

MORE POWER TO YA'

A Guide For Beginning Your Journey With Christ
Practical Steps to Becoming Faithful



More Power to Ya' - Introduction

This book has been compiled with two purposes in mind. The first is to provide you with a solid foundation of Scriptural instruction for living an overcoming Christian life. The second purpose, which should be a direct result of living the overcoming life, is to put at your disposal a very effective witnessing, discipling, and mentoring manual.

The title of this booklet is taken from the “Petra” release of several years ago, *More Power to Ya'* (see the lyrics on the next page). This song title expresses my personal prayer and desire for you, that from this point forward you will allow the Holy Spirit to give MORE POWER TO Ya'!!!

The “*Now I'm a Christian...*” chapters, and the “*Trying to Find Your Way*” chapter are based on tracts printed several years ago by Evangelism Literature for America, a division of the Assemblies of God Men's Ministries Department. All other chapters are “original”, with most of the help coming from the expert manual on Christian living, the Holy Bible. You will also find a list of Scriptures to help in specific areas of life, as well as a page listing the 16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God.

May God bless you as you read and use this book. May it provide you a tool to assist in more meaningful Bible study, witnessing, and mentoring other young Christians. If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask an older, more mature Christian. Remember, that's what we're here for - to help one another on this journey to Heaven.

God bless you beyond anything you could ever imagine or hope for,

Rev. Randall N. Floyd
Pastor, and Fellow Traveler to Heaven

NOTE: Bible versions quoted are abbreviated as follows: King James Version (KJV); New International Version (NIV); New Living Translation (NLT). All quotes are from the NLT, unless otherwise stated.

More Power to Ya'

As sung by "Petra"

CCLI 1626889

*You say you've been feeling weaker, weaker by the day
You say you can't make the joy of your salvation stay
But good things come to them that wait
Not to those who hesitate
So hurry up and wait upon the Lord*

(Chorus)

*More power to ya'
When you're standing on His word
When you're trusting with your whole heart in the message you have heard
More power to ya'
When we're all in one accord
They that wait upon the Lord,
they shall renew, they shall renew their strength*

*Jesus promised His disciples He'd give strength to them
Jesus told them all to tarry in Jerusalem
When they were all in one accord
The power of His Spirit poured
And they began to turn the world around*

*So be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might
Put on all His armor and fight the good fight
In all of our weakness, He becomes so strong
When He gives us the power and the strength to carry on*

A Christian? What is it? And how do I become one?

Most people will tell you that a Christian is someone who believes in Jesus. Well, they're partially correct, but fail to grasp what a Christian really is.

A Christian is someone who is not perfect, but forgiven. He has realized that he is a sinner (someone separated from God because of our tendency to do those things that displease God, and are really not in our best interest), and who has asked Jesus to forgive him and be his Lord and Savior. This is known as *repentance* - feeling sorry for what you've done and making a complete turnaround in your behavior.

A real Christian believes Jesus is his personal Savior, not just a deity or life force who is looking for a way to make life boring, dull, un-fun, or not worth living. In fact, Jesus' desire is to "give life in all its fullness.", (John 10:10).

In short, a Christian is a sinner who has had his life cleaned (spiritually speaking) by the blood Jesus shed while on the cross of Calvary. No, a Christian is not perfect, just forgiven, and journeying day by day to Heaven.

How Do I Become One?

Here's what the Bible says we must do:

1. Realize and admit you are a sinner.
(Romans 3:23) For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard.
2. Understand the consequences of your decision.
(Romans 6:23) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.
3. Know that God really does love YOU!
(John 3:16) "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
4. Confess your sins to HIM (Jesus).
(1 John 1:9) But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong.
5. Open the door of your heart (that part of you that controls your emotions, character, and feelings; not your blood pumping organ), and invite Jesus to come into your life. Jesus says, in Revelation 3:20: "Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends."

Now that you have decided to make this great decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, you simply need to pray and ask Him into your heart and life. If you're a little unsure about what to say, just use the prayer below as a model. Remember, it is more than just saying the words that matters, it's being sincere in your

heart and mind as you say them; you are talking to a personal God, and you should approach Him as both God and friend.

