



# Follow

## Leader's Guide

NEXT STEPS

# Introduction:

Welcome to your new faith journey.

Your decision to follow Christ and be in a relationship with Him is the best and most important decision. It is our Prayer that you continue to grow in a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Over the next few weeks as you work through this booklet, we hope your faith questions are addressed and answered and that you grow your knowledge and understanding of who God is, His love for you, what it means to serve Him as well as a number of other topics.

We want to help you progress in your newfound faith. The Bible is full of truth and wisdom for our daily lives, and the topics covered here are to get you started.

As you allow us to journey with you, continue to put your hope, faith and trust in God.

*Marvin Sinclair*

Pastor of Connections and Growth

Special thanks to Jeff Lauzon and Tricia Millar for their contribution to this project.

Paul compares individual believers to various body parts in the body. If every body part has a purpose, does every Christian also have a role to play within the church?

*Yes*

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How should Christians respond when other Christians suffer or are honoured?

*Suffer together; honoured together*

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Hebrews 10:24-25

What are we not to do according to these verses?

*Not stop meeting together*

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What should we do when we meet together?

*Encourage each other to do great things/ love*

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*and good deeds*

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As the return of Christ draws closer, is it more or less important for Christians to meet together?

*More important*

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In conclusion, we need to make time to meet regularly with other Christians. This allows us to encourage others as well as be encouraged ourselves. As Christians share their gifts, the church as a whole comes to maturity. God created us to be in relationship with Him and others. Find a connect group today!

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# Reasons to believe the Bible is the Word of God

Christianity is a revealed religion. We believe that God has given light to every man. We know there is a Creator because there is a creation. We see intelligent design in created things that points to a Creator. God has also given us a conscience. We all have a sense of right and wrong. The Bible tells us this is because we are moral beings created in the image of God. These things are referred to as general revelation.

God has also given us special revelation. God has acted in time and space and revealed Himself to mankind in various ways throughout history. God's special revelation is found in Jesus. Jesus was God incarnate. In the person of Jesus, God became a man. Jesus revealed the will of God to us and died for our sins on the cross.

Another area of special revelation is the Bible. God inspired people throughout history to record His dealings with man. Rather than be left to rely on subjective opinions, the Bible gives us an objective standard. Through the Bible we can learn about God and see Him revealed and presented as He really is. The Bible also tells us how God desires us to live. The Bible is foundational to living the Christian life. We need to read it daily and put its teachings into practice. Let's take a brief look at some reasons for trusting the Bible.

## 1) The Bible claims to be the Word of God

The fact that the Bible claims to be the Word of God does not make it so. However, it is a starting point.

Matthew 18:19-20

Does Jesus teach there is power in prayer when believers pray in unity?

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*Absolutely*

Where is Jesus when 2 or 3 are gathered in his name?

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*He is with them*

John 17:20-23

Did Jesus desire that believers be united?

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*Yes, that we would be one*

What happens when believers walk in unity?

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*People will see it and know it is a God-thing*

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Acts 2:42-47

According to verse 42, what did the disciples do after they responded to the gospel?

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*They spent time together, being taught by the apostles, and praying*

---

What did the early church do for those who had need?

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*Fill the need*

Other than the temple, where did the early disciples meet?

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*In homes—home groups*

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

What does Paul use to illustrate the unity of believers?

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*The human body*

## Connecting

God has created mankind to be dependent. First and foremost, we have a need for God. God has also created us with a need for each other. Apart from a sexual union between a man and a woman, the human race would cease to exist. God's plan for believers is that they be one in love and purpose. Developing relationships with other believers, is necessary to our spiritual growth and maturity. One of the greatest joys of the Christian life, is being part of a loving community with other believers. Let's see what the Bible says about connecting with others.

Genesis 2:15-18

In verse 18, what did God say was not good for man?

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*To be alone*

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1 Samuel 18:1-3

Jonathan is a great example of someone who was a faithful friend. Jonathan loved David as much as which person?

