

NOW THAT
You
ARE A
CHRISTIAN...

by
Rev. James P. Lowen

Armed Forces Edition

State of the Union 2003

Whatever the duration of this struggle, and whatever the difficulties, we will not permit the triumph of violence in the affairs of men - free people will set the course of history.

...I have a message for the men and women who will keep the peace, members of the American Armed Forces... The success of our cause will depend on you. Your training has prepared you. Your honor will guide you. You believe in America, and America believes in you.

Americans are a free people, who know that freedom is the right of every person and the future of every nation. The liberty we prize is not America's gift to the world, it is God's gift to humanity.

We Americans have faith in ourselves - but not in ourselves alone. We do not claim to know all the ways of Providence, yet we can trust in them, placing our confidence in the loving God behind all of life, and all of history.

May He guide us now, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

President George W. Bush

Now That You Are A Christian

by James P. Lowen

This booklet, "Now That You Are A Christian" by James P. Lowen, is written for the express purpose that it may be a help for young believers that they may withstand the wiles of the devil (Ephesians 6:11-18) and that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:9-14). This is our earnest prayer.

*All Scripture quotations taken from
New International Version (NIV).*



(REVISED NIV VERSION)

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Chapter One

What Has Happened To You?

*When Did It Happen?
Where Did It Happen?
How Did It Happen?
Why Did It Happen?*

The Bible Answers These Questions Fully!

It happened over two thousand years ago on Calvary's Hill.

It happened in your heart the moment you believed.

It happened because God loves you.

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

What Has Happened To You?

Now that you are a Christian, you have reached a place of decision in your life. You have confessed your sins and have *definitely placed your faith* in the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior; and at that moment the blood of Jesus, God's Son, cleansed you from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Perhaps You Are Saying To Yourself:

- I know that I am different.

- I sense a change in my desires, convictions, beliefs and ambitions.
- I find myself longing for the salvation of my friends, yet am out of step with their worldly ways.
- I find myself interested in spiritual and eternal things while still living in the midst of a material world.
- I find myself in a completely new relationship to Almighty God and His Word.

How to adjust myself to these matters:

How to live a life pleasing to God and to make my life count among my friends; this is a great question that I must resolve now.

Some things you must first recognize about yourself:

- You are a miracle, a "new creation in Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:17
- You are now a member of God's family—a son (child) of God. 1 John 3:1-3
- You are now completely forgiven. 1 John 1:9
- You are a saved person—saved from sin. Romans 10:9,10
- You are now in possession of eternal life. John 5:24
- You are now related to a new Person, Christ Jesus.

When you were saved, you met a Person. You opened your life to Him and now you are living under His direct control and your life is now entrusted to His keeping. Colossians 3:2,3

Questions

- 1. What great event took place almost 2,000 years ago?*
- 2. How did God show His love to the world and to you? Give a Bible verse.*
- 3. What happened to you when you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?*

4. *Give your testimony of how and where you were saved.*
5. *Has there been a change in your life since you became a Christian?*
6. *What things are you to recognize now that you are a Christian?*

Chapter Two

Does Everything Seem New?

When you became a Christian, this is the transaction that took place in your life.

1. God Forgave Your Sins

You confessed them and He forgave them—this believe.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:9

2. God Gave You His Righteousness

Thus you became acceptable to Him.

"But now a righteousness from God...has been made known...through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe."

Romans 3:21,22

3. God Made You His Child

"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

John 1:12

4. God Gave You An Equal Inheritance With Christ

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ." Romans 8:16,17

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you." 1 Peter 1:3,4

5. God Gave You Unspeakable Joy

"Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy." 1 Peter 1:8

A Word About Your Joy As A Christian

The outward joy of the emotions may change according to your daily circumstances. But the inward joy of being right with God, the joy of sins forgiven, the joy of sacrificial service to Christ will never fade or change but will last always, as you walk well pleasing before God.

Questions

- 1. What transaction took place when you became a Christian?*
- 2. On what does your joy as a Christian depend?*

Chapter Three

The Answers To Some Problems You Will Face

The three great problems immediately presenting themselves to every new Christian are:

1. The problem of *assurance*.

How do you know for sure that you are saved?

