



NEW AND GROWING BELIEVERS

Becoming More Like Jesus

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PIPES International

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Introduction

New and growing believers alike can learn how to be more like Jesus.

Some of you reading this booklet are new believers and others are growing believers who have been saved for some time. Whichever the case, welcome to the family of God, and let us learn together how to be more like Jesus.

Christians belong to one body of Christ. Jesus is the head of the body, the Church.

As a new believer or a growing believer who has had little or no discipleship lessons, I will share several things you need to know and practice to grow in your faith and be a disciple who makes other disciples.

“We will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ who is the head of His body, the church.”
Ephesians 4:15 (NLT).

The aim of this booklet is to help those who have found Jesus to follow Him, be more like Him and become disciple makers.

My first topic will be your new identity in Christ. This is vital for any new believer to understand that the old self is gone and a new identity has begun.

Your New Identity



2 Corinthians 5:17 and Ephesians.2:8
(Out With The Old: In With The New)

When you believe in Jesus you become a new creation. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17.

We will study a few scriptures that assure us of our identity in Christ.

OLD IDENTITY

Born in Sin and Iniquity

Our problem as human beings is sin. Sin is wrongdoing or falling short of God's standard. It is any action or thought that goes against God's standard, while iniquity is a deeper, more deliberate form of sin that involves gross systematic injustice and oppression, wickedness, immoral acts and corruption.

The Bible says in **Romans 3:23**, "*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*"

In Psalms 51:5, the Bible states, "*Behold I was brought forth in iniquity and in sin my mother conceived me.*"

Therefore, from the above scriptures, we see that everyone is still under the bondage and slavery of sin before they believe and confess Christ as their Lord and Savior.

NEW IDENTITY

Saved by God's grace

The good news is that God has a solution to man's problem. The Bible states in Ephesians.2:8 *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."*

Romans 10:9 also states, *"that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."*

Therefore, our New identity as believers is that we are saved and rescued from our initial state of sin by grace through faith.

You and I received new identity after saying 'yes' to Jesus and confessing His Lordship in our lives.

Henceforth, you are no longer under the bondage of sin but the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21).

As a Christian, you may still struggle with old habits. May be there are issues you are dealing with right now.

How can you overcome evil?

- Acknowledge there are areas you are struggling with.
- Pray at all times.
- Flee from the devil.
- Study and meditate on God's word (**Psalm 119:11**)
- Fellowship with other believers (**Hebrews 10:25**)
- Have a mentor who will disciple you in salvation
- Confess your sins and pray with others (**James 5:16**)

Assurance Of Salvation



1 John 5:11-12 and Romans 8: 38-39

God's will is that we may believe in Jesus His son (John 6)

For the new believers, you have believed and accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior. You will not regret it. You may be wondering, what have I committed myself to? Am I serious about this decision? Can I even make it in this new journey of faith? What should I do next? You may be excited but also anxious about your life going forward.

One of the most important things to understand is the assurance of salvation. As a believer, your identity is in Christ. At the end of this lesson, you should be able to;

- **Understand about the new creation.**
- **Understand the assurance of salvation and eternal life.**
- **Describe God's love and gift as demonstrated in John 3:16.**

Just know that it is not complicated. Jesus is now your friend, and you will take steps to know Him better daily. You have now started your journey of faith.

Remember, Jesus is preparing a place for you (John 14:2), and Jesus is praying for you (Hebrews 4:15-16, Hebrews 7:25).

John 3:16 says,

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Let me expound on this famous scripture.

a) God loved us (unconditional love).

Of all God's creation, human beings are the most special and loved, such that God was willing to give His Only Son to die for our sins. His love for us is so strong; the scriptures say nothing can separate those who believe in Jesus from His love.

Romans 8:38-39

b) God gave you a gift you did not deserve

God's grace has saved us. We did not deserve it, but now we can receive the FREE GIFT. Ephesians 2:8-9

c) We will not perish but have eternal or everlasting life

1 John 5:11-13, "11 And this is the testimony that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. 13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God"

God wants us to know that we have eternal life and this life is available to everyone who believes in Jesus Christ.