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*Loved him as much as himself*

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1 Samuel 23:15-18

David became greatly discouraged knowing that Saul was out to kill him. Jonathan offered him a word of encouragement. Who did Jonathan help David find strength in?

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*He helped him find strength in God*

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Proverbs 27:17

What does it mean for one man to sharpen another?

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*To help, challenge, grow together*

---

1 Thessalonians 2:13

According to this verse, is the Word of God of human or divine origin?

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*Divine origin*

---

2 Timothy 3:16

What does this verse say is true of all Scripture?

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*It is from God and very useful to us*

---

2 Peter 1:20-21

According to these verses, who inspired the prophets of the Bible?

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*They spoke from God and were carried by the*

*Holy Spirit*

---

### 2) The Bible gives moral direction

The Bible is not the only book that provides moral guidance, though we know that it should because we all have a sense of right and wrong. Even people who do not claim to believe in God, constantly make statements about things being either right or wrong. We instinctively know there is such a thing because God has created us in His image and has given us a conscience.

Romans 2:14-16

According to these verses, what has God given us that guides us to His moral law?

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*Our conscience*

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Isaiah 45:19

What does this verse say God declares?

*Truth and what is right*

---

Isaiah 48:17-18

Does God desire what is best for us?

*Absolutely*

---

What do we experience when we obey God's commands?

*Peace in our lives and solid direction*

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Psalms 119:66-67

What does the author of this verse ask of God?

*Wants knowledge and good judgement*

---

### **3) The Bible answers life's ultimate questions**

At one point in time, every thinking person asks certain foundational questions about their existence. Where do I come from? Why am I here? What is the purpose of life? What happens to me when I die? The Bible offers answers to all of these questions. This would make sense if the Bible is inspired by God to guide us.

Genesis 1:1

Where does this verse say the universe came from?

*God who created everything*

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### **Inviting others**

John 1:43-51

When Nathanael was skeptical about Jesus, how did Philip respond?

*"Come and see", Give Jesus a try*

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In conclusion, we are all called to share our faith and play a part in the great commission. There are several ways in which we can do it. We do this by being salt and light, through the way we live our lives before others. We can verbally share the Gospel. We can share our testimony. We can invite others to church services, or other Christian gatherings. We should always pray for the salvation of others, and make sure that we are motivated by love.

What standing do people have before God if they don't believe in Jesus?

*Whoever doesn't believe stands condemned*

*(vs. 18)*

According to this passage, why do people refuse to come to Jesus?

*They love darkness more than light*

Acts 17:29-31

According to verse 30 who does God call to repent?

*Everyone, everywhere*

Romans 5:17

What gift do we receive when we place faith in Christ?

*Eternal life*

### Sharing your testimony (story)

Acts 26:1-29

Who shared his testimony in this passage?

*Paul*

According to verse 29, what did Paul desire for those who heard his testimony?

*To become what he was*

Genesis 1:26-27

Where does this verse say mankind came from?

*From God and made to reflect His image*

Isaiah 45:12

Who in this verse claims to have created the universe and mankind?

*God*

Acts 17:24-28

According to this passage, does God want people to seek him?

*Yes*

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

Who are we called to live for?

*Christ*

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

What is mankind called to do?

*Keep His commandments*

John 11:25-26

What did Jesus mean when He said, a person who believes in Him will live even though he dies?

*We can have eternal life spiritually, even though we die physically*

John 14:1-3

Jesus says He will prepare a place for us in His Father's house. Where is His Father's house?

In Heaven

Revelation 21:8

According to this verse, where will those who fail to repent and trust in Christ end up?

The lake of burning sulfur, the second death

#### 4) Fulfilled prophecies

Many people try to predict the future and fail. Only God knows the future. That being the case, the fact that the Bible contains many fulfilled prophecies suggests divine inspiration. No other book contains countless fulfilled prophecies like the Bible. Space only permits me to share a few.

Isaiah 46:10

Who proclaims the end from the beginning?

