

Welcome to the Kingdom

# YOUR FIRST TEN STEPS

Matt Shull

## Welcome to the Kingdom “Your First 10 Steps”

By: Matt Shull

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## Introduction:

My wife and I want to be the first to welcome you into the family of God. We want to be the first to say that we love you and are so happy you have chosen to give your lives to Jesus Christ.

You are no longer alone but have joined the most loving and powerful family in the universe. You are no longer an outcast but have been invited into God's home. You are now at peace with God and have taken your first step to fulfill your true purpose and destiny.

You are extremely valuable to God and that is why we have come to your city to preach the gospel to you. God desired that you hear His message and come back to Him so you can have everlasting life. He loves you more than you could ever imagine and has an exciting and wonderful plan for you. We love you and are proud of you for making the right choice of the greatest decision in life.

# Step 1

## Understanding your Salvation

John 3:16,17 “God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world.” GW

### Everyone in the World Sinned

The Bible says that we have all sinned. That means that every man and woman that has ever lived on this planet has committed this act against God. This resistance against God’s nature and the desire to place your will above His love and laws is a choice that every person alive has committed.

Romans 3:22,23 “Everyone who believes has God's approval through faith in Jesus Christ. There is no difference between people. Because all people have sinned, they have fallen short of God's glory.” GW

Romans 3:9-12 “What, then, is the situation? Do we have any advantage? Not at all. We have already accused everyone (both Jews and Greeks) of being under the power of sin, as Scripture says, "Not one person has God's approval. No one understands. No one searches for God. Everyone has turned away. Together they have become rotten to the core. No one does anything good, not even one person.” GW

### The Penalty of Sin is Death

Death entered into our lives and into the life of every person because of sin. This death permeates our lives. It causes us to be spiritually dead, separated from God’s love and fellowship. It brings death to our daily lives as we experience pain, sickness, poverty and eventually physical death. Then once we leave this world sin causes us to experience an eternal death in hell forever separated from a loving God.

Romans 6:23 “The payment for sin is death, but the gift that God freely gives is everlasting life found in Christ Jesus our Lord.” GW

Romans 5:12 “Sin came into the world through one person, and death came through sin. So death spread to everyone, because everyone sinned.” GW

### Jesus Christ Took that Penalty

God loves us so much that He did not want us to be separated from Him for eternity. However the penalty of sin is death and since God is a just God He could not allow the penalty to go unpaid. Yet because of His great love for us in His mercy He decided to pay the price of death with His own life instead of making us pay its horrible price.

Romans 5:8 “Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God's love for us.” GW

John 3:16,17 “God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world.” GW

1 Timothy 2:3-6 “This is good and pleases God our Savior. He wants all people to be saved and to learn the truth. There is one God. There is also one mediator between God and humans—a human, Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for all people to free them from their sins. This message is valid for every era.” GW

## Receive Jesus Christ's Sacrifice

God does not refuse people because of where they were born, or what they have done; anyone can receive Christ's forgiveness. God loves everyone and wants everyone in the world to receive His gift of forgiveness and have a relationship with Him. Some people believe that they have gone too far into sin or have upset God so much that He could never forgive them.

This is a lie from the devil, God died for the whole world and that includes you. God's forgiveness is hard to understand in human terms, our love is so conditional. However God's love is unconditional and when He made a decision to forgive mankind He knew everything you were going to do and yet He still chose to die and pay your penalty.

To receive Christ's forgiveness a person must believe His message and change their life to live according to His Word. Believing in your heart means that you are convinced that what Jesus said is true and you trust Him to forgive your sins. To live according to His word means that you will change any behavior, attitude, or lifestyle to live according to God's word. Repentance is what the church calls this and it is turning completely away from what you were doing and completely embracing God's will.

