

Great Commission Coalition

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# *First Steps*

## Following Jesus

Accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior is the most important decision you will ever make in your life. It is actually the beginning of a New Life in Jesus as a Born-Again Child of God. There are many important things you need to understand. Please notice The Scripture references and look them up in your Bible.

**You are saved by Faith** -- Your Salvation is based purely and entirely upon your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and that alone. In other words, Salvation is not something that can be "earned" by how good you try to be or some religious act that you perform. Salvation is a free gift from God, and came as you simply put your faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, and trusted Him to forgive your sins and become your personal Savior and Lord. The Scripture says;

For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through your faith. And this salvation is not of yourselves; of your own doing, it came not through your own striving, but it is the gift of God; Not because of works; not the fulfillment of the Law's demands, lest any man should boast. It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

**You need to tell others about Your Faith In Jesus** -- It is important for you to openly declare Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord to others, as it establishes the testimony of your faith. Once you have accepted Jesus Christ, tell someone. Don't keep it a secret. The Bible says that ["Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown before my Father in heaven"](#) (Matthew 10:32-33).

These items mentioned are only some of the basic steps that you must follow as you begin your New Life In Jesus. God's Word, The Bible will become your Precious Road Map, and The Holy Spirit now living in you will become your Dearest Friend. You will find The Lord to be your constant Companion as you learn to listen for His Voice and watch for His Hand to guide you. You will find that the more you see regarding God's Great Love for you --- the more you will be amazed. My Brother, My Sister, you are now on The Great Adventure and what a ride! Now though unlike any previous time in your life, because of God's Great Love for you, He has made you His Child & in all ways --- One With God! Welcome to The Family and at all times and in all circumstances . . .

Keep Looking To Jesus,

Dennis Robinson

**You are not saved by feelings** -- Good feelings are nice to have, but feelings do not prove whether you're saved or not. There may be times when you "feel" that God is close to you, and other times when you "feel" that He's not. But remember that God has promised to always be with you and never leave you, regardless of feelings ([Hebrews 13:5](#)). Always remember that the Christian lives by faith, not by sight or the feelings of our natural senses. The Bible says;

["We live by faith, not by sight" \(2 Corinthians 5:7\).](#)

**You may experience doubts** -- One of most common things that happens to new Believers is that the Devil tries to whisper doubts in your thoughts: "You're not really saved," or "nothing really happened to you." But don't buy into Satan's lies and deceptions! If you placed your faith in Jesus Christ, then you are saved, regardless of whether you feel it or not. God's Word promises;

["If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" \(Romans 10:9\).](#)

**You are Forgiven of all your sin** -- The Bible Teaches that all mankind has a sinful nature which keeps him separated from God's presence and will result in eternal death. But Jesus came to suffer the consequences of that sin as your substitute, so that you could be forgiven of sin and have access to God's Presence. When you repented (turned away) from sin, and asked Jesus to forgive you and become your Savior, that's exactly what He did. He forgave every sin you've ever committed, regardless of how awful or evil they may have been. God can forgive more sin than man can commit.

[For the law of the Spirit of life which is in Christ Jesus; the law of our new being has freed me from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the Law could not do; its power being weakened by the flesh \(the entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit\). Sending His own Son in the guise of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, God condemned sin in the flesh; subdued, overcame, deprived it of its power over all who accept that sacrifice. \(Romans 8:2-3\)](#)

**You're not perfect, but you are forgiven** -- Being a Christian doesn't mean that you won't make mistakes, but it means that you are forgiven of sin and that your heart yearns to live like Christ and not live in the old sinful way anymore. Don't ever let the Devil condemn you if you stumble or make a mistake! God Loves you and wants you to know that He has forgiven you and He wants you to keep walking with Him! Don't ever let other people or the Devil bring condemnation upon you! God Loves you and He will correct you, but He will not condemn you.

THEREFORE, there is now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, who live and walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit (Romans 8:1)

He who believes in Him; who clings to, trusts in, relies on Him is not judged he who trusts in Him never comes up for judgment; for him there is no rejection, no condemnation--he incurs no damnation; but he who does not believe (cleave to, rely on, trust in Him) is judged already he has already been convicted and has already received his sentence because he has not believed in and trusted in the name of the only begotten Son of God. He is condemned for refusing to let his trust rest in Christ's name. (John 3:18)

**You are a New Creation** -- At the moment you accepted Jesus, He came into your heart by His Spirit, and now His Presence and His Nature lives in your heart ([1 Corinthians 6:19](#)). You did not merely become a better person, you were "born again" spiritually as a brand new person! Now God wants you to learn to live your life according to The New Nature of The Holy Spirit inside you. The Bible says;

Therefore if any person is ingrafted in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old previous moral and spiritual condition has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come! ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)).



**You need to be Baptized in Water** – The Blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross, provides the sole basis for the forgiveness of sin. Therefore, salvation occurs only when a person places his or her faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus as the full payment for their sin. Now that you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, you are ready to be baptized! Just like a bride and groom show their love for one another by wearing wedding bands, your baptism is your opportunity to show others that you have accepted Christ and are now walking with Him. Baptism is a way of showing others that you have entered into a relationship with Jesus Christ. It symbolizes what took place in your heart at the time of salvation. Because Jesus instructed us to be baptized, baptism is an act of obedience. While baptism is not necessary for salvation, it does demonstrate your submission to God and is one of your first steps in following Jesus. The Scripture says;

Jesus approached and, breaking the silence, said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go then and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you and behold, I am with you all the days, to the very close and consummation of the age”. Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)

**You have The Promise of Eternal Life** -- God's Word says that when you place your faith in Jesus that you are given eternal life. This means that someday when your physical body wears out and dies, that your soul will go to be in The Lord's Presence to spend eternity with Him!