God

Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:18-25

What prophecy concerning Jesus was made and fulfilled in the above passages?

His virgin birth and that He would be divine

Micah 5:2 and Matthew 2:1-6

Where does this prophecy say Jesus would be born?

Bethlehem

Matthew 5:13-16

What does it mean to be salt and light?

It means that through God we can make a difference in the world where we live

2 Corinthians 3:2-3

What does this passage mean, when it says that believers are known and read by everyone?

People see how we act and hear what we say

#### Proclaiming the gospel

While it is true that we are witnesses to others through our lifestyles, we can also take the initiative and share the Gospel with others verbally. Let's look at a few passages from the Bible regarding the message of the Gospel.

Romans 3:9-20, 23

According to this passage who is sinful and falls short of God's glory?

All people have sinned

John 3:16-21

What motivated God to give His Son?

His love for each person—the world

Who did God give His Son for?

Us



## Sharing your faith

Sharing our faith with others is part of the Christian life. Sharing our faith in Jesus is done in obedience to the great commission. Jesus instructed His followers to go into all the world and make disciples. Let's look at what the Bible says about sharing our faith.

Matthew 28:18-20

According to Jesus what is the mission of the church?

*Make disciples of all nations*

---

Who is the Gospel for?

*It is for everyone*

---

John 6:44

What needs to happen for a person to come to Jesus?

*They need to be drawn to Jesus*

---

1 Timothy 2:1-4

According to this passage who does God want to see saved?

*The good news is for all people*

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### Being salt and light

When it comes to sharing our faith, we are not only called to go out and witness. We are also called to be witnesses through the transformed lives that we live.

Isaiah 53:1-12

Who does this chapter refer to 700 years in advance?

*Jesus*

---

Luke 21:20-24

Jesus prophesied this. When was it fulfilled?

*In 70 AD when Titus conquered Jerusalem*

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Ezekiel 11:16-17

What prophecy is made in these verses?

*Rebirth of Israel*

---

When was it fulfilled?

*May 14, 1948*

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### 5) The message of the Bible transforms lives

People throughout history, right up to the present, have had their lives positively transformed by the message of the Bible. This common experience is shared by people who apply the Bible to their lives regardless of their backgrounds. A similar transformation has been experienced by rich and poor, highly or poorly educated, men and women, young and old, famous and unknown. Those who have faith in Christ and live out the Bible's teachings have experienced new joy, peace, and purpose for living.

Isaiah 55:11

What happens to God's Word after He sends it out?

*It will accomplish what it was meant to*

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Psalms 119:9

What is the result of living according to God's Word?

*Living the right way*

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Romans 10:17

What produces faith in a person?

*Hearing the Word of God*

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## **6) The testimony of the writers**

The writers of the Bible were often eye witnesses of the events they wrote about. In some cases they were not and received revelation from God. When it comes to the gospels, the information was compiled by, or obtained from, eye witnesses. Not a single Biblical writer ever recanted on what he wrote. Jesus' disciples all died as martyrs with the exception of John. None of them ever changed their account of the life of Christ.

Luke 1:1-2

Who did Luke obtain his information from?

*Eye witnesses and servants of the Word*

---

2 Peter 1:16

How did Peter obtain his information about Jesus?

*In person*

---

1 John 1:1-3

How did John obtain information about Jesus?

*With his own eyes*

---

## **7) The unity of the Bible**

The Bible is a library of 66 books. The Bible was written over a

1 John 1:9

What does God faithfully do if we sincerely confess our sins?

*Forgives us and gives us righteousness*

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Psalms 103:13-14

In what way is God said to be like an earthly father?

*His compassion for each of us*

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In verse 14, what causes God to show us compassion?

*"He knows us so well, He created us "*

---

*He remembers that we are dust*

---

In conclusion, Christians are not powerless when facing temptation. God has given us tools to win the spiritual battle we are in. God desires what is best for us. Walking in holiness brings peace and pleases God. Avoiding sin also keeps us from many self-inflicted wounds. If a Christian does sin, we can confess it, and rest assured that God forgives us, and restores us to fellowship with Him.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Why can Jesus relate to us when we battle temptation?