Romans 10:9-13 “If you declare that Jesus is Lord, and believe that God brought him back to life, you will be saved. By believing you receive God's approval, and by declaring your faith you are saved. Scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will not be ashamed.” There is no difference between Jews and Greeks. They all have the same Lord, who gives his riches to everyone who calls on him. So then, “Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” GW

John 1:12 “However, he gave the right to become God's children to everyone who believed in him.” GW

Ephesians 2:8,9 “God saved you through faith as an act of kindness. You had nothing to do with it. Being saved is a gift from God. It's not the result of anything you've done, so no one can brag about it.” GW

# Step 2

## The Holy Spirit

Ephesians 1:13,14 “You heard and believed the message of truth, the Good News that he has saved you. In him you were sealed with the Holy Spirit whom he promised. This Holy Spirit is the guarantee that we will receive our inheritance. We have this guarantee until we are set free to belong to him. God receives praise and glory for this.” GW

### The Work of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit was speaking to you before you ever received Christ. You may have never been aware of His presence in your life before; but He has always been beside you working to lead you to Christ. He will be forever working with those who do not believe in Christ. Jesus talked about what His work would be to the sinner.

John 16:8-11 “He will come to convict the world of sin, to show the world what has God's approval, and to convince the world that God judges it. He will convict the world of sin, because people don't believe in me. He will show the world what has God's approval, because I'm going to the Father and you won't see me anymore. He will convince the world that God judges it, because the ruler of this world has been judged.” GW

The Holy Spirit was the one who was working on you and convicted you of your sins. Many people feel sorry about what they have done wrong but to come to a place where you turn from your sins is the work of the Holy Spirit. He is the one who convinced you that this message is true and to believe in Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.

Before you received Christ the Holy Spirit was not living inside you, now that you have been born again the Holy Spirit has come to live inside your human spirit. God's plan was to bring you back to Him and to have a close relationship. So His plan is to forgive you, recreate your spirit, and move in with His love, power, and mind by His Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13,14 “You heard and believed the message of truth, the Good News that he has saved you. In him you were sealed with the Holy Spirit whom he promised. This Holy Spirit is the guarantee that we will receive our inheritance. We have this guarantee until we are set free to belong to him. God receives praise and glory for this.” GW

John 14:16-18 “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper who will be with you forever. That helper is the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it doesn't see or know him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be in you. “I will not leave you all alone. I will come back to you.” GW

Once inside of the believer the Holy Spirit begins to do His work in our spirits. He does many things for us throughout our life, but for now let's focus on three primary works; witnessing, praying and leading. The first thing the Holy Spirit does once inside is witness to our spirits that we belong to God.

Romans 8:16 “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.” GW

The Holy Spirit also begins to teach us about God through the Bible and begins praying for us. He teaches us the Bible as we take time to read and study it. It is like having a personal teacher beside you enlightening your mind and spirit to the Word of God. The Holy Spirit also begins to pray for you. He knows the perfect will of God because He is the Spirit of God. He knows exactly what God has in mind for you specifically. He prays for us in line with God’s perfect will for our lives.

John 14:26 “However, the helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything. He will remind you of everything that I have ever told you.” GW

Romans 8:26,27 “At the same time the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we don't know how to pray for what we need. But the Spirit intercedes along with our groans that cannot be expressed in words. The one who searches our hearts knows what the Spirit has in mind. The Spirit intercedes for God's people the way God wants him to.” GW

The last work of the Holy Spirit I would like to focus on is that He then begins to lead us down the path that God has for us. God has a plan for each one of our lives. You are not saved just to wait to go to heaven. God wants you to get busy right here on the earth and do work for His Kingdom. The Holy Spirit now inside you takes on one of His greatest roles in leading you in every step according to God’s will. The impact that you will have as a Christian on this earth is directly related to your following the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:14 “Certainly, all who are guided by God's Spirit are God's children.” GW

## The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Since you are now a born again believer the Holy Spirit has moved into your heart and lives on the inside of you. However, there is a second work besides salvation the Holy Spirit wants to give you. The Bible calls it the baptism or the infilling of the Holy Spirit. This is a greater level of the Holy Spirit and it is based on the grace of God and not the work of man. Because it is based on God’s grace any Christian who is hungry for this second work can receive it.

Jesus Christ poured out His Holy Spirit for the first time in Acts chapter 2 on His church. He told them to go to Jerusalem to wait for the Holy Spirit to come to the earth. Jesus said that when He would come He would fill the believers. The believers in Acts waited for weeks for the Holy Spirit to come. But once He came He baptized those believers in a powerful way and they became awesome witnesses for Christ. The good news for us is that we do not have to wait for the Holy Spirit. He is already on the earth now wants to baptize you now and make you an awesome witness.