John 10:28. "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of my hand."

Also, From John 10:3-10, we learn that:

- Jesus knows you. He calls you by name, just as he calls his own sheep by name. You are not anonymous to God; He knows your name.
- He is a good shepherd.
- Your Good Shepherd knows all about you and your situation. He wants to show you His love and care for you.
- You are valuable and precious to your Creator, who loves you.

John 10:10

The thief (Devil) comes to steal, kill and destroy, but JESUS came so that you may have life and have it in abundance.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read John 5:24: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My Word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

What three things does God promise in the scripture above?

- i)
- ii)
- iii)

2. Read 1 John 5:11-12: "11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. 12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."

- a). Who gives eternal life?
- b). Who has eternal life?
- c). Who does not have eternal life?

MAKE A PRAYER

Lord, thank you for saving me. Thank you for your great care and love for me. I acknowledge that you are my Heavenly Father and my Good Shepherd. Thank You for calling me your own and knowing me by my name. You are my good, good Father. Help me to follow you every day and every hour of my life. Help me to overcome my daily struggles.

Help me to pray and read your word. The devil is not going to steal, kill, or destroy me. I declare I have life, and I have it in full in Jesus' name. Amen.

Water Baptism



John 3:22-23 and Matthew 28:19

Water baptism should be the first step a new believer takes. In the Book of Acts, we repeatedly read how apostles preached and baptized those who were added to the number. It came naturally as a first ordinance for Christians. Early believers repented and were baptized. (**Acts 2:41, Acts 8:38-39, Acts 10:47-48, Acts 16:14-15, Acts 16:30-33, Acts 18:8**)

What is Baptism?

The Greek word for baptism is "baptizo," which means to dip or immerse in water. The following scriptures support "baptizo" by immersion. John was baptizing in Aenon near Salim because there was a lot of water there (**John 3:22-23**).

Why Baptism?

Water baptism is an outward sign of what has happened on the inside. It is a symbol of dying and rising with Jesus. Romans 6:3-4, "*Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*"

We are baptized in Christ's death through immersion and raised with him. Christians are baptized to identify with Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

Once one has given their life to Christ, they ought to be baptized

as an instruction from the Lord, according to Matthew 28:19 “**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**”

Christ, being the author and finisher of our faith, we should look onto Him as stated in the Bible in **Hebrews 12:2**. What am I driving at? In **Matthew 3:13-17** Jesus went to be baptized by John the Baptist even though He is the son of God.

Jesus, being fully God and fully man while on earth, submitted Himself to water baptism. Therefore, water baptism is a sign of surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Acts 22: 16 states, “*And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord*”. Here, Ananias was urging the apostle Paul to get baptized to symbolize his sins being washed away.

Acts 2: 38 Then Peter said to them, “*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is baptism and why is it important for believers?
2. Who should be baptized?
3. What does baptism symbolize?

Fellowship With Believers



Acts 2:42-47 and Hebrew 25:24-25

The early church was committed to sound doctrine and continuous spiritual growth for all believers, genuine relationships and mutual support to those with needs.

In **Acts 2: 42**, the Bible says that, *“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”*

In **Hebrews 10:24-25**, the Scriptures urge us to continue in fellowship to build one another up in a loving relationship. Gather with other God’s people for service, prayer, fellowship, and encouragement.

Fellowships allow you to connect with other believers. Christians are better together.

Every day, they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread together in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." **Acts 2:46-47 (NIV).**

In the above Scripture, we see believers were in a biblical community. This is the plan of God for the Church. In this scripture, we see the first Church met in the temple (large group) and from house to house (small groups).

Some churches have cell groups based on location, neighborhood, interests, and support groups. In small groups, people can discuss more than just service issues. People open up, pray for each other, take each other's burdens, and create friendships and relationships not often found in large churches. Through those revelations, there is more trust and deeper fellowship.