Salvation Prayer

Dear Jesus, I admit and confess that I am a sinner. I confess all my sins to You, and confess that I have come up short of your holy standard. Wash my life clean by the blood you shed on the cross of Calvary. Help me to make a complete turn around in my life so that I will begin doing those things, and exhibiting those attitudes that please You. Thank you for the love You have for me, even though I don't deserve it. Please come into my life and live forever, helping me to grow more like you each and every day. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer from a sincere heart, you have just been adopted into the family of God! Welcome!!! Now, to help you in your new way of life, let me give you a few suggestions to put into practice right away. Begin reading your Bible every day! Don't worry if you don't completely understand everything you read. That knowledge will come over the journey. Also, attend a Bible believing and Bible teaching church regularly. Here you will find teaching and encouragement, as well as your new family members - Christian brothers and sisters. Also, continue on through this book. It's like a travel guide that will help you find the right "maps" in the Bible to get along on this journey to Heaven. And remember, God's desire, and my prayer, is that each day you walk with Jesus will bring MORE POWER TO Ya'!

Now I'm a Christian

Now, I'm a Christian - a person whose sins have been forgiven by God and who lives according to the teachings of Jesus Christ, who said, "If you love me, obey my commandments.", (John 14:15).

You Have Made the Right Choice

Your decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, and to join yourself to worldwide millions of Christian people was the wisest choice you have ever made. You will be welcomed to the Body of Christ as you worship God regularly in the church of your choice.

One of the first things you will notice, now that you are a Christian, is the change in your nature. In response to your repentance for sin and commitment to follow Jesus, the Lord has forgiven your sins and made you as clean and innocent toward God as if you were a newborn babe. Jesus called this being "born again". He said: (John 3:3) ... "I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God." Another passage of Scripture says: (2 Corinthians 5:17) "What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!"

As a "new person" in Christ, you will now be a different kind of person than you were before. You will begin to live a clean, fruitful, and worshipful life dedicated to Jesus Christ and what He desires for your life.

How Can I Be Sure I'm a Christian?

You probably have observed already how confident other believers are in their Christian faith. There are three ways you can know for certain that you are a Christian:

1. You can know by FAITH.

Faith is knowing and having confidence in something for which you may see no immediate physical evidence. We believe in God even though we cannot see Him. We believe in the Bible as the Word of God, even though it was written thousands of years ago.

The Bible tells us: (Acts 16:31) ... "Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with your entire household." This is a positive, Biblical foundation on which you can build your faith.

The verse John 3:16 (quoted on page 3) says that we can have eternal life if we believe. This is a belief of both mind and heart; a sincere belief that what the Bible says is true. If you will exercise this kind of belief, you can know by faith that you are a Christian.

2. You can know by FACT.

If you have repented of your sins and accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, you can know by fact that you are saved. It is not that you will someday be saved, but that you are saved from sin today (even if you don't always "feel saved").

Jesus said: (John 3:36) "And all who believe in God's Son have eternal life." Salvation is a definite personal experience gained at a particular moment in time - the moment Jesus cleansed you from your sins. It is more than feelings; it is more a state of being - being a son or daughter of God. The Bible says this about what we now are: (1 John 3:2) "Yes, dear friends, we are already God's children, and we can't even imagine what we will be like when Christ returns. But we do know that when he comes we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is."

3. You can know by FEELING.

One of the thrilling signs that you are now a Christian is the joy you feel when you are with other Christians, when you read the Bible, when you worship God in song, when you pray, and when you hear God's Word preached and taught. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit "speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children.", (Romans 8:16).

Although feelings will sometimes fail us, it is comforting to know that Jesus does cause a change in our entire person, including our feelings.

Questions to Ponder Based on What You Just Read

Am I a Christian now? How did I become a Christian? How do I know I'm really saved?

A Closing Word of Encouragement

You have just made the most important decision of your life. Continue in your new faith by attending church regularly for worship, fellowship, and instruction.

Now That I'm a Christian - I Should Pray

Now that I'm a Christian, I should pray. Prayer is a wonderful part of my Christian life - my chance to communicate with God, to share with Him my problems and victories, and to raise my voice in worship to my Savior.

What is Prayer?

Prayer is talking with God. Sometimes it is calling to God for help; sometimes it is sharing with Him your needs and the needs of others; sometimes it is thanking Him for His blessings and gifts to you.

There are several elements to prayer (some refer to these as different types of prayers):

Petition. This means asking God to meet certain needs. There is nothing wrong with asking God for His help in all the details of your life. In fact, He encourages us to come to Him with all our needs. (1 Peter 5:7) "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you."

Thanksgiving. Don't forget to thank God for what He has already done for you. In fact, this is a good way to begin your prayer time. It's polite; it reminds you of what God has already done; and it builds your faith.

Praise. This is something like thanksgiving, but it centers more on WHO God is instead of WHAT God has done.