2. The problem of *daily living*.

Your relationship to the world and your friends.

3. The problem of *temptation*.

How to keep yourself from going back into sin.

1. The Problem Of Assurance

Your assurance of salvation, of forgiveness and of victory is found only in the Word of God, the Bible.

Your assurance of salvation does not come from your feelings, which are constantly changing, but from God's Word which *never* changes.

Many Things May Cause Your Feelings To Change:

- Outward circumstances
- Physical health
- Difficulties at work
- Problems at school and home

All these affect you so that you cannot depend upon your feelings to **assure** you of your salvation. One day you may feel saved, the next you may be assailed with doubts. Therefore, you must learn to

depend upon the one thing that never changes, the Word of God; the one thing in all the world that is really dependable is the Bible.

Here Are Verses Of Assurance For:

Salvation

- Memorize these verses.
- Repeat them to yourself often.
- Never forget the Scriptures' assurance.
- Repeat them to yourself whenever you begin to doubt.

"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:11-13

Forgiveness

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."
1 John 1:9

All Assurance Is Based Upon God's Word

If God said so, then that settles it. God cannot lie so we must believe Him and His Word. Whenever a doubt arises, always go to the pages of the Bible to see what God says about the matter. Then it is forever settled.

2. The Problem Of Daily Living

A. A Person, Christ Jesus, saved you and it will be a Person, Christ Jesus, that keeps you.

"...Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20

B. Since Christ can control *only* that portion of your life which you yield to Him, you must yield everything to Him. You must

present your heart, your body, your life; everything to Him if you want to live a victorious and happy Christian life.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:1,2

- C. Now that your life is entrusted to Christ, you must not worry about anything. Instead, take everything to Him in prayer. Then God will give you that wonderful and perfect peace that the world envies but only the Christian possesses. There is nothing about which you dare not pray. God is interested in everything concerning you! This believe!

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6,7

3. The Problem Of Temptation

- A. Expect temptation—there is nothing unusual or abnormal about being tempted. Everybody is tempted.

The saved and the unsaved, the good and the bad, the spiritual and the unspiritual—all are tempted. The problem is not why you are tempted, but how can you resist it.

The question is: What provision has God made for me to be victorious over temptation?

The Bible verse for assurance of victory over temptation is:

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." 1 Corinthians 10:13

Memorize this verse—it will mean a great deal to you in the days to come.

- B.** Recognize that temptation in itself is not sin, rather it is the enticement to sin. If the enticement is not given in to, then you have not sinned. Jesus was **"...tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin."** Hebrews 4:15
- C.** Temptation is the enticement to sin. The stronger or greater the enticement, the greater the temptation.
"When tempted, no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed." James 1:13,14
- D.** Recognize that temptations will come into your life. Also, recognize that God will help you in the time of temptation if you seek His guidance and help.
"Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted." Hebrews 2:18
- E.** Remember, in the time of temptation, that God is on your side.
"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." 1 Corinthians 10:13

How To Handle Temptation

In Jesus, we have an example of how to handle our temptations. Recognize them for what they are and then go boldly to the throne of grace for help and guidance.

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."
Hebrews 4:15,16

This Is A Good Place To Stop And Talk To Yourself

- Do I want, really want, victory over sin?
- Do I really want to conquer temptation? Or do I only want an easy way to forgiveness while still playing around with sin. Until you decide this question, you cannot go on in the Christian realm.

Either you submit now to Christ, determined to go all the way with Him, or you decide now to be defeated by refusing to yield all to Him.

