

I'M SAVED!

NOW WHAT?

**HARVEST BIBLE CHURCH
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First of all, we here at Harvest Bible Church want to welcome you into the family of God. It is a family in which none of us deserve to be a part. However, because of **CHRIST** and our understanding and acceptance of what He did for us through the Gospel, we have the privilege of being a part of this special family. The Apostle Paul said in Colossians 1:20-21,

“And, having made peace through the blood of HIS cross, by HIM to reconcile all things unto HIMSELF; by HIM, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath HE reconciled.”

Now that you’ve been saved (i.e., *reconciled*), that is, you’ve understood the Gospel and accepted CHRIST as your only means of salvation, your HEAVENLY FATHER wants you to know some things in order that you might “grow” spiritually.

Just as there are three stages within every human life, there are three stages within every Christian life:

Infancy stage (I Peter 2:2)

Adolescence stage (Hebrews 6:1-2)

Adult stage (Hebrews 5:12-14)

The following seven truths will help you to “grow” through the *infancy stage* of your Christian life:

Infancy Stage

(I Peter 2:2)

“As *newborn babes*, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

Truth #1

God wants you to know
that once you've been
saved and born again
into His family,
**you'll always be
family!**

The author of Hebrews writes in Hebrews 7:25,

*“Wherefore he (CHRIST) is able also to save them to the **uttermost** that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”*

This word (**uttermost**) means that our salvation is complete in every respect. Once a person has been born-again into the family of God, he cannot be unborn. Paul wanted every Christian to have the assurance that once saved, always saved! Paul said again in II Timothy 1:12,

*“For the which cause I also suffer these things: neverthe-less I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that HE is able to **keep** that which I have committed unto him against that day.”*

This word (**keep**) is a Greek word meaning, “to guard; to walk sentry.” Paul had absolute assurance that God would “guard” his salvation until CHRIST returned. As far as Paul was concerned, he knew his salvation was secure. He said again in Ephesians 1:13-14 & 4:30,

*“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were **sealed** with that HOLY SPIRIT of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. And grieve not the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, whereby ye are **sealed** unto the day of redemption.”*

This word (**sealed**) is a Greek word indicating “ownership, authentication, security, permanency, and destination.” According to the promise of God, the HOLY SPIRIT is God’s guarantee that He will give us everything He has promised (II Corinthians 1:22 & 5:5). The HOLY SPIRIT is our “earnest” money, i.e., our “down payment,” if you would. This “first installment” signifies that this is just a small portion of what is awaiting us in heaven. Paul said in Philippians 1:6,

*“Being **confident** of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of JESUS CHRIST:”*

Not only was the Apostle Paul **confident** of his salvation, but so was the Apostle John. John said in I John 5:13,

*“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the SON OF GOD; that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the SON OF GOD.”*

This word (**know**) is a Greek word meaning, “fullness of knowledge,” not a progress in knowledge. John agreed with Paul and assured believers that those who understood the Gospel and trusted CHRIST for salvation were saved eternally! CHRIST said in John 10:28,29,

*“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: **And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My FATHER, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my FATHER’S hand.**”*

CHRIST promised His own that they would always be His and that neither man nor manmade movements who happen to teach people that they can lose what God gave them (i.e., salvation) can cause them to lose it. According to Romans 6:23 and Ephesians 2:8-9, salvation is a gift purchased by CHRIST and offered to all free of charge. CHRIST said in John 3:16,

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten SON, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

CHRIST said again in two of His parables in Matthew 13:44-45,

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a MAN (CHRIST) hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a MERCHANT MAN (CHRIST), seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.”

Parables #10 (called ‘The buried treasure’) and #11 (called ‘The pearl of great price’) show CHRIST’S assessment of the worth of the kingdom of Heaven, which is made up of **treasure** and **goodly pearls** (i.e., Christians). Just as treasure is never discarded nor disposed of (though it can be discolored at times), so Christians can never lose their salvation (though they, too, can be tarnished at times - Galatians 5:16,17,21). As Christians we need to know our “worth” so that CHRIST becomes “worth” serving!

The HEAVENLY FATHER wants every born-again believer to understand the importance of the eternal security of the believer “before” man and/or manmade movements come and confuse the issue. Paul rebuked the Christians in Galatia for ignoring their salvation and freedom in CHRIST while trying to keep the Jewish law in order to keep their salvation. He warned in Galatians 3:1-3,

“O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes JESUS CHRIST hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the SPIRIT by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the SPIRIT, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?”

Paul argues, “Who’s fooled you? If you couldn’t do ‘good’ (i.e., keep the law) to earn your salvation (vs. 2), what makes you think you can do ‘good’ to keep it (vs. 3)?” It is **dishonest** theology to teach a Christian that he/she can lose their salvation due to “some” sin. It is also **detrimental** to the believer’s spiritual growth. Let me explain.

It is **dishonest** theology because no one can name “the” sin (or, sins) that will cause someone to lose his/her salvation. Keep in mind, if only the “less-sinful” (i.e., the good) Christian gets to keep his salvation and go to heaven, what constitutes “less-sinful?” How “sinful” is sin? Is there any one sin worse than any other? God says there isn’t. John said in Revelation 21:8,

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Notice if you will, that all sin in God's eyes is equally bad and will eventually send an unsaved person to hell (See - Romans 3:10,23). So there is no such thing as "less-sinfulness." Question: If only the "less-sinful" (i.e., the "good" Christian) gets to keep his/her salvation and go to heaven, then:

- #1. How "less-sinful" is "less-sinful?" How "less-sinful" do you have to be?
- #2. And how do you know when you've been "less-sinful" enough? When do you know when you've finally tipped the scales in your favor?
- #3. And whose denominational standard of "less-sinfulness" are you to follow? Every denominational movement out there has a different set of religious "dos and don'ts" for keeping one's salvation in tact.

The fact is: According to John, every believer is going to sin on a daily basis. The Word of God says so. John reminds us in I John 1:8-10,

"If we (as Christians) say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

John the Beloved reminded every believer that "***we deceive ourselves***" (notice John included himself here) as Christians whenever we neglect to realize that we are still sinners despite our salvation and that will continue to sin each and every day. The reason we will still sin is because we still have our old sinful nature, called the flesh. Paul reminded us in Galatians 5:16-17 of the constant struggle that we would face between the flesh (old nature) and the SPIRIT (new nature),

"This I say then, Walk in the SPIRIT, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."

According to the Bible, there are two natures within every believer and these two natures battle constantly for control of the believer's life. Paul said again in Romans 7:15-25,

*"For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, **but sin that dwelleth in me**. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, **but sin that dwelleth in me**. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man (HOLY SPIRIT – new nature): But I see another law in my members (flesh – old nature), warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."*

Again, it is **dishonest** theology to teach someone who has truly been born-again that he/she can lose his/her salvation due to “some” sin. As Christians we are going to sin. Our old nature did not depart just because we received a new nature (i.e., the HOLY SPIRIT). The only thing a Christian can lose whenever he/she sins is “fellowship,” not “son-ship.”

Not only is it dishonest to believe a Christian can lose his/her salvation, but it is **detrimental** to the believer’s spiritual growth as well. Paul said in I Thessalonians 5:8,

“But let us, who are of the day (i.e., we who are saved), be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”

According to Ephesians 6:10-17, the **helmet, the hope of salvation**, is one of six pieces of armor that every Christian is to adorn in order to stand against the wiles of the Devil. Satan would love nothing more than to convince every believer that he/she has lost his/her salvation due to “some” sin. The reason for the helmet is to protect the believer from such thoughts.