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).



**Keep Looking To Jesus** -- You must understand that your Salvation is based entirely upon The Work that Jesus has accomplished in your heart. Jesus promises to keep you so just Keep Looking To Jesus. As a new Christian, you must grow in your relationship with God and deepen your faith, so that discouragement, temptation, or trials will never cause you to lose focus and drift away from God. The Bible says that Jesus will present you before God, Holy and Unblemished. [May blessing be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual \(given by the Holy Spirit\) blessing in the heavenly realm! Even as in His love He chose us actually picked us out for Himself as His own in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in love. For He foreordained us destined us, planned in love for us to be adopted as His own children through Jesus Christ, in accordance with the purpose of His will because it pleased Him and was His kind intent -- So that we might be to the praise and the commendation of His glorious grace, which He so freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In Him we have redemption deliverance and salvation through His blood, the remission of our offenses, in accordance with the riches and the generosity of His gracious favor, Which He lavished upon us in every kind of wisdom and understanding \(Ephesians 1: 3-8\).](#)

- **You need Christian Fellowship** -- You should attend a local church or Christian Fellowship regularly so that your faith can be strengthened by the Teaching of God's Word, and so you can grow spiritually and be encouraged by the fellowship of other Christians. This is a place where you can go to express your Love, faithfulness, and Worship to God. The local church or Christian Fellowship is also where you can learn what it means to follow Jesus and where Pastors, Teachers, and other Believers can help you and encourage your faith. The Bible warns us not to absent ourselves from Fellowship attendance, because we need the strength and encouragement it brings. [Not forsaking or neglecting to assemble together as believers, as is the habit of some people, but admonishing \(warning, urging, and encouraging\) one another, and all the more faithfully as you see the day approaching. \(Hebrews 10:25\).](#)

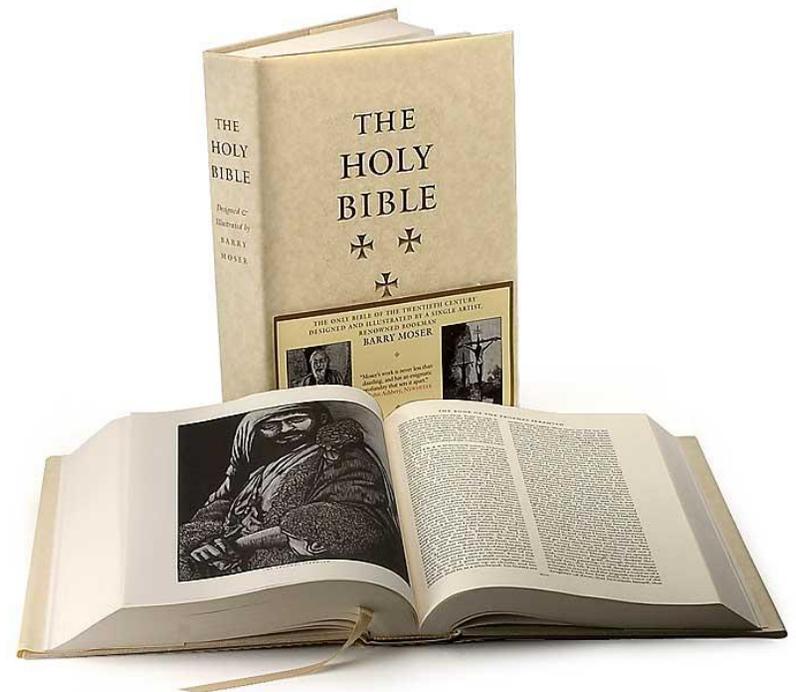


**You need to Pray every day** -- Prayer is vital to your spiritual growth. God is your Heavenly Father, and He wants to hear from you and have daily fellowship with you. Not only does He Promise to answer your Prayers, but as you Pray He will also provide guidance and spiritual strength. The Bible tells us to;

"Pray continually," that is to Pray faithfully every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17).



**You need to read The Bible daily** -- The Bible is God's Word, and as you read from it every day, it will cause you to grow spiritually (2 Timothy 2:15). As you study His Written Word (start with the Gospel of John), He will strengthen your faith, speak to your heart, and give you guidance and direction for every need and decision in your life. God Promises that He will watch over His Word in order to see to it that it is performed. God declares that He has elevated His Word above His Own Name. Trust God's Word. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" (Psalms 119:105).



**You are Filled with The Holy Spirit** -- The Holy Spirit came into your heart when you received Christ and now lives in you. The Bible also says that The Holy Spirit can "immerse" you with special power for service, to enable you to live a powerful Christian life, and to be bold in your Christian witness and testimony. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you: and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). To receive this Promise, all you have to do is ask The Lord to baptize you which means to immerse you with His Holy Spirit and He Promises that He Will.



**Your need to live a Holy Life In Christ Jesus** -- As mentioned, Christians are not perfect. Your heart's desire will be to grow in submitting yourself to The New Nature and follow the leading of The Holy Spirit who now lives in your heart. You will yearn to follow the example of Jesus, and live a Godly and wholesome life (Hebrews 12:14). You have repented and asked God to forgive your sins, and now you need to grow closer and closer to The Lord each day, which will take you farther away from your old sinful nature with thoughts and behavior that no longer have any place in you. Your faith in God will cause a desire to obey Him and do those things pleasing in His sight (Colossians 1:10). As you grow in your relationship with God, His strength in your life will increase to overcome sinful behavior and habits. **THEREFORE, SINCE these great promises are ours, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates and defiles body and spirit, and bring our consecration to completeness in the reverential fear of God. (2 Corinthians 7:1).**

