New Believer’s recourses:

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**Trusting the Promises of God:**

In your new walk with God, there is only one foundation THE PROMISES OF GOD. In our walk with Him, we don’t rely on our feelings, our logic and wisdom or our situations but only on the word of God.

When Satan attacked Jesus and tempted Him, Jesus used only one weapon to defeat Satan “it is written” Matt. 4:1-11

You might face some doubts in the beginning of your new walk with God. For example; if you fall in sin Satan might use that to make you doubt the God heard your prayers and accepted you when you decided to commit your life to Him. So let us highlight a couple of the promises of God so you won’t fall for the schemes of the enemy.

In the Old Testament, God said; “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” Isaiah 55:12

If you did your part and forsook your sins and returned to the Lord, Then, ACCORDING TO HIS PROMSE, He pardoned you. It doesn’t matter how you FEEL about it or what is the SITUATION is. You must trust and have FAITH that He is able to do what He has promised.

Jesus promised “the one who comes to Me I will **by** **no** **mean**s cast out” John 6:37.

If you did come to Jesus and truly asked for forgiveness of sins and sincerely committed your life to Him, then, ACCORDING TO HIS PROMISE, He will never cast you out. Again, It doesn’t matter how you FEEL about it or what is the SITUATION is. You must trust and have FAITH that He is able to do what He has promised.

Jesus promised “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” Rev. 3:20

If you opened the door of your heart, He is surely in ACCORDING TO HIS PROMISE. Again, It doesn’t matter how you FEEL about it or what is the SITUATION is. You must trust and have FAITH that He is able to do what He has promised.

So rest in these promises of God. We walk with Him by faith and not by sight, or feelings, or situations or logic 2 Cor. 5:7. And Get to know your Bible so you can know more of the promises of God.

**I just prayed to become a Christian, now what?**

Your commitment to forsake sin and to make Jesus the only master of every aspect of your life has forever changed you ***before God*** and ***before man***.

**Before God:**

**1- Now you are justified before God:**

To be justified is far much better than to be forgiven. To be forgiven means that God recognizes your guilt and you sin but He willingly chose to forgive you for it. Although the Bible teaches us that God has forgiven us through His Son, Jesus Eph 4:32. Yet the Bible teaches us that God also did something that is far much better than just forgiving us; He justified us.

To be justified before God is to be seen by God “just as if you never sinned in the 1st place.” To be justified by God is to be acquitted by Him from any sin. The Bible teaches us that now because we are reconciled to God through the death of His son, we become “holy and blameless and above reproach before him” Col 1:22. When the most Holy God look at us, He doesn’t see our sins no more; He sees Jesus Christ the righteous himself who became our cover before God’s holy eyes 1 John 2:1-2. God has made Jesus, the one who knew no sin, to become a sin for us “so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” 2 Cor 5:21.

What a comforting and encouraging thought; Even if we fall in sin, we can always have “confidence draw near to the throne of grace” Heb. 4: 16 because of the perfect and complete sacrifice of Christ.

The Bible tells us that Justification is through faith alone Rom 3:22 by grace alone Rom. 3:24; in Christ alone Rom 3:25. There is nothing that you could have done to be justified before God; But when you repent of your sins and commit your life to Christ, you become justified before God.

**2- Now you are a child of God:**

Before we become born again, we “once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds” Col. 1: 21. We are “far off” from God Eph 2:13. We were “enemies” to God Rom. 5:10. But now “to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God” John 1:12. Now “having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” Eph 1:13. The Holy Spirit who came and indwelled in you, when you accepted Christ, is “the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” Rom 8:15.

God Almighty, the creator of heavens and earth, is now you Father. He loves you. Now you are His child and you need to learn to approach Him in this manner.

**3- Now you have eternal life:**

Eternal life is a free gift from God to man Rom. 3:23. You receive this gift when you receive His Son 1 John 5:11-12.

John assured his readers that can know that they have eternal life “I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life” 1 John 5:13. Paul was sure that once he depart from his flesh, he will be with the Lord 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil 1:23.

The reason John, Paul and all born again christians knew that they have eternal life is not because of any merit in them but rather because they trusted in the promises of Jesus. Jesus promised “whoever believe in Him should not perish, but have everlasting l life” John 3:16. He also promised “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father’s hand. I and *My* Father are one.” John 10:27-30.