*He was tempted in every way—but didn't sin*

---

What will God give us in our time of need?

*Strength—mercy and grace to face it*

---

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

What are we to take captive and make obedient to Christ?

*Our thoughts*

---

Proverbs 3:7

According to this verse, rather than be wise in our own eyes, what should we do?

*Have a holy respect for God (fear Him) and  
shun evil*

---

Isaiah 48:17-18

According to this passage, does God desire what is best for us?

*Absolutely*

---

What is the result of obedience to God's commands?

*Peace in our lives and overall well-being*

---

Is there still hope for us if we fail and sin? *Yes*

period of about 1600 years. It has about 40 different authors, and was written on 3 different continents, Asia, Africa and Europe. The Bible deals with many controversial subjects and yet there is a wonderful unity of thought. The Bible reads as if it was written by one person. The miraculous unity of the Bible suggests divine inspiration. The various writers were all inspired by the same Holy Spirit. No other book compares. Imagine getting 40 different people, living in different parts of the world, in different periods of history, to write on numerous controversial subjects, to produce a book with such unity of thought that it seems to be from one author. The Bible is unique.

### 8) Jesus believed the Bible

Although only the Old Testament existed when Jesus walked the earth, He constantly quoted it as authoritative. When reading the Gospels it is clear that Jesus believed the Old Testament events to be historically accurate. Jesus referred to creation account, the flood of Noah's days, and Jonah being swallowed by a great fish, as literal events that took place in the past. Jesus is God incarnate, that is, God in human flesh, and He believed the Bible (Old Testament at that time) was the Word of God. Since Jesus is God and our Lord, we should hold to the same view He had about the Word of God.

In conclusion, there is ample evidence that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We should read it and obey it. We should hold the Bible to be trustworthy and use it as our final authority. The Bible is our most reliable source of information regarding what God is really like and how He wants us to live.

## Prayer and Bible Reading

One of the keys to Christian life is spending time with God on a daily basis. Biblical Christianity is about having a personal relationship with God. Like all other relationships, we must invest time for it to grow and deepen. We must regularly communicate with God. The best way to do this is to pray and read the Bible.

God created mankind to be in a relationship with Him.

According to Genesis 1:27 what did God create in His image?

People - us

What does it mean to be created in the image of God?

The ability to have relationship with him

Based on Colossians 1:15-16 who was mankind created for?

For God and for relationship with Him

### Prayer

Prayer is simply talking to God. God desires that we walk in relationship with Him and talk to Him daily in prayer. Let's look at what Jesus taught about prayer.

Matthew 6:5-15

In Matthew 6:5-6, what does Jesus say our focus should be in prayer?

Focus on God. Not about us, or trying to impress

others

## Resisting temptation

Every Christian faces temptation. It is not a sin to be tempted. We only fall into sin when we yield to a temptation. God equips us to overcome temptation by his Spirit that dwells within us, and through His Word. Let's look at what the Bible says on this topic.

James 1:13-15

Does God tempt us to do evil?

Not at all

According to verse 14, how are we tempted?

When we are dragged away by our personal desire

1 Corinthians 10:13

Are all temptations common to mankind?

Yes, we experience similar things

In what way is God faithful to us when we face temptation?

He will not allow more than what we can handle

Matthew 4:1-11

What did Jesus use when resisting temptation?

He used Scripture

Matthew 26:41

What did Jesus tell the disciples to do to avoid falling into temptation?

Be watchful and pray

What should our tithe be based on?

*Your earnings*

---

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

What kind of a giver does God love?

*cheerful*

---

How does God bless cheerful givers?

*Generous blessing as we generously give*

---

What is given to God as a result of our generosity?

*Thanksgiving*

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Giving generously is a form of worship.

In conclusion, let us tithe systematically, cheerfully, and generously in obedience to God. God will always provide for our needs as we put Him first.

