

The Bare Essentials of the Christian Life

A Pamphlet for New Believers

Welcome to the family of God! Whether you're working a job, attending school, or even driving a car there are some basic things that you should know in order to function properly in the task at hand. This tract is written for you as a new Christian to give you some basic information that you will need to know in order to enjoy the eternal life that God has given you as a free gift through Jesus Christ (Rom 6:23). Salvation really is a free gift, as the Bible says, it is "the grace of God that bringeth salvation" (Titus 2:11). And yet the Bible tells us that Jesus Christ has given himself for you upon the cross that he might "purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14). The following information is "need-to-know" material if you're going to fulfill the Lord's purpose for your life as a zealous follower of his.

The Word of God

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye might grow thereby. 1 Pet 2:2

In order to get saved you had to believe what God said about your sin and about Jesus Christ. We know what God says about these and other matters from the Bible. The Bible says that "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom 10:17). The Bible isn't only an important agency in a person's salvation (Jas 1:18, 1 Pet 1:23), it is our

life-line to our Heavenly Father. Every healthy relationship is based on good communication and God speaks to His children through the Bible, God's word (2 Pet 1:18-19). You'll notice in this tract that we include "Bible-references" (the abbreviated book names and numbers in parenthesis) throughout so that you'll know that what you're reading has its authority in what God said. The Bible is our spiritual food (Matthew 4:4) and you can not expect to remain spiritually healthy apart from feasting on the words of God found in the Bible (Job 23:12). We recommend that you obtain a King James Bible and beginning reading it every single day. You may even want to take notes on what you learn and the questions that you have. A good place to begin reading is the gospel of John; this book will help you to get acquainted with your Savior, Jesus Christ. The book of Romans is a good place to learn more about what Christianity is all about. And the book of First Thessalonians will give you an introduction to some of the most basic subjects of the New Testament including the return of Jesus Christ. The most important this is that you consistently read God word, the Holy Bible.

Prayer

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:6

In much the same way that God speaks to you through the Bible, you speak to

God through prayer. Prayer is simply you talking to God. There are several different kinds of prayers in the Bible (1 Tim 2:1, 1 John 1:9) such as supplication (when you ask for something you need), intercession (when you pray for others), thanksgiving (when you express your gratitude to God), and confession (when you tell God you're sorry for sin you've committed). Prayer is something that you should make a daily habit just like reading the Bible (1 Thess 5:17). You can pray any where at any time. Try to make sure that your prayers are in line with what you read in the Bible (1 John 5:14), and remember to pray "in Jesus name" (John 14:13).

Church

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

When you got saved you didn't only become a child of God (Gal 3:26), you also became a sibling in a huge family (Gal 6:10), and that family is the church. Every Christian should find a local church where they can hear God's word taught, where they can minister and encourage other believers, and where they can be encouraged and held accountable in their Christian walk (Eph 4:11-12). You should find a church where they believe and preach the Bible, where they care for one another, and where they are actively involved in winning people to Jesus Christ (missions and evangelism).

Baptism

And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Acts 8:36-37

One of the first acts of obedience in the life of a new believer is water baptism (Matt 28:19). All through the early history of the church (recorded in the book of Acts), believers would be baptized immediately following their salvation. Baptism is *not* a part of a person's salvation (1 Cor 1:17), but it does picture our association with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Rom 6:3-4). Everywhere we find baptism in the Bible it is by immersion, or by placing the individual entirely under the water (Acts 8:38, Matt 3:16). Your baptism is a great chance to let the world know that Jesus Christ has saved you. Speak to a Pastor or the person that led you to Christ as soon as possible regarding how to go about being baptized.

Witnessing

And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Cor 5:18

When you got saved you came to realize that your sins separated you from God and that you deserved to go hell. Thankfully God's Son, Jesus Christ, suffered in your place on the cross and died for your sins (1 Cor 15: 3-4). That is the greatest news in the universe! And

yet some have never heard, in a clear, straight-forward manner, that they are sinners and need to be saved by Jesus Christ. Who is supposed to tell them? It is the responsibility of every believer to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world (Mark 16:16). There are many instances in the Bible of people who shared Jesus Christ with others immediately after they had met Him themselves (John 4:28-29, Acts 9:20). You can start being a witness right away by telling your friends and family what God has done for you. You can make a regular habit of passing out gospel tracts and asking people if they are born again. We must not be fearful of what others may think. Souls are perishing in their sin every day and the Lord has instructed us to tell them.

Faith

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6

Your salvation was by grace through faith (Eph 2:8). Faith is not only an essential part of being saved, it is the foundation of everything in the Christian life. Because God is absolutely trustworthy (Titus 1:2) you can have faith in all that he has said. You can be sure that trusting Jesus Christ was not the end of all of your troubles. In fact Jesus Christ told his very own disciples that they would encounter hard times even following him (John 16:33). You can not trust your feelings, because even

your own heart can deceive you (Jer 17:9). You can, however, always trust God's word and put your faith in Him. There will be times you may not feel like reading your Bible, going to church, or telling others about Jesus Christ. Those feelings will not change what God has told you to do. If you have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ to save you, nothing can change His faithfulness no matter how you feel. The key is to make sure your faith is in God and what he has said. We have to believe certain things each and every day in order to function in life. We believe that a green light means it is safe to go. We believe that the chair we're sitting in will actually hold us up. These are minor things, but they are still based on faith. We even believe what people say about things like news, advice, appointments, and instructions. The Bible says that "if we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater". If we can have faith in all of these worldly things (that even let you down at times), then we should exercise an absolute faith in a God that cannot lie (Heb 6:18).

Don't Stop Here

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. 2 Peter 3:18

The words of wisdom in this short publication are just the basics regarding the bare essentials. Don't stop here! Go on and learn all that you can about the Lord Jesus Christ and your relationship with Him.