You, too, because of Jesus complete sacrifice on the cross, because of His resurrection and victory over death, because of His promise to you and to all who “believe in Him,” you should be assured that you have eternal life.

**Before Man:**

**1- Now you are a new creation:**

The Bible teaches us “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” 2 Cor 5:17. As a result of your commitment to follow Christ, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God in your life Eph 1:13, you will see that you will have a brand new heart, desires. You will start hating sin and love righteousness Rom 6:16-17.

Please note that the Bible teaches us that salvation is not by works, it is only by grace (the unmerited, undeserved favor of God) “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” Eph 2:8-9.

Yet the same Bible also teaches us that this grace “that brings salvation to all men” is also “teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age” Titus 2:11-12. The Bible teaches us that eternal life is a free gift from God all men “in Christ Jesus our Lord” Rom. 3:26. Yet the same Bible also teaches us that “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” 2 Cor. 5:17.

Whoever is born of God doesn’t live the life of sin, no can he live the life of sin 1 John 3:9. That means few months down the road if you still have no desire to read the Bible, no desire to pray or go to church, still live the life of sin, and you still the same person from before, then your commitment to follow Christ wasn’t genuine and the promises of God for justification and eternal life don’t apply to you.

That doesn’t mean that once you accept Christ, you will live a sinless life 1 John 1:8. Rather it means that sin will be the exception in your life not the rule. The more you grow in your christian walk, the more you will be transformed into the likeness of Christ Rom 8:29; 12:1-2.

**2- Now you are a witness:**

Once you commit your life and heart to Christ, He will give you the desire and the will to tell others about Him. After the Samaritan woman encountered Jesus, she went and told her people “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” Joh 4:29. After Paul encountered Jesus, the Bible say “ Immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." Act 9:20.

Being a witness is also a command from Christ. He commanded us “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” Matt. 28:19. Notice how Jesus commanded us to take the initiative “GO.” You shouldn’t passively wait for people to ask you about Jesus, rather you should actively seeking the Holy Spirit to open doors to share with the lost the grace and love of God.

You are called to be a witness. In the court system, a witness is someone who just testify of what he has experienced. This is what we are called to do; to go and tell others how Jesus forgave us our sins, changed our hearts, and gave us hope and eternity Mark 5:19. The good news is we have the Holy Spirit on our side who can confirm this simple message with signs, wonders, and healings John 14:12.

**3- How can I grow as a new Christian? watch read**

Now that you have committed your life to Christ, you should grow daily in your walk with Him. There are 4 main ways by which you will grow in your christian walk; DAILY prayers, DAILY reading and studying the Bible, get plugged into a local church, and regular intentional witness

**How can I pray?** watch read

To pray is to talk to God; to have a conversation with Him.

When do you pray?

Make sure that you set time apart everyday to pray and spend time with God. You can pray early in the morning Psalm 5:3 or late at night Luke 6:12. The Bible commands us to pray without ceasing 1 Thess. 5:17, that is to be in constant communication with God.

Where do you pray?

Jesus said “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place;* and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly” Matt. 6:6. The point is to be isolated from all distractions and totally focus on our time with God.

How to pray?

God is not impressed with our words Matt. 6:7. He looks into our hearts Psalm 34:18. So when you pray, just talk to God, from your heart, as you talk to your father or a close friend who cares deeply about you.

When you pray, Please consider these Biblical prayers:

Giving thanks:

The Bible commands us “in everything **give** **thanks**; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” 1 Thess. 5:18. When you pray, always thank the Lord for His grace, mercy, His salvation, your day, your situations the good and the bad ones, answered prayers…etc.

Praying the scripture:

Praying the scriptures is a great way to communicate with God and meditate on His word. For example; Jesus said “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.” John 10:27-28

You can pray this scripture by thanking Jesus that He is the eternal life giver and that that you are eternally secure in His Power. You can also ask that the Lord gives you an ear that is sensitive to the voice of the shepherd and a heart that is willing to obey.

Intercessory prayers:

Intercessory prayer is to intercede to God on behalf on someone else. Most importantly is to intercede to God on behalf on those who don’t know Him so His wrath on their sin will be turned away from them Ezekiel 22:30-31.

