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WELCOME



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ED

Welcome to the Family of God

We at Calvary Church want to welcome you and congratulate you on the most important decision you have made in your life – a decision that will have impact for all eternity! Your decision to follow Christ and to commit your heart to Jesus has ensured your place in the Book of Life. Now that you have taken this step, there are two things to consider: what have I done and what comes next.

What Have I Done?

Inside this packet you will find some literature that will help you begin to understand the fundamentals of being a Christian - things like: what is the impact of sin, how are sins forgiven, and what is salvation, etc.

You will also find the first part of a Bible Study, which will help you start to get deeper into God's word and to understand His plan for your life. If you choose to start this study, just answer the questions and mail the first part back to the address on the study. You will receive the first part back with comments and thoughts on you answers, answers to any questions you entered, and the next part of the Bible Study.

What Next?

We also encourage you to read the Gospel of John. This Gospel shows the deity of Jesus Christ and the love of God to all. It is a great place to start your personal walk with Christ. We encourage you to read this Gospel at your own pace, and think (meditate) about each section you have read and its meaning in your life.

As you meditate on the Word and begin to understand that God has a genuine and real interest in you, your thoughts, and your heart, you should begin to talk to God (prayer). There is no format or "right words"; it is a conversation with your Father in heaven that loves you. When you pray to God, you are having a conversation with Him - be sure that you listen to Him as well as speak to Him.

We also encourage you to attend the Discipleship 101 class. This class will provide you with a deeper understanding of those questions we attempted to answer in the package. It will also give you time to share and ask questions of a mature "elder of the church" and to begin to build relationships with your new Brothers and Sisters.

Another step that will significantly increase your understanding and help you to become closer to Jesus (Growth) is to become involved in a Life Group. These small group sessions, held in someone's home, are a terrific way to create closer and more significant relationships with fellow believers and to get a more personal application from the message taught on Sunday. It is also a way to have your questions and doubts answered.

Lastly, we ask that you take time to let God work in you. You are a new creation; the things of the past are gone. As a new creation, God is going to begin to mold and instruct you, to begin to reveal to you your talents (Gifts of the Spirit) and where you fit (called) in the church (Body of Christ).

If we can help in any way or answer any questions, we encourage you to contact one of the Ministry Team members, e-mail your questions to info@calvaryaurora.org, or call the church office (303-628-7200). Again, we welcome you and look forward to spending time getting to know you and supporting in your walk.

In His Grace,

Ed Taylor
Senior Pastor
Calvary Aurora

GROWING IN YOUR FAITH

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INTRODUCTION

We are excited that you are seeking to learn more about Jesus and what it means to be a Christian. We have found that there is no greater joy than living the Christian life and having a personal relationship with Jesus! The staff and congregation here at Calvary Church have come from every conceivable background; some churching and some unchurched, some upstanding and some immoral and rebellious. But we've all found that Jesus is the answer to our problems and desires.

It's important that you understand that simply knowing about Jesus is not enough; God wants you to know more than just information and details about Jesus, He wants you to know Him personally and intimately.

This booklet was written to teach you what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and to give you some basic principles on how to grow as a Christian.

As you're reading you will come across references from the Bible. Look these up and read them along with this booklet. For example, if it refers to John 3:16, which means the reference can be found in the Gospel of John, chapter 3, verse 16. It's that easy! If you need to locate the different books of the Bible, there is a table of contents at the beginning of the Bible. Use it until you get used to its order.

Now, let's look at what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus, and how it can be obtained.

COMING TO KNOW CHRIST

Have you been feeling like there is a void in your heart? Have you ever asked the question, "Why did God create me?" or "Why do I exist?"

God created every man with a God-shaped void in his heart. All of us have tried to fill this void in many different ways: with money, prestige, possessions, power and even with people. However, none of these things will ever really satisfy us. The only thing that can totally fill this void is a relationship with God.

The Bible says:

Yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

1 Corinthians 8:6

We were created for Him. God created each and every one of us to have fellowship with Him. To have fellowship means to have a personal relationship. This relationship is only possible through Christ.

When God first created man, they enjoyed fellowship. But God did not create man as a robot to love and obey Him mechanically, but rather gave man a freedom to choose. Unfortunately, man chose to disobey God, which he continues to do to this day. When man sinned, this relationship with God was broken and as a result, he was separated from God. The Bible says:

But your iniquities have separated you from your God.
Isaiah 59:2

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For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

It was not God who fell away from man, but man that abandoned God. When man sinned, he turned his back on God, and in a sense said, "I no longer want to follow Your will, I would rather follow my own."

Many have tried throughout history in different ways to reach God through their own efforts, but every attempt has failed. The Bible explains:

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Proverbs 14:12

But the Lord desired to have fellowship with man again, so He presented a solution...

God sent His only begotten Son to the world, who lived a sinless life and fulfilled the perfect standard set by God. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the penalty for all our sins, that way all who believe in Him and accept what He did on our behalf, can be forgiven of their sins and receive eternal life. The Bible says:

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God.

