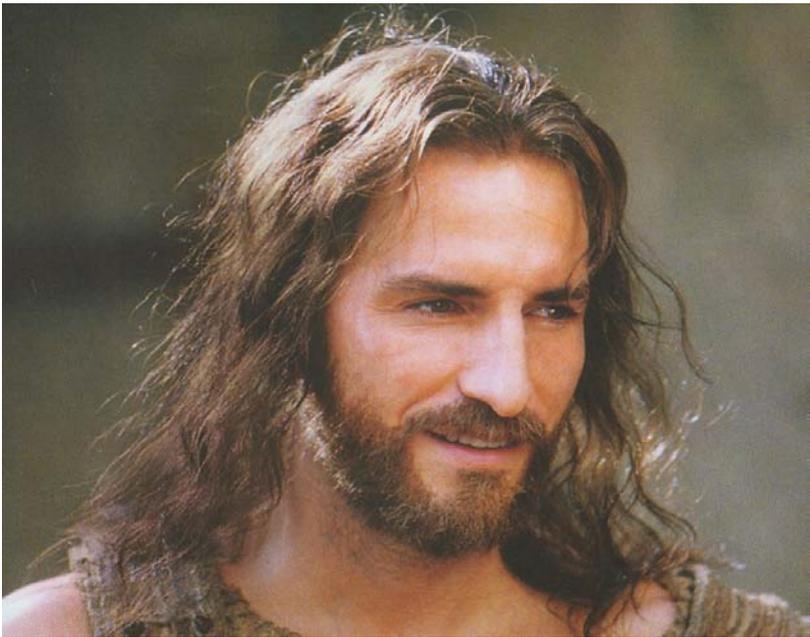


Welcome To God's Eternal Family

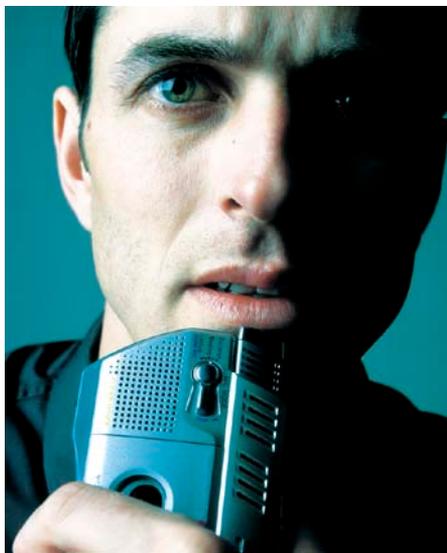


What Now? What's Next?

Including:

**HOW TO BE SAVED and
HOLY SPIRIT FIRE POWER 4 U**

Dr. Dan Cheatham



Now that I have decided to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, where do I go from here? What's next? What really happened to me the moment I prayed to receive Him? How do I grow in my relationship with Jesus? How can I be absolutely sure that I have eternal life and that I will go to heaven when I die? What lifestyle changes are

appropriate for me? Is there anything else I need to know? What spiritual ammunition do I need to live a robust Christian life?

Friend, these are common questions that everyone asks shortly after receiving Jesus Christ. You are among friends and your questions are important to God.

This short book will “jump-start” your new relationship with Jesus Christ! By reading and re-reading this short book and putting into practice the growth strategies I suggest here, you can enjoy a victorious life and discover God's plan for your future! He saved you for a REASON. This book will help you DISCOVER that REASON... your DIVINE DESTINY in life!

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Are you ready? Here come the DYNAMIC DOZEN questions and their answers that will revolutionize your life.

1. How can I be absolutely sure that if I were to die, I'd go to heaven? Do I really have eternal life or is this just wishful thinking? Did God really hear my prayer?



Answer: If you prayed and asked Jesus to be the Lord of your life with a sincere heart, God heard you! You have received the FREE GIFT of ETERNAL LIFE! It is a gift; you did nothing to earn it!

Jesus earned it for you when he died on the cross for your sins. The only thing you did was to accept this free gift by believing what God said about Jesus. However, if you were just trying to impress some other person besides God and you just went through the motions of prayer as a pretense, and not sincerely, you need to be honest with God, repent, and pray again to receive Jesus. You may wish to reference HOW TO RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE at the back of this book.

Romans 10:9 NIV - "That if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, YOU WILL BE SAVED!"

This Bible verse doesn't say, YOU MIGHT BE SAVED. It doesn't say, HOPEFULLY YOU'LL BE SAVED. It doesn't say, MAYBE YOU'LL BE SAVED. No! God boldly promises in this scripture that if you believe God raised Jesus from the dead and invite Him aloud with your own mouth to be your Lord, YOU WILL BE SAVED! No question about it. The Bible says it, you believed it, and that settles it.

*1 John 5:13 KJV - "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that **ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."*

Notice this verse says that if you have believed on Jesus as the Son of God, that you can KNOW that you HAVE (not that you will someday GET, but that you already now HAVE) eternal life! Wow! Eternal Life is your present possession if you have accepted Jesus Christ.

The moment you received Christ, you essentially REPENTED from your sins. You were, in effect, telling God that you realized that you were a sinner in need of His saving grace. You decided to turn away from your lifestyle of rebellious independence or quiet indifference about God. You decided to surrender your heart and your whole life to Jesus. You made a commitment to accept His commitment to you! Repent means to CHANGE ONE'S MIND or to TURN

AROUND. So you decided to believe and receive Christ. You turned away from your unbelief about Jesus and turned towards Jesus for your salvation! God heard you and SAVED you. You are now BORN AGAIN, a CHILD OF GOD. You are SAVED!