Moses Exodus 32:11-14, Daniel Dan. 9, Samuel 1 Samuel 12:23, Amos Amos 7:1-6, Paul Galatians 4:19 land many others in the Bible interceded to God so that He would turn away His wrath on sin.

As a Christian, we are commanded to seek first the kingdom of God Matt. 6:33. You must pray and intercede on behalf of the lost so that God would open their hearts so they can obtain the eternal life that can only be found in Jesus.

So Please commit to pray fervently daily James 5:16 for your friends, family members, city and nation that the Lord will save souls and open the hearts.

Praying in tongues:

Although the Gift of tongues is not for all believers, tongues as a prayers language is available to all believers (we will discuss that in details in our discussion on the gifts of the Holy Spirit).

Ask the Holy Spirit to grant you tongues as a prayer language.

Praying in tongues, or praying in the Spirit, will build your relationship with the Lord. We see many benefits to praying in the Spirit in the Bible:

1- When you pray in tongues, you pray “the wonderful works of God” Acts 2:11. Note that tongues weren’t given in the day of Pentecost to evangelize the lost but rather the lost heard the disciples praised God in their language.

2- When you pray in tongues, your pray according to the exact will of God Romans 8:26-27 “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us[b] with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit *is,* because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of* God.”

3- Praying in tongues is one of the weapons in the full armor of God “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit” Eph. 6:18. Praying in tongues is essential in your spiritual warfare against the powers of darkness.

**How can I study the Bible? watch read**

There are many ways to study the Bible. Any Bible student should have a balanced approach to the Bible that should include all these ways:

1- Read:

We need to know the Bible, know the stories, the people, where are the verses…etc. That is why we need to keep reading the Bible over and over. If you spend an average of about 20 minutes a day, you can read through the whole Bible in one year.

Please visit this great interactive webpage where you can test your reading speed and find out a reading plan, and how long will it take you every day to read through the Bible in a year.

<http://www.howlongdoesittaketoreadthebible.com>

Another great way to know the Bible is to listen to it while driving or while waiting in line or doing errands…etc.

2- Devotion:

The Bible is not just information. It is the life-giving word of God. So we must allow the Bible to speak to us.

Please Start your devotional time with Prayer that the Lord would open your eyes to understand the scriptures Psalm 119:18.

There are many ways to do your daily devotions. one method is the **ABC Bible Study**: (

<https://sites.google.com/site/brucesbiblestudies/home/psalm-119/abc-bible-study>)

A. Analysis of the passage:

Read the passage or chapter through, find out the main points, how this passage relates to the larger context, answer questions how, what when where.

B. Best verse in the Passage:

Choose the verse that impacted you the most, memorize it, and mediate on it.

C. Commitment:

What is the Lord want me to do in response to this passage? a sin to forsake? a promise to claim? a change in attitude or behavior?

3- Study:

There are many tools to study the Bible in depth. Here are some examples:

* Commentaries: You can use commentaries to have an in depth analysis of the Bible.
* Cross references: That is when you connect different verses together.
* Dictionaries: offer Biblical definitions and topical analysis.
* Lexicons: They offer in depth word analysis from the original Greek and Hebrew.

All these resources are available for free online: [www.blueletterbible.com](http://www.blueletterbible.com)

A Great Free New Testament Commentary is available on this website:

<http://www.misselbrook.org.uk/GNT_Intro.aspx>

4- Memorize:

We need to memorize the scriptures. You can memorize the one verse that the Lord uses to speak to you in your devotion or you can memorize some verses and passages systematically.

How can I be involved in the church? watch read

**Belonging to a Church:**

The Bible commands us “not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:25

You need the church, the body of Christ, to be able to maintain your walk with Christ. This doesn’t mean showing up at a church service on Sunday morning. It rather mean to get involved, to do daily live, to be vulnerable, to be accountable to a family of believer.

The church you should consider is a church that opens their arms for you and be your family, a church that teaches and explains the truth of God’s word and help you grow in your walk with Christ.

We welcome you to be a part of our family at Franconia Community Church.

**How can I be a witness? watch read**

Jesus Commanded us to “Go and make disciples” Matt. 28:19. We must tell everyone about the salvation that God has provided in the cross and resurrection of Christ. Here are some practical tips about how to share your faith:

What is the message of the Gospel that we need to share?

You have successfully shared the Gospel when you communicate and people understand these three points:

1- Bad news: God is Holy and Just and He is going to punish our sin.