Acts 2:1-4 “When Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Passover, came, all the believers were together in one place. Suddenly, a sound like a violently blowing wind came from the sky and filled the whole house where they were staying. Tongues that looked like fire appeared to them. The tongues arranged themselves so that one came to rest on each believer. All the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.” GW

In Acts chapter 8 it shows that people who already accepted Jesus as their Savior needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They had the Holy Spirit come into their hearts when they gave their life to Christ but they needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit moves from one believe who has already been filled to another believer. I encourage after you read this book to find a Pastor and a church that will lay their hands on you and pray for you to receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-17 “When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the Samaritans had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. Peter and John went to Samaria and prayed that the Samaritans would receive the Holy Spirit. (Before this the Holy Spirit had not come to any of the Samaritans. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit.” GW

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an awesome experience in the life of a believer. When the Holy Spirit baptizes someone that believer is able to speak with angelic tongues. The believer is also available to work in the gifts of the Holy Spirit as God directs. It opens up a whole new realm and revelation of God for the believer.

Acts 19:4-7 “Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. John told people to believe in Jesus, who was coming later." After they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came to them, and they began to talk in other languages and to speak what God had revealed. About twelve men were in the group.” GW

Acts 10:44-46 “While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.” KJV

1 Corinthians 14:2 “For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.” KJV

# Step 3

## Healing Belongs to You

Psalms 103:2-3 “Praise the LORD, my soul, and never forget all the good he has done: He is the one who forgives all your sins, the one who heals all your diseases...” GW

### God Promises to Heal You

Before Jesus even came to the earth God promised to send us a Savior, one who would take away our sins and our sicknesses. This Savior would bring healing to humanity and give His life so we can experience a healthy life on the earth. It was never God’s plan or will that anyone in the world be sick or diseased. He loves everyone and does not want sickness and disease destroying their life. Sickness came in the world as a result of Adam and Eve sinning and our separation from God. The human race brought sickness in the world when we sinned and followed Satan’s lies.

However, God loves us so much that He did not want to leave us sick and diseased so He planned that He would send His only Son to save us and heal us. God did that when He sent His only Son Jesus Christ. Below is a prophesy about Jesus Christ and the work that He would do for mankind. I want you to notice that the Bible says that He came to the earth to forgive our sins and heal our bodies.

Isaiah 53:2-5 “He grew up in his presence like a young tree, like a root out of dry ground. He had no form or majesty that would make us look at him. He had nothing in his appearance that would make us desire him. He was despised and rejected by people. He was a man of sorrows, familiar with suffering. He was despised like one from whom people turn their faces, and we didn't consider him to be worth anything. He certainly has taken upon himself our suffering and carried our sorrows, but we thought that God had wounded him, beat him, and punished him. He was wounded for our rebellious acts. He was crushed for our sins. He was punished so that we could have peace, and we received healing from his wounds.” GW

### Jesus Christ Healed the Sick

We also know that God wants us healed because when He sent Jesus Christ to the earth, a perfect example of the Father’s heart, He healed those with sicknesses and disease. In fact, he spent about one third of His ministry healing the sick. He cared deeply about those who were sick and diseased and continually prayed for them. The Bible says in Acts 10:38 that, “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”

Matthew 8:16-17 “In the evening the people brought him many who were possessed by demons. He forced the [evil] spirits out of people with a command and cured everyone who was sick. So what the prophet Isaiah had said came true: “He took away our weaknesses and removed our diseases.” GW

## Jesus Christ Paid for our Healing

God did not only promise to heal our bodies and then send Jesus as an example to heal the sick but Jesus paid for our healing with His very body. The Bible says that Jesus Christ was actually whipped and beaten so that we can experience healing in our bodies. Jesus loves us so much that He was willing to pay the price to set us free from sickness and disease. You know someone wants something when they are willing to pay for it themselves. God wanted us free so bad that He was willing to pay for it Himself.

1 Peter 2:24 "Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross so that freed from our sins, we could live a life that has God's approval. His wounds have healed you." GW

## Receive Your Healing

By faith you can receive your healing from God. Faith is simply that you believe what God said. It is you believing that God wants you to be healed and that He paid for it. Once you believe this you stretch out your faith through a prayer believing God to heal you. Below are examples in the Bible of a prayer of faith and someone receiving their healing from Jesus. I also encourage you to ask your pastor to pray for you, God will use them to help you. Jesus Christ is the only Healer but He will use people to help others receive their healing.

