



NEXT STEP

WHAT MUST
I DO?



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References :

- *The Normal Christian Birth*, David Pawson, Hodder & Stoughton 1989
- www.intothyword.org

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**NEXT
STEP**

WHAT MUST I DO?

In the book 1 of our 1to1 series, "WHAT DID JESUS DO?" we took an introductory look at all that Jesus has done because of His great love for us:

- He paid the debt of our sin so we can have eternal life and be reconciled with our Heavenly Father.

- He gave us a new life, new hope and purpose.
- He gave us His Word, the Bible, to lead us and to reveal Himself to us.
- He gave us His Spirit, to comfort us, teach us and help us to live this new life.
- He places us in a family, the Church, with whom we take this journey as Christ followers together.

Our relationship with God is a journey. The word "Saved" in the Bible is not in the past tense. We are saved, we are being saved and we will be saved. It is a lifelong journey! He HAS saved us (regeneration) – *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Eph 2:8).*

He IS saving us (sanctification) – *“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day” (2 Cor 4:16).*

He WILL save us (glorification) – *“Who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time” (1 Peter 1:5).*

This booklet aims to prepare you with all you need for the journey ahead.





THE STARTING BLOCKS FOR SALVATION

Paul talks of our walk of faith with God being like a race (2 Timothy 4:7). If we have a good start we will have all that we need to be able to endure, to finish the race strong and receive a reward from our Heavenly Father.

REPENT

Repentance is often a misunderstood word. It does not mean to “feel sorry” but is rather when we realise that we have sinned against God, against others and ourselves.

Repentance happens, *“When we are able to grasp that we have defied God’s authority, broken His laws, polluted His creation, spoiled His pleasure, provoked His anger and deserved His judgement. Our unhappiness will then more be tinged with fear”* - (David Pawson, *The Normal Christian Birth*).

Repentance is something that happens in our hearts (inward) and is expressed by our actions (outward). You can’t have one without the other! Scriptural repentance involves 3 dimensions:

THOUGHT

It comes from the Greek word “*Metanoeō*” which means literally to change one’s mind, to think again. *“To repent means to think about things from*

God's point of view, to agree with His analysis and accept His Verdict" - (David Pawson - The Normal Christian Birth).

Repentance is to come to the *"Knowledge of the truth"* (2 Tim 2:25) about God and about one's self.

WORD

Thinking differently about the way we used to act needs to be followed by speaking differently about them – confessing our sin. We confess to God the wrong we have done and to those who have been affected by our sin. This is really hard to do, as it requires us to swallow our pride but confession shows that we accept responsibility for our actions and opens up the channel for God's grace to flow towards us. (1 John 1:9).

"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).

"What is uncovered by man now will be covered by

God's mercy; what is covered by man now will be uncovered by God's judgment" - David Pawson - The Normal Christian Birth.

DEED

Words of Repentance should be followed by works of repentance. Their should be evidence is our lives that we have changed the way we think and act. We should *"bear fruit in keeping with repentance"* (Luke 3:8).

Repentance also involves putting the past right wherever this is possible. God loves us so much and wants to rescue us from the sin that we are in. He wants us to live a new and better life. It's His kindness, in fact, that leads us to repentance. (Romans 2:4)

It is important to remember that we are not saved by our "good deeds" we are saved by our faith in Jesus. Repentance is a step that takes us further on our journey of turning to Christ in faith.

BELIEVE

We need to believe, have faith, that Jesus is who He says He is and that He has done and will do all that He says;

“The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It’s our handle on what we can’t see”. - Hebrews 11:1 (NLT)

This is one of the most important steps in your walk with God, without this the other 3 lose their significance and effectiveness. You can’t have true repentance without faith, you, we have faith in the power of God to raise someone who is dead and buried, and we receive the Holy Spirit by faith. All of these are expressions of faith.

In Acts 16:30-31, a jailer asks Paul, *“What must I do to be saved?”* and Paul simply answers, *“Believe in the Lord and you will be saved”*.

However, saying that we have faith does not save us, but rather actually having faith.

“Faith needs to be possessed and practised, as well as professed and proclaimed” – David Pawson.