So, remember, once you’ve been saved and born-again into His family –

you’ll always be family!

Truth #2

God wants you to know
that once you've been
saved and born again
into His family,
**you'll need to learn to
grow!**

Peter said in I Peter 2:2,

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby”

Truth: If you don't eat, you can't grow!

Doctors tell us that the most common problem concerning abnormality in growth comes from malnutrition (i.e., underfeeding). They inform us that malnutrition is due to **two** factors:

1) Social disorders (i.e., relationships that stop us from eating)

Spiritually speaking: Whomever you hang with is certain to affect your growth. Paul said in I Corinthians 15:33,

“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”

Bad company always corrupts good morals. Therefore, the company you keep will determine the trouble you meet. Nevertheless, it's not always the “old” company you keep that hinders your growth. Anyone, including a well-intentioned friend or relative, who keeps you too busy to read the Word of God or to go to church, is going to hinder your growth. If you want to grow as a Christian (and you need to grow), then you must learn to not only avoid the “bad” crowd, but the “busy” crowd as well.

Spiritually speaking: Whomever you idolize is certain to affect your growth. Paul said in I Corinthians 3:1-3,

“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in CHRIST. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?”

Wisdom says, “Never make men your heroes; make the truth men live the object of your admiration.” As a Christian, you need to learn to “lionize” CHRIST, not Christians and/or Christian movements. If you want to grow as a Christian, then you must learn to avoid making men your heroes. Job said in Job 32:21-22,

“Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man. For I know not to give flattering titles; in so doing my maker would soon take me away.”

Spiritually speaking: Whomever you compare yourself with is certain to affect your growth. Paul said in II Corinthians 10:12,

“For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”

If you want to grow as a Christian, then you must learn not to compare yourself with others.

The second cause of malnutrition is:

2) Illness due to disease

Doctors tell us that certain diseases such as celiac and cystic fibrosis, congenital heart disorders, sickle-cell anemia, thalassemia, chronic kidney failure, and rheumatoid arthritis are but a few of the diseases that can limit the growth in a person. Seeing that disease in the Bible is at times likened to sin (John 5:1-14), it is sin in a believer's life that will hinder his/her growth as a Christian. The author of Hebrews tells us in Hebrews 12:1,

*“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, **and the sin which doth so easily beset us**, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,”*

Unlike the unsaved person who only possesses one nature (i.e., the old nature; the flesh), every born-again believer possesses two natures:

- 1) The nature he/she was “born” with physically (i.e., the old man - Ephesians 4:22)
- 2) The nature he/she was “born-again” with spiritually (i.e., the new man - Ephesians 4:24)

According to I John 3:9 & 5:18, it is this new man or divine nature (i.e., the HOLY SPIRIT - II Peter 1:4) within every believer that cannot sin. Christians by way of their old nature can, do, and will sin (Romans 7:15-25 & Galatians 5:16,17). These two natures battle constantly for control of the believer's life. Paul tells us in Galatians 5:16-17,

*“This I say then, Walk in the SPIRIT, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. **For the flesh lusteth against the SPIRIT, and the SPIRIT against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.**”*

The key to growing is an understanding of what keeps you from growing. What keeps you from growing is “malnutrition” (i.e., underfeeding), and “malnutrition” is due to two factors:

- 1) Social disorders (i.e., yielding to family and friends instead of your HEAVENLY FATHER)
- 2) Illness due to disease (i.e., yielding to the flesh instead of the HOLY SPIRIT)

So, remember, once you've been saved and born-again into His family –

you'll need to learn to grow!

Truth #3

God wants you to know that once you've been saved and born again into His family, **you'll need to learn to pray!**

In Luke 11:1 the disciples asked our LORD to teach them to pray. It is interesting to note that the disciples did not ask CHRIST to teach them “a prayer” (i.e., something to recite), rather they asked Him to teach them “to pray” (i.e., to follow a pattern or blueprint on prayer).

*“And it came to pass, that, as HE was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, LORD, **teach us to pray**, as John also taught his disciples.”*

So JESUS taught them and said in Luke 11:2-13,

*“And HE said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our FATHER which art in heaven, **Hallowed be thy name**. Thy kingdom come. **Thy will be done**, as in heaven, so in earth. **Give us** day by day our daily bread. And **forgive us** our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And **lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from Evil**. And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For **a friend of mine** in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your **HEAVENLY FATHER give the HOLY SPIRIT to them that ask him?**”*

JESUS taught us that prayer was simply communicating with God on His level. His level, according to CHRIST, included seven areas:

- 1) Praise - *“**Hallowed be thy name**”*
- 2) Pleasure - *“**Thy will be done**”*
- 3) Provision - *“**Give us**”*
- 4) Penitence - *“**forgive us**”*
- 5) Protection - *“**lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from Evil**”*
- 6) People - *“**a friend of mine**”*
- 7) Power - *“**HEAVENLY FATHER give the HOLY SPIRIT to them that ask him**”*

When properly addressed, these seven areas immediately place the one who is praying on God’s level! Nevertheless, there are hindrances to getting our prayers answered even if we are following the seven-point blueprint on prayer. God’s Word reminds us that there are twelve hindrances that will keep us from getting our prayers answered:

- 1) Failure to become a part of God’s family and thus a true worshipper of God (John 9:31)
Question: How can God be our FATHER if we are not in the family? According to John 3:1-3 & I John 5:1, we must be born into his family via the new birth in order to call on God as our FATHER.
- 2) Failure to respond biblically to right and wrong (Micah 3:1-4 & Psalms 18:41 & 34:15 & 66:18 & Proverbs 15:29 & 28:9)

- 3) Failure to accept biblical correction (Proverbs 1:23-33)
- 4) Failure to give up our will for His (Jeremiah 11:10,11 & Ezekiel 8:1-18)
- 5) Failure to please the HOLY SPIRIT (Romans 8:14-16,26)
- 6) Failure to learn the lessons that God is trying to teach you (See - Job 35:1-3)
- 7) Failure to honor one's spouse (I Peter 3:7)
- 8) Failure to try and reconcile (Matthew 5:23-24)
- 9) Failure to forgive others (Matthew 6:14,15 & Mark 11:25)
- 10) Failure to need God all the time (Job 35:4-13 & James 4:3)
It's hypocritical to only need God when it's convenient (Job 27:8,9)
- 11) Failure to help the "less fortunate" (Zechariah 7:8-13 & Isaiah 1:10-15-17 & Proverbs 21:13)
- 12) Failure to keep on asking (Matthew 7:7 & Luke 11:9-13)
Placing a limit on how many times you will ask God for something is a hindrance to getting your prayers answered.

In order to grow as a Christian (and you'll need to grow), you not only have to let God talk to you by way of His Word, you'll have to do some talking to Him. Just make sure when you talk to Him that you follow the seven-point blueprint and that you avoid the twelve hindrances to prayer.

So, remember, once you've been saved and born-again into His family –

you'll need to learn to pray!

Truth #4

God wants you to know
that once you've been
saved and born again
into His family,
**you'll need to find
a local church!**

CHRIST said in Matthew 16:18,

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”

Notice if you would, that CHRIST did not say, “I will build your church or your denomination or your religion.” No, He said, “I will build MY church.”

When CHRIST started His Church two thousand years ago, there weren't any Catholics or Muslims or Lutherans or Methodists or Baptists or Mormons or Jehovah Witnesses or Church of Christ or United Pentecostals. There were Jews who practiced Judaism and Gentiles (i.e., non-Jews) who practiced idolatry.