Worship. There will be times when sentences cannot fully express your feelings, and you can only express yourself to God by saying praise and worship words like "glory" or "hallelujah". You may sing songs of worship, or simply remain quiet as you kneel or sit in God's presence, overwhelmed at the sense of His nearness. One thing to keep in mind - many today refer to the singing we do in church as "worship"; while singing is a part of worship, singing is not the "total" of worship. In fact, our very lives should be lived in such a way as to be an act of worship unto Jesus Christ.

Intercession. You may become gripped with the need of someone else, and feel burdened to keep on praying until you have the assurance that God has answered your prayer. This is one of the greatest kinds of prayer, for in it, you are thinking of others. It is especially important to pray for the salvation of friends and loved ones who have not yet accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Listening. Remember, prayer is a conversation. There are times when you need to simply sit quietly, and "listen" for God to speak to you in your heart and thoughts, or through some special passage of Scripture.

To Whom Do I Pray?

Basically, prayer is talking to God as you would a friend, using your own words and vocabulary. All of our prayers should be directed to God (Father, Son, or Holy Spirit), and NEVER to any other being, image, or power. Jesus said: (Matthew 4:10) "You must worship the Lord your God; serve only him."

We have direct access to God through Jesus Christ: (John 16:23) "...The truth is, you can go directly to the Father and ask him, and he will grant your request because you use my name."

What About 'Unanswered' Prayer?

This is an important lesson to learn: God answers every prayer. Sometimes He says, "Yes," sometimes He says, "No," and often He says, "Wait." But time spent in prayer is never wasted. You see, even more than what He does FOR you, God is interested in what He can do IN you. Also, prayer is not about getting God to line up with your wants and desires; it's about getting us lined up with His will for our lives.

When Should I Pray?

Most people have found it is best to have one or more special times for prayer each day. God is always ready to hear our prayers and to communicate with us.

No Christian can live his spiritual life without prayer any more than he can live his physical life without oxygen. You will be sustained and strengthened spiritually and helped in every area of life by a daily time of communion with your Heavenly Father.

Questions to Ponder Based on What You Just Read

Now that I'm a Christian, am I spending time in prayer every day? Am I worshipping God; asking Him to meet my needs; praying for others; and thanking Him for blessing me?

A Closing Word of Encouragement

Remember, prayer is the life breath of the Christian. Never hesitate to approach God in prayer. He is always more anxious to hear from you than you are to talk with Him; and I pray that your desire to talk with Him grows daily. Along with daily prayer, begin to read the Bible daily. The next chapter will help you implement this daily discipline.

**Now That I'm a Christian -
I Should Read the Bible**

Now that I'm a Christian, I should read the Bible every day. The Bible offers food for my hungry soul. Because God speaks to me through the Bible, I can learn to know Him and His purpose for my life through reading His Word.

The Bible is Written by God

The Apostle Paul wrote: (2 Timothy 3:16) "All Scripture is inspired by God..." (the New International Version of the Bible says, "All Scripture is God-breathed"). God used many different men to write the Bible, yet, they were simply willing tools in His hands. He was the fountain, the source of their thought and writing. As God told them what to say, they wrote it in language, vocabulary, and thought patterns familiar to them. This accounts for the great variety of style found in the Word of God. It was never their own ideas they wrote down, for the Apostle Peter says: (2 Peter 1:20, 21) "Above all, you must understand that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophets themselves or because they wanted to prophesy. It was the Holy Spirit who moved the prophets to speak from God."

The Bible Is True

The entire Bible is true and is in reality the Word of God. We believe every word of the Bible because:

1. God the Father can be trusted. He is the Author and His Word is truth. In fact, while speaking to God the Father in prayer, Jesus said: (John 17:17) "...your word is truth." The Word of God is eternal: (Matthew 24:35) "Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will remain forever."
2. Prophecy has been fulfilled. Students of the Bible say that over 300 prophecies about Christ in the Old Testament have already come to pass. We now live in a time when many more Biblical prophecies are being fulfilled on a regular basis.
3. Miracles show us the Bible is true. We not only can read about miracles that happened in the Bible, but God continues to repeat such supernatural answers to our prayers today.
4. History proves the Bible is accurate. The more men learn of ancient history, the more they discover the veracity of the Bible. (Anyone wanting to read more about this subject should consider reading the various "The Case For..." books by author Lee Strobel).

5. Our Christian experiences continually prove the Bible is true. A man once asked a woman how she could prove the Bible is the Word of God. The Christian woman replied, "How can you prove there is a sun in the sky?" He answered, "Because I can feel its heat and see its light." "It's the same with me", she said. "I know the Bible is true because it warms my soul and gives light to my pathway."

