

Next Step Lessons for New Believers

Finding Confidence in Our Faith

{Participant's Guide}

Finding Confidence in Our Faith

If you've recently placed your faith in Jesus Christ, you are about to embark on an exciting, life-long journey. By working through these lessons with another believer, you are taking an important step that will give you a solid foundation for growth and confidence for the journey ahead.

Confidence in Your New Relationship with God

As a result of your decision to trust Jesus Christ to be your Savior, you can be confident of your new relationship with God by putting your faith in Him and the following truths from God's Word, the Bible.

Confidence in Your New Fellowship with God

As a result of your decision to trust Jesus Christ to be your Savior, you can confidently walk in fellowship with God by experiencing His love and forgiveness moment by moment. You can do this by putting your faith in Him and following truths from God's Word, the Bible.

Confidence in Your New Dependence on God

As a result of your decision to trust Jesus Christ to be your Savior, the Holy Spirit of God came into your life to give you the power to live the Christian life. You can actively depend on His power moment by moment by putting your faith in Him and following truths from God's Word, the Bible.

Confidence in Your Growing Relationship with God

As a result of your decision to trust Jesus Christ to be your Savior, you now have the privilege and opportunity to actively engage in certain spiritual disciplines that will help you grow closer to God. You can grow spiritually by putting your faith in Him and following truths from God's Word, the Bible.

Lesson 1: *Confidence in Your New Relationship with God*

As a result of your decision to trust Jesus Christ to be your Savior, you can be confident of your new relationship with God by putting your faith in Him and the following truths from God's Word, the Bible.

Truth #1- Christ came into your life the moment you, by faith as an act of your will, asked Him in.

Revelation 3:20

1. Have you opened the door of your life to Christ? When and how did that happen?
2. Based on your decision to ask Christ into your life (and what Revelation 3:20 says) where is Christ right now in relation to you? How do you know?

Truth #2- Christ made you a child of God.

John 1:12-13

1. What must happen for a person to become a child of God?

Truth #3- Christ forgave all your sins- past, present and future.

Colossians 2:13-14

1. What difference do you think it makes to know that all your sins are forgiven by God?

Truth #4- Christ gave you eternal life.

1 John 5:11-13

1. Based on this passage, in whom is eternal life found?

2. Who has eternal life?

John 17:3

1. When does eternal life begin?

2. Do you have eternal life?

Truth #5- Christ will never leave you.

Hebrews 13:5

1. What is Christ promising to every believer?
2. What are the chances of Him failing in keeping His promise?
3. According to this, how many times is it necessary to receive Christ?

If you were to die tonight, from 0-100%, what chance would you have of spending eternity with God?

This train diagram illustrates the importance of putting our faith in God's Word (fact) and not our feelings or circumstances. The train will run with or without the caboose, however, it would be useless to attempt to pull the train by the caboose. In the same way, Christians do not depend on feelings to drive the course of their lives.



{Additional Daily Scripture Reading}

Day 1 | Read Galatians 2:20. You are indwelt by Christ.

Day 2 | Read 1 John 3:1, 2 Corinthians 5:17. You are a child of God.

Day 3 | Read Ephesians 1:7. You are forgiven.

Day 4 | Read John 10:27-29. You have eternal life.

Day 5 | Read John 6:27-30. You will never lose Christ.

Lesson 2: *Confidence in Your New Fellowship with God*

As a result of your decision to trust Jesus Christ to be your Savior, you can confidently walk in fellowship with God by experiencing His love and forgiveness moment by moment. You can do this by putting your faith in Him and following truths from God's Word, the Bible.

Truth #1- God has forgiven all of your sins- past, present and future.

Colossians 2:13-14

1. Why do all your sins need to be forgiven? *Review the bridge illustration if needed.*

Truth #2- God now views you as His beloved child who is holy and free from accusation.

1 John 3:1-2

1. Now that you are God's child forever, how much value has been put on your life?

Hebrews 10:10-14

1. What did God do in order for Him to view you as a person who has "been made holy?"

Colossians 1:21-22

1. What does it mean to be "holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation?"

2. Does God view me this way even when I sin (thought, word or deed that displeases God)?

Truth #3- God has freed you from the slavery of sin and given you the freedom to obey Him.

