

# **The Next Step**

***A practical guide for you as  
you start on a new adventure  
with Jesus Christ***

## **My Decision**

**On ..... I asked  
Jesus to come into my life.**

**I receive His forgiveness; I  
believe that He died for me; I  
want to live the rest of my life  
in loving obedience to God;  
and I will openly declare that  
I am a follower of the Lord  
Jesus Christ.**

**Signed .....**

## Day 1 .....

*“Let us give thanks to God. Because of His great mercy he gave us ‘new life’ by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a living hope.”  
1 Peter 1:3*

## **A NEW LIFE**

**Jesus described entering His kingdom as being “born again”. When you gave your life to Jesus, and invited Him into your heart, it was like starting a brand new life.**

**A baby suddenly arrives in a strange new world. It gradually makes sense of what is going on around it. It takes time for it to adjust to its new surroundings.**

**Do not be surprised if you find your new Christian life a bit bewildering at first. You will gradually make sense of it all.**

## Day 2....

Notice how the devil tries to make Eve doubt God's word:

***"The snake asked the woman, 'Did God really tell you not to eat fruit from any tree in the garden?'"***

***Gen 3:1***

***"To all who received Jesus, to those who believed in Him, he gave the right to become children of God."  
John 1:12***

***Jesus said: "Everyone whom my Father gives me will come to me. I will never turn away anyone who comes to me."  
John 6:37***

## **SOME EARLY DOUBTS**

When you took Jesus as your friend, you left the unbelieving world. The Devil tries to keep people there, but *you are no longer under his regime!* His next move will be to put doubts in your mind.

*Does this sound familiar? :-*

“Did I really give my life to Jesus?”

“Has Jesus really come to live in me?”

“Has anything happened?”

“Was I just making it all up?”

The Devil has always tried to make people doubt the promises of God. Don't listen to him. God has promised to accept you. He has promised to make you His child. Trust Him that He has!

## Day 3.....

*“In a vision the Lord showed him a man called Joshua standing before the Lord. And there beside Joshua stood Satan, ready to bring an accusation against him. The angel of the Lord said to Satan, ‘May the Lord condemn you, Satan! This man is like a stick snatched from the fire.’”  
Zechariah 3:1-3*

*“If we confess our sins to God, He will keep His promise and do what is right: He will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing.” I John 1:9*

## **WHAT IF I FAIL?**

**Not only will the Enemy try to make you doubt, he will try to discourage you. When you make mistakes, he will try to make you feel that God will never have you back.. Don't listen to him!**

**When you fail – tell God all about it, and ask His forgiveness. He will wipe the slate clean. Jesus has already dealt with your wrongdoing by dying on the cross.**

**If you sin, it doesn't mean you stop being a Christian. If a child does wrong, he or she does not cease to be a member of the family. All is needed is for the child to "own up" and be forgiven.**

## Day 4....

*“Your enemy, the Devil, roams round like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Be firm in your faith and resist him. I Peter 5:8,9*

*Whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them.”  
Matthew 18:19,20*

*“Jesus said: “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never die. No one can snatch them away from me.”  
John 10:27,28*

## **MEET WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS**

**The Enemy is described as a lion looking for a sheep separated from the flock. Jesus is described as a Good Shepherd who looks after the sheep.**

**The safest place to be is in the middle of the flock! Especially if you are a new Christian! Make sure you regularly keep in touch with other Christians. They will encourage your faith and dispel your doubts.**

**Coals only keep alight if they remain in the fire with all the other burning coals!**

## Day 5....

*“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He had finished, his disciples said to Him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray.’”*

*Luke 11:1-13 is all about prayer: read it for yourself.*

*“In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, always give thanks for everything to God the Father. Pray on every occasion as the Spirit leads. Keep alert and never give up; pray always for all God’s people.*

*Ephesians 5:20 & 6:18*

## GETTING TO KNOW JESUS BETTER

The best way to get to know anyone is to spend time talking to them. Don't be discouraged if, at first, you find your relationship with Jesus a little strange. Get into the habit of telling Him everything. Ask Him for the things you need. Apologise when you think you have hurt Him. Thank Him for all he has done for you.

Gradually, you will see answers to your prayers. Even though you cannot physically see Him, you will get accustomed to feeling Him near you.

## Day 6....

*“Jesus said to those who believed in Him, ‘If you obey my teaching you are really my disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’”*

*John 8:31,32*

*“Continue in the truths you were taught and firmly believe. You have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God.”*

*II Timothy 3:16,17*

## **CAN JESUS SPEAK TO ME?**

**At first, some people feel that prayer is a bit “one-sided”. You will soon discover that Jesus draws near you when you pray.**

**But Jesus also speaks to us through the Bible. Jesus’ words are still relevant today. As God helped people in the Bible, in a similar way he will help you.**

**Make a point of regularly reading pages from the Bible. Start with the life-story of Jesus in “Matthew”, “Mark”, “Luke” or “John”. You will soon begin to recognize when God is saying something to you through it.**

## Day 7.....

“For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life”.      John 3:16

“I am telling you the truth: whoever hears my words, and believes in Him who sent me has eternal life. He will not be judged but has already passed from death to life.      John 5:24

”I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life”.      John 8:12

“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”      John 8:36

“I have come in order that you might have life-forever in all its fullness”.      John 10:10

## **GROWING IN TRUST**

When young couples are courting, they sometimes write “love letters”. They read and re-read them because they remind them of the love the other person has for them.

