Keys For New Christians

As a new Christian, you may not understand exactly what being a Christian means. By understanding what has happened and what this experience really means to your life, you can become a fruitful witness for the Lord. So let us start from the beginning – Salvation.

Every human is a spirit being with a soul (mind, will, and emotions) who lives in a body. The first mankind, Adam and Eve, were created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27) and the Zoe life of God was in them. When Adam and Eve chose to eat of the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the life of God instantly departed from them. God said to them, “In the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die” (Gen. 2:17b).

Death entered earth for the first time. The first couple became “dead” spirit beings (without the life of God), although their bodies lived for several hundred years longer. By this act of disobedience, the first couple also forfeited dominion over the earth given them by God. (Gen.1:28-30). Instead, the anointed cherub, who covered the throne of God and called Lucifer according to Isaiah 14:12, tempted Adam and Eve to sin. Through their fall, he gained access and authority to rule over the world. However, the planet itself and all of its resources always were God’s. (Psalms 24:1)

All descendants of Adam and Eve became slaves of Satan, who had such pride that he thought he could set his throne above that of the All-Powerful One. (Isaiah 14:13-14) As slaves, they had no means to “buy back” themselves out of slavery. The condition of spiritual death – separation from God – was inherited by every descendant of the first couple. However, God promised Adam and Eve someone who would bruise Satan’s head. (Gen. 3:15)

Down through the ages God narrowed down the lines of mankind to the lineage into which His Son, Jesus, would be born: Seth, Noah, Shem, Abraham, Jacob, Judah, David, and finally Mary, who would be the mother of Jesus, and Joseph, her husband. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Through a miraculous process called “the virgin birth,” Jesus was born, a divine spirit being with no inherited sin. His soul and body were of human descent; but, during His life on earth, he met every temptation each of us meets, and made the right choices. (Heb. 4:15) So even the human part of the God-Man was innocent and without sin. Jesus made choices as a man, not as God. He chose rightly by obedience to the authority set over Him on earth and in heaven according to Luke 2:51 and John 5:19. Therefore he remained humble and kept the attitude of a servant. No pride was found in Him, no self-seeking, no self-focus and no earthly ambition. His goal was to do the will of the Father Who had sent Him according to John 5:30.

He became the ultimate blood sacrifice to pay the penalty for sin and to defeat Satan and death. “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil” (1 John 3:8b). To receive freedom that Jesus bought for you, you must be born again. (John 3:1-21)
**STEPS TO SALVATION**

1. Conviction of sinfulness is brought by the Holy Spirit. A “sinner” is something you are. Every person without Jesus is a sinner. A person under conviction may harden their heart and refuse to be brought to repentance, deflect the conviction through remorse or self-justification, or humble their heart and receive the revelation that, yes, they are a sinner who needs God.

2. A person repents of sin and asks Jesus to come into their heart, then confesses that they are born again. “For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:10).

3. He/She instantly becomes a new creature, through the grace of God and not because of anything they did according to 2 Corinthians 5:17. Our part is to simply believe that God will receive us, because of Jesus. “For by grace are you saved through faith; and not that of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest anyone should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9).

4. Just as a baby human being must grow, eat food, and begin to exercise their body, so must newborn Christians according to 1 Peter 2:2. Otherwise, they become malnourished, retarded, or have flabby spiritual muscles.

**SALVATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING**

What should a new Christian do? They should get a Bible, find a church that teaches the Word, and be baptized in water. “He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). Also read and study Acts 2:38, 41, 9:18, 19:1-6, 10:44-48, and 16:31-33. Next, he/she should begin to talk to his father, Who has adopted him from the family of Satan through Jesus, His dear Son.

**NOW LETS TALK ABOUT PRAYER**

Growing up as a child of God depends much on prayer. Your life will be changed and become fruitful according to how much or how little you pray. You are always welcome in the Father's Throne Room, and in the psalms we are told that God is a God Who hears and answers according to Psalms 3:4, 4:3, 6:9, and many other scriptures. The first purpose of prayer is to get acquainted with, and fellowship with, your Father, Who is much more truly a Father than an earthly father could be. Why, because earthly relationships pass away, but the Father Who has adopted you into His heavenly family will be your Father forever and ever.

During prayer, you must learn to listen for the voice of God. Ideas may come unexpectedly to your mind that will resolve the very obstacles you face. Test these thoughts by whether you feel peace or not (James 3:17). The Word of God is alive. His name is Jesus, and through the Holy Spirit, He is willing to speak to you concerning your need. Through these times of prayer, faith will be built according to Romans 10:17.

The second reason to pray is to thank, praise, and worship the Father. And third is to seek the answer to special needs in petitions based on promises written to you in His Word.
All of these reasons to pray (talk to the Father), but particularly the third, require one thing to be effective, and that is FAITH.

