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The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”
-2 Corinthians 5:17*

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7 Practical Things
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- 1 Pray without Ceasing
 - 2 Read Diligently
 - 3 Be present when the church assembles
 - 4 Engage with Christians
 - 5 Flee Sin
 - 6 Tell someone about Jesus
 - 7 Maintain Perspective
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Scriptures of Comfort and Encouragement for new Christians:

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”
-2 Corinthians 5:17*

*“So I am not the one living now—it is Christ living in me.
I still live in my body, but I live by faith in the Son of God.
He is the one who loved me and gave himself to save me.”
-Galatians 2:20*

*“We have all these great people around us as examples.
Their lives tell us what faith means. So we, too, should run the race that
is before us and never quit. We should remove from our lives anything
that would slow us down and the sin that so often makes us fall.
We must never stop looking to Jesus. He is the leader of our faith,
and he is the one who makes our faith complete.”
-Hebrews 12:1-2a*

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Now that you are a Christian, what next?

**Author’s note: This booklet is designed to be put into the hands of someone who has just been immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins. Each page is a conversation starter, not a complete study. Hopefully, we can have healthy conversations that help show our new brothers and sisters what is expected of them.*

Every congregation has their own preferred steps for maturing new members, perhaps studying with an older Christian, a reading plan, etc. May this resource serve as one more way to help ground new Christians in the faith. May their spiritual roots run deep and may they produce spiritual fruit to the glory of Jesus Christ!

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Rejoice!

What a wonderful day! You have made the greatest decision anyone can ever make; you have become a Christian. Right now, heaven rejoices. The Bible says that there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. That means God the Father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and all the angels are rejoicing over your commitment to be saved.

Jesus described a sinner who saved as someone who was dead but now is alive. They are like someone who was lost but now is found. That's the reason everyone is so happy for you. We rejoice with heaven that you have been saved!

BIBLE: Luke 15:7, Luke 15:32

3

Just because we're on God's side, it doesn't mean life will be easy. Christians still suffer loss, face stress and are challenged. The reality of life will still be very real on this side of eternity.

That is why we never give up. Our physical body is becoming older and weaker, but our spirit inside us is made new every day. We have small troubles for a while now, but these troubles are helping us gain an eternal glory. That eternal glory is much greater than our troubles.

So, live your daily life with a transformed and regenerated soul. Get up each day as normal. Go to work or school. Be effective in your daily tasks and relationships. The light of Jesus will shine through the things you say and do. The change in your life began dramatically when you were baptized. Now be prepared for continued change to take place *slowly* over the rest of your life as you are molded into the person God has intended you to be.

BIBLE: 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

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We also know that Jesus is greater than *he who is in the world* (the devil). We know that God is working for our good.

Can anything separate us from Christ's love? Can trouble or problems or persecution separate us from his love? If we have no food or clothes or face danger or even death, will that separate us from his love?

[...] Yes, I am sure that nothing can separate us from God's love—not death, life, angels, or ruling spirits. I am sure that nothing now, nothing in the future, no powers, nothing above us or nothing below us—nothing in the whole created world—will ever be able to separate us from the love God has shown us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These are promises to help form a healthy perspective. We have faith that God will make things right even if we struggle now.

BIBLE: 1 John 4:4, Romans 8:28,36-38

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Counting the cost

Hopefully you have weighed the options of becoming a Christian and have counted the cost. This isn't a decision that someone makes casually. Jesus said:

If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?

This is a life commitment. It's like a marriage relationship. A new Christian should not plan for a commitment that lasts only a day or a week, but for life.

BIBLE: Luke 9:23-25, see also Luke 14:21-33

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God has a plan

It's good to remember God's plan of redemption. We could never earn our salvation, but humbly come to God through faith and obey the gospel. When you were ready to commit your life to Jesus, you became a Christian. It began with hearing the good news, believing in Jesus, repenting (turning away) from a life lived in sin, and confessing that Jesus is the Son of God. Finally, you were immersed in water for the remission of sins.



Hear



Believe



Repent



Confess



Baptism

BIBLE: Rom. 10:17, Mark 16:16, 2 Cor. 7:10, Rom. 10:9, Acts 8:37

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7 Maintain Perspective

Remember the big picture: Jesus has saved us and now we live for him. We must have this mindset:

I have learned to be satisfied with what I have and with whatever happens...I have learned the secret of how to live through any kind of situation—when I have enough to eat or when I am hungry, when I have everything I need or when I have nothing. I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

Our life as a Christian is like a long distance marathon, not a sprint. We run the race every day. We may grow spiritually tired and fatigued. With a proper perspective, we know there will be valleys of despair and hill tops of joy. In addition, the devil will not wait long before he comes. He will not sit by and allow us an easy spiritual journey.

BIBLE: Philippians 4:11b-13, Hebrews 12:1-2, 1 Peter 5:8

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Tell someone about Jesus



Share the good news. You have been saved, and you know God's mercy. Others need to know too. The Christian faith is centered on sharing Jesus' good news. That means we should be ready and willing to talk about Jesus with our family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, and beyond.

As the Scriptures say, "How wonderful it is to see someone coming to tell good news!"... So faith comes from hearing the Good News. And people hear the Good News when someone tells them about Christ.