Now I'm a preacher, but sometimes I don't FEEL so saved. Even though I KNOW I am saved, sometimes I don't feel that way. And you will probably feel that way from time to time. When I first accepted Christ, I felt a peace and a burden of guilt roll off my shoulders. But since I am human and since I live in a sin-fallen world that started when Adam and Eve rebelled, my feelings are still subject to inconsistency. And I also live in a body that has emotional ups and downs. So I have learned not to get too concerned just because my feelings about my relationship with God come and go. Feelings really don't count for much. It's FACTS that count. I have learned to live by Bible FACTS, not by my FEELINGS. Two plus two may not FEEL like Four, but $2+2=4$ because it's FACT. Because God's Word in Romans 10:9 declares I'm saved, I decide to go by what I KNOW, not by what I FEEL! Feelings may come and go, but God's Word remains the same. It's similar to being married. One doesn't get up every morning and say, "I FEEL SO MARRIED!" Usually when one gets up in the morning they don't feel any particular emotional thrill over anything, including their spouse, because they're just trying to wake up. But just because they don't feel an emotional rush over their mate at the moment, doesn't mean they are no longer married. They both KNOW they are married! It's more than an emotional feeling; it's a permanent relationship... and a commitment!

PRAY THIS PRAYER TO GOD: Thank you, God for saving me. You are now my very own Heavenly Father and I can talk to you about anything and everything. I see now from Romans 10:9 that I am INDEED SAVED! I see from 1 John 5:13 that I really do possess the free gift of eternal life. Thank you for this gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ my Lord. My eternal salvation is based entirely on the authority of Your Word and has nothing to do with my feelings. I love you Jesus! I love you Father! Thank you for saving me! In Jesus name, Amen!

2. Is there anything else I should do now that I am saved?



Answer: Yes. You should be water baptized as quickly as possible. Jesus commanded water baptism in Matthew 28:19.

"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." In the book of Acts in the Bible we see water baptism practiced by the believers. When you are water baptized you are making a PUBLIC profession in front of others that you have chosen Jesus Christ. You are also demonstrating your faith in Christ by your humble obedience to God. Water baptism is an outward sign of what

has already happened to you inwardly. Your obedience to be water baptized helps you forever settle the decision you made to follow Jesus Christ! Understand that water baptism alone cannot save you. Your trusting in Jesus for your salvation was the only thing that saved you; but water baptism is a step that proves your faith and obedience to God.

PRAY THIS PRAYER ALOUD TO GOD: Dear God, I love you and I see that I should get water baptized in obedience to You. Lord, I will contact my pastor or a member of my church immediately to schedule an appointment for me to be baptized. I want to show everyone that I mean business with you, Lord. And I want to please You by taking this step of obedience. In Jesus name, Amen.

3. What can I do to KEEP the excitement which I now feel about my new relationship with Christ?



Answer: Tell others about Him. Jesus told a man in Luke 8:39, "Return home and tell how much God has done for you. So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had

done for him." Sharing your faith in Jesus will keep you excited, not to mention that some you share with may also accept Christ for themselves. You can begin visiting nursing

homes, or jails, or rescue missions or just about anywhere. You can purchase some gospel pamphlets at a Christian bookstore and pass them out on the street or leave them with restaurant tips, or leave them in public restroom stalls. You could e-mail your friends and family and tell them what recently happened to you. Share what Jesus has done for you with others! Be creative! The Holy Spirit may lead you to share your faith by some other method I've not mentioned here.

PRAY THIS PRAYER ALOUD TO GOD: Heavenly Father, everybody needs Jesus. Everybody has a sin problem. Everybody needs forgiveness. Help me share Jesus with my family members and friends. I realize that some will believe on You and some will not, but I'll leave the results up to You, O God. Now that I am a WITNESS to the saving power of Jesus Christ, help me boldly speak out and tell others. In Jesus Name! Amen.

4. What will most help me grow in my new relationship with Christ?



Answer: Regular faithful church attendance and service. The moment you accepted Jesus, the Bible teaches that you became a MEMBER of the family of God. The Bible teaches that you are now a member of the "BODY OF CHRIST." Ephesians 5:30 says,

"for we are members of his body." You and I would think it very strange to see someone's hand lying on a table all by itself. It would be weird if someone's toe was sitting on a table wiggling all by itself. In fact, we'd agree that any part of the human body that is cut off from the rest of the body is either already dead or will be soon. Likewise, every member of the body of Christ needs to be connected to the other parts of the body, the church. If a part of the human body doesn't stay connected to the other parts, it grows cold and eventually mortifies. Likewise, if you don't stay connected to the local church - your new family - you will grow cold in your heart. But if you develop the habit of regular church attendance, bringing your Bible to follow along with the pastor as he preaches and teaches, and participate in singing to God and getting involved in the local church programs... you will GROW STRONG IN THE LORD... and you will GROW FAST and become very successful in life. Hebrews 10:25 NIV says, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Acts 2:46 says, "Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

If you received Jesus Christ as your Lord at a certain church, consider READING GOD'S LIPS. It was no accident that God ordered your steps to go to that place. This phenomenon of being led by God unconsciously has been coined "Divine Providence." If you were saved at a church that led you to

the Lord, it is highly likely that God wants the pastor of that church to be your own pastor, and that He wants that place to become your church home. At Life Church, it would be our distinct privilege to serve you, care for you, and pray for you. Understand, of course, that joining a church is NOT what saves you. Church membership does not ensure that a person has eternal life; only receiving Jesus can do that. However, church membership is the natural succession to a decision to receive Christ and is necessary for spiritual growth. It ensures that a new believer begins to enjoy the victorious life. It is important that you not try to live the Christian life all by yourself. A hot glowing coal in the fireplace with the other coals remains hot and glowing. But a hot coal taken from the fireplace cools off quickly, when removed from the warmth and protection of the other coals. There is warmth and eternal protection in the spiritual fireplace of God's local churches.