JOIN A BIBLE TEACHING CHURCH

Although sometimes it is hard to identify a biblical church, you should aim to look for a church that:

- Points people to Christ and not to an individual
- Believes the Bible is the final authority.
- Follows the teachings of Jesus.
- A church that believes in the Bible ordinances like water baptism and holy communion.
- You should also look for a church you would love to serve and be committed to praying and supporting.

Benefits of a Christian fellowship

- i. Blessings from God (**Psalms 133**)
- ii. Fellowship helps us to grow in faith (**Matthew 18:19-20, Proverbs 27:17**)
- iii. You should also look for a church you would love to serve and be committed to praying and supporting (**1 Corinthians 14:26, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11**).

Study God's Word



2 Timothy 3:16-17 and 1 Peter 2:2-3

God wants you to read the Bible because that is the primary way He speaks to us. It is an essential element for growth. Get some time each day to read your Bible.

How to read the Bible

It is sweet to study God's word. Meditate upon the word (**Joshua 1:8**), memorize it (**Psalms 119:11**), and practice it (**Matthew 13:23**). The word of God helps us to grow from being 'babes' in Christ to mature Christians (**1 Peter 2:2-3**). It also helps us to build our faith in God by studying the characters who walked with God faithfully and later emerged victorious. For example, Abraham, Jacob, Esther, David etc.

We encourage new and growing believers to read the Bible systematically. Our ministry has a New Testament (NT) reading schedule, where participants read an average of one chapter daily. The NT study takes one year, and we have designed discussion questions and a memory verse. (pipesinternational.org/resources). We encourage people to start from Matthew and go through the New Testament.

Benefits of the Word of God

According to **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, the word of God is profitable for:

- i. Doctrine: Tells us what to believe
- ii. Reproof: shows us where we are wrong
- iii. Correction: Helps us to get back on track
- iv. Instruction in righteousness: Helps us to live according to the standards of God.

Therefore, Christians must study, meditate, and obey God's word for spiritual growth.

Prayer



Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6-7, and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Prayer is a two-way communication with God. It is the primary way to speak to God. Prayer is relational – Builds our relationship with God.

How do you pray? If you are looking for a simple way to model prayer, you can use any of the two models described below:

1-The ACTS model.

A-ADORATION -Praise, honor and worship God

(Psalms 29:2, Psalms 95:6)

C-CONFESSION -Ask for forgiveness for all our transgressions

(Psalm 51)

T-Thanksgiving -Thank God for everything

(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

S-SUPPLICATION -Ask God to meet your needs every day

(Matthew 7:7)

Watch a short video on Praying the “ACTS” Prayer.

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gJW9QJ1suM>)

2. The TACOS model

T- Thanksgiving (Thank God for everything-

1 Thessalonians 5:18)

A- Adoration (Praise, honor and worship God-Psalms 29:2,

Psalms 95:6)

C- Confession (Ask for forgiveness for all our transgressions)

O-Others (Intercede for other people's needs- **1 Thessalonians 5:25**)

S- Self (Pray for your personal needs and the purpose of God in your life- **Philippians 4:6, Matthew 7:7**)

Watch a short video on Praying the “**TACOS**” Prayer.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Igs8ecK_0M

The Bible in **Ephesians 6:12** also says, “*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*”

Therefore, prayer is also a weapon of warfare against the wiles of the devil as it helps us to wage war with the spiritual hosts of wickedness.

Key aspects of prayer

a). Pray at all times (Ephesians 6:18)

One may ask, “How can I pray at all times yet I have a busy schedule?” Of course, it is very possible! The matter in this case is the alignment of one's heart. Allow your heart to become aligned with the word of God by always meditating on it and eventually it turns to a prayer in your heart.

b). Be persistent (Luke 18:1-8)

On persistence in prayer, Jesus narrated the parable of the persistent widow (**Luke 18:1-8**).

