

Your New Christian Road Map

PASSION Australia
PASSIONAustralia.org

Congratulations! You have made a great choice when you chose to accept Jesus as your Savior. As you commit to loving and following Jesus and His Word, your life will never be the same.

As is the case with any journey we take, it's important to have a road map or perhaps today, a reliable GPS that can guide us along the way. Otherwise we tend to wander and get lost. So we are providing you with "Your New Christian Road Map." It's sort of like a GPS or "God Positioning System" if you will. It will assist you to grow in your new faith.

Like anything else that we start new, it's always good to have some guidance and direction that we can follow which introduces us to the new things we can expect to see and which keeps us on the right road.

"Your New Christian Road Map" has lots of practical information in it that you can start to use right away which will assist you in growing in your new faith in Christ.

Virtually everything in this packet was written by the folks at a Christian ministry called "PASSION Australia" and it is designed specifically for new Christians like you. They encourage the free use of this material on their website and we are grateful they are so willing to share it, so we can pass it along to you.

Their goal in writing this is that people would come to know Jesus Christ in a personal way, and build a solid foundation in Him and go on to faithfully follow Jesus all the days of their lives.

Two things are critically important for you to see right from the start.

1. Christians are made to live, worship and serve God together. Christianity isn't a solo adventure.

That is why it's critical for you to start going to Church on a regular basis and getting involved in things of ministry. This will greatly enhance your growth and will protect you against the temptations to fall away from your new choice of following Jesus.

It's important for you to find the congregation where God would like you to be and to grow. That may take trying a few different congregations before you find the one God would like you to join. None of us is perfect, so that means you'll never find the perfect congregation. All congregations have their flaws. Yet there are plenty of good Churches out there where you can grow and flourish in your new faith in Christ.

However, wherever it is, it should be a congregation that respects and teaches God's Word and that is conservative in their ways of following Christ. There are many congregations today that have basically rewritten The Bible to make The Scriptures say whatever they prefer them to say. This is a dangerous thing and will ultimately lead you further away from Christ rather than closer to Him.

2. Reading The Bible on a regular basis is very important.

Taking time to read The Bible daily is like regularly stopping to put fuel in your tank to get where you'd like to go. The Bible is "The Manual" that comes with the "product" and we are the "product." Reading "The Manual" really makes a difference.

However, for new Christians, The Bible can be tough to read and somewhat confusing. So we'd suggest that you get a translation of The Bible that is easier to read and written in plain English, versus some of the older translations that are more difficult to manage.

There are also special Bibles called "The One Year Bible" that come in different translations as well. These Bible are designed to have you read through the entire Bible in just one year. They have about 10-15 minutes of reading set up per day. They have a short reading each day from The Old Testament, The New Testament, The Psalms and Proverbs. If you follow the readings each day you will read the entire Bible in one year.

Getting started reading The Bible is important and you can do it. You'd be surprised at how much sense The Bible will make right away.

One thing you should do is read The Bible without feeling you have to grasp everything perfectly. That is why there are Bible studies and books and video series you can take advantage of to get a deeper meaning from Scripture. However, just reading The Bible yourself will give you so much more insight than you previously had about God and His Love for you. You will have questions for sure, but questions are natural and you should bring them to a pastor or Bible teacher who can assist you.

Setting a solid foundation is always vitally important. Jesus shares a story about this in The Bible in Luke 6:46-49. He talks about building a house on the solid foundation of

rock. He says when the storms come the house will stay standing because it is built on a firm foundation.

It is the same with us. If we are firmly anchored to Jesus, we will stand strong when the trials and struggles of life come our way too. For us as followers of Christ, this foundation is built on a personal relationship with Christ and walking with Him daily. It is also built on daily habits of prayer, reading the Bible, and regularly meeting with other people who share our faith. We do these things to connect with God and connect with other Christians. If you do them you will see how they bear lots of good fruit.

This booklet has a group of 9 simple studies on different topics. They include, Being Sure of Your Salvation, The Bible, Prayer, The Church, Serving God, Sharing Your Faith, The Holy Spirit, A Right View of Christ and Your Future as a Christian.