Mark 11:20-25 - "While Jesus and his disciples were walking early in the morning, they saw that the fig tree had dried up. Peter remembered [what Jesus had said], so he said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has dried up." Jesus said to them, "Have faith in God! I can guarantee this truth: This is what will be done for someone who doesn't doubt but believes what he says will happen: He can say to this mountain, 'Be uprooted and thrown into the sea,' and it will be done for him. That's why I tell you to have faith that you have already received whatever you pray for, and it will be yours. Whenever you pray, forgive anything you have against anyone. Then your Father in heaven will forgive your failures." GW

Matthew 9:20-22 "Then a woman came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of his clothes. She had been suffering from chronic bleeding for twelve years. She thought, "If I only touch his clothes, I'll get well." When Jesus turned and saw her he said, "Cheer up, daughter! Your faith has made you well." At that very moment the woman became well." GW

## Pray for Others

Now that you are a believer in Christ the Holy Spirit lives in you and you have the ability to pray for others. Jesus before He left gave the command to His disciples to pray for the sick that they would be healed. Also the Bible talks about believers praying for each so that other Christians can be healed. Remember that all the power of God, through the Holy Spirit, now lives in you and what was impossible before is now possible. God wants you to pray for the sick and see them healed.

Mark 16:15-20 "Then Jesus said to them, "So wherever you go in the world, tell everyone the Good News. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. "These are the miraculous signs that will accompany believers: They will use the power and authority of my name to force demons out of people. They will speak new languages. They will pick up snakes, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them. They will place their hands on the sick

and cure them." After talking with the apostles, the Lord was taken to heaven, where God gave him the highest position. The disciples spread [the Good News] everywhere. The Lord worked with them. He confirmed his word by the miraculous signs that accompanied it." GW

James 5:13-16 "If any of you are having trouble, pray. If you are happy, sing psalms. If you are sick, call for the church leaders. Have them pray for you and anoint you with olive oil in the name of the Lord. (Prayers offered in faith will save those who are sick, and the Lord will cure them.) If you have sinned, you will be forgiven. So admit your sins to each other, and pray for each other so that you will be healed. Prayers offered by those who have God's approval are effective." GW

# Step 4

## Authority over Demons

John 10:10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” KJV

### Jesus set you free

God wants you to be totally free from any devil or demonic influence. God does not want any of His children under the oppression or possession of any devil. Satan and demons are the enemy of God and humanity. It was the devil in the Garden of Eden who first deceived Eve to sin and he has been deceiving humanity ever since. The Bible says in John 10:10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” This verse is speaking of the devil and his work against humanity. The devil’s will for humanity is to steal, kill and destroy our lives.

God did not want to abandon us to the devil so He sent Jesus to restore our relationship with Him and destroy the devil’s power. The Bible says in Colossians 1:13 “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:” Then in Colossians 2:15 it says, “And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.” I want you to understand that you are now spiritually placed in a different Kingdom. God’s Kingdom is above the devil’s kingdom and that is where you are. Also Christ has defeated the devil. The devil had power over you before you gave your life to Christ, but now that you have given your life to Christ He lives in you and so does His victory over the devil. His victory becomes your victory and the power of the devil is defeated before you.

### Jesus’ Authority over Demons

When Jesus ministered on the earth He was continually casting out demons and exercising His authority over the devil. Matthew 8:16 “In the evening the people brought him many who were possessed by demons. He forced the [evil] spirits out of people with a command and cured everyone who was sick.” GW Many times during Jesus earthly ministry He cast out demons. There was not a single demon that Jesus encountered that He could not drive out.

While Jesus was on the earth He gave the commandment to His disciples to carry on His work of taking authority over demons. Luke 9:1 “Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.” KJV

### Our Authority over Demons

I want you to know that Jesus Christ is supremely more powerful than Satan and all the demons of hell. Jesus gave His power and authority over demons to His church so that we could continue the same work. There is never any reason to be afraid of the devil. We are to continue the work of Christ by

taking our authority in Christ over demons and casting them out of others. If we continue to follow God and submit to His word in everything demons will continually flee from us.