It is important to note that Christianity (i.e., salvation through the MESSIAH) did not begin with the birth of CHRIST, but with the promise of CHRIST before the world began (Titus 1:2 & Revelation 13:8). What began due to the birth of CHRIST was not Christianity, but the Jewish/Gentile Church.

Therefore, CHRIST'S idea of what a church should be makes no reference to any one local congregation, external organization, or religious denomination on earth. CHRIST'S promise was of a singular Church made up of countless local churches spread throughout the world, which contain true born-again believers whether they were Jew or Gentile. If you're going to grow as a Christian (and you'll need to grow), you will need to find a local church that emphasizes CHRIST'S idea of what a church should be.

There are **five** metaphors given to us from the Scriptures explaining what CHRIST'S Church was meant to be. According to the New Testament, the local church was meant to be a:

1) *Brotherhood* - I Peter 2:17 says,

“Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.”

In the figure of the Church as a *brotherhood*, God's idea of a local church was one of family, where no prejudice exists. A church that is all “white” or all “black” or all “Hispanic” is not God's idea of a local church. The Bible is clear: CHRIST'S church was to be a *brotherhood*; a household where all born-again believers (whatever their race) were welcomed as family. Paul said in Galatians 6:10,

“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”

Again, God's idea of a local church was where personal preferences are laid aside and TOLREANCE for the individual members within the family of God existed. Peter said in I Peter 3:8,

“Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:”

As a member of the family of God, you'll need to find a local church, (i.e., a household of born-again believers) and get involved. Therefore, CHRIST'S idea of what a local church should be is one where every kind of believer is INCLUDED despite his/her race.

According to the New Testament, the local church was also meant to be a:

2) *Body* - Ephesians 1:22,23 says,

*“And hath put all things under HIS feet, and gave HIM to be the head over all things to the church, Which is HIS **body**, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”*

Paul said again in Ephesians 3:3-6

*“How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of CHRIST) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the SPIRIT; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same **body**, and partakers of his promise in CHRIST by the gospel:”*

In the figure of the Church as a *body*, the mystery of which Paul spoke was that of saved Jews (Exodus 12:37) and saved Gentiles (Exodus 12:38 & Numbers 11:4 & Isaiah 56:6-7) becoming ONE within the body of CHRIST (i.e., the Church - Ephesians 1:22-23). Therefore, CHRIST’S idea of what a local church should be is one where UNITY amongst diversity exists.

According to the New Testament, the local church was also meant to be a:

3) *Building* - Ephesians 2:19-22 says,

*“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are **built** upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, JESUS CHRIST himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the **building** fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are **builded** together for an habitation of God through the SPIRIT.”*

Paul said again in I Corinthians 3:9,

*“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's **building**.”*

In the figure of the Church as a *building*, CHRIST is the corner stone (i.e., the sole foundation upon which the building sits - I Corinthians 3:11) and each Christian is a stone in the building. Therefore, CHRIST’S idea of what a local church should be is one where GOD CAN DWELL AND WORK FREELY.

According to the New Testament, the local church was also meant to be a:

4) *Bride* - Ephesians 5:25-32 says,

“Husbands, love your wives, even as CHRIST also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That HE might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That HE might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning CHRIST and the Church.”

In the figure of the Church as a *bride*, the love of a husband towards his wife is stressed. Therefore, CHRIST’S idea of what a local church should be is one where CHRIST’S LOVE for the sinner is greatly understood.

According to the New Testament, the local church was also meant to be a:

5) *Bright Light* - Matthew 5:14-16 says,

“Ye (i.e., Christians) are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick (i.e., the Church - Revelation 1:20); and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your FATHER which is in heaven.”

In the figure of the Church as a *bright light*, the role of the local church is to be a beacon of light to a dark world. Therefore, CHRIST’S idea of what a local church should be is one where WITNESSING FOR CHRIST is its main objective.

In conclusion, you’ll need to find a local church so you can learn to be:

- 1) TOLERANT of other believers (*brotherhood*)
- 2) UNIFIED for the sake of the work (*body*)
- 3) HOLY enough for God to dwell there (*building*)
- 4) UNDERSTANDING of CHRIST’S LOVE for his own (*bride*)
- 5) A WITNESS FOR CHRIST in your community (*bright light*)

So, remember, once you’ve been saved and born-again into His family –

you’ll need to find a local church!

Truth #5

God wants you to know
that once you've been
saved and born again
into His family,
**you'll need to get baptized and
partake of the Lord's Supper!**

CHRIST said in Matthew 28:18-20,

*“And JESUS came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto ME in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the FATHER, and of the SON, and of the HOLY GHOST:** Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

Matthew 26:26-28 says,

*“And as they were eating, JESUS took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, **Take, eat; this is MY body.** And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, **Drink ye all of it; For this is MY blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**”*

CHRIST gave us **two** ordinances to observe after our salvation:

1) *Baptism* - Matthew 28:18-20

2) *Lord's Supper* - I Corinthians 11:23-32

Although observing both *ordinances* is important, we are reminded that, according to the Scriptures, neither *ordinance* is necessary for salvation, for only the Gospel saves! Paul said in Romans 1:16 says,

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of CHRIST: **for the Gospel of CHRIST is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**”*

Paul said again in Ephesians 1:13,

*“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, **the gospel of your salvation:** in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that HOLY SPIRIT of promise,”*

Paul said again in I Corinthians 15:1-4,

*“Moreover, brethren, **I declare unto you the gospel** which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **By which also ye are saved,** if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that CHRIST died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that HE was buried, and that HE rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”*

The understanding of the Gospel, not the observance of *ordinances*, is what saves a person. Paul reminded us again in I Corinthians 1:17,

“For CHRIST sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel:”

Again, only the Gospel saves! According to the Bible, there are five biblical reasons why every born-again believer ought to follow the LORD in believer's baptism:

1) To show that you are glad that you got saved - Acts 2:41 says,

*“Then they that **gladly received his word were baptized**: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”*

2) To show that you were sincere (i.e., meant business) about your decision to get saved - Acts 8:35-38 says,

*“Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him **JESUS**. 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.** And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.”*

3) To show that you are unashamed to identify yourself with the ONE who died for your sins, was buried, and rose again - Romans 6:3-5 says,

*“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into **JESUS CHRIST** were baptized into his death? **Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as CHRIST was raised up from the dead by the glory of the FATHER, even so we also should walk in newness of life.** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.”*

Water baptism illustrates (like as) to others that you are not ashamed to identify with CHRIST and what He did for you at Calvary.

4) To show that you love CHRIST by obeying His commandments - Jesus said in John 14:15 says,

*“If ye love **ME**, **keep my commandments.**”*

5) To show that you understand the work of the HOLY SPIRIT who now lives inside you now that you are saved - Acts 19:1-5 says,

*“And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, **Have ye received the HOLY GHOST since ye believed?** And they said unto him, **We have not so much as heard whether there be any HOLY GHOST.** And he said unto them, **Unto what then were ye baptized?** And they said, **Unto John's baptism.** Then said Paul, **John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on HIM which should come after him, that is, on CHRIST JESUS. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the LORD JESUS.**”*

Although the disciples here at Ephesus were baptized at some earlier time by John the Baptist after their salvation, they chose to get baptized again in order to show that they now understood the work of the HOLY SPIRIT in their lives.