The story teaches us not to become tired of calling upon God.

Isaiah 62:6-7, also teaches on not giving God rest until He does what He said.

Be specific in Prayer (**Mark 10: 46-52**)

In **Mark 10: 46-52**, Blind Bartimaeus receives his sight. Take note that even after he cried that Jesus would have mercy on him still Jesus asked, **vs 52** "...what do you want me to do for you?" and he was specific "that I may receive my sight" (**Mark 10: 51**)

Remember, when you pray, you pray to God in the name of Jesus. Christians do not pray through any other name apart from Jesus.

Witness For Christ



Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:18-20

It is essential to share your testimony with others. You can start by telling your family and friends what God has done in your life. Sharing about your new-found faith. When I gave my life to Jesus, as a new believer, I would attend church and fellowships and be accorded an opportunity to share my testimony. I would tell people how I got to know Christ and how I decided to follow Jesus. My testimony was a blessing to many, even though I naturally shared the little I knew about God. I didn't think my testimony was unique and yet so many people told me how blessed they were with my testimony. At 16 years old, I was young, and at that time, not many young people were saved, especially in the villages. I didn't know many scriptures then, but I knew God had changed my life and that I was a new creation. I, therefore, became a witness of Christ (**Acts 1:8**) in my village.

Be The Hands And Feet Of Jesus To Your Family And Friends

You are now a believer, and you should not be ashamed of the gospel. You don't have to think so much about what to say, just tell them that you are now saved and your life has been transformed. Share with them about your new life and about the love of God.

Christians are Ambassadors of Christ. Paul admonished us to reconcile others to Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-10). The Bible calls us light and salt of the world (Matthew 5:13-16). One does not need to be a pastor or to have any title to be a witness. Every Christian has been called to be a witness by partaking in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

In sharing the gospel, you can use the model below.

1. **God's love (John 3:16).** Begin by describing God's love.

Then

2. Explain that **man is sinful (Genesis 3 and Romans 3:23).**

Next

3. **Man is fully forgiven** (Through Jesus, we are forgiven and reconciled back to God. Jesus is the way and the truth and the life. (John 14:6). Lastly,

4. Explain the need to **confess that Jesus is Lord** (Romans 10:9-10).

ABC (**A**dmit, **B**elieve and **C**onfess). Admit you are a sinner, Believe Jesus died for your sins, Confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord and Savior.

Identify God's Gift In Your Life



1 Peter 4: 10 and Jeremiah 1:4-5

Everyone has a unique talent or gift, which is a divine blessing. God's gift in one's life manifests as skills, strengths or passions.

"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." **1 Peter 4: 10.**

Everyone has a unique talent or gift, which is a divine blessing. God's gift in one's life manifests as skills, strengths or passions.

God gives us gifts to fulfill His mandate in our lives. As discussed earlier, it is the will of God that every Christian becomes a witness (**Acts 1:8**).

Therefore, every gift of God in our lives is for the purpose of the Great Commission, according to **Matthew 28:19-20**

God expects us to use the gifts He has given us for His glory (**John 11:4, Proverbs 3:6**).

This is because we are just stewards or vessels God uses to reveal Himself to the world. Therefore, let's not take pride in the gifts we have received from God.

After knowing everyone has a gift from God, one may ask, "How do I identify the gift God has given me?"

Below are steps to identify, grow, and operate in your gifts.

- i. **Pray:** Spend time in prayer and quiet meditation, seeking clarity from God with the help of the Holy Spirit. God knows you, therefore, He knows what He has placed in you. (Jeremiah 1:5)
- ii. **Study and meditate on the word of God:** This is because the word of God contains promises of God over your life (Psalms 139:16).
- iii. **Evaluate strengths:** Think about what you excel well at.
- iv. **Seek feedback:** Ask friends, family, or mentors about what they see as your strengths.
- v. **Try new things:** Engage in various activities or volunteer opportunities.