My Defense Against Temptation

1. I recognize that temptations will be a part of my life and that temptations come to help me grow in my relationship with God. As I overcome the temptations, I will be stronger in my walk with the Lord.
2. I recognize that when I am tempted I have not sinned, as long as I do not yield to the temptation. But that when I resist it, I become stronger for the next temptation.
3. I recognize that, because Christ conquered temptation, He has made provision for me also to conquer it, that I do not need to fail but that I can live in victory.
4. I realize that God's Spirit may lead me at times where I may be tempted in order to be proven. But on the other hand, I must avoid temptations of my own making.
I must avoid the *books*, the *places*, the *sights*, the *thoughts* and the *friends* who might cause me to be tempted or which would lead me into temptation.
5. I realize that when temptation comes, I must make war upon it immediately if I am to conquer it. I must immediately ask Christ to help me, then I must resist it.
"The Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials..."
2 Peter 2:9
"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7
6. I realize that the best defense against temptation is to prepare for it before it comes. My best defense is the Word of God. I must read the Word, study it, memorize and learn to use it as soon as possible, so that I will be able to withstand the enemy.
"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you." Psalm 119:11

7. I must realize that habit is important in dealing with temptation. Before I was a real Christian, failure was a habit — now I must form the habit of succeeding. Every time I conquer temptation, it makes it easier next time. I must form the habit of bringing everything to Christ, asking Him to help me in every matter, large or small.

Thus, victory becomes a habit as much as failure once was.

8. I must realize the importance of God and His presence in helping me to overcome. I must realize that Christ is with me at all times. Jesus said, "...surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:20

God also says: "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

Read also 1 Peter 1:5-7.

What Does This Mean To Me?

It means that the presence of God is with me all the time, day and night.

- He is with me when I feel Him and when I don't feel Him, He is there also.
- He is with me in times of joy and in times of trouble.
- He is with me when I succeed as a Christian and also when I fail. He never leaves me—He is with me always—Christ is always with me.

There Are Three Things To Do In Regard To The Presence Of Christ In Your Life:

1. When you awaken in the morning, remind yourself that Christ is there. Recognize His presence at that time and tell Him you expect Him to be with you all day.
Pray this thought to God.
2. Throughout the day, remind yourself of the wonderful fact that Christ is with you every moment. Even though you may not feel Him, you know He is there with you, because the Bible says so.

3. At the close of the day when you retire at night, take time to thank God for being with you through the day. Tell Him how much you appreciate His presence. Ask Him to take care of you and watch over you as you sleep.

Remember You Are A New Creation:

Some of the new things in the new creation found in 2 Corinthians 5:

1. A new assurance – verses 1-7
2. A new goal – verse 9
3. A new association – verse 14
Oneness with the Lord.
4. A new attitude – verse 15

*"Only one life 'twill soon be passed
Only what's done for Christ will last."*

"To live
unto
Him
who

loved us."

5. A new activity – verse 7
To walk by faith.
6. A new attachment – verse 14
To be fused by love of Christ.
7. A new talk – verse 20
To deliver the message of reconciliation. (To be a witness.)

Questions

1. *Will you have problems now that you are a Christian?*
2. *Name the 3 problems that you will have to face which are mentioned in Chapter 3 of this book.*
3. *In what does your confidence depend as a Christian?*

4. *Give a Scripture that expresses the assurance of your salvation.*
5. *Give a Scripture that assures the forgiveness of your sins.*
6. *Give a Scripture about the daily life of a Christian.*
7. *How much of your life can the Omnipotent God control?*
8. *Should you worry (have anxieties) now that you have become a Christian?*
9. *Will you be tempted now that you are a Christian?*
10. *Is temptation sin?*
11. *What is temptation? Give a Scripture.*
12. *When does temptation become sin?*
13. *Give a Scripture assuring you of victory over temptation.*
14. *How can you be victorious over temptation?*
15. *Give 3 things that will help you to maintain the Presence of Christ in your life.*

Chapter Four

What If You Fail?

What To Do With Problem Of Failure:

Failure is very possible. You are capable of failing and it is the business of the devil to make you fail. But your constant aim should be to live above failure. For it is possible to live above failure with the help of Jesus Christ. However, should something happen and you slip or fail, this does not mean you are backslidden or lost. But it does mean that your situation is dangerous and should be dealt with immediately. For if continued in, it leads to condemnation.