Again, whereas it is important to observe both *ordinances* once you are saved, neither the *ordinance of baptism* nor the *ordinance of Lord's Supper* has any saving merit whatsoever. Only the blood of CHRIST can wash away sin and save a person. Belief in the Gospel of CHRIST is the matter that settles salvation, not baptism or the Lord's Supper.

According to Hebrews 6:2, there are at least five different baptisms mentioned in the Scriptures:

- 1) Ceremonial baptism (i.e., picturing ritual washings of the O.T. - Mark 7:2)
- 2) Water baptism (i.e., picturing the Gospel that saves - Matthew 3:11)
- 3) CHRIST'S baptism (i.e., picturing CHRIST'S sufferings - Luke 12:50)
- 4) Christian baptism (i.e., picturing believers becoming a part of the body of CHRIST - I Corinthians 12:13)
- 5) SPIRIT baptism (i.e., power for witnessing - Acts 1:4-8)

Of the five baptisms mentioned in the Bible, SPIRIT baptism is the most important. John the Baptist said so in Matthew 3:11,

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but HE that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: HE shall baptize you with the HOLY GHOST, and with fire:”

CHRIST said so in Acts 1:4-5,

“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the FATHER, which, saith he, ye have heard of ME. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the HOLY GHOST not many days hence.”

“For John truly baptized with water, but...” But what? But, according to the clear teaching of the Bible, there is a “greater” baptism than water baptism! Those who teach that water baptism is a part of salvation fail to recognize the implication of this verse. Like John the Baptist himself, CHRIST teaches us that there is a superior baptism to that of John's. How can that be? How can there be a greater baptism than the one that “supposedly” saves a person? First of all, water baptism is not a part of the saving Gospel and has therefore never saved anyone. Secondly, the baptism of the HOLY SPIRIT (See - Matthew 3:11) is for the sole purpose of witnessing to the lost (vs 8) and can be received before the rite of baptism (See - Acts 10:44-48). So, according to the Scriptures, baptism pales in comparison to salvation and witnessing in the SPIRIT. What CHRIST was emphasizing here was the fact that Christians need to be as fully plunged (i.e., immersed, baptized) in the power of the HOLY SPIRIT for the sake of witnessing, as their bodies were when they were immersed in the waters of baptism.

So, remember, once you've been saved and born-again into His family –

you'll need to get baptized and partake of the Lord's Supper!

Truth #6

God wants you to know
that once you've been
saved and born again
into His family,
you'll need to learn to give!

CHRIST promised in Luke 6:38,

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again”

CHRIST commanded his own to learn to give. Giving, however, is not for the sake of God. Really, how can the One who owns everything need anything? David said of the Lord in Psalm 24:1,

“The earth is the LORD’S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”

Asaph, King David’s choir director, recorded God to say in Psalm 50:10-12,

“For every beast of the forest is MINE, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. - I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are MINE. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is MINE, and the fullness thereof.”

Haggai the prophet recorded God to say in Haggai 2:8,

“The silver is mine, and the gold is MINE, saith the LORD of hosts.”

Simply put: God wants us to be faithful in giving, not because He needs the money, but because He wants our heart! CHRIST said in Matthew 6:19-21,

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

God’s ultimate concern is with our heart. And the only way God can discover the main concerns of our heart is to address the placement of our finances. Seeing God owns everything anyway, whatever we have is not ours but His. Moses reminded God’s people in Deuteronomy 8:18,

“But thou shalt remember the LORD thy GOD: for it is HE that giveth thee power to get wealth, that HE may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.”

David also reminded God’s people in I Chronicles 29:12-14,

“Both riches and honour come of THEE, and THOU reignest over all; and in THINE hand is power and might; and in THINE hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our GOD, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of THEE, and of THINE own have we given THEE.”

The New Testament agrees. James added in James 1:17,

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the FATHER of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

Fact: Everything we have is God-given. And God cares deeply about the way we administer His possessions. Therefore, the question is not how much money we should give to God, but how much of God's money we should keep for ourselves. So, when it comes to giving, God unquestionably wants you to know "how much" you should give, "where" you should give, and "why" you should give.

First of all, let God explain to you "how much" you should give. According to both the Old and New Testaments, God's people are called to give 10% of what they make to God's program. It's called tithing. Tithing, by definition, is giving back to God a "tenth" of what He has allowed you to earn by way of labor. God commanded his people in Leviticus 27:30,

*"And all the **tithe** of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD."*

Abraham believed in tithing. Abraham said in Genesis 14:20,

*"And blessed be the most high GOD, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he (Abraham) gave HIM **tithes** of all."*

Jacob believed in tithing. He said in Genesis 28:22,

*"And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be GOD'S house: and of all that THOU shalt give me I will surely give the **tenth** unto THEE."*

Moses believed in tithing. He recorded for us in Exodus 23:19,

*"The **first of the first fruits** of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy GOD."*

CHRIST also believed in tithing. He said in Matthew 23:23,

*"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay **tithe** of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: **these ought ye to have done**, and not to leave the other undone."*

So, when it comes to giving, God speaks plainly as to "how much" he requires. He requires us to tithe (i.e., give 10% of our income to His program).

Secondly, let God explain to you "where" you should give the tithe. Moses recorded for us in Deuteronomy 12:5-6,

*"But unto the place which the LORD your GOD shall choose out of all your tribes to put HIS name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come: And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your **tithes**, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks:"*

According to the Bible, God's people were commanded to bring their tithes (and offerings) to a place of God's choosing. His choice was where His presence dwelt - the Temple, the central place of assembly. Malachi agreed. He recorded for us in Malachi 3:10,

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in MINE house (i.e. Temple), and prove ME now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.”

So, when it comes to giving, God speaks plainly as to “where” He wants us to give. He wants us to give where His presence dwells. Today His presence dwells within the believer by way of the HOLY SPIRIT and believers are commanded to assemble themselves together within their local church.

Thirdly, let God explain to you “why” you should give. Not only should you give because God commands it and because He wants your heart, but God wants you to give because it's the only way in which God has chosen to care for those who minister for Him. Moses records for us in Numbers 18:20-21,

*“And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel. And, behold, I have given the children of Levi **all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.**”*

The New Testament agrees. Paul added in I Corinthians 9:11-14,

*“If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of CHRIST. Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? **Even so hath the LORD ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.**”*

“*Even so*” means that “*in the same manor*” in which the priests and the Levites in the Old Testament were cared for (i.e., they were cared for through the tithes and offerings of God's people), so the preacher of the Gospel in the New Testament is to be cared for today. Our tithe belongs to whatever local church we attend.

So, remember, once you've been saved and born-again into His family –

you'll need to learn to give!

Truth #7

God wants you to know
that once you've been
saved and born again
into His family,
**you'll need to learn to become
a witness for CHRIST!**

CHRIST said in Matthew 10:32-33,

“Whosoever therefore shall confess ME before men, him will I confess also before my FATHER which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny ME before men, him will I also deny before my FATHER which is in heaven.”