James 1:13-15

1. What is the difference between "temptation" and "sin"?

2. What is the result of "sin"? What does the word "death" mean?

Romans 6:6,7

1. If Christ has freed you from sin, do you still have to sin?

Truth #4- God wants you to experience His love and forgiveness and to continue to walk in fellowship with Him.

1 John 1:9, Psalm 32:1-5

1. If you sin, what does God want you to do?

To **confess** your sin involves at least 3 factors:

1. **Agree** with God that you have sinned.
2. **Thank** God that He has already forgiven you.
3. **Turn away** from sin and trust God to change your wrong attitudes and actions (repentance).

2. What is the difference between “asking for forgiveness” and “confessing your sin”?

3. How often should you confess your sin? If you don’t “feel” forgiven, what does that mean?
Review the “Train Diagram” if necessary.

Are you in fellowship with God right now?

{Relationship with God}	{Fellowship with God}
Began when you received Christ John 1:12	Began when you received Christ Col. 2:6
Is everlasting 1 Peter 1:3-4	Can be hindered Psalm 32:3-5
Maintained totally by God John 10:27-29	Maintained in part by you 1 John 1:9
Never changes Hebrews 13:5	Changes when you sin Psalm 66:18

You can walk in fellowship with Him moment by moment by confessing any known sin to Him and claim His love and forgiveness by faith according to His Word.

{Additional Daily Scripture Reading}

Day 1 | Read Luke 15:11-32. What does this story illustrate about our relationship with God, our forgiveness, and our fellowship with Him?

Day 2 | Read Galatians 5:16-23. What changes will take place as you allow God to work in your life? As you become aware of an area of your life that displeases God, deal with it according to 1 John 1:9 and then enjoy your fellowship with Him.

Day 3 | Read Psalm 32. How did David feel before he confessed his sin? How did he feel after dealing with his sin?

Day 4 | Read Psalm 51. This is David’s prayer to God after he realized how terrible and devastating his sin was with Bathsheba. What kind of an attitude towards God does he exhibit? If God can forgive David for his sin and then make him into an incredible man of God, can He not do the same in your life?

Day 5 | Read Proverbs 28:13. Why is it wise to confess our sin rather than “conceal” our sin?

Lesson 3: *Confidence in Your New Dependence on God*

As a result of your decision to trust Jesus Christ to be your Savior, the Holy Spirit of God came into your life to give you the power to live the Christian life. You can actively depend on His power moment by moment by putting your faith in Him and following truths from God's Word, the Bible.

Truth #1- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity and dwells in you since the moment you asked Christ into your life.

John 14:16-17, 1 Corinthians 2:12

1. Who did Jesus say lived in the disciples? Who have we received into our life?

John 16:7

1. Why did Jesus tell the disciples that it was to their advantage that He goes away? If Jesus was still physically alive, could He be everywhere at the same time?

Truth #2- The Holy Spirit desires to fill you with His power moment by moment so that you can live a fruitful and meaningful Christian life.

John 7:37-39

1. How does Jesus describe a life that is filled with the Holy Spirit?

Acts 1:8

1. What does the Holy Spirit give you the power to do in relation to non-believers?

Galatians 5:22-23

1. What are the natural results of being filled with the Holy Spirit? Who is responsible for producing the fruit of the Spirit in your life?

Truth #3- The Holy Spirit's power is cut off (short-circuited) in your life when you choose to disobey His guidance and direction in your life.