1 Peter 3:18

The Bible tells us that Jesus is no ordinary person. He is more than just a good teacher or another religious leader; He is God, creator of the universe, who has come into the world as a man (John 1:1). By being fully God and man, Jesus is able to fulfill the ministry of "bridging the gap" between the two, dying for our sins as a man, and now acting as a mediator to bring God and man together.

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time...

1 Timothy 2:5-6

If you would like to accept Jesus Christ into your life, and receive the forgiveness of God to have that void filled, follow these simple steps with a sincere heart:

1. Confess: This means to recognize that you are a sinner, that you're separated from God, and that you need Him in your life.

2. Repent: Repentance is agreeing with God about what He calls sin in your life, and turning away from it. It means to leave behind the old life and to begin anew; making choices that you know will please the Lord.

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3. Believe: This is trusting that Jesus Christ died, was buried, and on the third day He rose from the dead. In doing so He brings all who trust in Him eternal life.

4. Receive: Through prayer, ask Jesus to come into your life and send His Holy Spirit into your heart to teach and guide you. This is what it means to "receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior."

5. Profess: Jesus said that if we acknowledge Him before men, He will acknowledge us before His Father in heaven (Matthew 10:32). In other words, if we are really serious about our commitment to Him, we will tell somebody about it: a pastor, a friend or a family member. Just think about how much Jesus has done for you already. This should be a real easy step.

If you want to receive Jesus into your heart and have all your sins forgiven, say this simple prayer with a sincere heart:

Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and that I need your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins, and that You were raised on the third day bringing eternal life. Forgive me of my sins and fill this void in my heart with your love. I want You to be the Savior and Lord of my life. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS

If you asked Jesus to come into your heart, congratulations, you're saved! You may be feeling great joy and relief, like a huge weight has been taken off your shoulders. Or perhaps you may not be feeling anything. Regardless of what you feel, Jesus promises that if you ask Him to come into your heart, He will. The Bible says:

For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.
Romans 10:13

If you prayed sincerely, He has come into your heart and has saved you, and now you are a part of the family of God!

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.

John 1:12

He is with you and will never leave you. Jesus promises:

I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Hebrews 13:5

Now that you have a relationship with Jesus, what should you do? How can you grow in your relationship with Christ?

HOW TO GROW IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

If you wanted to get to know a person better, what would you do? The logical thing to do would be to spend time with that person, wouldn't it? It is only by spending time with people that you are able to learn what they're like, what their interests are and what things both please and displease them.

In order to grow in your relationship with Jesus you must do the same, spend time with

Him. How do you do that? Here are four basic principles that you can follow:

1. PRAY

Prayer is simply "speaking to God." When we pray, we don't have to use complicated or memorized phrases. Talk to God in the same way as you would talk to any other person. Tell Him about your problems, your hurts, your worries, and your joys. Remember that He loves you and all that is important to you is important to Him. It doesn't matter when or where you pray. You can do it while you're driving, at work, or before you go to bed. He is always listening.

How should you pray? In Matthew 6:9-13 Jesus gives His disciples an example prayer they can follow. This prayer is commonly called "the Lord's Prayer." Christ's intention was not that you memorize this prayer and repeat it every time you pray. Actually, Christ warns us against this (Matthew 6:7)! Rather, it was to serve as a model or a pattern for us to follow.

Our Father: You can come to Him as to a father (Romans 8:15-16). In the same way that a father loves his children, God loves you and wants to hear from you.

Who art in heaven: Even though He is your Father, you should remember that He is no ordinary father, but One who reigns in Heaven. Jesus is the "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" and is in control of everything. He can save you, help you, strengthen you, or do anything else you might need.

Hallowed be Thy name: An important part of prayer is giving thanks and praise to our Lord. Praise Him for who He is, for what He has done, and what He promises He will do. God isn't forced to do anything for us; it all comes as a result of His grace. So give thanks to God every day for something (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 and Psalm 34:1).

Thy kingdom come: Pray also for the Lord's return. Jesus promised that even though He was leaving us, He would return for us (John 14:1-6 and Acts 1:1-11). Tell Him how much you are anticipating His return.

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven: Jesus promised that whatever we ask in His name, He will do (John 14:13-14). To ask in His name means to ask according to His will. In other words, when we pray to God we should be seeking His will, even above our own (Matthew 6:10 and 26:39).

Give us this day our daily bread: Even though we are to pray according to the will of God, this does not exclude us from presenting our needs and petitions to Him. You may be suffering from worry, or have financial or health problems. Tell all of this to God, He wants to hear it. You can also pray for the needs of others. It can be for their salvation, their health, or any other area in which they may be suffering. Prayer should not focus only upon ourselves, it should include others: your friends, family, church and leaders (1 Timothy 2:1-2 and Ephesians 6:18). Jesus always prayed for others (John 17:1-26 and Luke 22:31-32).

And forgive us our debts: When you have sinned, you should always come to the Lord in prayer asking for forgiveness. Many times people don't feel like they can approach God and that He won't hear them. The Bible says that, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

As we have also forgiven our debtors: If you are struggling to forgive someone, ask the Lord to help you. He says in His Word that it is a sin not to forgive others (Matthew 11:25 and Colossians 3:13).

And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil: Ask God to protect you from sin and temptation. If you are struggling with a particular sin, confess it to the Lord and ask Him for His strength to be victorious over it.