The Bible Must Be Studied

The Bible can be understood by anyone who will make a little effort; and it is more than worth the effort. New Christians usually get the most help by first reading the New Testament books, particularly Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, James, 1 Peter, and 1 John. I would recommend that a brand new Christian begin with the fourth book of the New Testament, the Gospel According to St. John.

Read your Bible prayerfully, asking the Lord to open your understanding. Some new Christians find it easier to understand a modern English translation of the Bible. Two that I highly recommend are the two I have quoted in this book, the "New International Version" and the "New Living Translation". No matter what version you select, reading the Word of God will establish your faith and will produce Christian maturity.

The Bible Can Guide You

As you read the Bible, seek to take its message to heart. Ask yourself such questions as: Is there a principle here that applies to my life? Is there a command I should obey? A sin I should forsake? What is the Lord saying to me? Let the Holy Spirit speak to you through the pages of your Bible.

Questions to Ponder Based on What You Just Read

Now that I'm a Christian, am I reading my Bible each day? Am I obeying the teachings of Jesus Christ? Am I learning what the Bible says, and how it applies to my life?

A Closing Word of Encouragement

You can grow into a fine, mature Christian by studying God's Word and applying its teachings to your life. You will also grow and mature when you take advantage of the opportunity to know Jesus better through this love letter He has written to you. Remember, you'll be greatly aided in your quest to learn the Bible by faithfully attending church.

**Now That I'm a Christian -
I Should Attend Church Regularly**

Now that I'm a Christian, I should attend church services regularly. Not only will I be obeying God, I will also find my spiritual life strengthened.

Jesus Set the Example

Jesus regularly attended the synagogue - the church of His day. He is our perfect example. As His followers, we seek to please Him. Remember John 14:15 (quoted on page 5); we show our love for Him by obeying His commandments.

The Bible Commands It

The New Testament Christians had guidelines by which they lived. They became strong in the Lord and overcame great obstacles to be a powerful Church that reached their world for Christ. Their pattern was: (Hebrews 10:25) "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near."

That pattern is our commandment. And it goes even further: "especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near." In other words, as we see prophecy being fulfilled and the time of Christ's second coming drawing nearer, we need to meet together with God's people more and more (not less and less, as is becoming the norm for so many).

You Need Fellowship With Others

You gain strength by associating with people who are strong. Since you face sin and evil daily, you need to get together with people who know the Lord and live upright lives. Their conversation will encourage you; their faith will inspire you; their friendship will become very valuable to you.

You Need to Worship God With Others

Great blessing comes from joining others in praise and worship to the Lord. The Lord "inhabits the praises of His people" (Psalm 22:3, KJV). As God's people come together to worship, they become a powerful force in helping one another, and in influencing the entire community.

Your Family Needs the Influence

Your family needs to see that other families and people believe the same Word of God that you believe. This gives them courage to face unbelieving friends, and to stand true in the face of opposition.

The Preacher and Bible Teachers Have Something Important to Tell

You should go to church to be taught the Word of God and to have your faith strengthened by the preaching of the Word. The pastors and teachers are totally dedicated to studying and praying so they might help you know God in a greater measure. What they say is very important - it's God's message for you, not theirs.

It Is Exciting!!!

Among the thrilling and exciting activities of life, going to church should be first and foremost for the Christian. Believers rejoice, sing, praise, listen, love, share, and then depart the services to share the Good News of Jesus Christ!

King David said: (Psalms 122:1) "I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

Questions to Ponder Based on What You Just Read

Why should I attend church services regularly? Have I been doing this? If not, when is the best time to start? (Hint: What is the date of the very next Sunday?)

A Closing Word of Encouragement

Think of going to church regularly as a grand family reunion; one where everyone loves one another because of who Father is - the eternal God of Heaven!

**Now That I'm a Christian -
I Should Be Baptized in Water**

Now that I am a Christian, I should be baptized in water. Water baptism is the Biblical way to witness publicly that I have accepted Christ as my personal Savior.

Commanded by Jesus

Jesus clearly taught that every Christian must be baptized in water. It was ordained by Him in both example and direct commandment. The Bible says: (Matthew 3:13) "Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John." Just before He ascended into Heaven, Jesus gave the disciples (and us) the following commandment: (Matthew 28:19) "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Water baptism is a picture of what Christ has done in your heart. It is a symbolic act that shows in a visible way that Jesus Christ has washed away your sins and that you have buried your old sinful life and been raised from spiritual death to a new life in Christ Jesus. Water baptism is a public confession that your sins are forgiven and that you are a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Practiced by the Apostles

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter told the people: (Acts 2:38, NIV) "Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you..." This was part of the very first sermon of the Church. Following that sermon: (Acts 2:41) "Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church--about three thousand in all."