Luke 10:17-19 "The 70 disciples came back very happy. They said, "Lord, even demons obey us when we use the power and authority of your name!" Jesus said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like lightning. I have given you the authority to trample snakes and scorpions and to destroy the enemy's power. Nothing will hurt you." GW

James 4:7-8 "So place yourselves under God's authority. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you. Come close to God, and he will come close to you. Clean up your lives, you sinners, and clear your minds, you doubters." GW

# Step 5

## Divine Prosperity

Ephesians 1:3 “Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Through Christ, God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing that heaven has to offer.” GW

### God has Blessed You

When you gave your life to Jesus Christ you became blessed. When you entered into relationship with God you also entered into His blessing. Everything that God has is now at your disposal. You have been blessed with everything He has and is. For example, my wife and I want to adopt someday. We want to adopt a child that is in need and would not otherwise have much opportunity. We desire to give he/she love and take care of all of their needs. The moment that child becomes mine by adoption all that I am and own now belongs to him/her. He/she may not have been able to even afford a stick of gum before, but after he/she becomes mine I will take care of all their needs and wants.

It is the same for us when we become children of God. You may have been the lowest of the low before, but now that you belong to God you are connected to Him in such a powerful way. He becomes your Father and everything He owns is now at your disposal. You can experience His plan and blessings for your life. You become His child and it then becomes His responsibility to help you succeed in life. Every parent wants their children to do well, and is willing to help them succeed. Imagine now God, the most powerful, wealthiest, and wisest parent of all excited about helping you succeed in life. He is a good Father, it is a blessing being His child!

3 John 1:2 “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” KJV

### God Wants You to be Wealthy

I want you to know that God as your Father wants you to have wealth so that you can take care of your family and be a blessing. When I say God wants you to be wealthy I am not saying that you will all have millions of dollars but I am saying that God wants you to always have more than enough money so you can live a blessed life and help others out. Being wealthy means you have enough money to take care of your needs and have enough left over to give to the work of God. God wants you to be a blessing to those around you. He loves it when His children are doing well financially and they take care of the needs of others.

Job 36:11 “If they obey and serve him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures.” KJV

Psalms 35:27 “Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.” KJV

Isaiah 1:19 “If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:” KJV

Psalm 112:3 “Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth for ever.” KJV

Deuteronomy 8:18 “But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.” KJV

Ecclesiastes 5:19 “Moreover, when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work—this is a gift of God.” GW

God as your Father will begin working on your behalf and the blessing that is in you now will start changing your life. As you pray and seek God’s face expect His blessing to help you with your finances. Expect Him to bless your business and your family. God wants to bless you every day.

## Be Willing to Work Hard

God wants to bless you but He needs something to bless. Let’s look at Deuteronomy 8:18 again. It says “...for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth...” God gives you the ability to do it, but we must still go out and do something. God is not a magical genie that will make money appear whenever you want it, but He is a good Father who wants to bless you as you seek His face and do what He has called you to do.

1 Thessalonians 4:11, 12 -“Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.” GW

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12 “For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “If a man will not work, he shall not eat.” We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat.” GW

1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” GW

## Giving Leads to Receiving

The way to receive God’s blessings is through giving. God is a giving God and He expects His children to be giving as well. God always give us His best. For example when God set out to save mankind, He gave His very best gift, His only Son. God is not stingy and not withholding money or blessings from His children. He wants us not to be stingy or withhold money from others. God knows that we have needs but He also wants us to give out of our abundance to others to meet their needs.

God is not trying to get money away from you; He is trying to get money to you. When we give we can expect God to give back to us and bless us even more. In fact, the more we give the more God can return the blessing to us. We can never out give God. No matter how much you give God is still richer and excited to give back to you. The system of the world operates by us using one another to get ahead. Many people in the world will try to cheat, lie or steal to get ahead financially. This is the devil’s system and God does not want us to be a part of it at all. God has called us to be givers just like Him.

Romans 8:32 “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” KJV

Matthew 5:42 “Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.” GW

Ephesians 4:28 “He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.” GW

Luke 6:38 “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” GW

2 Corinthians 9:7,8 “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” GW

# Step 6

## Begin Talking to God

1 Thessalonians 5:17 “pray continually;” GW

### Talking with Your Father

Your sixth step is to begin talking to God. Now that you have accepted Christ as your savior you now have a relationship with God the Father. When my wife and I first met years ago we began our relationship by talking over the phone. I lived in Indiana and she lived in Oklahoma so the only way for us to communicate was over the phone. Even though it was hard to be away from each other I am thankful for those hours we talked because we were able to get to know each other’s personalities, dreams and eventually fall in love.