Each study offers a number of Scriptures to consider, some reflection questions for you to deal with (along with the answers to those questions printed at the end of the pamphlet) and an explanation of a key Bible word, followed by a simple prayer and some short passages of Scripture to memorize.

For best use of this booklet you might like to work through it with a person who has been a Christian for some time as they can share their experience with you. They were new Christians once too.

We hope and pray that you enjoy your time spent working through this booklet. Our desire is that you will lay a solid foundation in Christ and go on to walk with Him all the days of your life.

Here are 9 things that are so important for a new Christian like you.

1. ASSURANCE - Being Assured Of Your Salvation

What is salvation?

When the Bible talks about salvation it touches on two main areas.

1. Being rescued and saved by Jesus from the penalty of sin - which amounts to death and eternal separation from God.

2. Being in a right relationship with God - both now in this life and for all eternity.

In The Bible we see that when Jesus came and died on The Cross, He was there actually paying the price for our sins. He took the wrath and anger of God for our sins onto Himself. He literally went through there what it was like for each of us to spend eternity in hell. He literally took our place on The Cross. Therefore, His death opened the way for us to be forgiven of our sins and be eligible to go to Heaven one day.

You've now accepted that great Gift from Jesus and have asked Him to be Your Savior. Since He was raised on Easter and is alive today, He will live in you and guide you in your new walk of faith in Him.

When we ask Jesus Christ into our lives and we become a Christian, it is a start of a whole new journey of faith and life. The Bible tells us in I Corinthians 5:17 that the old life is gone and the new life has come. However, during our first few months of being a Christian it is quite normal to have periods of doubt about God or if we are really saved.

In these times it is very important to seek reassurance from The Bible.

Bible Verses On Salvation

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below. Circle or underline any key words that stand out as you read.

John 3:16 - 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 1:12 - Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

1 John 5:13 - 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.

Romans 10:13 - Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works, so that no one can boast.

Titus 3:5 - He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Reflection Questions To Consider

1. John 3:16 talks about God's great love for all mankind. What does it say we have as

Christians if we believe in Jesus Christ?

2. When we receive Jesus Christ into our lives, what does the Bible tell us we become? (John 1:12)
3. Romans chapter 10 talks about salvation. According to Romans 10:13 who can be saved?
4. Which of the reflection verses tells us we are saved by grace through faith?
5. Which reflection verse says God saved us by His mercy?
6. In 1 John 5:13 it says if we believe in the name of the Son of God we have something. What is that?

Key Word From The Bible

Savior - The word Savior means someone who saves a person or persons from something else, usually something which is harmful to them. In the context of Christianity, Jesus is the Savior. This means that He saves us and rescues us from the judgment of God The Father on people who have sinned against Him. His Name also means one who rescues. The Bible says we have all sinned against God. Sin is breaking God's law and doing what He said never to do. (1 John 3:4).

The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23) and separation from God (Isaiah 59:2). Therefore, without Jesus paying for the price of our sins, we are doomed to spend eternity separated from God in hell. Yet the other half of Romans 6:23 tells us that God's Gift of eternal life comes to us through our rescue by Jesus as He went to The Cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

Memory Verse

Read and memorize John 3:16-17.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I pray that You will assure me of my salvation. Help me to remember that I am saved because of what Jesus has done for me. I pray that when I have doubts about Your existence or my salvation that I will read the Bible and find assurance in Your Word. I ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

2. THE BIBLE – God’s Word To All People

Christians see The Bible as different from every other book because they believe that its writers were “inspired” by God when writing it (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Bible is not just one book, but instead a collection of sixty-six books which consist of 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. These books were written by 40 people over a 1600 year period from 1500 BC to about 100 AD.

For Christians, The Bible is God’s handbook for life. When we read The Bible it teaches us about God, about this world and about God’s great love for all of us. We also learn in The Bible how to live our lives and how we should relate to each other.