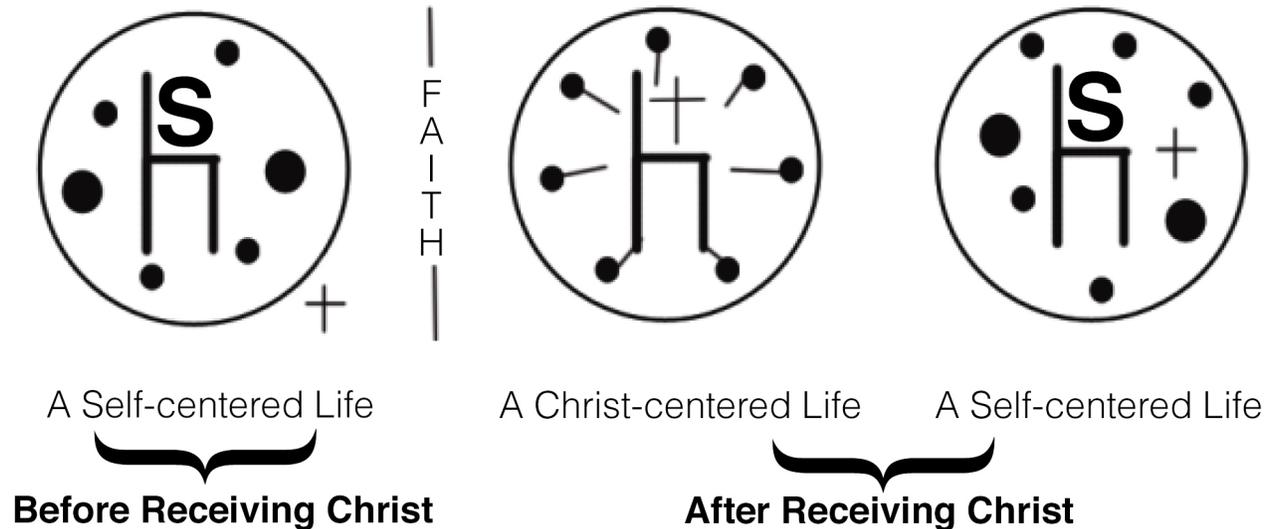
1 Corinthians 3:1-3

1. Were the Christians in the Corinthian church filled with the Spirit? What was the result?

Ephesians 4:30

1. What does it mean to "grieve" the Holy Spirit? Can you grieve the Holy Spirit and be filled with the Spirit at the same time?

The Bible tells us there are three kinds of people:



Truth #4- The Holy Spirit will fill you with His power right now, if you, by faith:

1. **Confess** all known sin. *Review Lesson 2 if needed.*
2. **Surrender** control of every area of your life to Christ. *Romans 12:1*
3. **Trust** the Holy Spirit to fill you in response to God's command and promise.
 - a. Command | *Ephesians 5:18*- Is it God's will that you be filled with the Spirit?

b. Promise | *1 John 5:14-15*- If you ask to be filled, what has God promised to do in return?

Breathe Spiritually: If you retake the throne of your life through sin, simply "breathe spiritually" (exhale the impure and inhale the pure).

- **Exhale-** Confess your sin to God and experience His love and forgiveness.
- **Inhale-** Appropriately the fullness of the Spirit by faith according to His command and promise.

Are you filled with God's Spirit? You can be filled and empowered right now by faith alone. Pray (prayer is one way of expressing your faith) right now and God will fill you with His Spirit according to His command and His promise.

{Additional Daily Scripture Reading}

Day 1 | Read Ephesians 5:18-21 and Colossians 3:12-17.

Compare what these two passages say about the Spirit-filled life.

Day 2 | Read Ephesians 3:14-21.

This is Paul's prayer for people in that day and for us. Where does this power come from? What can this power accomplish in your life?

Day 3 | Read Mark 4:35-41.

This is the account of Jesus and the disciples in the storm. Why were they afraid? What did they doubt about Jesus?

Day 4 | Read Romans 8:16.

What confirmation does the Holy Spirit give you in your relationship with God?

Day 5 | Read Acts 4:8-13.

What did the Holy Spirit empower Peter to do and what was the result?

Lesson 4: *Confidence in Your Growing Relationship with God*

As a result of your decision to trust Jesus Christ to be your Savior, you now have the privilege and opportunity to actively engage in certain spiritual disciplines that will help you grow closer to God. You can grow spiritually by putting your faith in Him and following truths from God's Word, the Bible.

Truth #1- You grow closer to God by getting to know Him and how He relates to you through reading and understanding His Word.