FAITH IS HISTORICAL:

The Bible is really a history of the world. Faith is believing that the events in the Bible did occur and we recognise their importance. i.e. Jesus was crucified, buried and raised and He is the Son of God. These historical events have an impact on all mankind for all eternity!

FAITH IS PERSONAL:

Faith is not only about intellectually accepting the historical facts. It’s not only believing that it is true but believing that it is true for you personally! For example, to believe that Jesus is the Saviour of the world is not the same thing as believing that He is my Saviour! The Christian faith is not just about believing that Jesus rose from the dead but about

believing in the Jesus that rose from the dead! It is all about having a personal relationship with Jesus, knowing Him, rather than knowing about Him.

FAITH IS VERBAL:

The New Testament clearly teaches us that faith needs to be put into words. The emphasis is not however placed on the person saying the words but the person to whom the words are said.

In *Mark 10:46-52*, a blind man calls out to Jesus until he is eventually heard. Jesus then says to him, *"Go, your faith has healed you"*. It was not the man's shouting that healed him but that he believed in the power of Jesus to heal him.

FAITH IS PRACTICAL:

Faith is something we do rather than something we have. To emphasise this, the New Testament writers preferred to use the verb "believe" to the noun "faith". (A verb is an action word). To believe is to be *"obedient to the faith"* (*Acts 6:7*).

We are not saved by our good works (*Eph 2:9*) but saved for good works (*Eph 2:10*) – Works of Faith!

"Dear brothers and sisters, what's the use of saying you have faith if you don't prove it by your actions? That kind of faith can't save anyone. Suppose you see a brother or sister who needs food or clothing, and you say, "Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat well" - but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all--it is dead and useless" – James 2:14-17.

Faith is not just accepting the truth of God's word; it is acting on that truth!

FAITH IS CONTINUAL:

The nature of Faith is to continue to believe and act on God's word, however long it takes to see the God's promises fulfilled. This is why we are encouraged in *Hebrews 11* to follow the example

of those in the Old Testament who ran with perseverance, keeping their eyes fixed on Jesus.

In the Hebrew and Greek language (in which the bible was originally written in) the word “faith” and “faithfulness” are exactly the same word. To be full of faith is to be someone who is faithful. True faith is what we finish with, not what we start with.

The next step of faith is to be baptised in water...



BE BAPTISED IN WATER

The word “baptism” means to be immersed or submerged. It is the same Greek word used in the context of dyeing cloth and the sinking of a ship.

WHY?

- Water Baptism is one of the things that Jesus commanded us to do.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” - Matthew 28:19-20.

- Jesus demonstrated it and was also baptised.

“Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him” - Matthew 3:13.
The early church continued to baptise people as

Jesus commanded. (Acts 2:41, Acts 10:47-48, Acts 8:12)

- Not only is baptism an act of obedience it also clears our conscience and a vital part of this salvation road!

“Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” - 1 Peter 3:21.

WHAT?

- Baptism is a bath for those who are dirty:
It's for the washing away of sins (Acts 22:16, Eph 5:26, Heb 10:22). It cleanses us inwardly rather than externally, a cleaning of our conscience rather than the body (1 Peter 3:21).
- Baptism is a burial for those who are dead:
When we repented we died to our old selves, in baptism we are buried, and then we rise to a new life in Christ! (John 3:5).

Baptism is not just a symbol of death - it is a burial.

WHEN?

- After believing in Jesus for Salvation (*Acts 8:37*).
- After repenting of sin (*Acts 2:38*).

Note: Children were blessed, not baptized, by Jesus (*Mk 10:14-16*). Repentance and believing are two things that are done by people who have understanding. An infant cannot repent and believe!

HOW?

- Biblical baptism is by total Immersion in water. (*Mark 3:16, John 3:23*). Being baptised is a voluntary decision you make after you have repented. In scripture we see that anyone who is a disciple of Jesus (Christ follower) can baptise.
- Paul baptised again those who were not baptised correctly and those who were not baptised for the right reasons! (*Acts 19:3-5*).