Needed by All Christians

1. Water baptism shows that the new Christian has been crucified with Christ. Paul said: (Romans 6:6) "Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin."
2. Water baptism shows that the new Christian has died with Christ. Again, Paul says: (Romans 6:3) "Or have you forgotten that when we became Christians and were baptized to become one with Christ Jesus, we died with him?"
3. Water baptism shows that the new Christian has been resurrected with Christ. Paul says: (Romans 6:8, NIV) "Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him."
4. Water baptism shows that the new Christian is walking in newness of life. Paul states: (Colossians 2:6, NIV) "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him..."

Mode (or Method) of Water Baptism

The Biblical mode of water baptism is by immersion. The Bible teaches that a person being water baptized should be dipped entirely under the water as a symbol of burial and brought out of the water as a symbol of resurrection. (Mark 1:9, 10) "One day Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and he was baptized by John in the Jordan River. And when Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens split open and the Holy Spirit descending like a dove on him." Notice, Jesus came up out of the water, something He could have done only by having gone down into the water completely.

Also, Philip baptized the Ethiopian by immersing him in the water: (Acts 8:38) "He (the Ethiopian) ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him."

Possibly more important than the mode is what is known as the "baptismal formula". The New Testament clearly teaches, in Jesus' own words, that we should "baptiz(e) them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit," (Matthew 28:19).

Questions to Ponder Based on What You Just Read

Now that I am a Christian, have I followed Jesus' example, and been obedient to His command to be baptized in water?

A Closing Word of Encouragement

Don't think you have to be perfect, or have had to achieve a certain level of Christian maturity before you can be baptized in water. According to the New Testament, water baptism should come just as soon after accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior as possible. So, don't hesitate; talk with your pastor about being water baptized right away. It will help strengthen you on your journey heavenward!

**Now That I'm a Christian -
I Should Be Filled With the Holy Spirit**

Now that I am a Christian, I should be filled with the Holy Spirit. I need this personal experience to give me a deeper relationship with my Lord, power for Christian service, and strength to live as Jesus commanded.

Now that you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This is a personal experience, separate and subsequent to salvation, called the baptism of (or in) the Holy Spirit.

Just one note, please remember that the Holy Spirit is a "he", not an "it". He is the third member of the Trinity - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Although it is beyond the scope of this book to teach on the complete doctrine of the Holy Spirit, allow me to give the following bits of teaching. The Holy Spirit is completely God, just like the Father and the Son; He is not inferior to them in any way; He simply has different tasks, or duties to perform in the overall workings of God.

What Does the Bible Say?

Jesus did not allow His disciples to begin their public ministry after His resurrection until they had received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:4, 5) "In one of these meetings as he was eating a meal with them, he told them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you what he promised. Remember, I have told you about this before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Concerning the purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, Jesus said: (Acts 1:8) "But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere--in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

You can read the way in which Jesus' disciples, and more than one hundred other believers, were baptized in the Holy Spirit in Acts chapter 2. In that chapter we learn that all Christians have a right to ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit that was promised by God the Father. Peter said: (Acts 2:38,39) "...Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you and to your children, and even to the Gentiles--all who have been called by the Lord our God."

All who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior are entitled to, and should earnestly seek this promise of God the Father. Remember, your Heavenly Father only desires the very best for His children. As Jesus asked: (Luke 11:13) "If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."

What Happens When You Receive This Promise?

When a Christian believer earnestly prays for the baptism in the Holy Spirit, he wants to know he has received the same experience described in the book of Acts. God gives us the same evidence today that He gave then - speaking in tongues as the Holy Spirit gives the utterance. That is, you will be miraculously enabled to speak in a language you have never learned.

The Bible says: (Acts 2:4) "And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability."

How Will Your Life Be Changed?

The baptism of the Holy Spirit grants entry into the Spirit-filled life. With it comes power from God for life and service. As a result, you will experience a deepened reverence for God and an overflowing fullness of the Holy Spirit.

By continuing to live the Spirit-filled life, you will have an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work. And you will have a more active love for Christ, His Word, and for those people who need to find salvation.

The "fruit" of the Spirit will be produced in your life: (Galatians 5:22, 23, NIV) "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."