Jesus told His disciples that anything they asked in His name He would do. As we saw earlier, to ask in His name means to ask according to His will. This means sometimes the Lord will not give us what we ask. Remember, God loves you and wants the very best for you all the time. He will never give you anything that will hurt you later.

2. READ THE BIBLE

In the same sense that prayer is how we talk to God, reading the Bible is how God speaks to us. That is why we call the Bible the Word of God, because it is His message to us. Everything that you need to know about Jesus, His will, and how to live the Christian life is written in this book (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The Bible was written by men who were inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16). In other words, the Holy Spirit of God told these men what to write. These words will protect you from sin (Psalm 119:11) and against temptation (Luke 4:1-14).

The Bible is a collection of 66 books. These 66 books are divided into two major sections: the New Testament and the Old Testament.

The New Testament is where you will find the words of Christ and the clearest teachings about His life. The New Testament is divided into 27 different books:

- **Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are called the Gospels**, and tell us about the life of Jesus. All four of these books are the same story except from four different perspectives.

- The book of **Acts** contains the **history of the Christian church** after the death and ascension of Christ.

- All the books from **Romans to Jude are called Epistles**. The word epistle means letter. These books were letters written by the Apostles to various churches and people. These letters will teach you to apply to your life the truths taught to you in the Gospels.

- The last book in the New Testament is the book of **Revelation** and this book tells us about **what will happen in the future**.

The Old Testament is filled with interesting accounts and prophecies about Jesus. Don't feel like you have to read the whole Old Testament right away, but rather read what you can understand and let the Holy Spirit minister to your heart through the Word.

If you have never read the Bible, start by reading the Gospel of John. Take a chapter each day and read it looking for what the Lord wants to say to you. Here are some suggestions on how to read the Bible:

- **Find a quiet time and place** where no one will bother you. Try to read in the morning, before you begin your day. God will give you a message to help you throughout the day.

- **Pray** that God speaks to you through His Word.

- **Choose a book and read it systematically**, chapter by chapter. Remember that the majority of books were actually letters. Typically, no one starts reading a letter mid way through, but starts at the beginning. Try reading a chapter a day, or more if you have the time.

- **Read for comprehension.** There is no rush. Take your time and try to understand everything that you read.

- **Find the central verse** or the verse that God is using to speak to your heart, and think about how it applies to your life.

- If God used a particular verse, **take notes** on a piece of paper or in the margin of your Bible. Don't be afraid to underline or highlight your favorite verses. This way you will easily remember them.

- **Pray** for God to help you to live and change your life according to how the central verse taught you.

3. FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS

The Bible tells us that we should share in regular Christian fellowship. The word fellowship means sharing something in common with others. **Hebrews 10:24-25** says:

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

We can compare Christian fellowship with a pile of hot coals. If you take one coal out of the pile and set it off to the side, it will cool off and eventually die out. This is the same thing that can happen to us if we distance ourselves from fellowship. Our heart will eventually grow cold and we will become more susceptible to temptation.

The best place to find Christian fellowship is at church. Attend church faithfully and look for study groups to join. If there are activities throughout the week, participate in them. Share with the other members and build friendships with them.

What criteria should I look for in a church that I attend? Here are four suggestions:

- **First** of all it should be a place where you are spiritually **fed**. Your spiritual growth comes from the study of the Word of God (1 Peter 2:2), that is why it is so important that the church you choose teaches the Bible. A church should put its emphasis on the teaching of God's Word, not on the words of men. If you can find a church that teaches expository through the Bible (chapter by chapter, verse by verse), this is the best.

Also make sure that all of their teachings are based on the Bible and not on other books nor on the words of men.

- **Second**, a church should also be a place where you find **fellowship**. It should be a place where you find other Christians with whom you can share your life, problems and needs. A place where you know people will be praying for you and will encourage you during difficult times. A church should be a place where you are being built up through the Word by other believers.

- **Third**, it should also be a place where you **fit in**. You will probably not feel comfortable in every church. This is not to say that one church is better than another, but we all have different tastes. One person may feel more comfortable in a traditional church, while another may feel suffocated. Some like contemporary praise and others more traditional worship. Again, it is not that one church is better than another, but you should find one that you feel comfortable in.

- **Finally**, the church should be a place where you can be **fruitful**. Attending a church is not just receiving, but also a great part of it is serving others. Paul compares the church to a body in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12. Paul says that in the same way that there are different members in the body (head, hands, fingers and feet) with different functions, there are also different members in the church. All of the members of the church have different functions and different gifts to serve God and the congregation in different ways. You may think that your gift and service is not important or significant, but God thinks so. He looks at all of us with equality and without partiality.

4. SHARE YOUR FAITH

Before Jesus ascended to Heaven, after His resurrection, He gave one last command to His disciples in **Mark 16:15**:

Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

We need to understand that the souls of other people are in the balance of eternity. As representatives of God we should share the Gospel with the world. Explain to them how Jesus loves them and died for them on the cross, and how they can receive forgiveness and have eternal life.

One of the easiest ways to share the Gospel is through your own testimony. Tell people how you received the forgiveness of God and how God has changed your life. You are a witness and are evidence of the grace that is found in Jesus Christ.