PRAY THIS PRAYER TO GOD ALOUD: Dear God, I have received Jesus as my Lord and I realize that I am young in the things of God. Since I am new in my relationship with You, Lord, I realize that I am in a vulnerable stage of my new faith. I realize that I need to have a spiritual foundation built into my life. Lord, I choose this very moment to live a lifestyle of faithful church attendance and service so that I can know You even better. I am going to become the protégé of a strong pastor. He will be my mentor and model, and he will help me grow in God. Father, I need the right spiritual climate in order to grow. Help me find a vibrant church where they believe in teaching the Word of God, enthusiastic singing, altar calls for salvation, healing, working miracles,

and the power of the Holy Spirit. Lord, I pledge to be a regular church-goer the rest of my life, not out of mere religious duty, but because I desperately need the right atmosphere in which to grow. I need the right kind of friends. And Lord, the family of God also needs what I have to offer - my talents, my skills, my serving, and my spiritual gifts (as I discover them). Lord, when there is a conflict of schedules, out of my respect for You, I will choose church attendance over other activities. Help me stay close to my pastor and my local church all the days of my life, Lord. In Jesus' name! Amen.

5. Now that I'm saved, a new Christian, what one thing has the greatest potential to damage my walk with God?



Answer: YOUR OLD FRIENDS or UNBELIEVING FAMILY MEMBERS! At this early stage of your relationship with God, the enemy of your soul, the devil, will try to convince you to back away from your faith in Christ, by placing peer pressure against you through certain friends or family members who could be bad influences in your life. Your friends will say, "He just got a little religion; it won't last long anyhow." Your old friends will try to get you to go out with them carousing, drugs or drinking, or to participate in immoral sexual talk or activity. Your friends may try to make you feel guilty for your decision to accept Christ. They will try to make you feel

like a whimper for following Jesus. They will try to get you to go back and talk and act the way you used to. BUT YOU ALONE HAVE TO MAKE YOUR STAND FOR CHRIST! No one else can do this for you. Most likely you will have to tell some of your old friends that you will no longer talk like that or go to certain places with them. You will find that you will have to DISCONNECT ENTIRELY from some of your old friends, because their presence and influence over you makes you feel tempted to do or say certain things you know would not please God. You will have to LET GO some of your old friends for the sake of the condition of your soul and your walk with God. Jesus demands first place in your life and some people do not help you grow closer to God.

Matthew 6:6 KJV - "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you."

As you make tough decisions to leave certain friends behind because of your love for Jesus, God will add new friendships to your life which will be deeply satisfying to you. If you want more understanding about friendships, see my book *Biblical Wisdom On Friendships* at www.devotional.net. 1 Corinthians 15:33 NIV says, "Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." Proverbs 13:20 NIV says, "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm."

PRAY THIS PRAYER ALOUD TO GOD: Dear Jesus, YOU DIED FOR ME. The very least I can do is LIVE FOR YOU! Grant me the courage to say "No" to my old friends and to DISCONNECT from any relationship that might be harmful

to my walk with You. Teach me to live by priorities and keep You first place in my life. I acknowledge the harsh reality that not everyone wants to serve You. Lord, this means that I will have to make some tough decisions about who I hang out with and who I let influence me. Lord, I categorically refuse to go to Hell for anyone else! If they reject You, Jesus, that's their own bad choice. But I refuse to be anyone's puppet, even for someone I admire. I will not allow a desire for conformity and the need to be accepted by others ruin my life. With your help, O God, I will choose my friends very wisely and I will not listen to everyone's advice. Lord Jesus, I choose to be NORMAL in your sight, not necessarily NORMAL in the eyes of everybody else. Lord, I choose Your approval instead of the praise of people. I will not allow others' opinions of me to change my opinion of myself. Some may criticize me, but criticism is just someone else's opinion anyhow, so I will not let their words shake me away from Bible truth. Lord Jesus, I am willing to pay the price of following you! The price is that I may sometimes have to endure rejection or even mistreatment because of my stand for Christ. Father, I will walk through the pain of persecution and criticism should it be necessary, trusting you to comfort and console me. In Jesus name! Amen.

6. What is prayer and when should I pray?

ANSWER: Prayer is simply talking to God! One doesn't have to use old King James Version Elizabethan English when talking to God. One doesn't have to read from a liturgical prayer book. God likes simplicity. God likes honesty. God likes sincerity. God wants to hear from the

REAL YOU; not a fake. God is now your Father because you're saved. And you are now His son or daughter. He loves to hear from you. He cherishes His time with you. And He loves to be "bothered" with your problems because this shows Him that you trust Him and want Him to become involved with every detail of your life. Jesus taught us to

John 16:23-24 NIV - "In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

So simply talk to God like you would talk to anyone else and make your requests "in Jesus name!" God's Word teaches



that it is best to start your workday with early morning prayer shortly after you awake. Psalm 5:3 says, *"In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before*

you and wait in expectation." Proverbs 8:17 says, *"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."* This gets you focused on God early in the day and helps you go about your day with joy because you talked to God first. Then, of course, the Bible also teaches that you can PRAY AS YOU GO, by whispering prayers to God as certain things come up during the day when you need His help or when you want