THE MEANING

When we are baptized we recognise our union with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection. It is the God-ordained sign that you are in Covenant relationship with God (*Col 2:9-13*). It is also a public testimony of change that has already taken place in your heart.

“The water by itself can do nothing more than wash dirt off the body – but it is the power of God through His Spirit in response to human repentance and faith which enables the physical act to have such a spiritual effect” – David Pawson.



Charles Spurgeon's Testimony:

"I will never forget the third of May, 1850. I was within a few weeks of my sixteenth birthday. I was up early to have a couple of hours for prayer and communion with my God. Then I had to walk some eight miles to reach the spot where I was to be immersed into the Triune Name... The wind blew down the river with a cutting blast. As my turn came I waded into the flood. It was then that I noticed the people on the ferry-boat, and in the boats on the shores. I felt as if heaven and earth and hell might gaze upon me, for I was not ashamed there and then to own myself a follower of the Lamb. My timidity was washed away; it floated down the river into the sea and must have been devoured by the fish, for I have never felt anything of that kind since. Baptism loosed my tongue and from that day I have never been quiet."



BE BAPTISED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is seal that identifies us children of God. We need to receive the Holy Spirit. It's important to enter the Kingdom of God and to live this new life and relationship with God.

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Romans 8:14-16).

In the Old Testament we see that the Holy Spirit was only poured out on a few individuals. But it has always been God's heart for His Spirit to be poured for all of His people. Jesus ushered in a new season when we all have can have the Spirit.

The Promise:

The Holy Spirit was promised by Jesus himself, before his death (*John 7: 37-39*) and after his resurrection (*Acts 1:5*). Jesus was repeating a promise already made by the Father hundreds of years before, through the prophets.

"And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit". (Joel 2:28-29).

The Gift:

The Holy Spirit is a free gift from the Father for His children. It cannot be earned or deserved but only received! The Father knew we could not live this life He has called us to without the Spirit - which is God in us strengthening us, teaching us, convicting us, bearing fruit in us, giving us power to be witnesses...

It's a gift you should not refuse! The Holy Spirit is received by faith (*Gal 3:14*) and maintained by obedience (*Eph 5:18*).

The Deposit:

The Spirit is a deposit, a guarantee of what's to come. Living in the Spirit is a taste of what's to come in heaven!

"And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee" (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

Pentecost:

At Pentecost, the disciples were filled with the Spirit just as Jesus had promised. (*Acts 2*)

They received:

- New Languages (*Acts 2:4-12*)
- New Boldness (*Acts 2:2-14*)
- New Power (*Acts 2:37-41*)

The Work of the Spirit:

- To be an abiding comforter (*Jn 14:16-17*).
- To teach us all things (*Jn 14:26*).
- To testify about Jesus (*Jn 15:26*).
- To reprove (*Jn 16:7-11*).
- To guide into all truth (*Jn 16:13-15, Eph 1:17-18*).
- To give us power to witness about Jesus (*Acts 1:8*).
- To bear witness with our spirits.
- To help us to pray (*Rom 8:26-27*).
- To produce Godly character in us (*Gal 5:22-23, Titus 3:5*).

How do we receive this Gift?

- Eagerly desire (*1 Cor 14:1*).
- Through laying on of hands (*Acts 9:17-19*)
- Ask God, Jesus is the Baptiser in the Holy Spirit (*Matt 3:11, Jn 1:33*)
- Co-operate with the Spirit
- Believe
- Persevere

Some of the barriers to receiving the Holy Spirit:

- Doubt
- Fear
- Inadequacy

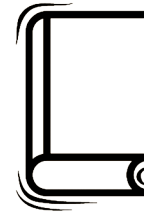
Remember ...

"For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:9-13).

ON THE ROAD



No matter how long you have been walking with God or where you may be on your journey, here are essentials that you will need every step of the way:



THE WORD OF GOD

The Bible (the Word of God) is the inspired word of God and our manual for life! We need to be A people who base our lives on the Word of God, whose lifestyles are radically affected by it! It's the means of the revelation of God to our hearts and to our lives in general as a church.