According to Matthew 6:7-8, do we need to repeat things over and over in order to be heard by God?

*No—God hears us when we pray*

---

If God already knows what we need before we ask Him, why does He want us to ask Him?

*To build relationship and grow our faith in him*

---

Who does Jesus say we should address our prayers to in Matthew 6:9?

*Our Heavenly Father*

---

How should we treat the name of God?

*With reverence and respect*

---

Whose will should we pray to be done on earth based on Matthew 6:10?

*Not ours but God's*

---

In Matthew 6:11-13, what three things does Jesus say we should pray for?

*1. Food for today/our needs*

---

*2. Forgiveness*

---

*3. Freedom from temptation*

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According to Matthew 6:14-15, what must we do if we want God to forgive our sins?

*Ask God to forgive us, but we must forgive others too*

---

Mark 11:22-23

How does Jesus say we should pray?

*With faith and without doubt*

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Who does Jesus say we should place our faith in?

*God our Creator*

---

Luke 6:12-13

Why did Jesus spend the night in prayer?

*He had a big decision to make, wanted His Heavenly  
Father's direction*

---

What does this teach us about making important decisions?

*Pray about them*

---

Luke 6:27-28

What did Jesus say we should do for those who mistreat us?

*Love and pray for them*

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Luke 18:1-8

What does the story of the persistent widow teach?

*Be persistent in our prayers*

---

James 4:3

According to this verse why are some prayers not answered?

*Our motives are wrong*

---

Where does Jesus say we should store up our treasures?

*Heaven*

---

What is the difference between storing up treasure on earth versus storing up treasures in heaven?

*Decay & destruction vs. eternal reward*

---

What connection did Jesus make between our heart and our treasure?

*You will give more attention and focus to what you  
treasure*

---

Why did Jesus say we cannot serve both God and money?

*Have to love one or the other*

---

Luke 11:42

The Pharisees faithfully gave a tenth to God. What did Jesus say they failed to do?

*Its just one component of our Christian Journey. They  
neglected justice and the love of God*

---

Did Jesus tell the Pharisees they should not tithe?

*No—but have proper perspective*

---

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

How often should we set aside a sum of money for giving?

*Regularly, when you get paid*

---

What do these verses promise if we honour God with our finances?

*Blessings—who doesn't want that?*

Malachi 3:6-12

In what area are the Israelites charged with robbing God?

*Their finances*

What is the solution to this?

*Give generously*

Where should Christians tithe?

*Their local church, where they attend*

Why not to other churches or organizations?

*The local storehouse is where they are spiritually fed*

What were the Israelites promised if they repented and gave God their tithes?

*Abundance*

### Tithing in the New Testament

Matthew 6:19-24

According to Jesus, where should we not look to store up our treasures?

*Earth*

### Reading the Bible

The Bible is God's Word to us in written form. It is our instruction manual and reveals to us how God would have us live. The most common way in which God speaks to us is through the Bible. Knowing what the Bible says prevents us from having a wrong understanding of who God is.

Matthew 4:4

What did Jesus say man lives by?

*The Word of God*

What is the difference between natural and spiritual food?

*One is for our physical being; the other our spiritual*

What nourishes the soul?

*God's Word*

If you feed your physical body daily, how often should you feed your eternal soul?

*Just as often...*

Luke 8:4-15 – The story of the Sower

In Luke 8:12 what happens to those who receive the seed along the path?

*They hear, but then it is taken away*

How does the devil take the word from their hearts?

*Steals it, confuses them*

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In verse 13 what happens to those who receive the seed on rocky ground?

*They receive the Word, but it has no way to take*

*root; then they fall away*

---

In verse 14 what happens to the seed that falls among thorns?

*It takes root but is choked out by worries, money,*

*pleasure. It doesn't mature.*

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In verse 15 what three things are true of those who receive the seed on good soil?

*They are noble, retain it and persist*

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---

Mark 7:6-8

According to Jesus, which carries more authority, human traditions or God's commandments?