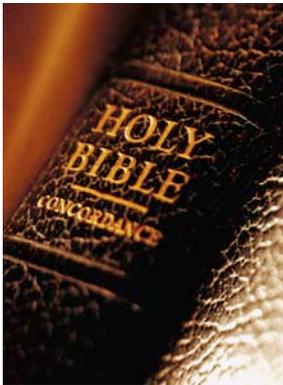
to pray for someone else's needs that have come to your attention. DEVELOP THE DAILY PRAYER HABIT! Have fun praying until you feel things roll off your chest and feel them replaced with His peace. Phil 4:6-7 NLT says, *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."* Often you will feel closer to God in prayer if you start out singing to Him or praising Him aloud from the book of Psalms in your Bible. You can also finish your prayers by praising Him. You will also sense more of God's presence if you pray ALOUD rather than silently. If you are not in a place where you can pray aloud because of the presence of others, you can always whisper beneath your lips.

7. Why is Bible Reading so important? Where should I start? What kind of Bible should I purchase?

ANSWER: The Bible is The Word of God. It is a collection of divinely inspired words from the lips of God penned through His prophets and apostles. It is not just a history book. It is not just a religious book. It is God talking to YOU! It is His love letter to YOU! The more you read your Bible, the more you discover who God really is and who YOU really are. Try reading a chapter a day. Go to a Christian bookstore or any Wal-Mart and purchase a New International Version, or a New Living Translation, or a New King James version of the entire Bible. Also purchase a

compact size New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs that will fit in your back pocket or purse. (You can take a quickie Bible break during breaks, restroom visits, waiting rooms, driving your car, lunch hour, or just about anywhere or anytime.) If you have a PC computer there are online Bible programs in multitudes of Bible versions available. Most of them are free downloads.

I recommend the following sites for free desktop Bible programs: <http://www.davepohl.com/winonlinebible.html> or <http://www.davepohl.com/maconlinebible.html>. There



are also multitudes of interactive online Bible websites. I also recommend <http://bible.crosswalk.com> or <http://bible.gospelcom.net> for web-based Bible programs.

Start by reading a chapter a day from the book of St. John, and later from the book of Romans. You may wish to read a Psalm a day aloud to God in praise.

You may also wish to read a chapter from the book of Proverbs each day since there are 31 chapters, one for each day of the month.

PRAY THIS PRAYER ALOUD TO GOD: Lord Jesus, help me to develop the habit of daily Bible reading. Make me a Bibleholic! Make me a Word Addict who needs a daily fix from Your scriptures. Help me, Lord, to eliminate distractions and interruptions that would prevent me from reading Your Word. Hearing from You, God, before I hear

from anyone else will get my day started right! Lord, help me underline or highlight the verses that really speak to me or that I have questions about. Lord, help me to memorize any promise I find in the scriptures that meets my need. I love you, Jesus, and thank You for saving me. It's so good to be your child now! In Jesus' name. Amen.

8. Did I hear you say that God has a second free gift for me? Is there another experience that I can enjoy since receiving God's first free gift of Eternal Life?



ANSWER: Yes Indeed! God has another free gift for you since you got saved! The experience is coined by the Bible as the "baptism in the Holy Spirit", or "receiving the Holy Ghost", or being "filled with the Holy Spirit." Besides your decision to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, receiving the Holy Spirit baptism is the next most important thing. Jesus said in Acts 1:8 KJV that

"You shall receive power after the Holy Ghost comes upon you..."
The Holy Spirit is three-dimensional: Before you got saved, the Holy Spirit was AROUND you to convince you of your need for Jesus. The moment you prayed to accept Jesus, the Spirit moved INSIDE of you, into your heart or your spirit. Now Jesus wants the Holy Spirit to come UPON you to empower you as an effective witness for the Lord and to

supercharge your prayer life so that you can pray in an unknown tongue. Acts 2:4 NIV "...and they were all filled with the Spirit and began to speak with other tongues." See the section "Holy Spirit Fire Power 4 U" at the back of this book or ask another Spirit-filled believer to pray for you and help you receive the Spirit baptism today.

9. Is the devil real and do I have to worry about him?



ANSWER: Yes, the devil and demons are real (but he doesn't have a body because he is just a spirit-being). However, the answer to whether or not you have to worry about the devil is both a YES AND a NO! NO, because the devil is NOT omnipotent and omnipresent and omniscient like God who is Almighty. The devil is just a fallen angel who disobeyed God and demons are just rebellious angels who sided with the devil. If the devil were so powerful, he could have kept you from being saved or killed you a long time ago. But he couldn't, because only God is all-powerful. You don't belong to the devil and he has no right to torment your mind, or your emotions, or your body. Jesus defeated Satan square handedly... and single-handedly! What Jesus did on the cross for you dealt the defeating blow to sin and Satan who is the father of everything bad: sin, sickness, depression, and poverty. But YES, you do have to be concerned about the devil. Not that you should be afraid of him, because the Bible plainly declares you have ALREADY overcome him by your faith in Christ and because the Holy

