presented his converts as “a chaste virgin to Christ.” Therefore, the Christian’s devotion belongs only to Christ. If he divides his attention between Christ and the world, he is considered an adulterer in the eyes of God.

Jesus, in His last words to His disciples before His death, showed the difference between His people and the world. He said the world would not approve of the

separated life of a Christian.

“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” (John 15:18-19).

The Apostle John warned the Christian to not set his affections on the things of this world. If he did, the love of the Father was not in him.

“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:15-17).

Does this mean the Christian should withdraw from the world as much as possible? No, we should do exactly the opposite. We find that Christ, our example, mingled freely with sinners and the people of the world. One of the chief charges the religious leaders brought against Him was that He ate with the sinners (Matthew 9:11). If we are going to win the lost, we are going to have to go where the sinner is. Christ was often with sinners, but He did not partake of their ways. Sinners in His Presence were convicted of their sins, and they looked to Him to help them turn from their evil lives. Simon Peter, the fisherman, became so deeply convicted that on an impulse he cried, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord” (Luke 5:8). That was really the last thing that Peter wanted – for the Lord to depart from him. Jesus reassured Peter saying, “Have no fear; from now on you will be catching men” (Luke 5:10 Amplified).

Peter did become a great winner of souls, but in doing so he never compromised nor went back to his old ways. In his epistle he says, “For the time that is past already suffices for doing what the Gentiles like to do – living [as you have done] in shameless, insolent wantonness, in lustful desires, drunkenness, reveling, drinking bouts and abominable, lawless idolatries. They are astonished and think it very queer you do not now run hand in hand with them in the same excesses of dissipation, and they abuse [you]” (1 Peter 4:3-4 Amplified).

Our refusing to partake of the world’s evil does not mean we should withdraw from the world. We should dress in good taste and always within the bounds of decency. The Apostle Paul gives good counsel on this subject in 1 Peter 3:3-4. He explains real beauty comes from inside a person’s heart and not simply from their clothes or accessories.

It should always be remembered that dressing in one fashion or another will not save anyone. Only Christ’s death on the cross can do that. The less emphasis on someone’s clothing or style the better. If one is uncertain about what he should do, a talk with the pastor would be in order. 1 Corinthians 8:13 and 10:32-33 give good advice on this subject.

CHAPTER 5

The Importance Of The Fruit Of The Spirit By Their Fruit You Shall Know Them

After you are born-again, you should ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit. The result of the Spirit should be seen in every Christian's life.

Jesus taught that a man's character is to be judged by the fruit that comes from having the Holy Spirit in his life. He added, that on the Day of Judgment, many will say they prophesied and they possessed gifts of healing or even the working of miracles, and they will offer this as proof that they are true believers. Yet, they will be judged as workers of iniquity!

“Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and driven out demons in Your name and done many mighty works in Your name? And then I will say to them openly (publicly), I never knew you; depart from Me, you who act wickedly – disregarding My commands” (Matthew 7:21-23 Amplified).

What then is the true test of those who are genuine followers of Christ? The Lord does not leave us in doubt. The true test is in the fruit.

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you dressed as sheep, but inside they are devouring wolves. You will fully recognize them by their fruits. Do people pick grapes from thorns, or figs from thistles? Even so, every healthy (sound) tree bears good fruit – worthy of admiration, but the sickly...tree bears bad and worthless fruit” (Matthew 7:15-17 Amplified).

The implication is clear. Even though a man may demonstrate unusual gifts, he is not to be followed unless he also manifests the fruit of the Spirit. To this the Apostle Paul fully agrees. In his discussion of the gifts of the Spirit, after urging believers to covet the best or most important gifts, he also adds they must seek the fruit or the other will not profit them. “But earnestly desire and zealously cultivate the greatest and best gifts and graces (the higher gifts and the choicest graces). And yet I will show you a still more excellent way [one that is better by far and the highest of them all – love].” Then, Paul goes on to tell more about this highest gift and its manifestations or fruit.

“If I [can] speak in the tongues of men and [even] of angels, but have not love (that reasoning, intentional, spiritual devotion such as is inspired by God's

love for and in us), I am only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And, if I have prophetic powers (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), and understand all the secret truths and mysteries and possess all knowledge, and if I have [sufficient] faith so that I can remove mountains, but have not love (God's love in me) I am nothing (a useless nobody). Even if I dole out all that I have [to the poor in providing] food, and if I surrender my body to be burned or in order that I may glory, but have not love (God's love in me), I gain nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:1-3 Amplified).