*God's commands!*

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---

Luke 11:27-28

What does Jesus say brings a blessing in these verses?

*Hearing God's Word and obeying it*

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## Tithing

Tithing is the practice of giving a tenth of one's income to God through the local church. Although tithing was originally part of the law of Moses (taught in the Old Testament), the principle of putting God first in our finances remains valid. When we tithe, we acknowledge that God is the source of all that we have and receive. When tithing, we also demonstrate how important it is to us to invest in the kingdom of God. Tithing does not make you a better person, but God promises to bless us when we put Him first. What we do with our money reveals what is most important to us. Let's look at what the Bible says about this topic.

### Tithing before the law of Moses

Genesis 28:20-22

Before the law of Moses was given, Jacob made a vow to God if He protected and provided for him. What did Jacob say he would give God if God watched over him?

*Tenth*

---

### Tithing under the law of Moses

Leviticus 27:30-34

Under the law of Moses, how much were the Israelites to give to God?

*One tenth*

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Proverbs 3:9-10

According to these verses what are we to honour the Lord with?

*All that we have*

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---



What important lesson can we learn from this passage?

*Serve, putting God first, have a proper attitude and right motive. Ministry flows from relationship.*

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In conclusion, let us make time to use the gifts and talents God has provided us with to serve Him through the local church and elsewhere. God desires that we place Him first in our lives. Part of this means taking time to serve. We grow spiritually when we follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and make serving others an important part of our lives. God will bless you as you bless others in serving.

John 8:51

What promise did Jesus give to those who obey His word?

*They will never see death; Spiritually, they will live forever*

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John 12:47-50

What did Jesus say would judge people in the end?

His Word, given to Him through God the Father

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In conclusion, may the Lord richly bless you as you spend time with Him daily in prayer and Bible reading. Daily devotions will become the most exciting part of your day as you walk in relationship with the God who created you for Himself.

# Water Baptism

Why should a Christian be baptized? Jesus commanded and modeled it for us. It is a step of obedience and was practiced by the early church. Water baptism is a public and outward sign of the inward work God is doing in your life.

Matthew 3:1-17

According to verse 6 what accompanied the water baptism of these people?

*They confessed sins and were baptized*

In verse 8, what does it mean to produce fruit in keeping with repentance?

*Act and behave in a way that shows how God has changed your life*

In verse 11, why did John say he baptized with water?

*For repentance*

Why was Jesus baptized when he had never sinned?

*To lead by example, to disciple others, fulfill righteousness*

How many members of the trinity were present at Jesus' baptism?

*Three*

Mark 10:42-45

How does one become great in God's eyes?

*Serve others gladly*

Jesus is our example. Did Jesus come to serve or be served?

*He came to serve—we need to do the same*

Ephesians 6:7-8

Who are we told to serve wholeheartedly? Who are we truly serving?

*Serve as if serving God Himself*

Who will reward us for the good things we do?

*God will*

Luke 10:38-42

Was it wrong for Martha to be serving?

*No—but with the wrong attitude and approach*

Why was Mary commended by Jesus?

*She made a better choice*

Romans 12:6-8, 1 Peter 4:7-11

Do all Christians have the same gifts?

No

What should we do with the gifts God has given us?

Use them. He has created us for this

Let's look at what Jesus said about serving.

John 13:1-17

Was Jesus just being practical when washing the disciples feet, or was he trying to teach a spiritual lesson?

Teaching servant leadership

What did Jesus mean when he said we should wash one another's feet?

An attitude and approach to life of putting others

first

In verse 17, what did Jesus say would bring a blessing?

Obedience to Him and His Word

John 12:26

Whose example did Jesus say we must follow?

His

Who did Jesus say the Father would honour?

Those that serve Jesus

Matthew 28:19-20

Who commands those who believe the gospel to be baptized?

Jesus commands us

When was water baptism performed according to Acts 2:37-41?

After asking for forgiveness and repenting of sins

Romans 6:3-4

In what way does water baptism allow us to identify with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus?