It is important for us as Christians to read The Bible, as it helps us to line our thinking up with God’s thinking and to live the life God wants us to live. It also helps us to grow strong in our faith and belief in God. Scholars have proven that The Bible is the most accurately translated and passed down document of all antiquity. Nothing else even comes close. God has given us The Bible to bless and lead us in our lives.

Bible Verses On The Bible

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below. Circle or underline any key words that stand out as you read.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Psalms 119:11 - I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Psalms 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalms 1:2-3 - Blessed is the man...[when] his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

James 1:22-24 - Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

Psalm 119:165 - Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble.

Psalm 119:130 - The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

Psalm 119:9 - How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.

Reflection Questions To Consider

1. The Bible teaches us many things about life. What four things does 2 Timothy 3:16-17 say the Bible is useful for?
2. Why is it important for us as Christians to keep God's Word in our hearts? (Psalm 119:11)
3. What are some of the things Psalm 1:2-3 tells us will happen if we read and meditate on God's Word?
4. What does James 1:22 tell us we are doing if we only listen to God's Word and not put it into practice?
5. Which reflection verse tells us we will have understanding as God's Word unfolds in our lives?
6. Psalms 119:9 talks about living according to God's Word. What does it say we will have as we do this?
7. What reflection verse talks about God's Word being a light to our path?

Key Word From The Bible

Inspiration – The word inspiration refers to the process of how God communicated His Word to the human writers of The Scriptures. Inspiration comes from the Hebrew and Greek words meaning “breathed.” God breathed into the writers of The Bible *exactly* what He wanted written. Inspiration gives us a picture of God imparting His truth to His people.

Memory Verse

Read and memorize 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Please help me to read the Bible every day. I pray that You will teach me all about You, about Your great love for me and how I should live my life. Please give me a real love for Your Word and a desire to study it and apply it to my life. I ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

3. PRAYER– Connecting With God

Prayer is one of the key aspects of the Christian life. Prayer helps us to communicate with God and develop our relationship with Him. As we pray, we bring our prayer requests to God and we ask Him to help us in the things we do.

We also ask God to bless those around us or we might ask God for wisdom or direction. Before long you will see the difference prayer makes in your life and in the lives of those around you.

Remember to keep your prayers simple, just like you are talking to a friend. You don't have to use big words to get God's attention. He is always ready to listen and hear your requests.

As you pray remember to be open to God so He can speak to you or prompt you to do something. Like all good communication, prayer is a two way thing.

Bible Verses On Prayer

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below. Circle or underline any key words that stand out as you read.

Philippians 4:6-7 - 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.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 - Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 5:7 - Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Jeremiah 29:11-12 - For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

James 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

Reflection Questions To Consider.

1. Philippians 4:6-7 tells us not to be anxious about anything, but to take our needs to God. What does God promise to give us when we do this?
2. Jeremiah 29:11-12 talks about calling upon God and praying to Him. What do these verses assure us about our prayers to God?
3. The Bible tells us that when we pray to the Father we should pray in someone's name. In whose name should we pray? (John 14:13)
4. 1 Peter 5:7 talks about praying to God and casting all of our worries on Him. Why do you think we should do this?
5. What does James 1:5 say we can ask God for in prayer?

Key Word From The Bible

Intercession – Intercession or intercessory prayer is the act of going to God on behalf of another person or group of people. In many ways intercessory prayer is like a lawyer talking to the judge on behalf of a client. In The Bible we see that Abraham interceded for Sodom, Moses interceded for the people of Israel and Jesus interceded for His disciples in John chapter 17. Christians are urged to intercede or pray for others as we have a special relationship with Christ and we can bring their needs to The Father through Him. We can also pray for ourselves which is called making petitions or requests to God on our own behalf. These are called prayers of petition and are perfectly normal and something God expects us to offer to Him during our prayer times.

Memory Verse

Read and memorize Philippians 4:6-7.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I thank You that love me and are concerned for me. Thank You that I can bring all of my prayers and petitions to You. I thank You that You always hear and answer my prayers. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

4. CHURCH – Meeting With Other Christians To Worship And Grow

The word Church refers to a gathering or assembly of people. In The Bible the word has two meanings - it refers to local groups of Christian believers and also all believers worldwide who follow Christ as their Lord and Savior.