Three Things To Do If You Should Ever Fail:

1. Confess your failure and sin immediately to Christ. Be explicit about it. "Lord, I lied," or "Lord, I lost my temper, I cheated," or whatever you did. Be specific in naming your sin and God will be specific in forgiving it.
2. Learn from your failure that this is a weakness that needs to be constantly guarded so that you will not fail along this line again.

3. Turn to the Word of God for a reassurance of your forgiveness from failure.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

1 John 1:9 "...he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day." 2 Timothy 1:12

It is the long interval between failure and making it right that defeats most Christians. The sooner you make right your failure the better off you will be.

Questions

- 1. Is it possible to fail now that you are a Christian?*
- 2. What should you do if you fail? Name 3 things.*
- 3. Give a Scripture that will give you confidence and help you not to fail.*

Chapter Five

Where Will You Find Daily Strength?

A. In Bible Reading

The Bible is God's way of speaking to us. In it we find His will made plain, as well as how to live well-pleasing in His sight, and to keep ourselves in His love. Read Jude 20,21.

Things You Need To Know About Reading Your Bible:

Because you are now a Christian, you will find that you have a love for the Bible, but this love must continue to be cultivated so that it will grow.

Learn To Regard The Bible As The Literal Word Of God

To you as a Christian, the Bible is the very Word of God Himself. It must be treated so, read and believed as such.

The Bible Must Be Obeyed As The Word Of God

God will never force you to obey Him, but after you have read His Word and the Spirit has dealt with you, the time has come for you to act. Then it is up to you to obey or disobey.

- This is the secret of real Christian success—immediate obedience.
- It is in putting off obedience where most Christians lose out.
- As soon as you know God's will you must do it, if you are to grow.
- You can rest assured that God will never ask you to do anything except that which is good for you.

"Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins." James 4:17

How To Read Your Bible:

1. One of the best ways to read your Bible is prayerfully, and—in a humble way—ask God, in Jesus' Name, to speak to you from the pages of His Word.
2. Read and re-read the passage you chose for the day, until some portion stands out, until God's Spirit speaks to you and says something special from the Word—some message you can take for the day.
3. When He does—and God always will speak through the Word—write it down to remember it.
4. Then pray back to God what He has said to your heart from His Word. Whether it is a command, a promise or a new truth, pray it back and tell God you will believe it, obey it or walk in it—whichever is required.
5. Then proceed to put into action that which God has put into your heart and life.
6. Share with someone else, as soon as possible, the same day, the portion of the Word that God made real to you. Share the blessing received with others in order to receive more the next day.
7. Make a time each day when you will plan to read your Bible—preferably the same time each day. A set time and a set place are important. The earlier in the day the better. The longer you

put off getting into the Word, the less value your day will have in eternity. If you fail to make a daily place in your life for the Word of God, **you cannot live a successful Christian life.**

B. In Prayer – How To Pray *Now That You Are A Christian*

Prayer is talking with God and letting God talk with you. Prayer is the expression of your heart in your own words. It is the giving vent to that warm, tender, yearning upward toward God that you feel deep down inside you. It matters not whether your prayers are long or short, loud or soft, in public or in private. The important thing is that you pray.

Our Prayers Should Be Christ-Centered

You pray in Jesus' Name, for His Glory, with faith in His Word, to honor Him. Read John 16:23,24.

Things You Should Know About Prayer:

1. Have a time and a place for daily prayer, preferably the same time each day. You must touch God in prayer at least once a day, the earlier the better.
2. Have a prayer list. Put on it the things you want from God. Then pray over them one by one. Save the list, check off the answers when they come to pass. You will receive a real thrill writing "*answered*" and the date after the request.
3. Pray on the basis of God's Word. If possible, find a promise you can quote to God when you are praying, some promise you can base your faith upon. Remind God that you are depending upon Him to answer because He promised. Read 1 John 5:14,15.
4. Make prayer a springboard for obedience. Nothing will ruin your prayer life so much as the unwillingness to do what God whispers to your heart. Failure to obey will mean defeat, loss of victory and a losing out in your Christian life. Tell God that you will obey, then rise, go out and obey immediately.

