

# Next Steps for New Believers

## Welcome to the Family of God!

As a new believer in Jesus Christ, you have just experienced what the Bible calls a spiritual birth. The Scriptures declare that, *"if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17).

At the moment you put your faith in Christ, God not only forgave all your sins, but also placed the Holy Spirit within you. Life will never be the same! Like a newborn baby who longs for the pure milk of his mother, God has some spiritual milk to help you begin your new journey with Him, *"so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good"* (1 Peter 2:2-3).

We are thrilled with your decision to receive Christ as your Savior and want to help you as you grow – progressively allowing Him to be your closest friend and the Lord of your life. In the section below, we've included some practical tips for how to begin growing in your relationship with Christ. You can also roam around [LivingontheEdge.org](http://LivingontheEdge.org) for free audio, video and MP3 downloads that will help you grow deeper in your relationship with Christ.

## Practical Tips for Growing in Your Relationship with Christ:

### 1. TELL SOMEONE

Let your pastor or fellow Christian know you've made a decision to follow Christ. It can sometimes be difficult to tell another person the decision you've made, but there's great power in verbalizing your commitment. It will help you follow through and let others know how they can support you.

### 2. CONNECT WITH GOD

- **GET TO KNOW GOD THROUGH THE BIBLE.** Get a Bible translation that's easy to read. (We recommend the New Living Translation or New International Version.)

We call the Bible, "God's Word" because it can change your life. It's one of the primary ways He speaks to you and reveals Himself to you. Start in the Gospel of John. It's the fourth book into the New Testament. You'll learn more about Jesus, who He is, why He came, and why your faith and obedience to Him will transform your life.

If you miss a day or so, don't fall into the trap of thinking that God loves you any less; He just wants to connect with you. It's like any relationship – the more time you spend together, the deeper the relationship will be.

If you don't know where or how to start reading the Bible, let me recommend a simple method that is simple yet powerful. It will take you about 20 minutes a day:

**PRAY** – Ask God to speak to you and give you a sensitive heart to respond to His Word.

**PREVIEW** – Read a section of Scripture (maybe a couple of paragraphs or a chapter). Read it once through briefly – don't try to study it yet.

**READ** – Now re-read the same portion of Scripture slowly and methodically as though you were reading a love letter.

**OBSERVE** – Look for key words – words that repeat or stand out. Think about what the author is trying to communicate.

**APPLY** - What is one thing you can take from what you read? A principle that you could take and practically apply to your relationships and how you live your life?

**PRAY** – Ask God to help you live out and apply what you've learned and thank Him for the promises and hope found in His Word.

**TELL** – The best way to learn and apply something is by telling someone else. Find another Christian and tell them about what you read, what it meant to you, how you felt about it, and how you're going to apply it.

*For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*  
Hebrews 4:12 (NIV)

• **ASK GOD FOR HELP & LEARN TO LISTEN THROUGH PRAYER.** There is not a formula or equation to the "perfect prayer" – it's simply talking to your heavenly Father. He wants you to be real and honest with Him about how you feel, where you struggle, where you find success, and all the ups and downs of life and relationships.

If you would like some direction in learning how to pray, start with this guide below...

**ADORATION** – We were made to praise, enjoy and adore God. Take time to simply admire the works of His creation, the kind of God He is and His everlasting love for you. Praying Scripture out loud is a great way to do this: Psalm 47:2; 1 Chronicles 16:25-30; Deuteronomy 10:17-18; Romans 11:33-36; Psalm 139; Psalm 150; Psalm 19:1-6.

**CONFESSION** – Just like any relationship, you can't connect deeply if there's junk or unresolved conflict between you and another person. God promises that if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. Check out these promises about God's forgiveness when we come humbly before Him: Psalm 19:12-13; 2 Chronicles 30:9; Psalm 103:9-13; Proverbs 8:13; 1 John 1:9; Prov 17:3; Isaiah 53:3-6; Hosea 6:1-2.

**THANKSGIVING** – What are you thankful for? What are the physical, relational and spiritual blessings in your life? Where have you seen God show up? Thank Him for what He has and will do. Pray aloud from passages like Psalm 103; Habakkuk 3:18-19; Psalm 86:12-13; Psalm 34:18-19.

**SUPPLICATION** – God wants to hear what’s on your heart. Pray for your personal needs and what’s on your heart. Lift up family members, friends, leaders of our nation and world, special concerns... whatever the Lord bring to your mind to pray. Here are some passages to use as a guide for praying for yourself and others: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13; Matthew 11:28-30; John 6:35; John 15:7-11; 2 Peter 1:5-8; James 1:21-22.

**RESOURCES** - If you'd like to learn more on how to connect to God through prayer, we recommend:

- *Too Busy Not to Pray* by Bill Hybels
- *The Power of Prayer* by Chip Ingram (LivingontheEdge.org)
- *The Handbook to Prayer* by Kenneth Boa

### 3. CONNECT WITH OTHER BELIEVERS

The Christian life cannot be lived out alone. You grow in your relationship with God and your deepest needs are met in the context of authentic community – when you “do life” with other believers.

• **FIND A GOOD BIBLE-TEACHING CHURCH IN YOUR AREA** and get plugged in a small group. If you don't know where to look, go online or ask some solid believers where they go.

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)*

### 4. LEARN HOW TO GROW SPIRITUALLY

Go through r12 online to learn what it means to be an authentic follower of Christ.

**RESOURCES** to help you grow available at LivingontheEdge.org:

- *The Miracle of Life Change* CD or DVD series
- *r12: True Spirituality* CD or DVD series
- *Ancient Paths to Intimacy with God* CD series