God set up Church so we could be a part of a caring community, to have a support network and a place where we can grow in our faith together. It's there where we can also learn more about The Bible, prayer, serving God and living out our faith in our community. It is important for all Christians to meet together regularly as this helps to encourage each other as we wait for Jesus to return.

As someone once said, like coals in a fire, each coal gives to and takes heat from the others. If you separate a coal from the fire it will soon go out. Christians are meant by God to burn brightly together in fellowship with one another as His Church. Christianity was never designed by God to be lived alone apart from others. It's also interesting to note that in spite of however long a time a coal might be separated from the others, when it is put back in, it begins to warm up and glow again very quickly.

Bible Verses On Church

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below. Circle or underline any key words that stand out as you read.

Acts 2:42 - They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Hebrews 10:24 - And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Hebrews 10:25 - Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

John 13:34-35 – Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

Romans 12:4-5 - Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Galatians 6:10 - Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Colossians 1:17-18 - He [Jesus Christ] is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

Reflection Questions To Consider

1. Acts 2:42 talks about the early Christians and what their Church was like. What four things does it say they devoted themselves to when they met together?
2. According to Hebrews 10:24 what two things should we encourage each other towards?
3. Hebrews 10:25 talks about meeting together as Christians. What does it say we should not do?
4. In John 13:34-35 Jesus talks about one thing that will show people that we are His disciples when we meet together. What is that thing?
5. According to Matthew 18:20 how many people need to be present for Christ to be with them?
6. Which reflection verse talks about the Church being members of Christ's body with different functions?
7. In Galatians 6:10 it talks about doing good to all people. Who especially should we do good too?

Key Word From The Bible

Fellowship – In the Bible, fellowship often means the friendship Christians share because they love and follow Jesus. The Bible tells us that it is very important to meet together so we can serve and encourage each other. This fellowship may take place in

a traditional Church setting, in home groups, or in a house Church setting. The most important thing is that you meet with other Christians who share your faith so you can build each other up in your faith.

Memory Verse

Read and memorize Hebrews 10:25.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I pray that You will help me find a Church where I can meet with other Christians each week. I pray I can find a place where I can serve You, where I can make friends and have a place where I can grow in my faith and trust in You. I ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

5. SERVANT-HOOD - Serving God With Your Gifts

As Christians it is important for us to see ourselves as God's servants. A servant is a person who works for the comfort or protection of others. Jesus described Himself as a servant. He instructed His followers to be servants of each other rather than trying to have authority over each other. He instructed us to serve the world.

The Bible says each one should use whatever gift they has received to serve others. That means if we are good at something we should think of ways to use that gift to help others and make their lives better and to do it in a way that shares God's Love with them.

Jesus said that whatever we do to the least of people, it is like we are doing to Him. Mother Teresa said this about serving God - "I see Jesus in every human being. I say to myself, this is hungry Jesus, I must feed him. This is sick Jesus. This one has leprosy or gangrene; I must wash him and tend to him. I serve because I love Jesus."

Bible Verses On Serving

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below. Circle or underline any key words that stand out as you read.

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

2 Corinthians 9:7 - Each man [or woman] should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Colossians 3:23-24 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Mark 10:43-44 - Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.

Romans 12:4-5 - Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

1 Peter 4:10 - Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Galatians 6:10 - Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Philippians 2:6-7 – [Jesus] Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

Reflection Questions To Consider

1. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that God created us to do good works. When did He prepare these works for us to do?
2. Serving God is about being generous and giving in all we do and say. What sort of giver does God want us to be? (2 Corinthians 9:7)
3. According to Colossians 3:23-24 who are we really serving when we do our work?
4. The Bible tells us that Jesus came to serve and not be served. What should we do if we want to be great in God's eyes? (Mark 10:43-44)
5. How does 1 Peter 4:10 say we should do with our gifts and talents?
6. In Galatians 6:10 it talks about doing good to all people. Who especially should we do good too?
7. Which reflection verse talks about Jesus taking on the nature of a servant?