The Gifts Of Prophecy And Understanding All Mysteries Is Not Enough Without Love

The foretelling phase of prophecy, the prediction of events far in the future is perhaps the greatest proof of the Scriptures, although the prophets themselves understood little of their own prophecies (1 Peter 1:10-12). Paul emphasized this point by saying that if a prophet understood all prophecies and all mysteries, and if he did not have love, it would not profit him anything.

Martyrdom Without Love Is Profitless

Next, the Apostle Paul draws the picture of a man who gives all his goods to feed the poor and is even willing to suffer martyrdom. Certainly, he who gives his life for the Gospel stands high in the list of Christ's disciples. When enemies of the Gospel stoned Stephen to death, he saw in a vision Christ standing at the right hand of God, as if to welcome him home. Stephen had such love for his enemies that he could pray, "Lord, fix not this sin upon them [lay it not to their charge]! And when he had said this, he fell asleep [in death]" (Acts 7:60 Amplified). His prayer evidently was answered. Saul, the ringleader who held the coats of the assassins, was later converted. After his conversion, God changed his name to Paul. Paul became the great champion of the Christian faith.

Even martyrdom without love is not enough. A communist also endures great hardships, incurs personal danger and sometimes gives his life for this cause. Why does he do it? It is not because of love. While there may be mixed motives, it is generally because he has a grievance against humanity. The Communist, in his delusion, lives for the day when he and his fellow conspirators can seize power and take over as the Bolsheviks did in Russia. He may die for his cause, but the motive that inspires him is not love. Instead, it is his own sadly warped self-interest.

The Importance Of Love

The Apostle Paul, having shown the importance of love in the life of each Christian, no matter how great, proceeds to analyze love to show what love really means. In Paul's analysis, we find that as there are nine different fruit that make up the Spirit, so there are nine ingredients in Divine love. Let us notice these one by one. They are the graces desperately needed in the Church today.

1. Patience – Love Suffers Long

“Love endures long and is patient and kind...Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]” (I Corinthians 13:4,7 Amplified).

Love gives a man power to be patient when everything goes wrong. It gives us power to keep calm and collected, when others lose their equilibrium or peaceful temperament. There are people who have exceptional talents and abilities, but let an unexpected situation come up and they panic. The only way they know to react is to “blow their top,” which means to get really mad.

Patience is an important quality of love. It takes into account the limitations and weaknesses of humanity. Love hopes for good in every man. Notice how a mother's love reveals this quality. If the child she bore goes wrong, and all others give up faith in him, the mother will keep on praying and believing. Quite often her prayer is answered! Patience is a quality of Divine love. How we need it in the Church today!

2. Kindness-Love Is Kind

Kindness is love in action. Kind people will not willingly hurt others. They get no pleasure out of making the life or existence of someone else harder to bear. Kindness will help point men to the Christ you serve. Thinking of the needs of others, first, will demonstrate Christian love. Remember you represent Christ, and you must work always, so people will see Christ in you and will want to be like you.

3. Good Will – Love Is Not Jealous

“Love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy” (1 Corinthians 13:4 Amplified).

In these days, men of the world seem concerned only with themselves. It is easy to become envious of what others have and of what they can do. However, this is not God's way.

If our neighbors or friends work hard and are able to buy something new for

themselves, we should not feel envy in our hearts for what they have. Whether we could buy it or not, we should not be envious. Rather, we should be glad with them for their good fortune. Love has no jealousy, and the Scriptures say we should love our neighbors as ourselves. Christ said a man's life does not consist and is not derived from possessing over-flowing abundance, or that which is over and above his needs.

Perhaps one of the saddest tendencies of today's world is the fight for success. In the spiritual realm there is even greater danger. Some wish to be the greatest preacher, or the finest singer, or the best-known member of their church. So often Christians find in their hearts they are not genuinely happy to see God moving in other men's lives or even in other denominations or groups. They think only their particular church or denomination should make progress in the Lord's work. The love of Christ is not jealous of others' blessings. Romans, Chapter 12, tells us, "So we, numerous as we are, are one body in Christ (the Messiah) and individually we are parts one of another – mutually dependent on one another... Love one another with brotherly affection – as members of one family – giving precedence and showing honor to one another" (Amplified).