Special gifts also become available to you; gifts given by the Holy Spirit for you to use in serving the will of God. Paul lists nine gifts in one passage of Scripture, but other gifts could be added to this basic list: (1 Corinthians 12:8-11) "To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another he gives the gift of special knowledge. The Spirit gives special faith to another, and to someone else he gives the power to heal the sick. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and to another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to know whether it is really the Spirit of God or another spirit that is speaking. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, and another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. It is the one and only Holy Spirit who distributes these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have."

Questions to Ponder Based on What You Just Read

Have I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit? Have I taken the time to get alone with God and ask Him for this special promised gift? Have I ever spoken in tongues while praying?

A Closing Word of Encouragement

You may receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit by eagerly seeking the baptizer - Jesus Christ. Remember, the gift was promised by the Father, and His desire to give it to you, through Jesus, is greater than your desire to receive the gift could ever be!

**Now That I'm a Christian -
I Should Be a Witness for Christ**

Now that I am a Christian, I should be a witness for Jesus Christ. A witness is one who tells others about Jesus, both His words and His deeds. Now that the Lord has saved me from sin, I must share the Good News of salvation with others.

A Christian is a Witness

By now, you have probably noticed how willing most Christians are to talk about Jesus, and what He's done for them. Anyone who loves the Lord naturally wants to talk about Him. Talking about Jesus and what He's done for you is one of the major things Christ demands of every Christian believer.

Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He said: (Mark 16:15) "And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere." Notice, "preach" does not mean just what the pastor does behind the pulpit on Sunday morning, it simply means to tell others about what Jesus had done, said, and especially what He's done for you.

The disciple, Andrew, was a good example of a proper Christian witness. After Jesus had been baptized in the Jordan River (see page 13 of this book and Matthew 3), Andrew and John followed Jesus to the place where He was staying. After spending much of the day with Jesus, Andrew went searching for his brother, Simon Peter, and told him: (John 1:41) "The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother, Simon, and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means the Christ)."

Although most new Christians publicly accept Jesus in a church service, their first interest in the Good News of Jesus Christ comes through the faithful witness of a Christian friend or family member. There are several reasons for this: 1) a Christian is genuinely concerned for the eternal well-being of others; 2) a Christian is so in love with Christ that he cannot remain silent about Him; and 3) most sinners do not come to church without being invited to do so.

Every true Christian considers it his personal responsibility and joy to witness for Jesus at every Holy Spirit-orchestrated opportunity. It really shouldn't be difficult to talk about what (or in this case, Who) we love the most.

A Christian Represents Christ

Now that you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you are His personal representative (or ambassador) to those who are still lost in sin. Paul said it this way: (2 Corinthians 5:20) "We are Christ's ambassadors, and God is using us to speak to you. We urge you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, "Be reconciled to God!" It is your personal duty and responsibility to talk about Christ and represent His cause. You should begin as soon as possible to tell your family, friends, co-workers, acquaintances, etc., what Jesus has done in your life. When Jesus delivered a demon-possessed man in Luke 8:39, He immediately commanded him to return to his own house and hometown and show them what great things God had done for him.

A Christian Studies and Uses the Word of God

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness (Matthew 4), He countered the devil's temptations by quoting Scripture. You also need to study and know the Bible well in order to reply effectively to the temptations and arguments of this world. The truth you are to proclaim is not man's truth, but God's truth written in the Bible. You will also want to be able to quote Scripture when you are witnessing to people about Jesus' gift of salvation.

As a witness for Christ, you don't have to be a Bible scholar (or theologian), but you should be studying the Bible often enough (see pages 9 and 10) to be able to answer people's basic questions. Remember, knowing the Bible is not for pastors only. Paul instructed Timothy: (2 Timothy 2:15, KJV) "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." You can witness with confidence when you have spent time studying the Bible. If you have done your part (studying), God will do His part through the Holy Spirit: (John 14:26, NIV) "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."

You can also witness with confidence when you remember one simple piece of advice - the best witnessing you can do is to tell people what Jesus had done for you. They might be able to argue with your doctrine and theology, but they can't argue with your experience.

Questions to Ponder Based on What You Just Read

Now that I am a Christian, am I being a witness for Jesus? Am I telling others about Jesus and what He's done for me?

A Closing Word of Encouragement

Witnessing for Christ will make you a strong Christian and will give you a chance to share with friends and family the Good News of Jesus Christ and His gift of salvation.

Now That I'm a Christian - I Should Partake of Communion

Now that I am a Christian, I should partake of Communion. It helps to remind me of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection for me and also assists me in looking forward to His return. Before participating in this sacred ordinance, I must examine myself through prayer.

What is Communion?