Here are some Bible verses to help you share and explain the Gospel. You can memorize these passages or write them in your Bible. It is a good idea to read these verses along with the person you are witnessing to, this way you can explain it to them as you read along. This is a very easy way to share the Gospel, and you are using the Word of God which is your most powerful tool.

- **Romans 3:23** - This verse shares that all men are guilty of sinning and are in need of forgiveness.

- **Romans 6:23** - Here it shares the consequences we will pay for our sins if we do not receive the forgiveness God offers.

- **Romans 5:8** - This verse explains God's great love and His provision of salvation for each man.
- **Romans 10:9-10** - We read how we can receive salvation that God offers us.
- **Romans 10:13** - Finally, we see that all who call upon the name of the Lord, He promises to save.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

WATER BAPTISM

Jesus commanded us saying:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."

Matthew 28:19

Why did Jesus think it was so important to be baptized? Because it is a symbol of our relationship with Him. Have you ever seen any of those mime presentations that tell a story or illustrate a truth? Baptism illustrates what happened in your life when you accepted Jesus as your Savior. **Romans 6:3-4 says:**

"Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

When you accepted Jesus, your old nature died (the nature that made you sin) and a new nature was born (read Romans 6:5-6). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:3).

Baptism illustrates this miracle of the new birth. When we go into the water, it symbolizes the death of our old nature, and when we come out of the water it illustrates the new birth.

Only people who have accepted Jesus as their Savior should be baptized, because baptism will not mean anything to those who have not been born again. Baptism does not save a person, it is just a symbol.

The word baptism comes from an ancient Greek word that means to immerse. Therefore baptism is the immersion of the believer under water. Some churches practice the pouring or sprinkling of water, but this does not fully illustrate the death and rebirth of the person.

Baptism is an important step to take for every person who accepts Jesus as their Savior; because it is a public proclamation that now they have Christ.

When should you be baptized? If you have accepted Jesus into your heart, and you understand what baptism means and symbolizes, you should do it as soon as possible:



Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

Acts 8:36-38

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke tell us how Jesus broke the bread and gave it to His disciples:

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body. Matthew 26:26

Afterwards, Jesus took the cup:

Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matthew 26:27-28

Does this mean that the cup and bread literally became His blood and body? Some teach this, however this is not what Jesus meant. He was using a metaphor and the bread and cup are only symbols of His body and blood.

Jesus asked that we observe the Lord's Supper for two reasons:

1. He wanted us to remember the punishment that He endured and the blood that He shed for our sins. The death of Jesus is central to the Christian faith. Only through His death could there be forgiveness for our sins. Jesus wants us never to forget what He did for us.

2. Jesus also wants us to observe the Lord's Supper in anticipation of His return. He says in **Matthew 26:29:**

"I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until the day when I drink it anew with you in My Father's kingdom."

Every time we partake of the bread and cup we are declaring that Jesus will soon return to partake with us again.

Only people who are saved should partake in this observance. This is what Paul is referring to in 1 Corinthians 11:27 when he says that some partake in an unworthy manner. Many Christians with sensitive hearts who have sinned feel like this may be referring to them. Remember that the Lord's Supper is to remind us about the cleansing of the cross. If you have sinned, ask forgiveness from the Lord and partake of the elements. The Lord wants you to enjoy His communion.

TRIALS AND TEMPTATIONS

Now that you are a Christian it does not mean that life will be without any difficulties. Now you have an enemy called the devil who is going to oppose you and try anything within his power to stunt your Christian growth. Many of the attacks of the devil come through trials and temptations.

To be tempted is not a sin; even Jesus was tempted (Hebrews 4:15). It is only sin when we fall and submit to the temptation. God promises us that He will never allow the devil to tempt us beyond what we are able to resist.

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

Everyone is born with a nature that likes to sin (Psalm 51:5). When we accept Jesus, we are born again (John 3:3) and this sinful nature dies and a new nature is born (Romans 6:5-6). This new nature likes to follow and obey God. Why then do we still struggle with sin? The sinful nature is dead (Romans 6:8, 11, 12) but our flesh is still alive and still attracted to sin. It is against the flesh that we must fight. How can we win? The victory can only be found in Christ. We need to put on the mind of Christ and learn to live by the power of His Spirit. Read Galatians 5:16-26 to learn how to live a victorious Christian life.

SECURITY OF SALVATION

The Bible teaches us that once we have been saved, we cannot lose this salvation. **Romans 8:38-39** says:

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Some people view salvation in this way: that as long as we continue to hold onto the Lord, we are saved; but the moment we let go or slip (by sinning) we are lost again. This is not what the Bible teaches. Jesus says in **John 10:28-29**:

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.

We do not hold onto God, rather He is holding onto us. There is neither a sin nor a person who can snatch us out of the hands of God, and this even includes us. We can stand secure in our salvation, that it will never be lost.