Key Word From The Bible

Servant – Jesus created the world and is King Of Kings And Lord Of Lords, yet He came here to this earth to serve us by giving His Life to pay for our sins so we could go to Heaven one day. As someone once said, “He made the choice that He would rather go to Hell to save us, than go back to Heaven without us.” Most King have servants. They are never servants themselves. Jesus shows us what it means to be a servant. In Matthew 20:28 He said He came not to be served but to serve. God has given each of us specific talents, skills and gifts and He call us to use them in serving Him and others in this world. Learning to be a servant is learning to be like Jesus.

Memory Verse

Read and memorize Colossians 3:23-24.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I pray that You will help me to serve You every day. I pray that all I do and all I say will bring honor and glory to You. I pray that You will help me to use my gifts for the good of those around me. I ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

6. EVANGELISM - Sharing your faith with others

Sharing your faith with others is called Evangelism. Evangelism is the act of telling the Good News of The Gospel of Jesus Christ to others.

For Christians, sharing our faith with others is very important. God wants us to be His witnesses and to tell people about His great Love for them. In The Bible it tells us that God has given us the task of helping other people to know Him.

The famous evangelist Billy Graham once said this about the task of evangelism. “My one purpose in life is to help people find a personal relationship with God, which, I believe, comes through knowing Christ.”

Bible Verses On Sharing Your Faith

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below. Circle or underline any key words that stand out as you read.

Matthew 28:18-20 - Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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."

Acts 1:8 - 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."

1 Peter 3:15 - But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Romans 10:13-14 - "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

Matthew 9:37-38 - Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Acts 4:20 - For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 - All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Reflection Questions To Consider

1. Matthew 28:18-20 tells of Jesus' last words before He ascended to heaven. It is often called the Great Commission. What three things did Jesus tell His followers to do for Him?

2. God doesn't expect us to tell people about Him in our own strength. What does Acts 1:8 say we will receive to be His witnesses? Where does that come from?
3. 1 Peter 3:15 tells us that we should always be prepared. What should we be prepared to do? What sort of attitude should we have as we do this?
4. In Romans 10:13-14 it says that sharing about Christ is an important part of the Christian life. Why do you think this is so?
5. Which reflection verse talks about the harvest of people being plentiful, but the workers or people who will share their faith are few?
6. In Acts 4:20 what two things did they speak about when sharing their faith?
7. Which reflection verse tells us that we are Christ's ambassadors with the task of reconciling the world to Himself?

Key Word From The Bible

Gospel – Gospel means “Good News”. The good news of The Bible is that God sent His Son Jesus to take the punishment for sins when He died on the cross for us. God then raised Him from the dead so that any person who believes in Him will have eternal life. The story of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is told in the first four books of the New Testament which are also called The Gospels.

Memory Verse

Read and memorize Matthew 28:18-20.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Please help me to share my faith with my family, friends and neighbors. I pray that when the opportunity comes that You will give me the courage, power and right words to say. I ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

7. The Holy Spirit – Our Helper In This Life

We see in The Bible that The Holy Spirit is the third Person of The Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When talking about The Holy Spirit it is important to realize that The Holy Spirit is a Person just like The Father and The Son.

The Bible tells us that The Holy Spirit is our helper as Christians. He helps us to live the Christian life effectively and helps us to become more like Christ in the way we think and live. The Holy Spirit lives right inside Christians. He's like an onboard guidance system for us. We also read in The Bible that The Holy Spirit is our comforter, source of strength, giver of Spiritual Gifts and teacher too.

Paul Little in his book "Know What You Believe" says this on page 78 about The Holy Spirit, "To be filled with the Spirit means we allow Him to occupy, guide, and control every area of our lives. His power can then work through us, making us effectively fruitful for God and flooding our hearts with His joy."

Bible Verses On The Holy Spirit

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below. Circle or underline any key words that stand out as you read.