Spirit now lives in you. 1 John 4:4 NIV says, *"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."* But YES, Satan does try to plant evil thoughts, lying thoughts, tempting thoughts, negative thoughts, and fearful thoughts INTO OUR MINDS from time to time. The enemy of our souls works by THOUGHT SUGGESTIONS. A thought may come into our minds that is contrary to Bible truth. Suddenly as we begin to think more about that thought it stirs certain negative emotions or evil desires or depressed feelings inside us. If we continue to think about that thought it becomes stronger, and eventually we may DO SOMETHING or SAY SOMETHING that is not good for us or those around us. The devil is a THINKER! God is a TALKER! To get rid of these thought patterns, you will have to SPEAK ALOUD! You will have to be like Jesus when he was tempted in the wilderness by the devil. (See either Luke chapter 4 or Matthew chapter 4.) You will have to tell the devil to "shut up IN JESUS NAME!" You may need to find a scripture and then quote it aloud something like this: "Satan, shut up and stop suggesting your crazy thoughts to my mind! The Bible says, (quote a verse here). So in Jesus name, flee!" James 4:7 NIV says, *"Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."*

PRAY THIS PRAYER ALOUD TO GOD: Heavenly Father, thank You for defeating sin and Satan by Jesus dying on the cross and being raised from the dead. I realize, God, that the devil is the tempter. I realize that he is subtle and that he is the father of all lies. He is the one who hoodwinked me and deceived me, causing me to wait so long before accepting

Christ. But I rejoice because You, O Lord, broke His power over my life when you came into my heart and received me as your child. Lord, now help me to be on my guard against the devil's thought suggestions that might suddenly come to my mind. Also help me to also guard my mind from the devil's thoughts coming other people's opinions, conversations and words. Help me, Jesus, to CAPTURE every thought that runs through my mind and to identify it as either truthful or negative. I realize my thoughts control my feelings, and my feelings control my actions. So help me, Lord God, to be obedient to SUBMIT TO YOU and to RESIST the devil in Jesus' name! Amen.

10. What do I do when I make mistakes and sin? Do I have to get saved all over? Do I have to get born again, again? How do I get rid of bad habits and repetitive sins?



ANSWER: A great scripture to memorize now is 1 John 1:9 NIV that says, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* This verse promises instantaneous forgiveness from the Father whenever we "mess up." The blood of the cross not only PARDONS you from sin, but gives you POWER OVER sin. You and I don't have to sin anymore. It is no longer the nature of our heart. But because

we still live in human bodies that are not yet glorified in heaven, occasionally we may lose some battles with sin and temptation. But I have Good News! Now that we are born again, our consciences will let us know when we have done or said something wrong. Our own hearts will let us know when we have displeased God. Certain Bible verses may be brought back to our memory that remind us that we have missed the mark and fallen short of God's glory. When this happens, we have the promise of 1 John 1:9 that if WE CONFESS AWAY OUR SINS TO JESUS, admitting that we have goofed up, HE CAN DEPEND UPON TO INSTANTLY FORGIVE US AND CLEANSE US FROM OUR GUILTY FEELING AND EVIL TENDENCY. One doesn't have to get saved all over again. Getting born again, again, is NOT required. When the child of God sins against God, he or she breaks FELLOWSHIP with the Father, not RELATIONSHIP. For example, when a child disobeys its parents, it is STILL THEIR CHILD. The relationship of parent to child is still the same. However, the child's disobedience has displeased the parent and the CLOSENESS and FELLOWSHIP between the parent and child is now strained. The same is true of a marriage. Just because a husband and wife have a disagreement does not mean they are no longer married; rather it means that they need to apologize and ask one another's forgiveness so that they can enjoy one another's company again. So when you make a mistake, don't go around feeling guilty for hours, days, or weeks! Don't run away from your Father when you sin, run TO HIM. Your sins and mistakes are no longer the devil's business. Don't live under a cloud of condemnation. BE QUICK TO REPENT. BE QUICK TO ASK GOD'S

FORGIVENESS! The moment you recognize you have blown in it in some area, **IMMEDIATELY** ask God's forgiveness. He promises to instantly forgive you and make you feel clean again. Also when someone offends you and you feel unforgiveness and bitterness rising up inside you towards that person, **QUICKLY** go to God in prayer and pronounce **ALOUD** to God that you choose to forgive that person. Ephesians 4:32 KJV - *"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."*

11. What is the ONE THING I can do that would help me grow QUICKLY... at an exponential rate of Christian maturity!



ANSWER: Discover your New Identity In Christ! Now that you are saved, find out from the Bible **WHO YOU REALLY ARE!** What is your new identity, your true identity, now that you are born again? What really happened to you on the **INSIDE**, in your heart, when Jesus moved in? Let me illustrate this with the animal called a **SKUNK**. If a skunk **KNOWS** that he is a

skunk, no predator dare touch him. All other animals, large or small, faster or smaller, quickly learn not to mess with a skunk because of that protective odor God gave the skunk as a defense against predators. However, if a skunk **DOESN'T**

KNOW that he is a skunk or if he FORGETS that he is a skunk, he will not dispense his odor and will be quickly devoured by stronger and larger animals. Another illustration is the era of Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights movement. Black men and women discovered that they were just as much a human being as white people and they had just as many rights and privileges as anyone else. When black people began to realize who they were, when they began to feel good about themselves, when they began to resist the lies about their inferiority, when they began to get their self-esteem back, then they began to take action to recover the rights and privileges that legally and lawfully belonged to them. It's the same for Christians. When Christians begin to realize the full benefits of what Jesus did for them and who they really are since being saved, they immediately begin to live life more victoriously, grow closer to God, and become more successful in their relationships, their finances, their health, and in every area of their lives. The Bible teaches that when you received Christ, you became a NEW CREATURE. 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV says, *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* The Bible teaches that you are now an AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST. 2 Corinthians 5:20 says, *"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors..."* The Bible teaches that you are RIGHT NOW (not just later when you get to heaven) a SON OF GOD, a DAUGHTER OF GOD, a CHILD OF GOD. 1 John 3:1-3 says, *"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that*

when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure." The Bible teaches that you are already ACCEPTED by Him. Ephesians 1:6 says, *"...wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."* The Bible teaches that you are His CHOSEN ONE. Ephesians 1:4 says, *"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love..."* When you begin to realize who you really are in Christ, you will begin to live like who you really are. Below is a list that you can print or copy and tape to your bathroom mirror or your car dashboard or your desk wall. A poster of these truths can be downloaded from www.devotional.net. CONFESS THESE BIBLE TRUTHS REGULARLY! They will make you feel better about yourself and your relationship with God:

I am A.ccepted in the Beloved
I am B.lessed with all blessings
I am C.hosen in Him before the world began
I am D.elivered from spiritual darkness
I am E.levated to a heavenly position
I am F.orgiven from all my sins
I am G.od's Masterpiece
I am H.ealed by Jesus' stripes
I am I.n Him
I am J.ustified by my faith in Christ
I am K.ept safe by the power of God
I am L.oved unconditionally by God
I am M.ore Than A Conqueror through Christ
I am N.ot Condemned to guilt or Hell
I am O.vercoming the world through Christ

I am P.redestined to Sonship
I am Q.uickened by Christ the Lifegiver
I am R.edeemed from the curses of the Law
I am S.ealed with the Holy Spirit of promise
I am T.o His praise
I am U.nto His glory
I am V.ictorious by faith in Christ
I am W.ashed in the Blood of Christ
I am X.crucified with Christ
I am Y.oked together with other believers
I am Z.ealous of good works

(A. Ephesians 1:6, B. Ephesians 1:3, C. Ephesians 1:4, D. Colossians 1:13, E. Ephesians 2:6, F. Colossians 1:14, G. Ephesians 2:10 NLT, H. 1 Peter 2:24, I. 2 Corinthians 5:21, J. Romans 5:1, K. 1 Peter 1:5, L. John 3:16, M. Romans 8:37, N. Romans 8:1, O. 1 John 5:4-5, P. Ephesians 1:5, Q. Ephesians 2:1, R. Galatians 3:13,14, S. Ephesians 1:13, T. Ephesians 1:12, U. Ephesians 1:12, V. 1 Corinthians 15:57, W. Revelation 1:5, X. Galatians 2:20, Y. 2 Corinthians 6:14, Z. Titus 2:14)

12. Does God want me to be financially blessed? And what is the Master Key to my prosperity and success in life?

ANSWER: Yes, indeed, God wants to bless you financially! He wants to meet your financial needs. Consider these scripture verses:

Philippians 4:19 KJV - But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Proverbs 10:22 KJV - The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

Luke 6:38 KJV - Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Proverbs 3:9-10 KJV - Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

God has a ten cent plan called tithing. He says that the first ten cents of every dollar we earn belongs to Him. Leviticus



27:32 - ... *the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.*" The word "tithing" literally means "tenth." God commands that we give the first tenth of all our incomes to Him to help finance

the spreading of the Good News on the earth. The way we tithe is to bring the first tenth of what we earn to our local church (the "storehouse" of Malachi chapter 3). Then God PROMISES TO BLESS US FINANCIALLY when we obey

Him. I have been a tither for almost 30 years now, and I have found that 90% of my income with God's blessing on it goes further than 100% without His blessing. Read Malachi chapter 3, verses 7-12 and discover the awesome promises that God makes to tithers! Tithing makes you feel clean on the inside because you know you are obeying God, helping to underwrite the message of the Gospel to others. Tithing is FUN, because then you get to see the hand of God in your finances and career.

If you wish to become a serious student of the Bible and wish further spiritual growth, I recommend you download my book, "The Fundamental Doctrines Of Christ" at www.devotional.net.

So let's quickly review the Secrets of Christian Growth.

1. Rest assured that you are saved on the authority of the scriptures, Romans 10:9 and 1 John 5:13. Your relationship with Jesus is not a "Guess-So", "Maybe-So" relationship; rather it is a "Know-So" relationship because 1 John 5:13 says that if you *"have believed on the name of the Son of God, you may KNOW that you have eternal life."*

2. Make an appointment with your pastor to get water baptized in obedience to Christ' command.

3. Tell as many people as possible about what Jesus has done for you... right away!

4. Make it a habit to attend your local church regularly every Sunday and every Wednesday. You need the protection and fellowship of other believers and you need the mentorship of a strong pastor. Church is your very life!

5. Part ways with any old friends whose influence tries to make you act, think, or feel like you used to before you were saved. Don't let anyone pour buckets of cold water on your faith or obedience to Jesus. Make new friends in your local church. Who you hang with can hang you!

6. Talk to God everyday about anything, everything, and from anywhere. Make your requests to your new Heavenly Father "in Jesus Name!" He is listening intently! Daily!

7. Become a Word Addict, a Bibleholic, by purchasing two Bibles. First, purchase an entire Bible to have at home so that you can read a chapter a day out of the books of St. John and Romans. Secondly, purchase a pocket New Testament that also contains Psalms and Proverbs, to carry in your purse or wallet to refer to whenever you have a chance.

8. Pray to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit from Jesus, God's second free gift to you. After praying, relax, take a deep breath, and begin by faith to speak the supernatural syllables (new tongues) that Jesus promised in Mark 16:17. If you prefer, you may find another Spirit-filled believer who will lay hands on you and pray for you to receive this empowerment.