2- Good news: Jesus took our punishment when He died and rose again and now through the blood of Jesus there is a way for us to be made right with God.

3- Make a decision: ask people to make a decision. Either to forsake sin and give 100 % of their life to Jesus or refuse to do so.

The Power of Signs and wonders:

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing 1 Cor. 1:18. That is why God didn’t intend for the Gospel to be presented in the “persuasive words of human wisdom but in the demonstration of the Holy Spirit and power” 1 Cor. 2:4. Jesus didn’t just commanded us to share the Gospel Matt. 28:19 but He also empowered us to fulfill this command Acts 1:8 through the supernatural manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit. That is why every church plant and every move of God in the Bible is always associated with signs and wonders.

So don’t shy from laying hands on the sick and pray so that the world will know that Jesus is not just a theory but He the true living God.

Example conversation:

W = witness

S = sinner

W: how are you…we are from franconia community…do you have a church or a religious background?

S: yea, I go to st. patrick church.

W: Great, so let me ask you, if you are to die today. will you go to heaven or hell?

S: (95 % of the time) heaven

W: why do you think you gonna go to heaven? or how can anyone go to heaven?

S: (95 % of the time) because I am a good person.

W: Great…there is actually a simple way to find out if you are a good person. Have you heard of the 10 commandants?

S: sure or may be

W: great. one commandment say “you should not steal” have you ever took anything that is not yours?

S. no

w. you shall not commit adultery. and Jesus said in the NT that if looked lustfully after a women, you committed adultery in your heat. have you ever had sex outside of marriage or lusted after a person?

s. yes

w. you shall not bear false witness. have you ever lied?

s. yes

w. so if you are to stand before God today and He is going to judge you by His own law, are you gonna be innocent or guilty?

s. guilty

w. well, the good news is that Jesus came from Heaven and died on the cross and bore God’s Judjement on your sins. John 3:16 “for God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believe in Him should not perish but have an everlasting life”

All what you have to do is to be willing to leave your sins and commit to live by God’s way from now on. If you have that desire, He will give you the power to change.

would you like to pray now or you wanna think about it?

would you like healing or a miracle to prove that this is the truth?

**Water baptism:**

Baptism for Believers

In New Testament times, baptism followed repentance and faith. Peter invited his listeners on the day of Pentecost to “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins” (*Acts 2:38*). Three thousand people responded to the invitation, and “those who accepted his message were baptized” (*Acts 2:41*).

When the apostles took the gospel across the Roman Empire from Jerusalem, new churches were planted, and believers were baptized soon after they turned away from sin and put their trust in Christ for salvation. *Acts 18:8* says, “Many of the Corinthians who heard [Paul] believed and were baptized.”

Alliance churches follow the same practice of baptism subsequent to conversion to Christ. Those who have repented of sin and put their faith in Jesus for eternal life are encouraged to take this step of obedience.

What Does Baptism Mean?

In early times baptisms were held in public places where family and friends could gather. This public witness marked the believer as a follower of Christ. Today, baptisms often take place in church buildings for the sake of convenience, but a public statement still is a part of the meaning. The person who is baptized identifies with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

The apostle Paul explained that baptism also symbolizes the believer’s union with Christ: “Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life” (*Romans 6:3-4*).

Immersion in the baptismal waters symbolizes the end of the old way of life. Coming up out of the baptismal waters pictures the new life found in Christ. The person who was previously dead in sin has been made spiritually alive by the same power that raised up Jesus from the grave. United with Him, the believer is released from the power of sin in order to obey God. Paul portrays this life change as putting on new clothes: “for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ” (*Galatians 3:27*).

Water baptism identifies a person as a disciple of Christ and celebrates the passage from an old life into a new life in Christ. Simply stated, it is an outward sign of an inward change.

How Should You Be Baptized?

The Bible word for “baptize” means to “immerse, douse, or saturate.” In the two full descriptions of baptism found in the New Testament, individuals were immersed in water. Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River to identify Himself as God’s Son: “As soon as He was baptized, [He] went up out of the water” (*Matthew 3:16*).

The apostle Philip baptized the Ethiopian by going down into a body of water and coming up with him (*Acts 8:38–39*). In both of these examples, a large enough quantity of water was required to immerse the person.