We die to our sin, (put under water) and rise up out

of the water like Jesus from the grave to walk in

newness of life.

In conclusion, every person who repents (turns from their sins and asks for forgiveness) and places faith in Jesus, should be baptized in water. Water baptism is a step of obedience that pleases God.

## The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit lives in every Christian. The Bible also teaches that we can be filled with the Holy Spirit and receive an extra amount of power for service. Let's look at what the Bible says on this topic.

### The Holy Spirit in the old covenant

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit would come upon certain people to empower them for service. However, the Holy Spirit did not come upon all people and permanently stay with them as in the new covenant. Moses received the law from God and was empowered by the Holy Spirit. At one point God decided to empower some elders as well so that Moses would have others to share the burden of leading the people.

Numbers 11:24-29, Numbers 24:2

What happened to the elders when the Holy Spirit came upon them?

*They prophesied*

What was Moses' reaction to the Holy Spirit coming upon the elders?

*He knew what was happening and wished all people would experience what they were experiencing*

## Serving

Every Christian is expected to serve. God has equipped each of us with talents, skills, and spiritual gifts. God desires for us to use the various gifts He has given us to serve. When we serve, we are following in the footsteps of Jesus. We also grow in spiritual maturity and please God when we make serving in the church a priority in our lives. Let's turn to the Bible to see what it says about serving.

Ephesians 2:10

According to this verse what were we created in Christ Jesus to do?

*Created to do good works*

When did God plan for us to do good works?

*When He created us, all our lives*

Ephesians 4:11-13

According to this passage who does Jesus give to help equip his people?

*Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers*

Who is to be equipped for works of service?

*Christians—His people*

What is the result of God's people being equipped for service?

*Maturity and attaining fullness in Christ*

In conclusion, we should continuously seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We can simply go to God in prayer and ask Him to fill us with His Spirit as we surrender our lives to Him. God wants the best for each of His children and desires for us to be empowered by the Holy Spirit for service. God also desires that the fruit of the Spirit be evident in our lives.

## The Holy Spirit in the new covenant

Acts 1:1-8

What new baptism did Jesus refer to in Acts 1:5?

*Baptism in the Spirit*

What do we receive when the Holy Spirit comes on us?

*Power to be His witnesses—to tell others about Him and His love*

Acts 2:1-13

What happened to the disciples when they were filled with the Holy Spirit?

*They began to speak in other tongues*

Acts 2:14-21

Who does God promise to pour out His Spirit on in the last days?

*All people. It can be for every believer*

Acts 2:37-39

What are the conditions to receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit?

*Turning from our sin—Repentance. An openness to receive*

Was the promise of the Holy Spirit only for that generation?

*No—all generations to come*

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Acts 8:14-21

Why did Peter and John pray for the new believers in Samaria?

*That they might receive the Holy Spirit*

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How do we know that there was a visible sign of the Holy Spirit coming upon the Samaritans?

*Simon wanted to buy the ability so that when he laid hands on people, they would receive*

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Why did Peter say that Simon could have no part in the act of laying on of hands?

*His heart and attitude were not right*

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Acts 10:34-46

Does God show favoritism?

*No—it can be for all*

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How did the Jewish believers know that the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured upon the Gentiles?

*Heard them speaking in tongues and praising God*

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Speaking in tongues is the Biblical pattern for those who are baptized in the Holy Spirit. Speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience will provide you with a new power for Christian service. While there is only one baptism in the Holy Spirit, there are many fillings.

Ephesians 5:18-20

What are we commanded to be filled with?

*Filled with God's Spirit*

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When a person is drunk, they are said to be under the influence or control of alcohol. In contrast, what is the result of being filled with the Holy Spirit?

*Under God's control and influence with a heart of*

*Gratitude*

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Galatians 5:16-25

The fruit of the Spirit is the best evidence that we are walking in the Spirit. List the 9 fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23.

*Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,*

*faithfulness, gentleness and self-control*

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