Often called *Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper, or the Table of the Lord*, Communion is an important ordinance of the Church (an ordinance being a sacred ceremony or act instituted by Christ. The Assemblies of God recognize only two - water baptism and Communion). Jesus commanded that all Christians observe this ceremony: (1 Corinthians 11:24) "Do this in remembrance of me." It is not optional. Although there are different views on how often, and on the exact method of carrying out Communion, the most important fact to keep in mind is that it is a memorial of Christ's suffering and death, as well as His resurrection and second coming. All of these should be uppermost in our minds as we partake of the Communion elements.

The Scriptural Setting

(Matthew 26:26-28, NIV) "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

Years later, Paul rehearsed this sacred event and gave Holy Spirit initiated guidelines for observing Communion (see 1 Corinthians 11:17-34). The key items in these guidelines are:

1. Examine yourself in prayer. Is there anything you need to ask forgiveness for? Is there any person we need to ask forgiveness of? Is there anyone we need to forgive (even if they haven't asked us to)?
2. Once you have done this, take a little time to listen for God to speak to you in your heart, mind, and thoughts. Allow yourself the opportunity to reflect on what Jesus' death, resurrection, and second coming mean to you personally.
3. Reflect on the Body of Christ (the Church, made up of all true believers), and examine our attitude toward, and our place in His Body.
4. Maintain a reverent, respectful attitude toward Communion; never allow it to become just another "churchy" habit. Ask the Holy Spirit to make it special every time you partake of it.
5. Reflect on, and allow your faith to act on the fact that He not only died and rose again to save us from sin, but the word tells us that "by His stripes you are healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

Now That I'm a Christian - I Should Tithe

Now that I am a Christian, I should tithe. The tithe is one-tenth (1/10), or giving back to God, through your church, one dollar for every ten you earn. Tithing is God's way of helping you to be a vital part of His Kingdom on earth. It reminds you that everything you have comes from God, and provides you an opportunity for effective stewardship.

It is Your Opportunity to Share

(James 1:17, NIV) "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights..." In tithing and giving offerings to God, you share your love with others.

Wealth and Financial Provision Comes From God

The Bible teaches that God gives people the ability and strength to make money. When we do not recognize that our moneymaking power comes from God, we become selfish in refusing to give back to Him that portion He has required. When we realize that He has provided for us, we then are glad to give back a portion to further His Kingdom here on earth.

Giving is Putting Him First

Jesus said: (Matthew 6:33) "and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern." When you honor Him with your income, He obligates Himself to fulfill the needs of your daily life.

You Need His Blessings

You need God's blessings more than He needs your money. When you put God first in your giving, you are actually confessing your need of Him. He multiplies His love to you by blessings too numerous to count. You trust Him, and He supplies all your needs.

His supply is much greater than your need. (Philippians 4:19) "And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."

You Reap What You Sow

If you give bountifully, you will reap bountifully. No one goes out to a field at harvest time expecting to reap a crop where no seed was planted. God has established the same "law of nature" where our finances are concerned. We're not attempting to pay back anything to God, but through our obedience to Him, we are planting seeds of faith that will result in a spiritual harvest of blessing. (Luke 6:38) "If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving--large or small--it will be used to measure what is given back to you."

Questions to Ponder Based on What You Just Read

Am I “tithing”? Do I trust God’s Word? Do I want the fullest measure possible of His blessings?

A Closing Word of Encouragement

It’s a proven fact - proven for many centuries by many Christians - you cannot out give God. He always finds a way for your 90% to go farther than you can make 100% go. Try Him. He asks you to: (Malachi 3:10) “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse (*your local church*) so there will be enough food (*financial resources for ministry*) in my Temple (*again, your local church*). If you do," says the LORD Almighty, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Let me prove it to you!"

Trying **Find** **Your**
To **Way?**

Each day brings questions for which we need answers. In a world that grows increasingly complex, we constantly face new problems and opportunities. We need answers, but where do we turn? There is only one place I know that has all the *correct* answers - the Bible, God's Holy Word.

Here are a few areas of help that you might need; remember, though, the Bible has answers for life's problems on every page.

Want to do your own thing?

Galatians 5:13, Colossians 3:12-17, Mark 8:34-37

Facing an uncertain future?

Romans 8:31-39, Matthew 6:25-34, Psalm 121

Building/Establishing a new home?

Psalm 127

Assuming more responsibility?

Joshua 1:1-9, 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Choosing a career?

Psalm 37, Ecclesiastes 5

Need forgiveness?

Psalm 51, Romans 7:19-25, Luke 15, Philemon

Facing temptation?