Romans 8:11 - And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

John 14:26 - But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Acts 9:31 - Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

Acts 1:8 - 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."

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Romans 8:26 - In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

1 Corinthians 3:16 - Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

Romans 8:14 - Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Reflection Questions To Consider

1. Romans 8:11 tells us that The Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead and gives life to our bodies. Where does it say the Holy Spirit lives?
2. John 14:26 tells us that The Holy Spirit will help do two things for us about the things that Jesus said. What two things are they?
3. Acts 1:8 says that The Holy Spirit will help us to be God's witnesses. What does it say we will receive from The Holy Spirit to do this?
4. What two things did The Holy Spirit do for the churches in Judea, Galilee and Samaria as they enjoyed a time of peace and grew in numbers? (see Acts 9:31)
5. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us that the Holy Spirit helps us to live a good life and produce good fruit (good works). What nine things does it say The Holy Spirit helps us to do?
6. Who helps us to pray when we are not sure how to pray? (see Romans 8:26)
7. Which reflection verse talks about our bodies being the Temple of The Holy Spirit?

Key Word From The Bible

Spiritual Fruit – Although fruit is sometimes used in The Bible to describe food, it is commonly used to describe the actions produced in people's lives. The Fruit of The Spirit is mentioned in Galatians 5 refers to the virtues produced in the Christians life by The Holy Spirit. The Fruit of The Spirit is the result of the Holy Spirit's presence and working in the lives of maturing believers as they become more like Christ. The Fruit is the good works the Christian produces as a result of being saved and following Jesus and allowing The Holy Spirit to work in their lives.

Memory Verse

Read and memorize Galatians 5:22-23.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I thank You that You have given us The Holy Spirit to help, teach, guide, encourage and strengthen us. I pray that The Holy Spirit will work in my life to produce good fruit and He will help me to live for You each and every day. I ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen

8. CHRISTOLOGY - Having A Right View Of Jesus Christ

The word Christology means the “study of Christ.” It includes learning about Him and His works - what He has done, is doing and what He will do in the future. One very important part of living the Christian life is having a right view and belief about Jesus Christ. It is vitally important to understand that He is more than just an historical character who was a good person, a good teacher or the leader of an ancient religion.

We need to understand that Jesus is God and is all powerful, all knowing and all present. He has always existed and was involved in the creation of the world. It is also important to understand that Jesus came to live amongst us, that He died on The Cross for our sin and purchased our salvation and that He Is Risen and lives today and forever.

After His Resurrection He returned to Heaven to be with The Father. When we place our faith in Jesus Christ, He becomes not only our Savior, but also our Sovereign Lord and Master. We are under new ownership. We can only enjoy our new life in Christ as we daily seek His will and follow Him in obedience.

Bible Verses On Jesus Christ

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below. Circle or underline any key words that stand out as you read.

Isaiah 9:6 - For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

John 16:28 - I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.

Mark 2:10 - But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

John 4:25-26 - The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

John 10:32 - I have shown you many great miracles from the Father.

Luke 1:35 - The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

John 1:12 - Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

John 10:28 - I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

John 1:1-3 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Reflection Questions To Consider

1. What four titles does Isaiah 9:6 give to Jesus?
2. After Jesus had spent His time on earth, where does the Bible say He came from and where did He go back to? (see John 16:28)
3. What authority does Mark 2:10 say Jesus have on earth?
4. Who did Jesus identify Himself as when talking to the woman in John 4:25-26?
5. What did Jesus perform to show He was from the Father in heaven? (John 10:32).
6. In Luke 1:35 when the Angel spoke to Mary, how did he describe Jesus?
7. In John 10:28 what did it say Jesus gives us? Who does it say can snatch them from His hands?
8. Jesus is often described in the Bible as The Word. What things were made by and through Him? (John 1:1-3)

Key Word From The Bible

Messiah - Messiah is a Hebrew word that means "anointed one." It is similar to the Greek word "Christ" which also means "anointed." Jesus, as The Messiah, was anointed by God to be a Prophet, Priest, and King. As The Messiah, He has rescued and delivered the Christian from sin and hell and has given them eternal life. In that sense, messiah means deliverer, for He has delivered us from the ultimate evil. The Messiah was promised in the Old Testament.