Ask For The Guidance Of The Holy Spirit



John 14:16-17 and John 15:26

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Trinity. In John 14: 16-17, Christ promised His disciples a Helper, the Spirit of truth, who would dwell in them forever after Jesus ascended to heaven.

Jesus was speaking about the Holy Spirit. Note that in verse 17, Jesus says, "...whom the world cannot receive..." Thus, the Holy Spirit only dwells in the lives of Christ's followers.

Now that you are born again, the Holy Spirit dwells in you. He has the following roles in your life:

- To help, teach, and remind you of all things (**John 14:26**)
- To guide you in all truth (**John 16:13**)
- To direct your paths (**Isaiah 30:21**).
- To convict and correct (**John 16:8**)
- To help in prayer (**Romans 8:26**)
- To give you wisdom, knowledge, and understanding (**1 Corinthians 2:10-11**)
- To empower you to be a witness of Him (**Acts 1:8**)
- To strengthen and comfort you (**Acts 9:31**)
- To assure you of salvation (**Ephesians 1:13**)
- To sanctify you: To help you to live a holy life (**Galatians 5:22- 23**)
- To give you spiritual gifts (**1 Corinthians 12:4**)

Therefore, because the Holy Spirit has been given to us as a helper, we should ask Him to help us in every area of our lives. We should ask him for direction and guidance in all areas of our lives including; ministry, marriage, business, and careers.

Be A Faithful Steward



Psalms 24:1 and Matthew 25:14-30

Psalms 24:1 states, "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein."

It is essential to understand that God owns everything, and we own nothing. We are stewards or managers of God's resources and must manage with wisdom, faithfulness, and generosity. A faithful steward faithfully manages whatever is entrusted to his care.

Some of the resources that God has entrusted us include but not limited to:

- **Time:** Manage time wisely and prioritize God's Kingdom and His will. (Ephesians 5:15-16).
- **Talent:** Use the natural and God-given abilities to serve others (1 Peter 4:10 and Matthew 25:14-30).
- **Treasure:** God has given us a treasure or finances to support our families and propagate God's kingdom. Be faithful with the finances God has placed in you. 100% of all that you have belongs to God. Be a cheerful giver as Paul admonishes the church (2 Corinthians 9:7). Support God's work through your church and other ministries that God leads you to support. Don't store up for yourself treasures on earth but in heaven. (Matthew 6:19-21). Remember, it is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35).

Also, be faithful to refund money when you borrow from others. Refunding money shows you are a good steward. Like Paul, you want to finish well. Paul stated, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith.*" **2 Timothy 4:7.**

And in heaven, you want to hear, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! (**Matthew 25:21, 23**).

Resources By PIPES International (Available for Sale and Free On Soft Copy)



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 2. Study the New Testament in One Year
 3. Evangelism: How to Share the Gospel Effectively
 4. New and Growing Believers: Becoming More Like Jesus
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About PIPES International



Partnership for Indigenous Peoples (PIPES) International is a global Christian organization that partners with indigenous peoples, communities, local churches, and organizations to make disciples and end poverty. PIPES was founded in the United States in 2011 by Kenya-American Samuel and Esther Mwangi to impact lives through discipleship, education, and socio-economic empowerment.

PIPES serves where the need is greatest and has witnessed the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ in some of the hardest-to-reach and often poor nations. PIPES applies a whole- person discipleship approach by addressing vulnerable people's spiritual and physical needs to assist them in spiritual formation and moving from a place of dependence to socio-economic security and dignity.

Since its formation in 2011, PIPES International has implemented various programs and projects in many countries with an active presence in Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Pakistan, and the United States. These programs include evangelism and discipleship, education, and economic empowerment.

Your partnership with us in the gospel helps us reach thousands of lives. We encourage you to support PIPES International, which spreads God's love in villages and cities and fights abject poverty in the world's most impoverished communities. Your gift makes this ministry possible.

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