Jesus once gave a simple way we can share the gospel:

Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."

BIBLE: Romans 10:14-17, Mark 5:29, See also Matthew 28:19-20

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Immersion in water is often called *baptism*. It is God's plan that we are baptized to symbolically reflect the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. When we are immersed in water, we die to sin, and arise a new, spiritually regenerated, person in Jesus.



Thank God that you have accepted God's grace through faith in Jesus! You are a Christian and enjoy a special peace and harmony with God once again. (If perhaps you have not yet obeyed the gospel and found this booklet independently, please consider the Scriptures and contact the author for help).

Now that your Christian life has begun, what should you start doing right now to spiritually grow and mature?

BIBLE: Mark 16:16, Romans 6:3-6, 1 Peter 3:21

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1 Pray without Ceasing



Talk to God. The Holy Spirit reveals God's will for us. We can know what God expects. Consider this Scripture:

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Part of God's will for His children is that we pray. How can we pray without ceasing? While we can't pray 24 hours a day (i.e. we have to sleep), we can continually pray. Pray in the morning, pray while driving, pray before meals, pray with friends. Don't let your prayer life be restricted, rather let it become a pivotal part of your new life in Christ. Here is a helpful acronym to mature your prayer life:

Don't Forget Prayer A.C.T.S.!

Adoration (Who He Is)
Confession (What you have done)
Thanksgiving (What God has done)
Supplication (What you/others need)

BIBLE: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; see also Matthew 6:5-15

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Sometimes new Christians feel confused or betrayed when they are tempted and give in to sin. Perhaps they thought that they wouldn't have these struggles once they obeyed the gospel. However, the Bible teaches that as long as we are in the flesh, there is a battle going on between the flesh and the spirit within, between an old and new "Self."

Don't continue living like those who don't believe...that way of life is nothing like what you learned when you came to know Christ... You were taught to leave your old self. This means that you must stop living the evil way you lived before. That old self gets worse and worse, because people are fooled by the evil they want to do. You must be made new in your hearts and in your thinking. Be that new person who was made to be like God, truly good and pleasing to him.

God is faithful, and won't let us be tempted beyond what we can handle. And a part of His faithfulness is to allow us to choose if we will stay faithful or return to sin. Since we know what sin leads to, let's chose to move forward in a life committed to Jesus.

BIBLE: Romans 7:7-25, Ephesians 4:17-24, 1 Corinthians 10:13

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5 Flee Sin



Just because we've been forgiven doesn't mean we are immune to temptation. Christians have made a life commitment to Jesus, and part of that is avoiding sinful behavior:

So how can we continue living in sin? Did you forget that all of us became part of Christ Jesus when we were baptized? In our baptism we shared in his death.

We have to flee from sin. It might mean leaving a job or not associating with friends who pressure us into doing sinful things. The Bible urges new Christians to seek Jesus and His ways and not return to sinful living. Why exchange eternal salvation for temporary pleasure?

But be like the Lord Jesus Christ, so that when people see what you do, they will see Christ. Don't think about how to satisfy the desires of your sinful self.

BIBLE: Romans 6:2-3, 2 Timothy 2:22, Mark 8:36, Romans 13:14 11

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Read Diligently 2

Open your Bible often. We may feel overwhelmed when looking at how big the Bible, but consider this: at a pace of about 15-20 minutes daily, one can read through the whole New Testament comfortably in three months. Being consistent about studying the Bible can make *the big book* seem readable. And we don't simply read to "check it off our list." We read because God speaks to us through the word. We read because it transforms our character. We read because it nourishes our soul.

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.

BIBLE: Read Psalm 119 for a powerful meditation on God's word. 8

Sample Reading Plan	
1	Matthew 1-3
2	Matthew 4-6
3	Matthew 7-9
4	Matthew 10-11
5	Matthew 12-13
6	Matthew 14-16
7	Matthew 17-19
8	Matthew 20-21
9	Matthew 22-24
10	Matthew 25-26
11	Matthew 27-28



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10	Matthew 25-26
11	Matthew 27-28

3

Be Present when the Church Assembles



Make a habit of being present when the church gathers. We are commanded to be there and not forsake (i.e. abandon) the assembly. Have a mindset of, “What a blessing!” and not, “Do I have to?”

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 encouraging one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Being present is more than simply *being there*. Notice, we are also commanded to be active in encouraging and motivating each other. You can’t do that if you aren’t there, or if you think it means simply *showing up*. Your presence and interactions can always be a positive force in the lives of other Christians.

BIBLE: Hebrews 10:24-25, See also 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, Acts 20:7

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Engage with Christians

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Interact with your brothers and sisters in Christ. This spiritual family is a support group for one another.

Brothers and sisters, someone in your group might do something wrong. You who are following the Spirit should go to the one who is sinning. Help make that person right again, and do it in a gentle way...Help each other with your troubles. When you do this, you are obeying the law of Christ.

We are a spiritual family beyond the worship service. Invite others to dinner, to social events, or to simply be together. It’s easier to spiritually lean on each other when we have trust and a good relationship. Our best friends should be Christians.

BIBLE: Galatians 6:1-4, see also Proverbs 27:6

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