Memory Verse

Read and memorize John 10:28.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I pray that I will have a right understanding of who Jesus is. Help me to always remember that He is my Lord, Savior and King. I pray that I will never forget that He died on The Cross for my sin and that He is the only way to salvation. I ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

9. THE FUTURE – What Does God Want Me To Do Now?

Now that you are coming to the end of this study program you might be wondering what's next? What does God want me to do with the rest of my life? These are great questions. Many Christians wonder what God wants them to do with their lives. Through prayer and study of God's Word, The Holy Spirit can lead us and direct us in the paths that are best for us in this life, including what we should be doing for a living, who to marry, how to best relate to and serve our family, friends and others.

In this final study we will look at a number of verses to see what The Bible says concerning God's will for our lives. They give us general principles to follow. This combined with daily prayer, Bible reading, fellowship with other Christians and walking closely with Jesus, will help us to know day by day what Jesus wants us to do.

Bible Verses On God's Will

Please read the following Bible verses and then answer the reflection questions below. Circle or underline any key words that stand out as you read.

Colossians 3:1-2 - Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Luke 10:27 - He [Jesus] answered: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Colossians 3:12 - Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Micah 6:8 - He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

2 Peter 3:18 - But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Psalms 37:4 - Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Reflection Questions To Consider

1. According to Colossians 3:1-2 what does God want us to set our hearts and minds on?
2. In Luke 10:27 God wants us to do two things with all of our heart, soul, strength and mind, what are they?
3. As Christians God wants us to clothe ourselves with five things. What are these five that can be found in Colossians 3:12?
4. In Proverbs 3:5-6 God talks about guiding us and making our paths straight. What three things are vital to this?
5. In Micah 6:8 God talks about what He requires from us. What three things does the Bible say about what God requires?
6. 2 Peter 3:18 God tells us to grow in two things. What are they?
7. Which reflection verse tells us that God prepared good works for us to do in advance?

Key Word From The Bible

Disciple – In The Bible the word used to describe a follower of Jesus is “disciple.” We see this word is used 262 times in the New Testament, compared with 26 times for the word “believer” or 3 times for the word “Christian.”

Being a disciple of Jesus is about committing to a way of life and of learning and growth. It goes past just believing in something, it is more about learning to follow and to head in a new direction. The ultimate goal for a disciple is to learn from The Bible, grow in their

faith and then pass it on to others. The last thing Jesus said on earth was for us to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).

Memory Verse

Read and memorize Luke 10:27.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I thank You that The Bible gives us information about how you want us to live our lives. I pray that You will help me to love and trust you with all of my heart. I pray that as I go about my daily life that You will help me to keep me focused on Heavenly things and that I will always look to You for guidance in all I do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Appendix 1 – Answers To The Reflection Questions

Following are the answers to the reflection questions. The answers are meant as a guide only. If you have words that mean similar things then that is just fine as well.

Study 1 – ASSURANCE.

1. God promises us eternal life.
2. We become children of God.
3. Everyone who calls out to Jesus can be saved.
4. Ephesians 2:8-9.
5. Titus 3:5.
6. We have eternal life.

Study 2 – THE BIBLE

1. Teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.
2. So we don't sin against God.
3. We will prosper in all the things we do.
4. We deceive ourselves.
5. Psalm 119:130.
6. We keep our lives pure.
7. Psalm 119:105.

Study 3 – PRAYER

1. God promises to give us peace.
2. That God will listen to us.
3. We should pray in Jesus' Name.
4. Because He cares for us.
5. We can ask for wisdom.

Study 4 – CHURCH

1. Devoted themselves to the teaching of the Apostles, Fellowship or meeting together, Breaking bread (taking communion), and Prayer.
2. Love and good deeds.
3. It says we should not give up meeting together with other Christians.
4. People will know we are His disciples because of the way we love each other.
5. Two or three people present.
6. Romans 12:4-5.
7. Everyone, but especially those in the family of God (other Christians).