Psalm 145:8-9

1. What does God tell you about Himself in this passage?

2. Why will it help you grow closer to God when you gradually acquire a more accurate view of who He really is?

Psalm 1:1-3, Psalm 19:7-11

1. What do these verses say about the benefits of spending consistent time in God's Word?

Truth #2- You grow closer to God by talking freely and openly with Him through prayer.

Matthew 7:7-8

1. What does this verse say about God's desire for you to tell Him your needs and desires?

1 Thessalonians 5:17

1. How often can you pray and talk with God?

Mark 1:35

1. What kind of a priority did Jesus put on His prayer life?

Truth #3- You grow closer to God by spending time with other Christians in fellowship – encouraging and building up one another.

Hebrews 10:24-25

1. Why is it important for you to spend time with other Christians? Is it possible to grow spiritually by trying to live the Christian life by yourself apart from other believers?

Acts 2:46-47

1. Where can you find supportive Christian fellowship on a consistent basis?

Truth #4- You grow closer to God by telling others (witnessing) about your relationship with Jesus Christ and how they can know Him personally.

Mark 16:15

1. What was one of the last things Jesus told the disciples to do before His ascension?

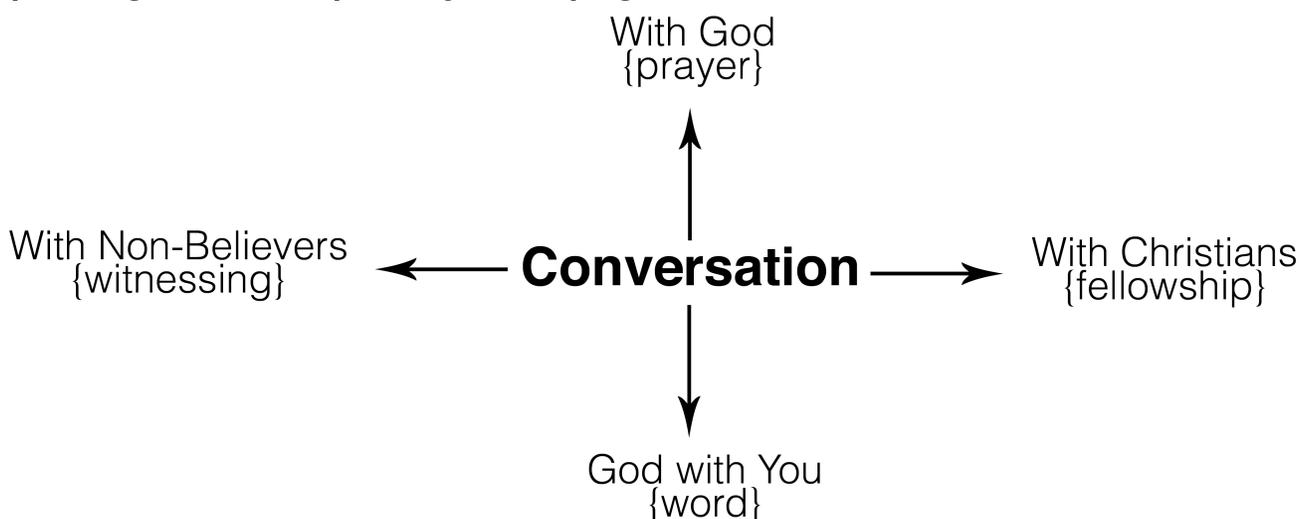
Acts 1:8

1. Who will be with you to help and guide you when you talk to someone about Jesus?

Romans 1:16

1. How will telling someone else about Jesus Christ help you grow closer to God?

Spiritual growth takes place by developing communication with God and others.



What will it take for you to grow in your relationship with God? Are you willing to apply the truths from this session to your weekly schedule? Is it worth it?

{Additional Daily Scripture Reading}

Day 1 | Read Psalm 119. What are some more benefits of understanding God's Word?

Day 2 | Read Matthew 6:9-13. How does the Lord want us to pray? What are some of the important elements of prayer?

Day 3 | Read 1 Corinthians 12. Why do you need other Christians and why do they need you?

Day 4 | Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. What are some more reasons why God wants us to tell others about Christ?

Day 5 | Read Philippians 2:13 and 1 Timothy 4:7-8. Who is responsible for your spiritual growth, you or God?