This is what it is like for you and God the Father right now. You have just begun a relationship with your Heavenly Father for the first time. He now wants to spend time with you through prayer. Prayer is nothing more than communicating with God. There are different types of prayer and rules to prayer that can be learned later, but the basis of prayer is simply talking with God.

You can now talk to your Heavenly Father about everything. I suggest that you set aside some time every day to spend just with Him. Don’t feel like you have to stop there though, you can spend your whole day in communication with God; talk to Him about everything; your family, business and future. The more you keep an open line with God the more He can talk with you and you can hear from Him.

### An Example Prayer

The Disciples asked Jesus how to pray once and He gave them a prayer that Christians have been praying ever since. It can also be used as a guide on what we should continually be asking and praying for. We know that if Christ gave us this prayer then it is important that we pray them and keep them continually before us so we are able to have a successful communication with God.

Matthew 6:9-13:

“This, then, is how you should pray:  
““Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.” GW

## Pray with Faith and Forgiveness

One of the most basic rules of prayer is that prayer will only work if we believe when we pray. We cannot approach our Father with doubt and expect Him to move on our behalf. It is important to go into our prayer with faith believing that God hears our prayer and that He is moving to accomplish that request. Also when we pray it is so important to make sure that we have forgiven anyone else who has wronged us. Our prayers will not be answered if we refuse to forgive people.

Mark 11:20-25 “In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!” “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” GW

## God Knows How to Pray for You

While prayer is communicating with God, and our asking for things, God is also praying for us! Isn't it amazing that God would call His Son and His Spirit to pray for us so that perfect prayers are being offered on our behalf all of the time. Your Father has you in His perfect hands of care and He is praying for you always that you would know Him better and live according to His will.

Hebrews 7:23-25 “Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.” GW

Romans 8:26,27 “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. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.” GW

# Step 7

## Be Baptized in Water

1 Corinthians 12:13 “For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” GW

### Be Baptized with Water

The seventh step you need to take is to be baptized with water. Water baptism is something you need to have done as soon as possible. You need to approach your pastor and have him perform the baptism. Baptism is an outward display of what took place on the inside. It is a holy act that allows you to publicly show everyone that you have decided to follow Jesus Christ and that your sins are forgiven.

Baptism also unites Christians all over the world. We may come from different churches, countries and nationalities but we are all baptized into one Spirit and we have a common faith that Jesus Christ alone is the forgiver of sins. By sharing in this symbolic act we are one big family and a common people.

### Biblical Examples about Baptism

Jesus Christ himself was baptized so that He would follow God’s command. Then before Jesus returned to heaven one of the last commands He gave to His church is to baptize people. So it is important to God that you are baptized and take part in this holy act.

Matthew 3:13-17 “Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” GW

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.” GW

The early disciple’s of Christ also made a point of making sure everyone was baptized. The Apostle Peter told a crowd of people after he preached what they needed to do to be saved.

Acts 2:37-39 “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.” KJV

# Step 8

## Reading your Bible

2 Timothy 3:16 “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” KJV

### The Bible

Your eighth step is to find a Bible and read it daily. The Word of God is spiritual food. Just as your body needs food to survive, your spiritual body needs God’s word to stay alive and healthy. The Bible says that a human being is more than just a physical body, but we are spirit, soul, and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Or we could say it like this, we are a spirit being, we have a soul, and we live in a body. The physical body that we see is only the outside of the real person who is on the inside. The physical body cannot live long without food, and neither can our spirit. Jesus himself said that people do not live on bread only or physical food but by every word that comes from God’s mouth, which is our spiritual food. (Matthew 4:4).

God’s word is very powerful and it is able to accomplish things in your life that nothing else can do. You can do anything God’s word says that you can do, you can be anything it says you can be and you can have anything it says you can have. That is powerful! It is so important to read God’s word so you can discover who He is and what He wants for your life. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 says, “And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.” GW Think about that, God’s word is at work on the inside of you!