James 1:2-6, Psalm 139, Ephesians 6:10-18, Psalm 15 & 19, Matthew 4

Facing a crisis?

Joshua 1:5-9, Deuteronomy 31:6-8, Proverbs 8, Isaiah 55, Psalm 3

Anxious and worried about loved ones?

John 15:9--17, Psalm 121, Luke 7

Frustrated?

Philippians 4:8-13, Psalm 40 & 90, Hebrews 12

Feel rejected?

1 Peter 1 & 3:8-17, 1 Corinthians 13

In love?

Song of Solomon, Genesis 24, 1 Corinthians 13

In doubt about God?

Acts 17:22-28, Psalm 146, Hebrews 11

Want to know God's will?

Micah 6:6-8, 1 John 4:7-21, Matthew 7:7-12, Psalm 119:9-16

Worried about money?

Matthew 6:19-34, 1 Timothy 6:6-12, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 19:11-27

Lonely or afraid?

Psalms 23, 27, & 91; 1 Peter 4

Discouraged?

Psalms 42, 43, 130, & 23

Angry with someone?

Psalm 37, Matthew 5:38-48, Matthew 18:21-35, Ephesians 4

Tired?

Matthew 11:28-30

Sick or in pain?

Psalms 6, 39, 41

Afraid of death?

John 11, 14, 17, 20; 2 Corinthians 5, Revelation 14:13

These are but a few of the places in Scripture where one can find help, comfort, and peace. Make reading God's Word a daily part of your life, and the Holy Spirit will direct you to many other Scriptures where you can find the help you need.

The Assemblies of God 16 Fundamental Truths

- WE BELIEVE...**The Scriptures are Inspired by God** and declare His design and plan for mankind.
- WE BELIEVE...**There is only One True God**—revealed in three persons...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (commonly known as the Trinity).
- WE BELIEVE...**In the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ**. As God's son Jesus was both human and divine.
- WE BELIEVE...though originally good, **Man Willingly Fell to Sin**—ushering evil and death, both physical and spiritual, into the world.
- WE BELIEVE...**Every Person Can Have Restored Fellowship with God Through 'Salvation'** (accepting Christ's offer of forgiveness for sin). [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the A/G]
- WE BELIEVE...and practice two ordinances—(1) **Water Baptism by Immersion** after repenting of one's sins and receiving Christ's gift of salvation, and (2) **Holy Communion** (the Lord's Supper) as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's suffering and death for our salvation.
- WE BELIEVE...**the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a Special Experience Following Salvation** that empowers believers for witnessing and effective service, just as it did in New Testament times. [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the A/G]
- WE BELIEVE... **The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is 'Speaking in Tongues,'** as experienced on the Day of Pentecost and referenced throughout Acts and the Epistles.
- WE BELIEVE...**Sanctification Initially Occurs at Salvation** and is not only a declaration that a believer is holy, but also a progressive lifelong process of separating from evil as believers continually draw closer to God and become more Christlike.
- WE BELIEVE...**The Church has a Mission** to seek and save all who are lost in sin. We believe 'the Church' is the Body of Christ and consists of the people who, throughout time, have accepted God's offer of redemption (regardless of religious denomination) through the sacrificial death of His son Jesus Christ.
- WE BELIEVE...**A Divinely Called and Scripturally Ordained Leadership Ministry Serves the Church**. The Bible teaches that each of us under leadership must commit ourselves to reach others for Christ, to worship Him with other believers, and to build up or edify the body of believers—the Church.
- WE BELIEVE...**Divine Healing of the Sick is a Privilege for Christians Today** and is provided for in Christ's atonement (His sacrificial death on the cross for our sins). [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the A/G]
- WE BELIEVE...in **The Blessed Hope—When Jesus Raptures His Church Prior to His Return to Earth** (the second coming). At this future moment in time all believers who have died will rise from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air, and Christians who are alive will be caught up with them, to be with the Lord forever. [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the A/G]
- WE BELIEVE...in **The Millennial Reign of Christ** when Jesus returns with His saints at His second coming and begins His benevolent rule over earth for 1,000 years. At that time many in the nation of Israel will recognize and accept Him as the Messiah, the

Savior who died for them and all mankind.

WE BELIEVE...**A Final Judgment Will Take Place** for those who have rejected Christ. They will be judged for their sin and consigned to eternal punishment in a punishing lake of fire.

WE BELIEVE...and look forward to the perfect **New Heavens and a New Earth** that Christ is preparing for all people, of all time, who have accepted Him. We will live and dwell with Him there forever following His millennial reign on Earth. 'And so shall we forever be with the Lord!'