Does this mean we have the freedom to sin and do what we want? The person who has truly been born again will want to obey and please the Lord. Therefore, when that person sins they will feel conviction and will repent and ask for forgiveness. God promises to forgive us and purify us from all unrighteousness:

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

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A common mistake made by many people is to describe the Holy Spirit as a "force" or an "essence," something like electricity. This is very unbiblical and is insulting to God because the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity, and is Himself fully God (Matthew 28:19 and Acts 5:3-4). By denying this and limiting Him only to a "force," we are denying His ability to relate to us in a personal relationship.

"How does the Holy Spirit relate to us?" you may ask. The Holy Spirit relates to us **in three different ways** throughout our lives:

First of all, He was **with us**:

The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:17

Before we accepted Jesus into our lives, the Holy Spirit came along side us to convict our hearts of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8-11). He opened our eyes to our need for forgiveness and our need for Jesus to save us.

Secondly, once we have accepted Jesus into our lives, the Holy Spirit comes **into us** (see John 14:17 above). The Bible makes it clear that He indwells us (1 Corinthians 3:16), therefore making us spiritually alive (John 3:3-8), and sealing us in our salvation (Ephesians 4:13). John 14:26 refers to the Holy Spirit as our Comforter. The word used means that He is our aid and our helper. One who guides and strengthens us in our everyday lives. In the life of the believer, the Holy Spirit makes the things of God and the Word of God clear (1 Corinthians 2: 10) and helps us apply these truths to our lives.

Thirdly, the Holy Spirit can come **upon us** (Luke 24:49 and Acts 4:8). This is what is commonly known among Christians as **the baptism of the Holy Spirit**.

The Lord Jesus, before His ascension, told His Apostles that the Holy Spirit would come **upon** them, clothing them with power from on high. The Apostles already had the Holy Spirit in them, for they had received Him on the evening that the Lord appeared and Thomas was not present (John 20:22). This shows us that the event in Acts 2 of the baptism with the Holy Spirit is a distinct and separate event from receiving the Spirit at salvation.

Nowhere in Scripture is it taught that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is necessary for salvation, though it does teach that it is available to all who ask to receive it (Matthew 7:9-12). Unfortunately, not every believer experiences this filling. The baptism of the Holy Spirit can occur at any time in the believer's life: simultaneous at salvation, or any time after. It is also not necessarily a one-time event. We can see in the book of Acts that Peter experienced the baptism or filling of the Spirit on more than one occasion (Acts 2:4 and 14:9).

The primary evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is **not** speaking in tongues (as many advocate), but rather receiving power.

GROWING IN YOUR FAITH



WELCOME TO THE FAMILY OF GOD!

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Acts 1:8

Power to witness and share Jesus with the lost. Power to serve Him in whatever area He asks us to. Power to overcome sin and live a holy life. We can look to Peter as an example. Prior to the Acts 2 event, Peter was afraid to be identified with Jesus (Mark 14:53-72). After He received the power from on high, he witnessed boldly to the same crowd he earlier had feared (Acts 4:5-23).

You need the power of the Holy Spirit, and you can receive it simply by asking:

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!

Luke 11:13

WHERE TO LOOK IN YOUR BIBLE

FOR THE PROMISES OF GOD...

THE LOVE OF GOD WILL NEVER FAIL YOU

Isaiah 54:10
Romans 8:38-39

GOD WILL HEAR ALL OF YOUR PRAYERS

1 Peter 3:12

GOD WILL GIVE YOU PEACE

John 14:27
Philippians 4:4-6

GOD PROMISES TO ALWAYS BE WITH YOU

Matthew 28:20
Hebrews 13:5-6

GOD PROMISES YOU JOY

John 15:10-11, 14

GOD WILL GIVE YOU SELF CONTROL

Romans 8:28
Galatians 5:23

GOD PROMISES TO FORGIVE YOU OF YOUR SINS

Isaiah 44:22
Micah 7:18-19
1 John 1:9
Hebrews 10:17

CALVARY CHURCH

WHEN YOU FEEL...

AFRAID

Psalm 23:4-5
John 14:27
Romans 8:15
2 Timothy 1:7

ALONE

Matthew 28:20
John 14: 1, 18
Romans 8:35-37
Hebrews 13:5-6

ANGRY

Proverbs 15:1
Romans 12:19
Ephesians 4:26
Colossians 3:8

CONDEMNED

John 1:9
John 5:24
Romans 8:1
Hebrews 8:12

CONFUSED

Psalm 32:8
Proverbs 3:5-6
1 Corinthians 14:33
James 3:16-18

DEPRESSED

Psalm 34:15-17
Philippians 4:8
1 Peter 5:6-7
Revelation 21:4

DISCOURAGED

Psalm 27:13-14
2 Corinthians 4:8-9
Philippians 1:6
1 Peter 1:6-9

DISSATISFIED

Matthew 5:6
2 Corinthians 9:8
Philippians 4:12-13

EMPTY

Psalm 37:4-5
Psalm 107:8-9

HURTING

2 Corinthians 12:9-10
Hebrews 12:6-11
1 Peter 1:6, 7
1 Peter 2:19-23

SAD

John 16:20-22
Hebrews 4:15-16
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

TEMPTED

Psalm 119:9-11
1 Corinthians 10:12-13
Hebrews 2:18
Hebrews 4:14-16

WORRIED

Matthew 6:25-34
Romans 4:20-21
Philippians 4:6-7, 19
1 John 5:14-15

THE "ROMANS" ROAD

TO THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

1 THE PROBLEM OF SIN

Romans 3:23

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."