The more you read God’s word the more of it gets inside you and it begins working on the inside of you. It begins working to prepare you for the blessings of God, it takes you to a deeper walk with Christ, and it works those things out of your life that Christ does not want in you. Hebrews 4:12 says, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” God’s word once inside you begins to discern what is of God, what is of the devil, and what is of you. How powerful and needed is the word of God in our lives today!

The more you read God’s word the more you get to know Him and become like Him. Do not waste any time in finding and reading a Bible. A great place to start is in the book of John. I do want you stay with the Christian Bible, there are other false versions of our faith and I do not want you to be deceived by any. Some of them are The Christian Science Bible, The Book of Mormon, The New World Translation or Jehovah’s Witness Bible, and The Wiccan Bible. I urge you to talk with your Pastor about what Bible and where to begin reading.

# Step 9

## Share your Faith

Proverbs 11:30 “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.” GW

### Share with your Family and Others

You now carry the greatest message inside of your heart, do not keep it there but release this life-giving message to others. I recommend you begin with those in your family. Share with them what happened to you at the Crusade. Maybe you received healing, saw many miracles, or you felt the presence of God. Whatever you experienced at the crusade you were convinced and decided to follow Christ. Now you have the ability to share God’s message of love with them. He loves them and does not want them to die and go to hell. You can be the one to carry His love and message to them.

Romans 10:13-14 “for, “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?” GW

### Know your Message

To share your faith effectively I want you to take some time and go over the first chapter of the book so you can explain to them why they need to be saved and what they need to do. You can even share with them this book. Once someone decides to believe in Christ you can lead the individual in a simple prayer like the one found in the front of the book.

### Fill your Church with Souls

Also ask your pastor questions about how to win the lost. Again I want you to go to your family first and share with them what you have experienced and try to win them over to Christ, if they do not listen at first do not be discouraged, keep praying and being a witness to them. Once you have shared your faith with your family continue to share your faith with neighbors, friends and those in the community. Make it a goal to bring people to church on a regular basis. It is the pastor’s job to take care of those in his church and it is your job to keep bringing in new souls into the church.

# Step 10

## Attend Church

I placed this chapter at the end of the book not because it is the least important but that this is the first step you will take after you have read this book. It is your first responsibility to find a church that you and your family believe God has called you to and worship there every Sunday. This is a crucial start to your Christian walk.

### Your Relationship with your Pastor

It is very important to have a pastor help you with your relationship with Christ. The Bible says that they are a gift to you, from God, to help you with your walk with Christ and your life's problems.

Ephesians 4:7-13 “But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.” (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” GW

So God gave pastors as a gift to you and your family so that you can be built up in your faith. It is God’s design that a pastor looks after your spiritual growth and is a blessing to your life. Also be a blessing to your pastor. Do not talk bad about him, encourage him and do what you can to help him and your church. Do not go into church seeking what you can take but what you can give to your pastor and your church.

### Paying your Tithes

A tithe is ten percent of the money you make. A tithe is ten percent of your gross income, not just your net. The tithe needs to be paid to the church you decide to attend. God asks for this money so that His work can be accomplished on the earth. I want you to know that God does not need your money, He is extremely wealthy, but God planned from the beginning of the world that His children should have a part in preaching His message to other people. God wants you to be involved in spreading His love and message to others. God knew that it would take people and money to get this done and so to involve all of His children in the process of winning the lost he created the tithe. It is a blessing to pay your tithes because you are now a partner with God in reaching people.

God considers those who do not pay their tithes as robbers. They are preventing Him from doing more work on the earth. Look at what God says in His Word about it.

Malachi 3:8-12 ““Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me. Bring the

whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not cast their fruit,” says the LORD Almighty. “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.” GW

While God considers those who do not pay their tithes as robbers, He invites those who pay their tithes to test Him and see if He will not bless their lives. This is the only place in Scripture God allows us to test Him. If we are faithful to pay our tithes then we can expect God to meet our needs and expect God to pour out His blessing on our church, life and finances.

## Finding your Church

I believe God will direct you to the right church. I do not want you to go to another church that is not represented in our crusade or our meetings. I am saying this because I do not know those pastors and churches. I want to make sure that your faith is protected and you are able to grow closer to God. These churches represented at the crusade or the ones we preach in can help you grow in Christ. It is now your duty to attend church and begin working for God through your local church. Again I am so proud of you and am excited for your future in Christ!