At times, Satan will tempt us to do unethical things to promote ourselves or our group above others, without our even noticing it. We should question our motives constantly. We should remember the words of the Scriptures and keep ourselves humble. If someone wrongs us and pushes us aside, we may be tempted to become discouraged and feel we have not received just recognition for our labor. We must remember to not become envious or jealous when others seem to receive recognition, and we do not. Psalms 75:6-7 says, "For not from the east nor from the west nor from the south come promotion and lifting up. God is the Judge! He puts down one and lifts up another." It is our duty to remember the law of love, and we let God take care of recognizing merits. God says we may receive our rewards here if we demand it, but we will get nothing in heaven. In the day God gives us our heavenly rewards, He will make the meek great, but He will cause those who think they are the greatest to be the last.

Remember love is empty of jealousy and envy. Its essence is purity in everything we think, say and do. If we think, say and do for others, then we will be putting love into action, and we will have no time for envy and jealousy.

4. Humility – Love Is Not Conceited Or Proud

"It is not conceited – arrogant and inflated with pride" (Amplified).

God earnestly desires to give His Church more power than it currently has at the time. For He has said, "But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth" (Acts 1:8 Amplified). The Church needs power if it is to evangelize the world. One of the great obstacles to this is God can only find a few men He can

trust. Too often a man, once he has gained influence, becomes insufferable. The drive for power can cause him to become contemptuous of the rights of others. He will forget that others helped him to be successful, and most of all, without God he is nothing. Pride can destroy all that is good and decent in a man.

The Scriptures tell us we should not elevate ourselves. “For every one who exalts himself will be humbled...and he who humbles himself [that is, keeps a modest opinion of himself and behaves accordingly] will be exalted – elevated in rank.” If one possesses a special gift – for instance, the ability to sing, it is wrong for him to belittle those around him because they do not possess the same talents as he does.

The cure for unholy ambition is Divine love. Love is not conceited or proud. When God wanted a man to lead his people out of Egypt, he chose not the ambitious Korah, who sought leadership, but Moses, the humblest man on earth. “Now the man Moses was very meek (gentle, kind, and humble) or above all the men on the face of the earth” (Numbers 12:3 Amplified).

Here was a man who turned down an offer from God to raise up a new nation entirely from his seed (Exodus 32:9-10). Because of his humility, God exalted him and made him the deliverer of his people from the land of Egypt. Humility is one of the most beautiful qualities one can find in a Christian.

5. Courtesy – Love Is Not Ill-Mannered

“Love...is not rude (unmannerly), and does not act unbecomingly” (Amplified).

Love reveals itself by its pattern and behavior. We refer to common courtesy – not to what is called modern etiquette. True courtesy goes far beyond the traditions of society and protocol. A woman may carry a book of etiquette under her arm and still violate courtesy with her nagging tongue. A husband may have a good testimony at church, but at home makes the life of his wife miserable by his stinginess in financial matters. True courtesy has to do with all the relationships of life. It will cause an employer to treat his employees as he would want to be treated. Courtesy will keep Christians from discussing the faults of others in a malicious spirit.

6. Unselfishness – Love Is Not Selfish

“Love...does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking” (Amplified).

Paul, commenting on the ministry in his day wrote, “For the others all seek [to advance] their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ, the Messiah” (Philippians 2:21 Amplified). This is the tendency of the natural man. Love never seeks its own way. What a revolution there would be in the Church today if men would build for Christ, instead of for themselves. It was this same love that dominated Paul, who

said, “Yes, furthermore, I count everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege (the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and supreme advantage) of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord and of progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him [of perceiving and recognizing and understanding Him more fully and clearly]. For His sake I have lost everything and consider it all to be mere rubbish (refuse, dregs), in order that I may win...Christ the Anointed One” (Philippians 3:8 Amplified). This is the kind of love we need in the Church today, if we are to see the power of the gifts of the Spirit manifested in the way they should.

7. Temper – Love Is Not Irritable

“Love...is not touchy or fretful or resentful” (1 Corinthians 13:5 Amplified).

Here is a real test as to whether one has true love. Paul does not say one who has love will never be provoked. Even Christ at times was angry. On one occasion, He took a scourge of small cords and drove out the moneychangers from the temple (John 2:15). However, no one manifested love in a greater degree than He did.