Because of the meaning of the word baptize and the mode of the first baptisms, Alliance churches practice baptism by immersion.

Is water baptism required of salvation?

No.

1. The Bible is clear that salvation is by faith alone through repentance of sin. John 3:16, Rom. 3:22, Galatians 2:16…etc.
2. The thief on the cross went to be with the Lord without being baptized. Luke 23:42
3. The purpose of baptism is to be a pubic witness and a symbol that we have died to the world and rose with Christ for a new life. Romans 6:3-4.

But How about John 3:5 when Jesus said “Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” Doesn’t that mean that baptism is essential for salvation?

Not at all.

1. Notice that Jesus said “born of WATER and Spirit” not “born of baptism and Spirit.” so to say that “water” here refers to baptism is nothing but mere assumption. There are 2 problems with assuming here that “water” is a reference to “baptism”:

 1- The Bible never uses “water” as a reference to baptism.

 2- If water refers to baptism then this scripture contradicts all the previous scriptures that

 teaches that salvation is by faith alone. Those who teach that baptism is essential for the

 salvation must find a way to reconcile all these scriptures together.

1. Water here in John 3:5 is a reference to the word of God. Jesus was saying the when you obey the word of God (water), the Spirit of God (Spirit) that is when you become born again. This agrees with the testimony of the rest of the Bible:

 1- The Bible uses water as a reference to the word of God elsewhere Ephesians 5:26

 2- The Bible also teaches that we are “born” by the word of God 1 Peter 1:23, James 1:18

But how about Mark 16:16 “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned”?

Notice the following:

1- There are many textual problems with Mark 16:9-19. I, personally, don’t think that this passage was in the original Gospel of Mark.

2- but let us assume that it is original. Notice the verse doesn’t say “but he who believe but isn’t baptized shall be condemned”

Consider this example: "Whoever believes and lives in Kansas will be saved, but those that do not believe are condemned." This statement is strictly true; Kansans who believe in Jesus will be saved. However, to say that *only* those believers who live in Kansas are saved is an illogical and false assumption. The statement does not say a believer *must* live in Kansas in order to go to heaven. Similarly, [Mark 16:16](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Mark%2016.16) does not say a believer *must* be baptized. The verse states a fact about baptized believers (they will be saved), but it says exactly nothing about believers who have not been baptized. There may be believers who do not dwell in Kansas, yet they are still saved; and there may be believers who have not been baptized, yet they, too, are still saved.

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/baptism-Mark-16-16.html#ixzz3elCg0EJT>

Do infants need to be baptized?

No.

We have seen from Romans 6:3-4 that baptism is outward proclamation subsequent to the inward repentance. Baptizing infants has no place in christianity since infants are incapable of making a commitment to follow Christ.

But how about Acts 16:15 we see that Lydia was baptized with all her “household” and Acts 16:33 we see that the Jailer was baptized with all his “household.” Doesn’t that mean that the infants of their households were baptized too?

Not at all.

The Bible doesn’t say that there were infants in their household, on the contrary the Bible tells us that ALL their households were believers. We see that all the household of Lydia were believers Acts 16:40, and all the household of the Jailer were believers Acts 16:34.

**Strive for holiness:**

Be Holy:

God commanded us to be holy as he is Holy [Leviticus 11:44, 45](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Lev.11.44-Lev.11.45&version=NKJV); [19:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Lev.19.2&version=NKJV); [20:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Lev.20.7&version=NKJV); 1 Peter 1:16

Jesus is expecting us to take holiness very seriously. He said “If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.” Matthew 5:29-30

The Author of Hebrews say that we should resist sin even if we have to shed our blood resting it Hebrews 12:4

So as a follower of Christ, you should strive against sin and make every effort to live a holy life.

We want to pay special attention here to sexual immorality:

The Bible pays special attention to sexual immorality; we read in 1 Cor. 6:18 “Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body”

Paul also said “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God” 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

Any sexual experience apart from a man and his wife in the covenant of marriage is a sin. We have to be resolved to be pure for the Lord.

Pornography is a sexual sin. We should strive against it. Now; there are many softwares and apps that you can download to prevent access to Porn. A good example is

<http://www.internetsafety.com> . As Christians we should be resolved to flee that sin even if that means we will have no unrestricted access to the internet. Remember; you can live without the internet, but you can’t live without holiness.