**Now Let’s Get Inside Information on Faith**

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him” (Hebrews 11:6). “Whatsoever is not of faith is sin” (Romans 14:23). That means if you pray without believing that God’s Word is true or that He will do what He says, your prayers will be ineffective. Why? Because praying in doubt and disbelief is not praying, but rather going thru the motions of religion. Every Christian has a measure of faith. It took faith to be saved. “...God has dealt to every man the measure of faith according to Romans 12:3. Faith is not a feeling, but an absolute belief. Faith begins with finding out the Will of the Lord in any situation, then being obedient no matter what you think or feel. Habakkuk 2:4 says, “The just shall live by his faith.” Special Note: Hebrews 11 is the Classic FAITH chapter!

**Now Let’s Evaluate the Truth Concerning Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

This term comes from the prophecies of John the Baptist and Jesus concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit to live on earth with all those born again after Jesus’ resurrection according to Matthew 3:11 and Acts 1:4-5. However, the Holy Spirit had been active in the world since creation according to Genesis 1:2.

Before conversion, the Holy Spirit is with a person, pushing us to Jesus. At conversion, the Holy Spirit imparts the life of God to a believer by coming to live within them. However, there is a provision of God whereby the Holy Spirit also is poured out upon a believer. In the conversion process, He becomes a part of you; in the baptism, you are immersed in Him. Read Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:1-4, and Titus 3:5. The purpose of water baptism is a symbolic cleansing of unrighteousness; the purpose of the Holy Spirit baptism is to empower the believer to walk in supernatural power and carry out the Great Commission from Jesus to preach to the world that man has been reconciled to God according to Mark 16:15-18.

In addition, the Holy Spirit produces rivers of living water (John 7:37-39) out of a believer’s life – if you will allow it to – and brings revelation of the truths of the Word of God (John 16:13-14), as well as guides, counsels, and comforts. The tangible evidence of this baptism is the speaking in other tongues. This gift is given to the believer as a personal prayer language to edify himself and to be built up for service according to Mark 16:17, Acts 2:4, 1 Corinthians 14:4, 18, 39-40.

Another function of the Holy Spirit is to aid believers through the nine “Gifts” He manifests to the Body of Christ through the believers He chooses. (1 Cor. Chap. 12-14). Additional empowerments of the Holy Spirit include but not limited to spiritual warfare against the devil and his demons, against sickness and disease, and protection from the enemy and dangers of the world. (Psalm 91, Mark 16:15-18). All are predicated on FAITH according to Hebrews 11:1.
Now Let’s Deal With Divine Health and Healing

In addition to the anointing with oil by the elders of the church (James 5:14), and the laying on of hands, there is the kind of healing any believer can have who will believe beyond the shadow of doubt that Jesus bore sickness and disease on the cross. Therefore, when a diagnosis is given to you believe that you are already healed and walking in Divine Healing according to Isaiah 53 and 1 Peter 2:24. Do not get discouraged if your healing manifestation does not come immediately. Healing is already yours. Stand on the Word until it manifests.

What About Victorious Living, Wealth and Prosperity

Faith is the victory that overcomes the world (1 John 5:4-5), and that victory is available to every born-again person. The Father wants you to have everything you need and even your heart’s desire according to Psalm 37:4. POVERTY is a CURSE, not a blessing. (Lev. Chapter 26 and Deut. Chapter 28) God wants you to prosper for the purpose of establishing His covenant in the earth (Deut. 8:18) and to be “fruitful in every good work” according to Colossians 1:10.

What About Your Confession of Faith

The Words of Your Mouth Show the Attitude of Your Heart. “Death and Life are in the power of the tongue; and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof” (Proverbs 18:21) Read and study also Proverbs 6:2, 18:20, Matt. 12:35-37. It is most important for every child of God to speak out only what God says about things. Your words are strong determiners of the kind of life you have. They reflect faith or doubt and disbelief. They reflect a loving heart turned toward God and His people or one turned toward the rule of darkness, despair, and gloom.

Believers overcome Satan and all his works “by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony” (Revelation 12:11). The Word coming out of your mouth like “a two-edged sword” defeats the enemy. Jesus said that you could have whatever you say! (Mark 11:22-23) The Word of God says to “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33). The Apostle Paul wrote to the Roman church that the Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy. (Romans 14:17) Seek righteousness, peace, and joy as you trust God to fulfill His promise to prosper you in all areas of your life.

Finally, a believer needs the whole armor of God (Eph. 6:13-18) to become spiritually mature. Maturity is manifested when you can walk in the nine fruits of the spirit “against which there is no law” (Gal. 5:22-24). And in all things you must never forget to praise and worship our heavenly Father, to submit to the Lordship of Christ, and to listen to and appreciate the gentle voice of His dearest friend on earth – The Holy Spirit.

God’s best to you always,
Gerold & Sharon McGraw
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Join Us This Sunday @ 8:45 a.m.

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