2 THE WAGES OF SIN

Romans 6:23a

"For the wages of sin is death..."

3 THE LOVE OF GOD

Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

4 THE FREE GIFT OF SALVATION

Romans 6:23b

"But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

5 ACCEPTING THE FREE GIFT

Romans 10:9 & 13

"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." ⁽¹³⁾ For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

You've heard the expression: "All roads lead to Rome"...is a tribute to a phenomenon that held a world empire together. Before Rome road systems did not exist. Rome's network of roads expanded in every direction, like the spokes of a wheel, with Rome as the hub. The construction of these roads was careful and calculated. Measuring tools were used to make sure they were straight. They were mostly built on a solid foundation with layers of clay, chalk, and gravel with larger flat stones on top. For the first time the movements of armies, people and goods had an efficient means of transportation. This included communication between villages, news dispatched from Rome, and later for the spread of the Gospel throughout the world.

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WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT...

ADULTERY Exodus 20:14; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Hebrews 13:4; Galatians 5:19-20
ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE Ephesians 5:18; Romans 13:12-14; 1 Cor. 6:19-20
ANGER Ephesians 4:30-32; Colossians 3:8; James 1:19-20
ANXIETY Proverbs 12:25; Matthew 6:25-34; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:6-7
ASSURANCE (of salvation) John 5:24; Romans 8:37-39; Philippians 1:6; 1 John 5:11-13
BITTERNESS Acts 8:22-23; Ephesians 4:30-32; Hebrews 12:14-15
COMFORT Psalm 23, Psalm 103:1-14; 2 Corinthians 1:3-5
CONDUCT Psalm 1; Ephesians 5:8-11; Titus 2:11-13; 1 Peter 1:13-17
COVETOUSNESS Exodus 20:17; Luke 12:15; Ephesians 5:3-5; Hebrews 13:5
DEATH Psalm 116:15; John 14:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8
DEPRESSION Psalm 42:5-6; Isaiah 40:28-31; 2 Corinthians 1:3-5, 4:16-18
DISCIPLINE Job 5:17; Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:5-11
DIVORCE Malachi 2:16; Matthew 19:3-9; Romans 7:1-3
EXAMPLE (a good) John 13:1-17; 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Peter 2:17-25
FEAR Psalm 23:4, 27:1; Romans 8:15; 2 Timothy 1:7
FAITH Romans 10:17; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:1-6; Jude 1:20-21
FELLOWSHIP Ecclesiastes 4:12; Galatians 6:10; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:24-25
FORGIVENESS Psalm 103:1-5; Isaiah 1:18; Colossians 2:11-15; 1 John 1:6-9
FORNICATION (sex outside of marriage) Mark 7:21-23; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21
GOSSIP Leviticus 19:16; Proverbs 11:13, Proverbs 16:28, Proverbs 20:19
GRACE Romans 5:8; Ephesians 1:7-8, Ephesians 2:8-9
GUILT John 8:36; Romans 7:18-25, Romans 8:1; Philippians 3:13-14
HATE Galatians 5:19-20; 1 John 2:8-11 1 John 3:15, 1 John 4:20
HOMOSEXUALITY Romans 1:24-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 2 Peter 2:4-9
HOPE Psalm 71:5-6; Romans 5:5, Romans 12:10-12; 1 Peter 1:3
HUMILITY Isaiah 66:2; Colossians 3:12; Philippians 2:3; 1 Peter 5:6
IMMORALITY (sexual) 1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Galatians 5:19-21; 2 Thessalonians 4:3-8
JOY Psalm 16:11; John 15:10-11; Galatians 5:22
KINDNESS Galatians 5:22, 6:10; Colossians 3:12; 2 Peter 1:7
LAZINESS Proverbs 6:6-11, 15:19; 2 Timothy 2:15
LONELINESS Psalm 40:1-5; Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 13:15
LOVE 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Galatians 5:22; Colossians 3:12-15
LUST Romans 13:13-14; 1 Peter 1:13-16, 2:11-12
LYING Exodus 20:16; Proverbs 12:22; Ephesians 4:23-25
MERCY Psalm 51:1-2; 1 Peter 1:3; Titus 3:5
OBEDIENCE 1 Samuel 15:22; John 14:21; 1 John 2:3-6
PATIENCE Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 1:11, Colossians 3:12
PEACE Rom. 8:6; Galatians 5:22; Colossians 3:15
PERSECUTION Matt. 5:10-12; John 15:18-21; 2 Timothy 3:10-12
PRAYER Matt. 6:9-13; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; James 5:16
PRIDE Proverbs 8:13, 29:23; Mark 7:21-23; 1 Peter 5:5-6
REPENTANCE Isaiah 55:6-7; Joel 2:12-13; 2 Corinthians 7:10
REST Psalms 4:7-8; Jeremiah 6:16; Matthew 11:28-30; John 14:27
SELF-CENTEREDNESS Matthew 16:24-26; 1 Cor. 13:5; James 3:14-16
SELF-CONTROL Proverbs 14:29; Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Timothy 1:7; 2 Peter 1:6
SIN Numbers 32:23; Isaiah 59:1-2; Galatians 6:7-8; James 4:17
SUBMISSION 1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:11; 1 Peter 3:1, 1 Peter 5:5
SUFFERING John 15:18-21; Romans 8:28; 1 Peter 4:13
TEMPTATION Matthew 26:41; 2 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:13-15; 1 Peter 5:8-9
TRIALS John 16:33; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 Peter 1:3-7
TRUST Psalms 37:3-5; Proverbs 3:5-6, 16:20; Isaiah 26:3-4
WORLDLINESS Matthew 6:33; Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