JESUS spoke plainly: If we as Christians are not willing to talk about HIM here, why will HE want to talk about us there (i.e., heaven)? HE won't. Just because we're going to Heaven, doesn't mean we're going to enjoy heaven. CHRIST reminded Christians in Matthew 5:3-12 that those (i.e., Christians) who learn how to be blessed here (*Blessed are the...*) will be blessed in the future as well (...*for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*). Called the Beatitudes (i.e., *Blessed* means happy), verses 3-12 describe for us the genuine happiness of believers who have learned to surrender themselves to the Scriptures (Psalm 1:1-2). Just as we yielded ourselves to the HOLY SPIRIT and the Scriptures to “save” us (II Thessalonians 2:13 & Titus 3:5), we must yield ourselves to the HOLY SPIRIT and the Scriptures to “sanctify” us (Galatians 3:1-3 & 5:16-25). The Beatitudes do not teach us “how” to be saved. The Beatitudes teach us “what it can be like” to be saved – here and in the future. CHRIST encouraged his own disciples how they could experience “now” what will become universal during the Millennium. Contrary to popular belief, not every Christian is going to enjoy the place they are headed to (II Cor 5:10,11). JESUS said in Matthew 5:9,

“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”

According to Matthew 5:9, those believers who experience “now” the command of God to share the gospel with a troubled world (i.e., *peacemakers*), because they learned to continually yield themselves to the Word of God and tell others about CHRIST, are promised a shameless future. *Peacemakers* are not social reformers, but rather people who have been reformed by the power of the gospel and are not ashamed to spread the Good News. Simply put: They are ambassadors of God's message of peace (II Cor 5:18-20).

There are **four** reasons why we ought to become witnesses for CHRIST:

1) Because witnessing shows others that we are serious followers of our LORD. JESUS said in Matthew 4:19,

“Follow ME, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Serious followers learn to “fish” for souls.

2) Because witnessing (i.e., the foolishness of preaching) is the only thing God uses to see people saved. Paul said in I Corinthians 1:21,

“For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

Someone took the time to share the Gospel with us. Shouldn't we take the time to share it with others?

3) Because witnessing glorifies God. JESUS said in John 15:8,

“Herein is my FATHER glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”

Unarguably, the greatest way to glorify the FATHER is to talk about the SON. And since the SON died for all, all deserve to hear the Good News (i.e., the Gospel of CHRIST).

4) Because witnessing helps to keep us clean as Christians. JESUS said in John 15:2,

“Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.”

Once again, JESUS spoke plainly: the more we talk about HIM who is light (Malachi 4:2 refers to CHRIST as the SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS), the better chance we have of seeing our own filthiness. Reason being: The closer we are to the light, the dirtier we see ourselves.

Truth: If our LORD was determined to get to the cross, then we who are saved ought to be determined to preach it!

So, in order to grow as a Christian (and you need to grow), you’ll need to learn to become a witness for CHRIST. Peter said in I Peter 3:15,

“But sanctify the LORD GOD in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

God is not asking us to personally evangelize the entire world now that we are saved. He is simply asking us to be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks us a reason of the hope that is in us. Witnessing for CHRIST involves knowing two things:

- 1) Our personal testimony (i.e., remembering how we were saved and being able to share that testimony with others in 60 seconds or less)
- 2) The Gospel (i.e., being able to present the Gospel in its clarity with simplicity)

I have found that the best way to share the Gospel (i.e., the Good News) with others is to start with Romans 1:16. Paul said,

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of CHRIST: for it (i.e., the Gospel) is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

Paul spoke plainly: Anyone who can understand the Good News and then act upon it can have salvation! However, in order to understand and appreciate the Good News, one must first understand and comprehend the bad news. There is no such thing as good news without bad news. The bad news comes in three parts:

1. No one is good enough to get to heaven. Paul said in Romans 3:10,

*“As it is written, There is none **righteous**, no, not one:”*

This word (**righteous**) comes from a Greek word meaning “to live in such a way as to be morally and ethically pleasing to God.” In spite of our best efforts, God reminds us that we will always fall short of living in such a way as to be morally and ethically pleasing to God, thus our need for a Savior. From man’s point of view there are many “good and righteous” people, but from God’s point of view there are NONE, NO, NOT ONE. Isaiah tells us that the best that humans can do is nothing but a used, filthy, bloody rag to God. Isaiah states in Isaiah 64:6,

*“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our **righteous-nesses are as filthy rags;**”*

2. The reason no one is good enough to get to heaven is because we are all sinners. We are sinners by birth, by nature, by practice, and by choice. Paul declares in Romans 3:23,

*“For all have **sinned**, and **come short** of the glory of God;”*

This word (**sinned**) comes from a Greek word meaning “to miss the mark.” It is an athletic term and relates to the idea of a marksman’s arrow missing its target. Again, in spite of our best efforts, we all shoot short of God’s expectations and miss the mark of perfection, thus, our need for a Savior.

The expression (**come short**) is also an athletic term in the Greek and relates to the idea of a runner falling behind in a race. Once again, in spite of our best efforts, we all fall short of God’s finish line of perfection, thus, our need for a Savior.

3. Because we are all sinners, we all must die two deaths. Paul said again in Romans 6:23,

*“For the **wages of sin is death**”*

Death, according to the Bible, is always twofold. CHRIST said in Luke 12:4-5,

*“And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear Him, which **after He hath killed hath power to cast into hell;** yea, I say unto you, Fear Him.”*

The Apostle John concurs with CHRIST concerning two deaths. John states in Revelation 20:14-15 & 21:8,

*“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death.** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

*“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: **which is the second death.**”*

As you can plainly see, the bad news is bad. However, the Good News is better! According to I Corinthians 15, the Good News comes in three parts as well, and once understood and accepted, counters the bad news and gives the sinner salvation. Paul said in I Corinthians 15:1-4,

*“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the Gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, **how that CHRIST died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that HE was buried, and that HE rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**”*

The Good News (i.e., Gospel) is:

1. CHRIST died for our sins, proving that man cannot save himself. Paul said in Romans 5:8,

*“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, **CHRIST died for us.**”*

The ONLY payment for sin and its penalty (hell) is what CHRIST did for us on Calvary.

2. CHRIST was buried, proving that the price for salvation was paid in full. Seeing that the wages of sin is death, CHRIST was buried proving HIS death for sinners was complete. Paul said in Romans 5:6,

*“For when we were yet without strength, in due time **CHRIST died for the ungodly.**”*

The Sinless One dying for the sinful ones, proving payment for sin was in full.

3. CHRIST rose again, proving that He is, was, and always will be God. Paul said in Romans 1:4,

*“**And declared to be the SON OF GOD with power, according to the SPIRIT of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:**”*

The resurrection of CHRIST proves CHRIST is who He said He was – God in flesh, and thus well able to keep His word to the human race. JESUS promised mankind in John 3:16,

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten SON, **that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**”*

Truly, the greatest hindrance to men being saved is the simplicity that is in salvation. Men and movements love to place difficult “do’s and don’ts” on their people when it comes to salvation, but God says salvation is simpler than all that. In fact, salvation is as simple as:

*Taking a drink of water – CHRIST said in John 4:13-14,

*“Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: **But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.**”*

*Eating a piece of bread – CHRIST said in John 6:32-35,51,

“Then JESUS said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my FATHER giveth you the true BREAD from heaven. For the BREAD OF GOD is HE which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, LORD, evermore give us this bread. And JESUS said unto them, I AM the BREAD OF LIFE: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”

“I AM the LIVING BREAD which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

*Entering a door – CHRIST said in John 10:9,

“I AM THE DOOR: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”

*Receiving a gift – CHRIST said in John 4:10,

“If thou knewest the gift of God, and WHO it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of HIM, and he would have given thee living water.”

*Calling for help – The thief on the cross said in Luke 23:42,

“LORD, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And JESUS said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with ME in paradise.”

*Coming when called – CHRIST said in Matthew 11:28-30,

“Come unto ME, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take MY yoke upon you, and learn of ME; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For MY yoke is easy, and MY burden is light.”

*Trusting in JESUS to save you – JESUS said in John 11:25,

“I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in ME, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in ME shall never die. Believest thou this?”

The key to witnessing is simple. Know your testimony and know how to present the Gospel in a clear and simple manner. Present the bad news and then present the Good News. When properly presented, the Gospel has enough power in it to convince even the most ardent sinner of his/her need for the SAVIOR.

So, remember, once you’ve been saved and born-again into His family –

you’ll need to learn to become a witness for CHRIST!

Remember, once you've been saved and born-again into His family –

#1. You'll always be family!

Romans 8:35-39 says,

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 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 creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

#2. You'll need to learn to grow!

II Peter 3:18 says,

“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.”

#3. You'll need to learn to pray!

I Thessalonians 5:17 says,

“Pray without ceasing.”

#4. You'll need to find a local church!

Hebrews 10:25 says,

*“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.”*

#5. You'll need to get baptized and partake of the Lord's Supper!

John 14:15 says,

*“If ye love me, keep my **commandments**.”*

#6. You'll need to learn to give!

Proverbs 3:9 says,

*“Honour the LORD with **thy substance**, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:”*

#7. You'll need to learn to become a witness for CHRIST!

Acts 10:43 says,

*“To HIM (CHRIST) give all the prophets **witness**, that through HIS name whosoever believeth in HIM shall have remission of sins.”*

Infancy

(Review)

You'll always be family!

1. Once a person has been born into the family of God, he cannot be _____.
2. Paul had absolute assurance that God would “_____” his salvation until CHRIST returned.
3. John agreed with Paul and assured believers that those who understood the Gospel and trusted CHRIST for salvation were saved _____!
4. CHRIST promised His own that they would always be His and that neither _____ nor _____ _____ who happen to teach people that they can lose what God gave them (i.e., salvation) can cause them to lose it.
5. As Christians we need to know our “_____” so that CHRIST becomes “_____” serving!
6. Paul argues, “Who fooled you? If you couldn't do ‘_____’ to earn your salvation, what makes you think you can do ‘_____’ to keep it?”
7. It is _____ theology to teach a Christian that he/she can lose their salvation due to “some” sin.
8. It is also _____ to the believer's spiritual growth.
9. It is _____ theology to teach a Christian that he/she can lose their salvation due to “some” sin because no one can name “the” sin (or, sins) that will cause someone to lose his/her salvation. Keep in mind, if only the “less-sinful” (i.e., the good) Christian gets to keep his salvation and go to heaven, what constitutes “less-sinful?” How “sinful” is sin? Is there any one sin worse than any other?
10. Question: If only the “_____ - _____” (i.e., the “good” Christian) gets to keep his/her salvation and go to heaven, then:
 - #1. How “less-sinful” is “less-sinful?” How “less-sinful” do you have to be?
 - #2. And how do you know when you've been “less-sinful” enough? When do you know when you've finally tipped the scales in your favor?
 - #3. And whose denominational standard of “less-sinfulness” are you to follow?Every denominational movement out there has a different set of religious “dos and don'ts” for keeping one's salvation in tact.
11. According to I John 1:8-10, every believer is going to _____ on a daily basis.
12. John the Beloved reminded every believer in I John 1:8 that “_____ _____ _____” (notice John included himself here) as Christians whenever we neglect to realize that we are still sinners despite our salvation and that will continue to sin each and every day. The reason we will still sin is because we still have our old sinful nature, called the flesh.

13. Paul reminded us in Galatians 5:16-17 of the constant struggle that we would face between the flesh (_____ nature) and the SPIRIT (_____ nature).
14. Paul reminded us again in Romans 7:15-25 that there are _____ natures within every believer and these _____ natures battle constantly for control of the believer's life.
15. Again, it is dishonest theology to teach someone who has truly been born-again that he/she can lose his/her salvation due to "some" sin. As Christians we are going to sin. Our old nature did not depart just because we received a new one (i.e., the HOLY SPIRIT). The only thing a Christian can lose whenever he/she sins is "fellowship," not "_____ - _____."
16. Not only is it dishonest to believe a Christian can lose his/her salvation, but it is _____ to the believer's spiritual growth as well.
17. According to Ephesians 6:10-17, the _____, *the hope of salvation*, is one of six pieces of armor that every Christian is to adorn in order to stand against the wiles of the Devil. The Devil would love nothing more than to convince every believer that he/she has lost his/her salvation due to "some" sin. The reason for the helmet is to protect the believer from such thoughts.

You'll need to learn to grow!

18. Truth: If you don't _____, you can't grow!
19. Doctors tell us that the most common problem concerning abnormality in growth comes from _____ (i.e., underfeeding).
20. Doctors inform us that _____ is due to **two** factors:
 - 1) Social disorders - Relationships that stop us from eating.
 - 2) Illness due to disease - Doctors tell us that certain diseases such as celiac and cystic fibrosis, congenital heart disorders, sickle-cell anemia, thalassemia, chronic kidney failure, and rheumatoid arthritis are but a few of the diseases that can limit the growth in a person.
21. Concerning social disorders (spiritually speaking): According to I Corinthians 15:33, whomever you _____ is certain to affect your growth. Bad company always corrupts good morals. Therefore, the company you keep will determine the trouble you meet. Nevertheless, it's not always the "old" company you keep that hinders your growth. Anyone, including a well-intentioned friend or relative, who keeps you too busy to read the Word of God or to go to church, is going to hinder your growth. If you want to grow as a Christian (and you need to grow), then you must learn to not only avoid the "bad" crowd, but the "busy" crowd as well.
22. Concerning social disorders (spiritually speaking): According to I Corinthians 3:1-3, whomever you _____ is certain to affect your growth. Wisdom says, "Never make men your heroes; make the truth men live the object of your admiration." As a Christian, you need to learn to "lionize" CHRIST, not Christians and/or Christian movements. If you want to grow as a Christian, then you must learn to avoid making men your heroes.

23. Concerning social disorders (spiritually speaking): According to II Corinthians 10:12, whomever you _____ yourself with is certain to affect your growth.
24. Concerning illness due to disease (spiritually speaking): Seeing that disease in the Bible is at times likened to sin (John 5:1-14), it is sin in a believer's life that will hinder his/her growth as a Christian. According to I John 3:9 & 5:18, it is this new man or divine nature (i.e., the HOLY SPIRIT - II Peter 1:4) within every believer that cannot sin. Christians by way of their old nature can, do, and will sin (Romans 7:15-25 & Galatians 5:16-17). These two natures battle _____ for control of the believer's life.
25. The key to growing is an understanding of what _____ you from growing.
26. What _____ a believer from growing is "malnutrition" (i.e., underfeeding) and "malnutrition" is due to **two** factors:
- 1) Social disorders (i.e., yielding to family and friends instead of your HEAVENLY FATHER)
 - 2) Illness due to disease (i.e., yielding to the flesh instead of the HOLY SPIRIT)

You'll need to learn to pray!

27. In Luke 11:1 the disciples asked our LORD to teach them to pray. It is interesting to note that the disciples did not ask CHRIST to teach them "a prayer" (i.e., something to recite), rather they asked Him to teach them "to pray" (i.e., to follow a pattern or _____ on prayer).
28. JESUS taught us that prayer was simply _____ with God on His level.
29. His level, according to CHRIST, included **seven** areas:
- 1) Praise - *"Hallowed be thy name"*
 - 2) Pleasure - *"Thy will be done"*
 - 3) Provision - *"Give us"*
 - 4) _____ - *"forgive us"*
 - 5) Protection - *"lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from Evil"*
 - 6) People - *"a friend of mine"*
 - 7) Power - *"HEAVENLY FATHER give the HOLY SPIRIT to them that ask him"*
30. When properly addressed, these seven areas immediately place the one who is praying on God's level! Nevertheless, there are _____ to getting our prayers answered even if we are following the seven-point blueprint on prayer.

31. God's Word reminds us that there are twelve hindrances that will keep us from getting our prayers answered:
- 1) *Failure to become a part of God's family and thus a true worshipper of God* (John 9:31) - Question: How can God be our FATHER if we are not in the family? According to John 3:1-3 & I John 5:1, we must be born into his family via the new birth in order to call on God as our FATHER.
 - 2) *Failure to respond biblically to right and wrong* (Micah 3:1-4 & Psalms 18:41 & 34:15 & 66:18 & Proverbs 15:29 & 28:9)
 - 3) *Failure to accept biblical correction* (Proverbs 1:23-33)
 - 4) *Failure to give up our _____ for His* (Jeremiah 11:10,11 & Ezekiel 8:1-18)
 - 5) *Failure to please the HOLY SPIRIT* (Romans 8:14-16,26)
 - 6) *Failure to learn the lessons that God is trying to teach you* (See - Job 35:1-3)
 - 7) *Failure to honor one's spouse* (I Peter 3:7)
 - 8) *Failure to try and reconcile* (Matthew 5:23-24)
 - 9) *Failure to forgive others* (Matthew 6:14,15 & Mark 11:25)
 - 10) *Failure to need God all the time* (Job 35:4-13 & James 4:3) - It's hypocritical to only need God when it's convenient (Job 27:8,9)
 - 11) *Failure to help the "less fortunate"* (Zechariah 7:8-13 & Isaiah 1:10-15-17 & Proverbs 21:13)
 - 12) *Failure to keep on asking* (Matthew 7:7 & Luke 11:9-13) - Placing a limit on how many times you will ask God for something is a hindrance to getting your prayers answered.
32. In order to grow as a Christian (and you'll need to grow), you not only have to let God talk to you by way of His Word, you'll have to do some _____ to Him!

You'll need to find a local church!

33. Notice if you would, that CHRIST did not say in Matthew 16:18, "I will build your church or your denomination or your religion." No, He said, "*I will build _____ church.*"
34. When CHRIST started His _____ two thousand years ago, there weren't any Catholics or Muslims or Lutherans or Methodists or Baptists or Mormons or Jehovah Witnesses or Church of Christ or United Pentecostals. There were Jews who practiced Judaism and Gentiles (i.e., non-Jews) who practiced idolatry.
35. It is important to note that Christianity (i.e., salvation through the MESSIAH) did not begin with the birth of CHRIST, but with the _____ of CHRIST before the world began (Titus 1:2 & Revelation 13:8). What began due to the birth of CHRIST was not Christianity, but the Jewish/Gentile Church.
36. Therefore, CHRIST'S idea of what a church should be makes _____ reference to any one local congregation, external organization, or religious denomination on earth.
37. CHRIST'S promise was of a _____ Church made up of countless local churches spread throughout the world, which contain true born-again believers whether they were Jew or Gentile.
38. If you're going to grow as a Christian (and you'll need to grow), you will need to find a local church that emphasizes CHRIST'S idea of what a church should be. There are **five** _____ given to us from the Scriptures explaining what CHRIST'S Church was meant to be.

39. According to the New Testament, the local church was meant to be a:

- 1) *Brotherhood* (I Peter 2:17) - In the figure of the Church as a *brotherhood*, God's idea of a local church was one of family, where no prejudice exists. A church that is all "white" or all "black" or all "Hispanic" is not God's idea of a local church. The Bible is clear: CHRIST'S church was to be a *brotherhood*; a household where all born-again believers (whatever their race) were welcomed as family, where personal preferences are laid aside and _____ for the individual members within the family of God existed (Galatians 6:10 & I Peter 3:8).

40. According to the New Testament, the local church was meant to be a:

- 2) *Body* (Ephesians 1:22,23 & 3:3-6) - In the figure of the Church as a *body*, the mystery of which Paul spoke was that of saved Jews (Exodus 12:37) and saved Gentiles (Exodus 12:38 & Numbers 11:4 & Isaiah 56:6-7) becoming ONE within the body of CHRIST (i.e., the Church - Ephesians 1:22-23). Therefore, CHRIST'S idea of what a local church should be is one where _____ amongst diversity exists.

41. According to the New Testament, the local church was meant to be a:

- 3) *Building* (Ephesians 2:19-22 & I Corinthians 3:9) - In the figure of the Church as a *building*, CHRIST is the corner stone (i.e., the sole foundation upon which the building sits - I Corinthians 3:11) and each Christian is a stone in the building. Therefore, CHRIST'S idea of what a local church should be is one where GOD CAN _____ AND WORK FREELY.

42. According to the New Testament, the local church was meant to be a:

- 4) *Bride* (Ephesians 5:25-32) - In the figure of the Church as a *bride*, the love of a husband towards his wife is stressed. Therefore, CHRIST'S idea of what a local church should be is one where CHRIST'S _____ for the sinner is greatly understood.

43. According to the New Testament, the local church was meant to be a:

- 5) *Bright Light* (Matthew 5:14-16) - In the figure of the Church as a *bright light*, the role of the local church is to be a beacon of light to a dark world. Therefore, CHRIST'S idea of what a local church should be is one where _____ FOR CHRIST is its main objective.

You'll need to get baptized and partake of the Lord's Supper!

44. According to the Bible, CHRIST gave us **two** _____ to observe after our salvation:

- 1) *Baptism* (Matthew 28:18-20)
- 2) *Lord's Supper* (Matthew 26:26-28 & I Corinthians 11:23-32)

45. Although observing both _____ is important, we are reminded that, according to the Scriptures, neither _____ is necessary for salvation, for only the Gospel saves (Romans 1:16 & Ephesians 1:13 & I Corinthians 15:1-4).

46. The understanding of the Gospel, not the observance of _____, is what saves a person (I Corinthians 1:17).

47. According to the Bible, there are **five** biblical reasons why every born-again believer ought to follow the LORD in believer's baptism:
- 1) To show that you are glad that you got saved (Acts 2:41)
 - 2) To show that you were sincere (i.e., meant business) about your decision to get saved (Acts 8:35-38)
 - 3) To show that you are unashamed to identify yourself with the ONE who died for your sins, was buried, and rose again (Romans 6:3-5)
 - 4) To show that you _____ CHRIST by obeying His commandments (John 14:15)
 - 5) To show that you understand the work of the HOLY SPIRIT who now lives inside you now that you are saved (Acts 19:1-5)

48. According to Hebrews 6:2, there are at least **five** different baptisms mentioned in the Scriptures:
- 1) Ceremonial baptism (i.e., picturing ritual washings of the O.T. - Mark 7:2)
 - 2) _____ baptism (i.e., picturing the Gospel that saves - Matthew 3:11)
 - 3) CHRIST'S baptism (i.e., picturing CHRIST'S sufferings - Luke 12:50)
 - 4) Christian baptism (i.e., picturing believers becoming a part of the body of CHRIST - I Corinthians 12:13)
 - 5) SPIRIT baptism (i.e., power for witnessing - Acts 1:4-8)

49. Of the five baptisms mentioned in the Bible, _____ baptism is the most important. Reason being: Both CHRIST (Acts 1:4-5) and John the Baptist said so (Matthew 3:11).