5. Always confess any known sins to God in prayer. Do this as soon as you discover them, or as soon as you have failed.
"He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy." Proverbs 28:13
6. Look for an answer after you have prayed. Faith is just simply expecting God to act like God—to do what God said He would do. Daily, look for the answer to your prayer requests and they will come. You should never ask God for anything you do not expect Him to answer.
7. *Never try to pray like someone else.* God wants you to be yourself. Realize you are an individual and God wants to deal with you as such. Strive to be natural, sincere and just yourself when you pray.
8. Learn to pray for others, your loved ones, your friends who are unsaved, your pastor, your church, your missionaries and other matters that arise. Learn to pray about everything. Nothing is too small for God to be interested in.
9. Pray about every matter in your own personal life. The daily problems, your job, your companions, your decisions, in fact everything. *Now that you are a Christian* you must learn to take everything to the Lord in prayer as He is interested in you, and in every detail of your individual life.
10. When you have prayed, believe that God hears, for in John 14:13 we read: **"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father."**

Remember that thanksgiving and praise are an important part of your prayer life. Thanksgiving and praise to God could be termed *"faith in action."* When the Bible says: *"Ask and ye shall receive"*—it means ask and believe God for the answer.

Note the following Scriptures very carefully:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer..." Philippians 4:6-8

"Give thanks in all circumstances..." 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Look up other Scripture on praise, thanksgiving and prayer.

C. In Witnessing:

Another source of daily strength comes from witnessing to others about what Jesus means to you *now that you are a Christian*.

- Witnessing need not be a problem.
- How can you keep from witnessing, how can you help but do it, after all that Jesus Christ has done for you?

Did You Know That You Are Witnessing Every Day?

- Whether you are saved or unsaved, victorious or defeated, spiritual or carnal, you are witnessing all the time.
- Some witness to their selfishness, their meanness, their wickedness, while others witness to their love for God.

You Are A Witness:

Whatever rules your life, whatever you are, is sending out an influence. You are influencing others by your life, whether you know it or not. *Now that you are a Christian* you will want your life to witness for God.

- You can witness by your **life**.
- You can witness by your **deeds**.
- You can witness by your **words**.

How To Witness To Others With Your Words:

1. Get over the mental hurdle that you cannot talk to people. (You talk to them about other subjects.)

Do not let the devil tell you that you cannot talk about the things of Christ, because you can, if you will. It is not a matter of *I can't* but rather a matter of *I don't want to*.

2. Pray daily for guidance. Ask God to lead you and direct you and to provide the right opportunity. Then when the opportunity comes, be sure and take advantage of it.

3. Depend upon the Holy Spirit to guide you and give you the right things to say. Never attempt to witness without first asking the Spirit's guidance.
4. Realize that daily witnessing is essential to Christian growth. You cannot grow without witnessing. Only as you share with others will God bless you.
5. Never argue with people about the Bible. Instead, give them a positive testimony of what Christ means to you, what Christ has done for you and let the Holy Spirit do the rest.

Questions

1. *Where will your strength come from to live daily for God?*
2. *Give some thoughts on the best ways to read your Bible.*
3. *What is prayer?*
4. *What prayers please God?*
5. *Give some thoughts about prayer.*
6. *What should accompany each prayer?*
7. *Give some thoughts about witnessing.*
8. *Is there more than one way to testify?*

Chapter Six

Thoughts On How To Study The Bible

Start with the easy portions first. Recommended are the four Gospels, the Psalms, the Acts, the rest of the New Testament, then you can move into the more difficult books of the Old Testament.

1. Read entire books of the Bible—find their main theme and message.
2. Follow life stories of Bible characters—learn the lessons of their lives.
3. Study some of the great themes. Look up all the Scriptures on each of these.
4. Study the Bible by chapters. Read a chapter, pick out its theme, key verse, lessons.
5. Memorize important verses as you come across them, as they impress you.
6. Keep notes on your studies—have a notebook for this purpose only.

One Method Of Study

As you read a particular book of the Bible, write down the following:

- The book's name.
- Its key verse/memory verse.
- The main theme or key word.
- Important persons.
- The main event of the book and/or its most important facts.
- The personal lesson you derived.