One who has Divine love will not be easily irritated. Some professing Christians struggle with a fearfully quick temper. They are terribly sensitive, and they cannot bear to have the least thing cross them. A man quick to anger will often accuse the other person of losing his temper – the very thing of which he is guilty. Only the man who can keep his own spirit is the master of the situation.

If one is ever tempted to feel that a quick temper is not detrimental to the work of God, he should study James 1:20: “For man’s anger does not promote the righteousness of God [wishes and requires]” (Amplified).

8. Love Does Not Keep A Record Of Wrongs

“Love...takes no account of the evil done to it – pays no attention to a suffered wrong” (1 Corinthians 13:5 Amplified).

Love thinks no evil. It is sad that some people live in a state of constant suspicion. Being crafty themselves, they naturally are suspicious of others because they expect them to do what they would do.

People, as a whole, respond the way you expect them to respond. Show confidence in them, and they will usually strive to keep faith with that confidence. This, of course, is not always true. There are some who will betray a confidence. Yet, in the long run, people who have faith in others will come out the best.

However, if someone does wrong to you, you must be ready to forgive that person and forget that wrong, just as Christ has forgiven you.

At one time the disciple Peter asked Christ how many times we should forgive a man, “As many as seven times?” Jesus answered him, “I tell you, not up to seven times, but seventy times seven!” (Matthew 18: 22).

9. Love Is Not Happy With Evil, But Is Happy With Truth

“Love...does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail” (1 Corinthians 13:6 Amplified).

There are some people who find real happiness when they hear a bad report about others. In fact, they may even feel elated when someone falls by the wayside, believing that somehow they will profit by that person’s failure. True Christian love, however, rejoices not in evil, but in truth. When David, of the Old Testament, heard of the death of his enemy Saul, instead of rejoicing, he lamented saying,

“Your glory, O Israel, is slain upon your high places. How have the mighty fallen! Tell it not in Gath, announce it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult” (2 Sam. 1:19-20 Amplified).

If we see someone fail, we should not maliciously point him out nor feel contemptuous or superior toward him. We should feel a sorrow for that person, pray for him and sincerely try to help him, if at all possible. When Christ was on earth, He was never happy over the downfall of any man. He wished that none should perish. We must take the same attitude of our Master.

Summary

With the return of greater power to the Church, there must be an emphasis on holiness and the fruit of the Spirit. The improvising of cheap, shoddy schemes to attract attention, the employment of the sensational as a substitute for the working of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is not a good sign. Human ambition, when it is unmanaged or out of control, can result in disaster and bring harm to the cause. Let Divine love flow. Let humility be the spirit in which we fulfill our ministry to the people. Then, we shall see Christians come forth in their power. Then, we shall use the gifts of the Spirit of God manifested in their purity and beauty. Then, shall the Church fulfill her responsibility of evangelizing the world and be ready for the return of the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER 6

Witnessing For Christ - What Does It Mean To Witness?

“And you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the end – the very bounds – of the earth” (Acts 1:8 Amplified).

Witnessing means telling others what you know. It is both the privilege and responsibility of every Christian to tell others about Christ. We should tell our family, relatives and friends when the opportunity arises. Here are some suggestions which will help you to witness.

1. Prepare your heart by prayer to God. The Holy Spirit of God needs a yielded God-loving heart. Before you witness to anyone, you must pray and the Holy Spirit will speak through you and give you the right words to say. Then, pray also that God will move on the heart and spirit of whomever you talk to, so that he may not only hear, but also understand and open his heart to Christ. God will go before you and move upon the person as you speak to him.

Without prayer you will be powerless! The more you commune with Him and yield yourself to God, the more power to witness you will find in your life. When you have asked God to help you, go in confidence that He will lead you to those who are spiritually hungry.

2. Do not argue. Salvation is in a person – Jesus Christ. To witness means to introduce someone to Jesus Christ. They might know about Him, but not know Him personally. A person becomes a Christian when he accepts Jesus Christ into his spirit and into his life. In brief, the reason for accepting Christ is as follows:

God, the one true God, is the Creator of the entire universe. He created man to be a companion and friend to Him. Long ago Satan, the evil one, who despised God and all His creation, came to man and told him that if he would forsake God, he could become like a god himself – in knowledge and wisdom.

So, man separated himself from God’s Presence by his own choice. Once separated, man found life was void and empty without the close friendship with the Divine, and rather than being like God, he found himself a fallen creature. He could no longer walk and talk with God, and until this day, the story of humanity is one of sorrow and disappointment since man went out from the Presence of Almighty God.