The Word of God:

- Changes us (*Romans 12:2*)
- Guide us (*Psalms 119:105*)
- Creates (*Genesis 1*)
- Cleanses us (*Ephesians 5:25-26*)
- Corrects us (*2 Timothy 3:16*)
- Feeds us (*Matthew 4:4*)
- Is a Weapon (*Ephesians 6:17*)
- Is Alive (*Hebrews 4:12*)
- Brings fruitfulness & maturity (*Psalms 1*)

The Bible is not an academic book and reading it is not a merely ritual. God's Word is powerful and it imparts life. The book itself is not holy or powerful but rather the work of the Holy Spirit in us, as He teaches us and makes the Word come alive to us!

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand the Word and to speak you! It takes time to get into the discipline of reading the Word daily.

The Word plus nothing, minus nothing!

Handy Tips

- Often we don't know where to start reading our Bibles. Why not try a reading plan to help you get started? (see Pg 22)
- When you are reading ask yourself:
 - "What does it say?"
 - "What does it mean?"
 - "How does it apply?"
- Respond in Prayer
- Remember it's not just about knowing stuff but putting it into practice (*Matt 7:24*)
- There are some resources available to help us unpack the Bible, like books or websites. These are supplements, not replacements to the Word of God.

A few recommendations:

- <http://www.e-sword.net/>
(Free Bible study software)
- "What the Bible Is All About"; Henrietta Mears
- "Keys to Unlocking the Bible"; David Pawson



PRAYER

Prayer is simply a fancy way of saying “talking to God”. Our walk with God is all about a relationship with Him. We get to know God more when we spend time with Him, reading His Word and talking to Him. It’s not a matter of knowing about God, but knowing God!

In a healthy relationship there is communication both ways. Our Heavenly Father wants us to talk to Him and He wants to talk to us!

In *Matthew 6:7-13* Jesus teaches us how to pray:
“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like

them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

Pray then like this:

*“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth
as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven
our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but
deliver us from evil”.*

A guideline to help you in your prayer...

ACTS:

A – Adoration

Praising God for who He is and what He has done

C – Confession

Asking God’s forgiveness for anything we have done wrong.

T – Thanksgiving

For health, friends, family, work etc.

S - Supplication

Praying for others and then ourselves.

Keys for our “Quiet Times”:

“Quiet time” is a term you will often hear Christ followers mention, this refers to a time we set aside to spend time with God, reading the Word, Praying, worshipping Him...

- Set aside time (Don’t let life get too busy to spend time with God)
- Find a quiet space to read with no distractions
- Persevere (Some days you will feel like your times are dry, but keep being faithful)



WORSHIP

Our hearts were made to worship. To Worship is “to adore, to revere, to honour, to devote to”. We all worship something or someone. Whatever we give most of our time to, whatever we place the most value on, whatever our heart is drawn to is what we worship – God, money, religion, a cause, ourselves, our career etc... Worship starts in our hearts and flows out into the way we live our lives.

“Everyone worships all the time. Atheists, agnostics, Christians, and everyone in between are unceasing worshippers. Everyone, everywhere, all the time, is always worshipping. While the object

and method of worship varies, the act of worship does not.” - Mark Driscoll

God commands His children to worship Him alone. God is exalted above all things, above all powers and all gods! He deserves that all of our hearts and lives are lived out in worship to Him!

“You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.” (Deuteronomy 6:13)

It is important to note that worship is not limited to singing songs. *Hebrews 13:15–17* has some helpful insights into worship:

“Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning,

for that would be of no advantage to you.”

In this scripture we see that worship includes:

1. Praise
2. Proclamation (lips that confess his name)
3. Service (do good as a demonstration of the gospel to the world)
4. Participation (share with others as a demonstration of grace to the world)
5. Sacrifice (giving of time talent and treasure)
6. Submission (respecting godly authority placed over you so as to grow in wisdom and holiness)

(Taken from Mark Driscoll - <http://theresurgence.com/2011/01/23/what-is-worship>)



THE FAMILY OF GOD

When we become children of God we join His family – the Church. Being a family goes beyond a church meeting, it's about being a community built on love and deep authentic relationships.