Bible Marking Method In Color

Red—Salvation

Gold—Holy Spirit

Blue—Divine Healing

Purple—Second Coming

Green—Faith

Brown—Temporal Blessings and Admonitions

Black—Sin, Evil, etc.

W.T.—"Wonderful Things" Psalm 119:18

Questions

1. *Give some thoughts on how to study the Bible.*

Chapter Seven

How To Know What Is Right Or Wrong In Your Christian Life

The simplest way to determine right conduct is to relate everything in your life to the Lord Jesus Christ. When anything questionable comes up, ask yourself the following:

- Will this thing honor or dishonor God, please Him or grieve Him?
- Will this be in obedience or disobedience to Christ and His Word?
- Will this identify me with other Christians or with the worldly crowd?
- Will this help or hinder my prayer life?
- Will this increase or decrease my desire to read God's Word, the Bible?

If the thing in question will contribute to the cause of Christ, then it is right. If it will hinder or harm your Christian walk or is against Christ's cause, or will keep you from putting Christ first in your life, then it is wrong.

One Final Way To Decide All Questions

Ask yourself the questions:

- What would Jesus do if He were in my place, if He were here under my circumstances, faced with my problems?
- Would I want to be here if Christ should come right now?
- Would I want to be doing these things if Christ should come right now?
- Would I want to be saying these things if Christ should come right now?
- What would He do—how would He act—which way would He move?

Once you determine how Christ would act, what He would do, then you immediately have your way outlined for you. You must follow in His steps and do that which you feel He would do. Then you will never go astray.

Review

We have dealt with you as a new Christian, the assurance that you are saved.

We have dealt with the problem of Christian living; the problem of temptation and how to resist it.

We have talked with you about the presence of God in your life.

We have talked about what to do with failures and how to testify for Christ.

We have dealt with the subject of how to study your Bible and how to pray.

Last of all, we have dealt with things that are right and wrong.

This is not a complete covering of how to live as a new Christian, but merely some highlights, which we hope and pray will prove to be a blessing to you, *now that you are a Christian.*

Remember! You can live for Christ! Colossians 2:6

Sin is the only thing that will defeat you.
Christ can conquer and forgive every sin.
The only sin Christ cannot forgive is the sin you refuse to
break with, the sin you continue to indulge in.

The moment sin is broken with and confessed—Christ forgives.

Spiritual growth and Christian progress
are dependent upon your obedience to
the Word of God and putting God first
in your life. Read Matthew 6:33.

*Remember
this!*

*Yield your
life to God.*

Trust
Christ at

all times for everything in every circumstance.

Read your Bible every day, pray every day, witness every day.

Keep sin out of your life—by not doing it or by confessing it—and
you will be a real spiritual Christian, used by Almighty God.

"And you have been given fullness in Christ..." Colossians
2:10

Learn to live in an atmosphere of praise and thanksgiving. Let the
Holy Spirit fill and refill your life. Follow the Lord in water baptism.
Unite with the faithful of the church and become an active member.
Fellowship and support the church with tithes and offerings. Be
faithful and attend the services.

Questions

1. *In which way can you know what is right and what is wrong in
your Christian Life?*

Chapter Eight

What About Your Responsibility To God?

Water Baptism

After being saved, you will want to be baptized in water, and as soon as possible. Jesus said to the disciples:

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19,20

Here we see that water baptism is a Christian ordinance that should follow repentance.

- Before conversion it has no spiritual significance whatsoever, but—
- After the heart has been cleansed from sin, it speaks of our identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Romans 6:4

Be Filled With The Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

This glorious experience is more than a privilege, for you cannot be what God would have you be, or do what He would have you do, without this enduement of power.

Jesus Himself did not attempt His earthly ministry until the Holy Spirit came upon Him, and you, too, need this divine enablement for the accomplishment of the will of God in your life, as well as for service to others.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..." Acts 1:8

The Lord's Supper

Then too, the Lord's Supper is a Christian ordinance which you should observe whenever possible.