On the page opposite, you will find some of the words of Jesus. If you read and re-read the loving things He says, you will find your trust growing stronger and stronger.

## Day 8.....

*"You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead he puts it on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before people."  
Matthew 5:14,15*

*"If anyone declares publicly that he belongs to me, I will do the same for him before my Father in heaven."  
Matthew 10:32*

*"If you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that God raised Him from death, you will be saved. For it is by our faith that we are put right with God, for it is by our confession that we are saved."  
Romans 10:9,10*

## **TELLING OTHERS**

**In an unbelieving world, you would think that it was better to keep quiet about your faith. Not so! The truth is that: the more you voice your faith, the more sure you become.**

**There is no such thing as a secret disciple of Jesus. He always expected people to be “open” about their decision to follow Him.**

**That doesn't mean that we “ram religion down peoples throats”. It does mean that we should not be ashamed to be known as followers of Jesus.**

## Day 9.....

*“I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent.”*

*Luke 15:7*

## **SOME GOOD STORIES**

**Jesus told stories about everyday life to open our eyes to what God is like. Three helpful stories are found in Luke chapter 15.**

**There is not enough space to print out the whole chapter, so look it up in your Bible now.**

**You were like the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son. Notice how each one was “found”. You have been found by Jesus. Your “lost” friends could be “found” by Him too!**

## Day 10.....

*“The Kingdom of Heaven is like this. A man takes a mustard seed and sows it in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it grows up, it is the biggest of all plants. It becomes a tree, so that birds come and make their nests in it’s branches.*

*The Kingdom of Heaven is like this. A woman takes some yeast and mixes it with 40 litres of flour until the whole batch of dough rises.”  
Matthew 13:31-33*

*“I am certain that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus.”*

*Phil 1:6*

## **SLOW PROGRESS?**

**Sometimes beginners look at those who have been Christians a long time. They begin to feel that they are making slow progress.**

**In Matthew chapter 13 Jesus told some “puzzle-stories”. They were purposely worded to make people think.**

**What do you think He was trying to tell us in the story of “the Mustard Seed” and “the Yeast”?**

**Would the old saying: “slow but sure” fit here? Never fear – He will finish the job!**

## Day 11.....

*“Whoever hears my words and believes in Him who sent me has eternal life. He will not be judged, but has already passed from death to life.”*

*John 5:24*

*“It is by God’s grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God’s gift, so that no one can boast about it. God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus He has created us for a life of good deeds, which He has already prepared for us to do.”*

*Ephesians 2:8-10*

*“I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and they know me. I am willing to die for them.” John 10:14*

## **WHAT IF I CAN'T KEEP IT UP?**

Sometimes in the Christian life we go through a phase of self-doubt. It is always good to remind yourself that **Jesus** brought you to Himself in the first place. What really mattered was what **HE** did for you, not what **YOU** did for Him!

We continue as we started: relying on **Him** to make the difference.

**He** will keep you in His way. **He** will prepare good things for you to do as you progress.

He knew your strong points and your weak points when He took you on!

## Day 12.....

*“They spent their time in learning from the apostles, taking part in the fellowship, and sharing in the fellowship meals and the prayers. Day after day they met as a group in the Temple, and they had their meals together in their homes, eating with glad and humble hearts, praising God, and enjoying the good will of all the people. And every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42,46,47*

*“Your word is a lamp to guide me and a light for my path.” Psalm*

## **WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER HELP?**

The person who helped you to ask Jesus into your life would love to keep in touch. They may not have the answers to all your questions, but they will point you in the right direction.

The pastor/minister/vicar is there to encourage you. If there is something about your Christian life that confuses you, do not hesitate to contact them. Phone them or make sure you get to talk to them on a Sunday.

You will be encouraged to join a small 'growth group'. DO take the opportunity to do so.

There are a bewildering number of books about Christianity. Ask advice on which are best for you. Don't replace reading the Bible with reading books.

## Day 13.....

*“You were told the ‘false-Christ’ will come; but there are already many ‘false-Christ’s’. These people really did not belong to our fellowship, and that is why they left us. They left so that it would be clear that none of them really belonged to us. But you have had the Holy Spirit poured out on you by Christ, and so all of you know the truth.” 1 John 2:18-23*

*Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life; no one goes to the Father except through me.”*

*.John 14:6*

## **HOW DO I KNOW WHO TO BELIEVE?**

From time to time, you will meet “religious” people who seem to have a different view of God. Not everyone who calls them self a “Christian” is a real follower of Jesus.

You will have a “gut feeling” that there is something not quite right with what they are saying.

True Christians make Jesus “**number one**”. They believe that He is the only way to the Father. True Christians also actively belong to a recognized church.

## Sharing My News

I have told the following  
people that I have given my  
life to Jesus:

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## My Prayer List

I am praying for the following  
people:

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31,1,31,1,

29,2,27,4,  
25,6,23,8,  
21,10,19,12,  
17,14,

31,30,31,30,

3,28,5,26,  
7,24,9,22,  
11,20,13,18,  
15,16