Study 5 – SERVANT-HOOD

1. Even before He made the world He desired for us to do good works in our lives.
2. God wants us to be a cheerful, happy giver.
3. When we serve or work we are really serving the Lord.
4. We need to become a servant of others to be great.
5. Use our gifts to serve others.
6. Everyone, but especially those in the family of God (other believers).
7. Philippians 2:6-7.

Study 6 – EVANGELISM

1. Make disciples, baptize them, teach them what Jesus taught.
2. We will receive help and power from The Holy Spirit.
3. We should be prepared to answer questions about our faith and we should do this with gentleness and respect.
4. So people can hear about Jesus and salvation.
5. Matthew 5:37-38.
6. What they have seen and heard.
7. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.

Study 7 – THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The Holy Spirit lives inside of us.
2. The Holy Spirit teaches us and reminds us of the things Jesus said.
3. We will receive help and power from The Holy Spirit.
4. The Holy Spirit strengthened and encouraged them.
5. Love others, be joyful, have peace, be patient, show kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and be self-controlled.

6. The Spirit or The Holy Spirit.
7. 1 Corinthians 3:16.

Study 8 – CHRISTOLOGY

1. Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
2. Jesus came from The Father in Heaven and He went back to The Father.
3. Jesus had the authority to forgive sins.
4. Jesus identified Himself as The Messiah.
5. Jesus performed miracles to show He was from The Father.
6. Jesus was called The Son of God
7. No-one can snatch us out of Jesus' Hand.
8. All things we made through Jesus.

Study 9 – THE FUTURE

1. God wants us to set our hearts on minds on heavenly things.
2. Love God with all our heart and love our neighbor as ourselves.
3. Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
4. Trust God, lean on His understanding, acknowledge Him always.
5. Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God.
6. Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.
7. Ephesians 2:10.

Appendix 2 – Five Reasons We Can Trust The Bible

Many people wonder if they can really trust The Bible. That is a very good question because as Christians we base our whole faith on what The Bible says about God, life, salvation and heaven. Here are five reasons which show we can trust the Bible.

1. Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled

A prophecy is when a person speaks on God's behalf and tells what will happen in the future. Hundreds of Old Testament Prophecies from The Bible have come to pass. Many of these refer to the coming, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. A careful study shows that Jesus is the promised One that the prophets spoke about.

2. Archaeological Discoveries

Many of the places and cities mentioned in The Bible have been confirmed by archaeological discoveries and research. A number of these cities were destroyed by wars or the passing of time, but have been rediscovered during archaeological digs. It is interesting to note that the Bible is the only "Holy" book that consistently links events with places.

3. Unity of Theme

While it was written over many years by a number of authors (under God's guidance and inspiration) it has a unity of theme and purpose. About forty men were engaged in the writing of the Bible, during a period of about 1,600 years – that is, from 1500 B.C. to

A.D. 100. The Old Testament (OT) tells of creation, mankind's separation from God and God's coming Savior. The New Testament (NT) re-affirms the OT and points readers to Jesus Christ who was God's Savior for all mankind.

4. Original Manuscripts

Until the invention of printing in the middle of the 15th century, all copies of the Scriptures were made by hand. The ancient Jewish scribes copied The Old Testament with extreme care and many of these still in existence today. Evidence for the reliability of The New Testament text includes about 4,500 Greek manuscripts. The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in 1947 in a cave and confirmed much of the original writings that had been handed down over time were not changed or added to. In fact, The Bible is the most accurately preserved, translated and handed down ancient writing in the history of the world.

5. Biblical Claims

The Bible itself claims to be the Word of God. A number of verses refer to it being "Godbreathed" or inspired. 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." It is also interesting to note the phrase "Word of God" appears 48 times in the King James Version of the Bible.

6. Science

The Bible contains facts that were unknown to science at the time they were written, but are now accepted as scientific facts. For example, The Bible describes the earth as a sphere floating in space and describes the second law of thermodynamics.

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