"...do this...in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." 1 Corinthians 11:25,26

Questions

1. *What are some of the responsibilities toward God now that you are a Christian?*
2. *Will water baptism save your soul?*

3. *What should happen before so that water baptism can be the fulfillment of the Word of God and the will of God in your life?*

4. *Why do you need the Holy Spirit in your life?*

5. *Why should we participate in Communion?*

Chapter Nine

Your Responsibility To The Church

Attend church services regularly and join in the public devotions in the spirit of worship. Your soul will be refreshed.

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" Psalm 122:1

Church Membership

Establish yourself by uniting with some group of believers so that you will not only have a church home, but also be able to take a definite part in, and share in the responsibility of, getting out this wonderful Gospel message and becoming established in the faith.

Investigation should be made and divine guidance earnestly sought before making a decision as to your church membership, for alas, some churches are not true to God and His Bible.

Contribute To The Cause Of Christ

Systematic And Worshipful Giving

Now that you have received Christ, and enjoy this wonderful fellowship with Him, surely you will desire to make Him known to others. Among the many ways this can be done, allow me to mention a very necessary factor in fulfilling the great commission of Jesus to "**go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.**" It takes money to carry on God's work, just as it takes money to carry on any other business, and spreading the Gospel is the greatest business on earth. Much expense is incurred in carrying on the work of the Lord, and to you is given not only the glorious privilege but also the solemn responsibility of participating in this phase of the work.

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine."

Proverbs 3:9,10

"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:20,21

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap..." Luke 6:38

"...remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35

Scriptural Method Of Giving

"'Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... Test me in this,' says the Lord Almighty..." Malachi 3:10

Giving Should Be Part Of Our Worship

If you will give systematically, generously and even sacrificially, God will richly reward you. Many a Christian has learned by experience that to regularly set aside his tithe (one-tenth of his income) to be used in God's service, and then to give offerings above and beyond that as the Lord enables, has brought the blessing of God upon his life spiritually, physically and temporally.

Do not be afraid of giving too much to the Lord. He gave Himself for You.

You cannot outgive God.

Questions

- 1. Do you now have a responsibility towards the church and the body of believers, now that you are a Christian?*
- 2. Name some of the responsibilities that you have to the local church and other believers.*
- 3. Is it your responsibility to give to the Lord's work?*
- 4. Give a Scripture about the Biblical method of giving offerings.*

Chapter Ten

Resumé

There Is A Success Plan For You

The mark of a good fruit tree is to bring forth fruit—that is natural for it. The mark of a sinner saved by grace is to produce good works. Read Matthew 7:16-20.

Many times we have had this said to us: "I'd be glad to work, but there is nothing I can do."

But there is something for every Christian to do!

We are therefore outlining a six (6) point program for each member and friend of the church. This program is a simple presentation of what the Bible teaches so that not a single Christian has an excuse.

1. Pray. 1 Timothy 2:1

It is a privilege and duty of every Christian to pray for the church, the pastor and other Christians daily, as well as the salvation of souls.

2. Read one chapter of the Bible daily.

"Study the Scriptures..." John 5:39

It is your privilege and duty as a Christian to hide the Word away in your heart that you "... might not sin against you [God]." Psalm 119:11

3. Make one visit each week in the Name of Christ and for His Glory. James 1:17, Matthew 25:36

The church will grow through this method and you will develop spiritual graces that will make you a better Christian.

Visitation for spiritual blessing to others is your duty and privilege.

4. Invite at least one person each week to attend the services with you.

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" Psalm 122:1

5. Attend the three hours of Bible study and worship in your church each Lord's day. See that the entire family under your roof attends with you.

There are 168 hours in each week and we have only three (3) hours of service each Sunday: Sunday school, morning and evening worship.

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing..." Hebrews 10:25

6. Bring your tithes and offerings each Lord's day.

"No one is to appear before me empty-handed." Exodus 23:15

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse." Malachi 3:10

"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income..."

1 Corinthians 16:2

If you follow the above admonitions—

- You will be blessed
- The church will grow and prosper
- Your pastor will rejoice
- God will move in the midst.