B1

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Jesus encourages and exhorts his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them. What a wonderful gift our Father has for us to “baptize” us, or immerse us with His Spirit! For a more detailed Bible study of this important doctrine, download study at calvaryaurora.org.

STEPS TO THIS WONDERFUL DISCOVERY IS...

1 KNOWING GOD'S PROMISES

God loves His children and promises to pour out upon each of them the gift of His Holy Spirit in fullness so that they may have power to enjoy an abundant and fruitful life for Him.

The BIBLE says...

Acts 2:17, 39

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh...For the promise (of the Holy Spirit) is to you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

Acts 1:8

“But you shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to me, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and to the uttermost part of the earth.”

2 ACKNOWLEDGING YOUR NEED

As with all the promises of God, so it is with the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit. Although it is a free gift which can never be earned or deserved, there are, however, conditions for receiving. It is given to those who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, to those who have felt and acknowledged their need for the fullness of the Holy Spirit in their lives. God's gifts are for those who truly recognize their need and sincerely desire that which God promises them.

The BIBLE says...

John 7:37 - 39

“Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come to me and drink. He that believes on me, as the scripture has said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. But this he said of the Spirit...”

3 RECOGNIZING GOD'S WAY

Jesus Christ, God's Son, is not only the One who gives salvation. He is also the One who baptizes and fills with the Holy Spirit. Jesus came not only to give life, but to give life more abundantly. The same Jesus who gives eternal life through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit also gives abundant life through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The BIBLE says...

John 1:33, 34

“And I (John the Baptist) knew Him not; but He (God) that sent me to baptize with water, the same said to me, upon whom you shall see the Spirit descending and remaining on

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Him, the same is He which baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God."

Acts 2:4, 33

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance...therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he (Jesus) has poured out this which you now see and hear."

4 PERSONALLY RECEIVING GOD'S GIFT

As with the gift of salvation, so it is with the gift of the Holy Spirit's fullness. It must be personally received by asking in faith. God gives to those who sincerely ask and are open to receive.

The BIBLE says...

Galatians 3:13, 14

"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law...that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

Luke 11:10, 13

"For everyone that asks receives...how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

In the words of the Apostle Paul:

"Have you received the Holy Spirit since (when) you believed?" (Acts 19:2). Is there any good reason why you cannot receive the gift of the Holy Spirit right now?

What you must do:

1. Become a child of God, if not already, by repenting of sin and asking Jesus Christ into your life as Lord and Savior. (See John 1:12, 13)
2. Turn away from any sin in your life. (See Psalm 66:18)
3. Believe Jesus Christ is the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit.
4. In faith ask your heavenly Father through Jesus to baptize and fill you with the Holy Spirit.

(NOTE: Although not required, the laying on of hands by another believer can be most helpful as in Acts 8, 9 & 19. See 2 Timothy 1:6.)

What to pray:

Dear heavenly Father, I am your child. I have received Jesus Christ into my life as my own Lord and Savior. I confess my need and thirst for your gift of the Holy Spirit and His fullness in my life. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit. I repent of sin in my life and surrender my entire being to You. I now ask you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, to baptize and fill me with the Holy Spirit. I believe. I receive. Thank you, heavenly Father, for hearing my prayer. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for filling my life.

How to respond:

Praise the Lord audibly, letting the Spirit give you the words. Freely respond in worship and thanksgiving to God. (Note the result of the Spirit's filling in Numbers 11:25; 1 Samuel 10:10; Joel 2:28; Luke 1:67; Acts 2:4, 10:46, 19:6.)

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

B3

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Luke 11:9, 13

"And I say to you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. ...how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those that who ask Him!"

Your Assurance – God's Word

"And I say to you, Ask, and it shall be given you... for everyone that asks receives... if a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? ... If you then, being evil knows how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" (Luke 11:9-13)

What you expect:

1. Great power and boldness to witness. (See Acts 1:8)
2. Greater desire and power to pray constantly and effectively in the Spirit. (See Ephesians 6:18)
3. Greater desire and ability to praise God. (See Ephesians 5:18-20)
4. Gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow through you for others. (See 1 Corinthians 12:7-13)
5. Growth in the fruit of the Holy Spirit. (See Galatians 5:16-25)
6. Temptation from Satan, but authority and victory over him. (See Luke 4:1-13)

This is but the beginning of the abundant Spirit-filled walk with the Lord.

NOW...

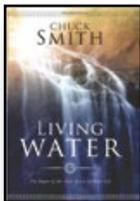
1. Spend time every day studying God's Word.
2. Spend time alone every day praying and praising God.
3. Regularly fellowship with other Spirit-filled believers.
4. Be faithful in your church and pray for spiritual renewal.
5. Trust the Holy Spirit to use you every day to be a witness for Jesus by word and deed.

RESOURCES ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

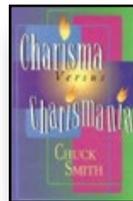
These can be ordered and purchased in the One Way Bookstore

Books:

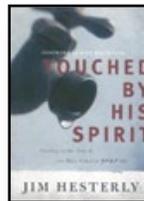
Living Water
Pastor Chuck Smith



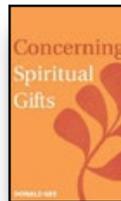
Charisma vs. Charismania
Pastor Chuck Smith



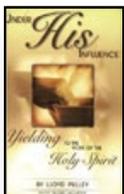
Touched By His Spirit
Pastor Jim Hesterly



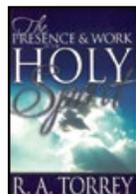
Concerning Spiritual Gifts
Donald Gee



Under His Influence
Lloyd Pulley



The Presence and Work of the Holy Spirit
R. A. Torrey



CD Sets:

- **What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?** - Pastor Ed Taylor
- **Spiritual Gifts** - Pastor Ed Taylor

ESSENTIAL TOOLS FOR BIBLE STUDY

T

BOOKS AND RESOURCES

CONCORDANCE:

Lists all the words in the Bible in alphabetical order with a reference for every word. The most popular is Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (usually KJV) which has two numbering systems: one for Hebrew and one for Greek that correspond to Hebrew and Greek dictionaries in the back of the concordance. Other concordances: Young's Analytical Concordance, Cruden's Complete Concordance, New International Bible Concordance.

BIBLE DICTIONARY:

Works similarly to an encyclopedia. Most words, topics, names, cities, etc., are mentioned; typically with an article on each entry. Good resource to get information on things found in the Bible. Typically has a lot of pictures too. Two of the most popular are: Unger's Bible Dictionary and Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary.

BIBLE HANDBOOK:

Gives an outline and basic summary of each book of the Bible. There are usually historical and archeological notes. Some contain a limited amount of commentary on Scripture passages as well. Two of the more popular are Unger's Bible Handbook and Halley's Bible Handbook.

COMMENTARIES:

Are the comments of various spiritual leaders and scholars on the Scriptures. They range from one-volume commentaries to multi-volume sets. Their depth of content varies from very basic explanations of the biblical text to immense scholarly works. Some cover the whole Bible while others cover only one book or portion of a book. If you have never used one, it is advisable to talk to someone you trust who has used them to help figure out which would be best for you. You could also use any commentaries mentioned by a particular Christian author or teacher who has helped you in your walk.

OLD/NEW TESTAMENT SURVEYS:

Give surveys of the books either in the Old or New Testaments. Typically there will be an outline of the biblical book, a survey of its content and other information concerning authorship, date and place of writing, some historical background, etc. There are many good ones.

BIBLE ATLAS:

Contains various maps of Palestine and the Mediterranean regions where the events of the Bible occurred. There are many to choose from.

LEXICONS:

More in-depth definitions of words in the Bible from the original language.

NAVE'S TOPICAL BIBLE:

List of topics in the Bible and all Scriptures that pertain to them. There is some commentary with the topics as well. A real time saver when doing topical studies.

VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY:

Lists words in the Bible. Gives a more in-depth study as to the original language, definitions, usage, and other information. Good reference for word studies.

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF BIBLE TIMES:

Has information on culture, history, mannerisms, etc., of Palestine and Mediterranean Basin area. Helps to understand topics from Bible times.

ESSENTIAL TOOLS FOR BIBLE STUDY

BOOKS AND RESOURCES

WORKS OF JOSEPHUS: Flavius Josephus was a Jewish historian during the early 1st century. Good resource for historical context of the Old Testament, Inter-Testament period, and the time of Jesus into the 1st century. Covers the fall of Jerusalem and the surrounding history.

LIFE AND TIMES OF JESUS THE MESSIAH:

Classic work by Alfred Edersheim that has a lot of information and context on the life of Christ. One example is a chapter on rabbinical tradition. A very good resource.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGIES:

Categorize what Scripture teaches on various topics like: attributes of God, salvation, angels, Christ, the church, etc. One caution to keep in mind - these works tend to reflect the biases of the author either personally, or of his group or denomination.

BIBLE SOFTWARE:

A lot of good Bible software is available: free stand-alone programs, web sites, and various priced commercial packages.

COMMERCIAL:

Bible Explorer 3, PC Study Bible, Logos (very extensive and expensive).

FREE:

www.e-Sword.net

WEB:

www.blueletterbible.org

RECOMMENDED STARTER LIST:

- Concordance
- Bible dictionary
- Bible handbook
- One volume commentary



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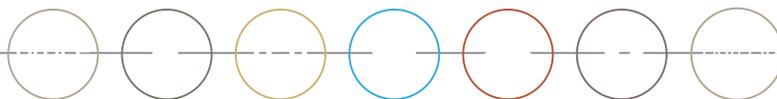


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