9. Learn to resist the devil's negative thoughts, doubts and feelings of temptation by resisting the devil ALOUD "in Jesus name" and quoting the scriptures ALOUD.

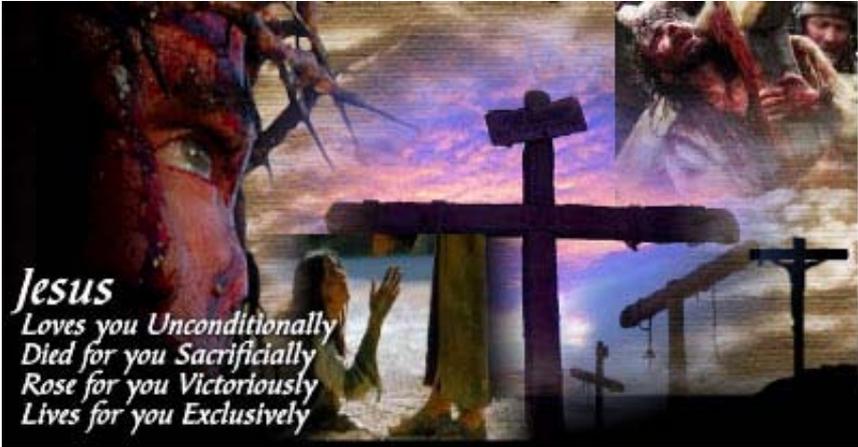
10. When you make mistakes or sin, simply ask God to forgive you by confessing what you did aloud to Him. By faith claim the promise of 1 John 1:9 *"that if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* Don't keep guilty feelings; confess them away to Jesus who is merciful. Stay close to God. Don't run FROM Him when you blow it; run TO Him. He will forgive. He will strengthen. He is the God of Another Chance!

11. To grow quickly, discover from the scriptures WHO YOU ARE IN CHRIST, YOUR NEW IDENTITY IN HIM. Confess aloud regularly to yourself and to God what God says about you in the Bible, rather than what your feelings dictate to you or what others think about you. **YOU ARE WHO GOD SAYS YOU ARE! YOU CAN HAVE WHAT GOD SAYS YOU CAN HAVE!**

12. FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: Let God prosper you financially as you participate in tithing and giving to your local church. Give God some seed to grow you a financial harvest! If you are a young person and you receive an allowance, tithe 10% to God. Don't wait until you are an adult! J.C. Penney started tithing as a young boy, and by the time he was middle-aged, he was a multi-millionaire founder of a department store. He had made tithing a way of

life... giving and receiving, giving more and receiving more!
If you are a career person or business-person, tithe 10% to God. JUST WATCH GOD PROSPER YOU! God is God and He cannot lie... He WILL PROSPER YOU!

How To Be Saved



Romans 10:9 NLT: If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, YOU WILL BE SAVED!

Relationship Versus Religion

A relationship with Jesus is similar in many ways to marriage. When one gets married, they don't receive the "Marriage Religion." No! They receive a Person...a special lifetime relationship with their favorite person. Receiving Jesus is much the same.

Today many people try to become religious to feel better about themselves. Many try self-improvement techniques or attempt to "turn over a new leaf." People all over the world vainly try to reach God on their own. Many try to change themselves without God's help. But the Good News is that you don't have to reach God! God has reached you... by sending His One and Only Son, Jesus Christ!

No human is perfect enough to reach God, so God the Father sent Jesus to reach us! He is "The Bridge" from Heaven to Earth. The sinless Son Of God hung on a Cross between Heaven and Earth to bridge the gap between God and Man caused by man's sin.

From Creation To The Cross

When God created man, He created him perfect and put him in a paradise garden called Eden. Man was in perfect harmony with God. And there was no human pain of any kind. Then Satan, a fallen rebellious angel, tempted Adam and Eve, and they too rebelled against God.

This was the beginning of "Sin" which infected the entire human race. From that moment forward man's sinful union with Satan's rebellious nature started a chain reaction of every kind of human suffering imaginable ...sickness, disease, birth defects, poverty, wars, famines, earthquakes, other natural disasters, hatred, selfishness, betrayal, murder, fear, unbelief, and the list goes on and on.

But God had a plan to redeem fallen man. He sent His Son who was 100% God but also became 100% man. Jesus lived a sinless life, healed the sick, forgave ordinary people like you and I, and demonstrated unconditional love for people. Then, as your and my substitute, He offered His body as a sin sacrifice on the Cross.

He was buried. But on the third day He rose again... the unchallenged conqueror of sin and death! After His resurrection, He appeared to people on many occasions, even to over five hundred people at once. Then He ascended up into heaven where He sits today at God the Father's right hand.

Steps To Receive Jesus

1. The Bible says in Romans 3:23: *"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."* Accept God's Word as fact, about this sinful condition of your heart. Even if you do not consider yourself an active rebel in a deeply sinful lifestyle, your passive indifference to Christ up until this time demonstrates the sinful condition of your heart. Everyone has a sin problem, to one degree or another, or in some form or another.

2. The Bible says in Romans 6:23 KJV: *"For the wages of sin is death..."*. Accept God's Word as fact, about the penalty for your sin (Eternal Death and Separation from God) if you were to reject Christ.

3. The Bible also says in Romans 6:23 NIV: *"...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Accept God's Word as fact, that there is a free gift available to you as a remedy for your sin.

4. The Bible says in Romans 5:8 NIV: *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* Accept God's Word as fact, that God truly and unconditionally loves you!