(Place these admonitions in a prominent place so you will be reminded continually.)

Questions

1. *How can you have success in your Christian life?*
2. *In your own words, make a plan to be happy and prosperous in your Christian life.*

Epilogue

"To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen." Jude 24,25

Answers

To

Questions

Chapter One

1. Jesus Christ died on the cross to save sinners.
2. God showed His love as He gave His Son to die on the cross for us. John 3:16
3. God cleansed me from all sin. 1 John 1:7
4. Give your personal testimony to what the circumstances were that led to your salvation.
5. Give your testimony in what special way you were changed.
6. I am a new creation.
A member of the family of God.
My sins have been forgiven.
I have eternal life.
Jesus is my Savior.

Chapter Two

1. God forgave all my sins. I was made a new creature.
God gave me His righteousness.
God made me one of His sons.
God gave me a great joy and eternal life in Him.
2. To recognize what Christ has done for me, that I am right with God, and that my sins are forgiven.

Chapter Three

1. Yes, there are problems that are presented to every new Christian.
2. The problem of my assurance.
The problem of daily life.
The problem of temptation.
3. The Word of God.
4. 1 John 5:11-15
5. 1 John 1:9
6. Galatians 2:20
7. Only what I commit to Him.
8. No. Philippians 4:6,7
9. Yes. 1 Corinthians 10:13.
10. No, temptation in itself is not sin.
11. The enticement to sin. James 1:14
12. When I give into temptation. James 1:15
13. 2 Peter 2:9
14. Resist the devil. James 4:7
15. Recognize the Presence of Christ in me continually—
When I awaken in the morning
Throughout the day
At the close of the day.

Chapter Four

1. Yes, it is possible to fail.
2. Confess my failure and sin immediately to the Lord.

Learn from my failure so I can be more careful about my weakness.
Go to the Word of God for the reassurance of my forgiveness.

1 John 1:9

3. 2 Timothy 1:12

Chapter Five

1. In reading the Bible.

In prayer.

In sharing my experience with others.

In relying on the Holy Spirit to guide me.

2. State in your own words.

3. Prayer is talking to God in my own words.

4. A prayer that honors Jesus Christ and is said in His Name.

5. State in your own words.

6. Thanksgiving. Philippians 4:6,7

7. Tell in your own words.

8. Yes, with words and actions.

Chapter Six

1. Read every book of the Bible, studying the history of the life of the men and women of the Bible.

Look for the great themes.

Study the Bible by chapters.

Memorize the most important verses.

Write down the most important points.

Chapter Seven

1. When I have a doubt, ask myself these questions:

Is it going to bring honor or dishonor to God?

Is it going to please or displease God?

Is it obedience or disobedience to Christ and His Word?

Is it going to identify me with other Christians, or with the worldly crowd?

Is it going to help or hinder me in my prayer life?

Will it give me more or less of a desire to read the Word of God?

One final way to decide all questions is to ask myself: "What would Jesus do?"

Chapter Eight

1. Water Baptism. Matthew 28:19,20, Roman 6:4
To be filled with the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8, Ephesians 5:18
To live a victorious life. Romans 8:37
To participate in Communion. 1 Corinthians 11:25,26
2. No. It is an act of obedience to Christ and testimony to the world.
3. I must be converted, saved, born again.
4. To do the perfect will of God in my life.
5. To remember Christ's sacrifice for us. 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

Chapter Nine

1. Yes.
2. To help spread the Gospel.
To receive spiritual strength.
To be established in my own Christian faith.
3. Yes, to fulfill the great commission to preach the Gospel to every creature.
4. Malachi 3:10

Chapter Ten

1. Through prayer. 1 Timothy 2:1
Reading a chapter out of the Bible every day.
Visiting someone every week in the Name of Christ for His glory.

Inviting at least one person for the church services.
2. In your own words.

Personal Notes

Personal Notes

Personal Notes

Personal Notes

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This edition of "Now That You Are A Christian" was produced especially for the armed forces of the United States of America. We know this book will give you a good start to a relationship of eternal proportions.

If you have any questions, please contact your unit chaplain:

