

New Beginnings

by Randy J. Schum

Congratulations on your decision to receive Jesus Christ into your heart as your Lord and Savior! This is truly the most important decision you have ever made and represents a brand new beginning in your life. The bible declares that you have actually become a “new creature” (or creation) in Christ. *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” — 2 Corinthians 5:17*



But what's next? What is your responsibility as a Christian and what can you expect from God your Father?

What Jesus has Done for You

Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for you, God has forgiven all your sins, past, present and future and considers you His beloved child. You are acceptable in His sight through the righteousness imparted to you through Jesus Christ. Your eternal spirit which was once dead in sin has been made alive by the power of the Holy Spirit. You never have to worry about being rejected by God for any reason because He promised *"I will never leave you or forsake you."* — Hebrews 13:5 Jesus has made provision for every area of your life physically, emotionally and spiritually. Through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, Jesus will impart to you His wisdom, grace, favor and strength as you need it. You receive all this by faith.

Bible Reading

As a Christian it is vitally important to not only read the Bible but to study it. In this way God's living Word becomes resident in your spirit providing you wisdom and insight in your day to day life. *"Man does not live by bread alone but by every word which proceeds out of the mouth of God."* —Matthew 4:4 The Bible is sometimes referred to as Gods "love letter" to us. It is also known also the "manufacturer's handbook" since we were created by God, and through it we discover how to live a life that is pleasing to Him—the abundant life that He intends for us to have. In it we find how God demonstrated His great love to us through Christ. The Bible is where we can learn how to walk in love toward our Christian brothers and sisters and also with people who have not yet received Christ into their lives.

Start by reading these books of the Bible:

The Gospel of John

1 John

Ephesians

Psalms and Proverbs

Christian Fellowship

Another important responsibility as a new Christian is to fellowship with like-minded believers at a local church body so you may grow in the faith and learn more about the Christian walk. There you will find people who will guide you, pray with you and support you during difficult times. It is also a place where you can discover your God-given gifts and learn to use these gifts to be a blessing in people's lives. Be committed to a local body of believers and grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Stay the Course

When you're walking on the pathway
God has ordered for your life,
But you're facing great decisions
and your mind is filled with strife,
Don't look to the world for answers
but trust God as your Source,
And believe that His grace alone
will help you stay the course.

When tempted to give up the fight
and be satisfied with less,
Stand strong in faith with patience
and expect to receive God's best,
If you're steadfast in hope you'll
have no reason for remorse,
Determine God will see you through
and simply stay the course.

Press on while looking forward—
forget the past that lies behind,
It is hard to see things clearly
if you have a double mind,
Be sure to let God's Word
become your motivating force,
And you'll receive a breakthrough
if you faithfully stay the course.

So when your path comes to the
end and you reach the other side,
And see how you have come forth
like gold as in the furnace tried,
You'll praise the Lord—the One whom
you have made your sole resource,
And with thankfulness you'll be glad
that you had stayed the course.

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Prayer

Prayer is simply communicating with God. It is coming into God's presence with praise and thanksgiving and to share our most intimate thoughts, desires, and even fears with Him. It is through prayer that we make our requests known to God and ask Him to meet our needs and the needs of others. The Bible states that because of what Jesus has done for us we can "boldly come before His throne" in prayer. God deeply desires to fellowship with us and delights to do exceedingly above all that we can ask or think because He loves us so much. Jesus told us to "ask and receive that our joy may be full!" Read the poem *Come to the Quiet* and put it into practice.

Important Scriptures to Memorize:

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
— John 3:16,17

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.
— Romans 8:38,39

For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them. — Ephesians 2:8-10

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. — Romans 5:1

For He (God) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. — 2 Corinthians 5:21

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation (an atoning sacrifice) for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. — 1 John 4:10,11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil (harm), and to give you an expected end (hope and a bright future). — Jeremiah 29:11

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. — Philippians 4:13

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. — Philippians 4:19

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. — 2 Timothy 1:7

A Positive Message...
The Big-Hearted People Book[®]
in Uncertain Times.

The Big-Hearted book is an excellent resource to help you in your walk as a Christian. Applying its guiding principles along with God's Word will enable you to live a life that is pleasing to God and discover His purpose for your life! You can download a free study guide at www.bigheartedpeople.com.

Come to the Quiet

We often ask our Lord to hear
Us during times of prayer,
To fill us with grace and wisdom,
While in His presence there.

But anxious thoughts do overwhelm
Our souls with worldly cares;
We often fail to wait until
His answer is declared.

How can we hear His gentle voice,
With a rushed, frantic pace?
We need to get alone with Him,
In a calm, silent place.

Come to the quiet—be refreshed,
And wait upon His Word.
Lay aside all busyness and
Fellowship with your Lord.

Don't rush—take time to worship Him,
And let your heart proclaim,
His goodness, love, and majesty;
Give thanks and praise His name.

When you spend quiet time with God,
You learn to know Him more;
Then fellowship with Him becomes,
Much sweeter than before.

So with childlike faith, trust Him to
Reveal His perfect will.
You'll find that in His timing, your
Desires He shall fulfill.

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