However, the most terrible of all is when man’s body dies, his soul (also separated from God), cannot go to live in the Kingdom of God where peace and happiness beyond all imagination reign. Man’s soul will go to the kingdom of

Satan (called hell) where chaos, hatred and evil dominate.

God loved mankind very much, and He conceived a plan where man might be redeemed from the great penalty of eternal separation from Himself. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, in the form of man to experience death and separation from God, so He might take upon himself our punishment. By accepting Christ Jesus' sacrifices of dying in our place and letting His Spirit rule in our life, we are accepting God's plan of redemption for man. By accepting His plan, we are restored to the favor and mercy of God.

We can know the Presence of the Spirit of God, even while we live here on earth, and when our body dies, God will give us a new glorified body. Then we will go to live with Him forever.

Do not let your conversation get into an argument. You are not there to defend your religion, but to present Christ. For instance, if someone asks you which church is the right church, you should say there is only one true Church, and it includes all born-again believers. Although everyone should go to church, no denomination can save him – only belief and trust in Jesus Christ. Then return the conversation to the person of Christ.

The Presentation

The Word of God is the "sword" you will use to introduce Christ and the plan of redemption. It would be helpful to read or quote these five Scriptures to the person to whom you are witnessing. If possible, carry a small Bible which you can show them.

1. "Since all have sinned and are falling short of the honor and glory which God bestows and receives" (Romans 3:23 Amplified).

This first passage reveals a problem common to all of us. It is because of this problem we all need Christ. Have your prospect read it as you point to it. Man must know he is lost before he can be saved. All (both you and I) have sinned. To show your subject what sin is, use Jesus as your example. Ask the prospect "Are we as righteous and faithful as He is?" We all have come short of the glory of God!

Ask him, "How many sins does it take to make a sinner?" You are trying to show your subject that all are sinners and are guilty before God.

2. "For the wages which sin pays is death, but the...free gift of God is eternal life through...Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23 Amplified).

Point out this second verse immediately. The prospect has seen and admitted that he is a sinner. Point to Romans 6:23 and have him read the passage. Here the

Bible says we will receive a wage – something we have rightfully earned. What is the wage? The prospect reads – death! We have earned it. Tell him death is spiritual separation from God.

Now have him read the second part, “but the...free gift of God is eternal life through...Jesus Christ our Lord.” Here God is speaking about a gift, something we cannot earn. Ask your subject, “Can you earn a gift? All you can do is either reject or accept it. What is the gift? Eternal life! This life is through (or in) a person, Jesus Christ. To have God’s gift you must have Jesus, His Son.”

3. “So repent (change your mind and purpose); turn around and return [to God], that your sins may be erased (blotted out, wiped clean), that times of refreshing (of recovering from the effects of heat, of reviving with fresh air) may come from the presence of the Lord” (Acts 3:19 Amplified).

As you point to this passage, ask your prospect, “What does this text say we must do in order to receive eternal life? Repent means to be sorry for your sins, and to turn away from them.”

4. “But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in – adhere to, trust in, and rely on – His name” (John 1:12 Amplified).

To as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become God’s children. Here God says we have to receive Christ in order to become His children. Point out it is not doing anything that makes the Christian, but receiving Jesus Christ that makes us the children of God.

5. “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears and listens to and heeds My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will eat with him, and he [will eat] with Me” (Revelation 3:20 Amplified).

We have said that God offers to us the free gift of eternal life, and this gift is in the person of Jesus Christ. In order to have God’s gift, we must receive Christ. But how can we receive Him? Listen carefully, because in this passage Jesus is talking directly to you! “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears and listens to and heeds My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him.” That door is the door of your heart. He stands there gently knocking. Jesus is knocking at the door of your heart.

Tell your prospect that every man has a free will and must make his own choices. This is how you receive Christ. Jesus will never force Himself into anyone’s life. He is humbly standing at the door of your life, waiting for you to let Him in. He won’t force Himself in. It is up to you. That door must be opened from the inside; only you can do that!

For example, if I were a friend of yours, and I stood knocking at the door of your house, what would you say? You'd say, "Come in!" Jesus is waiting for you to open the door and to invite Him in.

This is the crucial moment. While you wait for an answer, silently pray.