50. According to the Scriptures, _____ pales in comparison to salvation and witnessing in the SPIRIT. What CHRIST was emphasizing here was the fact that Christians need to be as fully plunged (i.e., immersed, baptized) in the power of the HOLY SPIRIT for the sake of witnessing, as their bodies were when they were immersed in the waters of baptism.

You'll need to learn to give!

51. According to Luke 6:38, CHRIST commanded his _____ to learn to give.
52. Giving, however, is not for the sake of _____. Really, how can the One who owns everything need anything? (Psalm 24:1 & 50:10-12 & Haggai 2:8 & Deuteronomy 8:18 & I Chronicles 29:12-14 & James 1:17)
53. Simply put: God wants us to be faithful in giving, not because He needs the money, but because He wants our _____ (Matthew 6:19-21)
54. Fact: Everything we have is God-given. And God cares deeply about the way we administer His possessions. Therefore, the question is not how much money we should give to God, but how much of God's money we should _____ for ourselves.
55. So, when it comes to giving, God _____ wants you to know "how much" you should give, "where" you should give, and "why" you should give.
56. Question: "How much" should you give? According to both the Old and New Testaments, God's people are called to give _____% of what they make to God's program. It's called tithing. Tithing, by definition, is giving back to God a "_____" of what He has allowed you to earn by way of labor (Genesis 14:20 & 28:22 & Exodus 23:19 & Leviticus 27:30 & Matthew 23:23 & I Corinthians 9:1-14)
57. Question: "Where" should you give? According to the Bible, God's people were commanded to bring their tithes (and offerings) to a place of God's choosing. His choice was where His presence dwelt - the _____, the central place of assembly (Deuteronomy 12:5-6 & Malachi 3:10).

58. Today His presence dwells within the _____ by way of the HOLY SPIRIT and _____ are commanded to assemble themselves together within their local church.
59. Question: “Why” should you give? Not only should you give because God commands it and because He wants our heart, but God wants you to give because it’s the only way in which God has chosen to care for those who _____ for Him (Numbers 18:20-21 & I Corinthians 9:11-14).

You’ll need to learn to become a witness for CHRIST!

60. According to Matthew 10:32-33, JESUS spoke plainly: If we as Christians are not willing to talk about CHRIST here, why will CHRIST want to talk about us _____ (i.e., heaven)?
61. Just because we’re going to Heaven, doesn’t mean we’re going to _____ heaven.
62. CHRIST reminded Christians in Matthew 5:3-12 that those (i.e., Christians) who learn how to be blessed here (*Blessed are the...*) will be blessed in the _____ as well (...*for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*).
63. Called the Beatitudes (i.e., *Blessed* means happy), Matthew 5:3-12 describe for us the genuine happiness of believers who have learned to surrender themselves to the _____ (Psalm 1:1-2).
64. The Beatitudes do not teach us “_____” to be saved. The Beatitudes teach us “what it can be like” to be saved – here and in the future.
65. CHRIST encouraged his own disciples how they could experience “_____” what will become universal during the Millennium.
66. Contrary to popular belief, not every Christian is going to _____ the place they are headed to (II Cor 5:10,11).
67. According to Matthew 5:9, those believers who experience “now” the command of God to share the gospel with a troubled world (i.e., *peacemakers*), because they learned to continually yield themselves to the Word of God and tell others about CHRIST, are promised a _____ future.
68. *Peacemakers* are not social reformers, but rather people who have been reformed by the power of the gospel and are not ashamed to spread the Good News. Simply put: They are _____ of God’s message of peace (II Cor 5:18-20).
69. There are **four** reasons why we ought to become witnesses for CHRIST:
- 1) Because witnessing shows others that we are serious followers of our LORD (Matthew 4:19)
 - 2) Because witnessing (i.e., the foolishness of preaching) is the only thing God uses to see people saved (I Corinthians 1:21)
 - 3) Because witnessing _____ God (John 15:8) - Unarguably, the greatest way to _____ the FATHER is to talk about the SON. And since the SON died for all, all deserve to hear the Good News (i.e., the Gospel of CHRIST).
 - 4) Because witnessing helps to keep us clean as Christians (John 15:2)
70. If our LORD was determined to get to the cross, then we who are saved ought to be determined to _____ it!

71. According to I Peter 3:15, God is not asking us to personally evangelize the entire world now that we are saved. He is simply asking us to be ready _____ to give an answer to every man that asks us a reason of the hope that is in us.
72. Witnessing for CHRIST involves knowing two things:
- 1) Our _____ testimony (i.e., remembering how we were saved and being able to share that testimony with others in 60 seconds or less)
 - 2) The Gospel (i.e., being able to present the Gospel in its clarity with simplicity)
73. According to Romans 1:16, _____ who can understand the Good News and then act upon it can have salvation!
74. However, in order to understand and appreciate the Good News (i.e., Gospel), one must first understand and comprehend the _____ news.
75. Both the Good News and the bad news come in _____ parts.
76. The bad news is:
1. No one is good enough to get to heaven (Romans 3:10) - In spite of our best efforts, God reminds us that we will always fall short of living in such a way as to be morally and ethically pleasing to God, thus our need for a Savior. From man's point of view there are many "good and righteous" people, but from God's point of view there are NONE, NO, NOT ONE. Isaiah tells us that the best that humans can do is nothing but a used, filthy, bloody rag to God (Isaiah 64:6).
 2. The reason no one is good enough to get to heaven is because we are all sinners (Romans 3:23) - We are sinners by birth, by nature, by practice, and by _____.
 3. Because we are all sinners, we all must die two deaths (Romans 6:23) - Death, according to the Bible, is always twofold (Luke 12:4-5 & Revelation 20:14-15 & 21:8).
77. Despite how bad the bad news is the Good News is _____!
78. According to I Corinthians 15:1-4, the Good News, once understood and accepted, counters the bad news and gives the sinner _____.
79. The Good News (i.e., Gospel) is:
1. CHRIST died for our sins, proving that man cannot save himself (Romans 5:8) - The ONLY payment for sin and its penalty (hell) is what CHRIST did for us on Calvary.
 2. CHRIST was buried, proving that the price for salvation was paid in full (Romans 5:6) - Seeing that the wages of sin is death, CHRIST was buried proving His death for sinners was complete.
 3. CHRIST rose again, proving that He is, was, and always will be _____ (Romans 1:4) - The resurrection of CHRIST proves CHRIST is who He said He was - _____ in flesh!
80. Truly, the greatest hindrance to men being saved is the _____ that is in salvation. Men and movements love to place difficult "do's and don'ts" on their people when it comes to salvation, but God says salvation is simpler than all that.

81. In fact, salvation is as simple as:

*Taking a _____ of water (John 4:13-14)

*Eating a piece of bread (John 6:32-35,51)

*Entering a door (John 10:9)

*Receiving a gift (John 4:10)

*Calling for help (Luke 23:42)

*Coming when called (Matthew 11:28-30)

*Trusting in JESUS to save you (John 11:25)

82. When properly presented, the Gospel has enough _____ in it to convince even the most ardent sinner of his/her need for the SAVIOR.

We here at Harvest are dedicated to helping those who have just been birthed into the family of God to “grow” spiritually. This booklet should help you with that. You’re next step, however, will be to start “growing” towards maturity. Hebrews 5:12 says,

“For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.”

While it’s important to “grow” as a Christian, it’s even more important to begin “growing up.” So after you’ve started to “grow” through this booklet, call us and ask us about the next booklet. It’s called,

I’M GROWING!

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