Jesus says that the world will see that we belong to Him by the way we love one another. (*John 13:35*).

God is interested in us as individuals, but we see in scripture that right from the beginning He has always had a heart for “a people” a “community in unity”. It is through this family of God, God will reveal Himself to the world (*Col 1:27*).

It is sad to hear people say that they love God, but hate the church. We are all works in process and it can sometimes be a challenge to have good, authentic relationships in the church - but we have to remember that the value God placed on the church was His Son!

“And you husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her” (Ephesians 5:25)

It is important for us to plant ourselves in a church family so that we can love, grow and serve!

The church does not exist for itself (we are not a “Holy Huddle” or an exclusive club) but we exist so that we can impact our cities with the good news and love of Jesus!

MAKING OUR FAMILY - YOUR FAMILY:

- **Attend Starting Point**

This is group for those who are looking in to see if they would like to join ULC. Discover our heart, our values and meet the leaders.

- **Join a Discipleship Group**

Discipleship Groups are small groups that meet together once a week. It's a great place to make friends and grow in God.

- **Get involved**

Find out where you can serve with your gifts & talents. Visit our Infohub if you need some help finding where you can get involved.

- **Invite people to your home**

This is a great way for you to get to know new people and for people to get to know you.

THE END OF THE BEGINNING

You have been introduced to the starting blocks for Salvation and the essentials we need to walk this journey!

There is so much more that God wants to reveal about Himself and His ways to you! We encourage you to take the Next Steps in your journey with Christ.

We have Discipleship Groups that meet together specifically for new believers, those who are investigating the claims of Christ or those who want to establish strong foundations in their faith!

To join this group & for more info you can contact 0861 CHURCH.

Enjoy the journey to LIFE!

READING PLAN

Here is a Reading Plan to help you get started as you read the Bible. This Bible reading plan is a general overview of God's encounter with humanity, our responses to Him and how He gives us Hope, Salvation and an Eternal Future. If you are buying a Bible for the first time, we recommend that you get the ESV or NIV version. They are easy to read and written in modern English.

Day	Theme	Passage
1	The Fall of Humanity	Genesis 3:1–19
2	A People set for God	Genesis 12:1-3; 28:10–15; 32:22–28
3	The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:1–17
4	Sacrifices and the Law	Leviticus 5:14–19
5	Dealing with Sin Under the Law	Leviticus 20:7–27
6	Obedience from Love	Deuteronomy 6:1-9; 11:13–21
7	Humanities Disobedience	Judges 2:10–19
8	The People Demand a King	1 Samuel 8
9	Saul Fails and is Rejected	1 Samuel 15:17–23
10	Many Kings Fail to Heed God	Jeremiah 1–17
11	The Sins of the People hurt God	Ezekiel 20:5–26
12	An Eternal King Promised	Jeremiah 23:1–6; Isaiah 9:6–7; Zechariah 9:9–10

13	The Promised Christ is Born	Luke 2:1–20
14	The Word Became Flesh	John 1:1–18
15	Signs and Wonders of Jesus	Matthew 9:1–8; Luke 13:10–17
16	Jesus Fulfills the Law	Matthew 5:17–20; Romans 8:1–4
17	Jesus Teaches About our New Life	John 3
18	Jesus Taken	John 18:1–11
19	Jesus' Death and Resurrection	Luke 23:44—24:12
20	Christ a Sacrifice for All	Hebrews 10:1-18; 11:1-3; 12:1-3
21	God's Righteous Wrath Explained	Romans 1:18–32
22	God's Judgment is Explained	Romans 2:5–11
23	Saved By Grace Alone	Ephesians 2
24	Righteousness by Faith	Romans 3:9–26
25	Life Through Christ	Romans 5:12–21
26	Life by the Spirit	Romans 8:1–17; Galatians 5:16–26
27	Living Sacrifices	Romans 12
28	Walking in the Light	1 John 1–2
29	Living for God	1 Peter 1–11
30	Love for one Another	1 John 3:11–24
31	Promise of Eternity	2 Corinthians 5:1–10; Revelation 21:1–4

(from www.intotheword.org)

NOTES:

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NEXT STEP