If your prospect says, "Yes, I'll let Him in," then bow your head, and pray with him as he asks Jesus to come into his life. Then have him thank the Lord Jesus for the gift of eternal life.

If he says, "No, I don't want to," or "No, I'm not ready yet," tell him you are glad that he is honest about it. Make sure, however, that he knows what he is doing. Ask him if he realizes that he is actually refusing God's gift of eternal life by refusing Jesus. If he understands, there is nothing else you can do. Do not be discouraged, but end your presentation of Jesus like this:

"You don't need me or anyone else with you when you ask Jesus to come into your heart. Alone, anywhere, you can ask Him to come into your life, and in that instant you will be saved." Gently lay your hand on his shoulder. "Don't wait too long!" Encourage him to make the decision immediately.

Say, "Bow your head with me, and we'll pray together," and without looking up or waiting, begin to pray and ask God to strengthen his heart and make Jesus real to him.

Most of all, let Christ shine through your life. Let your face radiate the joy of your salvation. The person will be drawn to Christ if he sees Christ in you. No amount of persuasion will convince him if you yourself are not living proof of the power and mercy of Christ's redeeming love.

We shall not always find the Christian life the easiest, but when we meet our Lord, it will certainly be worth it all. May we fight the good fight here on earth until the day when we shall all join our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Necessary Steps To Salvation

1. ACKNOWLEDGE: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13). You must acknowledge in the light of God's Word that you are a sinner.

2. REPENT: "But unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19). You must see the awfulness of sin and then repent of it.

3. CONFESS: "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). "With the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:10). Confess your sins to God.

4. FORSAKE: “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord ... for he will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:7). Sorrow for sin is not enough in itself. We must want to be done with it once and for all.

5. BELIEVE: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9). Believe in the finished work of Christ on the cross.

6. RECEIVE: “He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (John 1:11, 12). Christ must be received personally into the heart by faith, if the experience of the New Birth is to be yours. (FGBMFI)

Now, if you will pray this prayer, it will help you to receive Jesus Christ into your soul and life:

Dear Heavenly Father,	have loved me.
I thank You that You love me.	And, Father, show me step by step the
I ask Your Son Jesus Christ to come into	plan You made for my life.
my life.	I give You myself and my life.
I know I have sinned and committed	I worship and praise You, my Creator
deeds displeasing to You.	and Lord.
I ask You now to forgive me of these	I will continually thank You for
sins and to cleanse my life.	sacrificing Your Son on the cross that I
Help me to follow You and Your	might have eternal life with You
teachings.	Help me to win others to Christ.
Protect me from Satan and evil.	I await the return of Christ to take me to
Teach me to put You first in all my	Heaven.
thoughts and actions.	
Help me to love my fellow man, as You	Come soon, Lord Jesus. Amen

How To Receive The Baptism In The Holy Spirit

1. You must be born again. This means to ask Jesus to forgive your sins, and then accept God's forgiveness, knowing "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God," and "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 3:23 and 10:13).

2. If now you have accepted Christ as Savior, the Holy Spirit lives in you. John 14:7; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19.

3. The Holy Spirit is a Person and will speak for Himself if you allow Him to.

4. The Holy Spirit will use your lips, tongue and voice if you permit Him – just as when you speak in English.

5. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, in faith you must begin to do the speaking. Acts 2:4 says, "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and (they) began to speak."

6. Receiving Christ as Savior required an act of faith. Healing results from an act of faith. Speaking in tongues takes an act of faith.

7. When in faith you begin to speak in tongues, the Holy Spirit will give the utterance – the words to say. That's where the supernatural comes in.

8. Every believer is commanded to "be filled with the Spirit," Ephesians 5:18, even Jesus' mother, Mary, and His flesh and blood brothers. James, Joses, Simon and Judas (Matthew 13:55), (Acts 1:14) and His disciples received (Acts 2:4). Receiving the Holy Spirit is not an option.

9. Relax. "This is the rest ..." Isaiah 28:12

10. The Holy Spirit is a gift. Acts 8:20; 2:38, 39; 11:17; Luke 11:13. You don't beg or work for a gift. You just receive it.

11. Begin each day by praying in the Spirit to edify yourself – it's like charging your spiritual batteries. 1 Corinthians 14:4, 18.

12. Receive now, by worshipping Jesus in your heart and speaking forth in faith in the unknown tongues as the Holy Spirit in you provides the words.

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