5. The Bible says in Romans 10:9 NIV: *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."* Accept God's way to be saved as fact. According to this scripture, you must do two things to receive Christ: Believe and Confess. BELIEVE that He loves you so much that He actually died for your sins, was buried, and has been raised from the dead. And CONFESS aloud through the invitation of your own mouth -- asking Him to be your very own personal Lord.

Having accepted these facts from God's Word, may I suggest you open your heart and talk to Jesus as candidly as possible? Just talk to Him like you would a warm friend. You don't need fancy prayer. Come to Him just like you are and trust Him to forgive you and make you a brand new person in your heart. You will sense His Presence more if you talk to him ALOUD with your mouth, not just your mind.

Be sure to tell Him that you believe that God raised Him

from the dead and invite Him to take control of your life from this moment forward. You will sense His cleansing presence. You will begin to feel a release in your emotions. Keep talking to Him for a while; He loves candor and sincerity. He listens to YOU! He loves ordinary people just like you and I. Jesus said in John 6:37 NIV, *"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away."*

Now believe and thank Him often each day for the fact that you are saved. Purchase an economical New Testament (the New International Version) from Wal Mart or a bookstore and begin reading a chapter each day from the books of the Gospel of St. John, the book of Romans, and the book of Mark. Contact me at DrDan@devotional.net and I will recommend a good church in your city and send you some literature that will help you grow stronger in your new relationship with Jesus.

We will help you find a lively contemporary church where you can become part of a family of believers, have a pastor who will help you mature in your relationship with Jesus, and a place where you can be water baptized like Jesus commanded. Now you can receive God's second free gift from your Lord Jesus... Holy Spirit Fire-Power!

Holy Spirit Fire-Power 4 U



God has two free gifts for every person. First is the free gift of Eternal Life by receiving Jesus Christ as your own personal Lord and Savior. If you have never received Jesus or if you are not sure where you stand eternally with God, go back to "How To Be Saved" section of this book, and then return to this page later.

God's second free gift is Holy Spirit power. Any believer in Jesus Christ, regardless of denominational affiliation or background, may receive this second free gift at any time without delay.

John the baptist said in Matthew 3:11, that Jesus was coming and that "*he will baptize you in the Holy Ghost and fire.*" John baptized in water, but he also foretold of a second baptism which he termed the "Baptism in the Holy Ghost." The names of the third person of the Godhead, Holy Spirit and Holy Ghost, are synonymous, of course.

In Acts 1:8 KJV Jesus spoke to his followers who were already believers and said that "*You shall receive power after*

the Holy Ghost is come upon you and you shall be my witnesses..."
The moment one receives Jesus, a person is saved, or what is also called "born again." At that very same moment, the Holy Spirit comes INSIDE the believer to indwell them forever. However, Jesus refers to an additional experience whereby the Holy Spirit comes UPON the believer for greater Christian power. This is the same experience John the Baptist called being "baptized in the Holy Spirit."

Acts 2:4 NIV - "And they were all FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Acts 19:6 NIV - "And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came UPON them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied."

In Mark 16:17, Jesus said, *"And these signs will follow those who believe: In my name they will... speak with new tongues."*

To be FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, or BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, is to have the Holy Spirit come UPON a person for greater power, giftedness, and fruitful service.

So how does one receive this second free gift of the Holy Spirit coming UPON them in power? Actually, it's quite simple.

Jesus said in Luke 11:13, *"...how much more will the Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him."* One receives the first free gift of eternal life by simply asking Jesus to be their Lord and

Savior. Likewise, one receives God's second free gift of being filled or baptized in the Holy Spirit by simply ASKING. Remember, the Holy Spirit is a person, the third person of the Godhead of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is such a gentleman that He will only come upon you by invitation. He is just like Jesus, so you can trust His gentleness and His grace.

Simply go to God in prayer, ask Him to fill you and empower you with His Spirit. Then in faith... TOTALLY RELAX, TAKE A DEEP BREATH and BEGIN TO MOVE YOUR TONGUE AND FORM YOUR MOUTH, EXPECTING GOD TO GIVE YOU UNKNOWN WORDS and syllables. GO AHEAD AND TAKE YOUR LIBERTY and speak to Him in a supernatural language from heaven.

You are just as important to God as the believers referred to in the above scriptures, so you too can experience being filled with His glorious presence and speaking in tongues. Sometimes when He comes upon a person, it is accompanied by extreme joy and laughter, or dreams and visions, or a felt sensation of His warmth, or a feeling of intense glory and power, or even cleansing tears. Other times, He comes with no particular feeling or sensation, just with a simple sense of peace and assurance, as one begins to speak in tongues and magnify God. In any case, the result is a glorious prayer language of tongues that magnifies God. Another way that you can receive the Holy Spirit Baptism is to have another Spirit-Filled believer or pastor to lay hands on you like Paul did in Acts 19:6 above. The laying on of hands activates God's principle of "contact and transmission" and makes

receiving this experience easy. Another Spirit-Filled Christian may help you receive as the Holy Spirit's power on them, in turn, comes upon you while praying together.

Once you have received the power of the Holy Spirit, you may wish to purchase the economical book "Why Tongues" by Dr. Kenneth Hagin from www.HarrisonHouse.Com, so that you may grow in your supernatural prayer life. I also recommend purchasing Kenneth Hagin's other two mini-books, "In Him" and "The New Birth" so that you can become established and firm in your faith in God. You can surf to www.harrisonhouse.com and search by author for Kenneth Hagin to purchase these books online. Please feel free to email me at DrDan@devotional.net to share your experience with me, or ask me any questions.

Another great resource to order other Christian books and music is www.ChristianBook.Com.

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