

SEVEN
STEPS
JOY
to

LIFE-COMMITMENT DISCIPLESHIP SERIES

AN IMPORTANT WORD TO YOU...

Congratulations on receiving Christ as your Savior! This is the most important decision you have ever made in your life. The Christian life is an amazing journey that will take you deep into the pathways of spiritual living.

Receiving Christ, however, is only the beginning. There are many more steps that will help you to grow in Him. You will find that the seven practical steps in this booklet are guaranteed by the Bible to bring joy in your Christian life.

If you omit any one of these steps, you would rob yourself of the joy God has intended for you. The Lord wants you to have abundant life and you can have it by making these seven steps to joy a priority in your walk with God.

Tom Ward, Sr.

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SEVEN STEPS TO JOY

Spiritual Discipline Zone

Hebrews 12:6-10

STEP 7

**Disciple
Making**

Acts 1:8

STEP 6

Giving

Mal. 3:8-10

STEP 5

**Bible
Study**

2 Tim. 2:15

STEP 4

Prayer

Mat. 7:7-11

STEP 3

**Church
Attendance**

Heb. 10:25

STEP 2

Baptism

Rom. 6:3-6

STEP 1

Assurance

1 John 5:13

This chart is a model for you to follow as you study through Seven Steps to Joy. It should serve as a constant reminder of the path and direction that God has chosen for all new believers to take. Each step gets you that much closer to the joy that God has in store for you as a Christian.

I pray that as you study these steps, they strengthen your desire to follow Christ.

Your **JOURNEY**
BEGINS now...

MEMORY VERSE: 1 JOHN 5:11-12

WHY DO I DOUBT?

Many new Christians are stunned because shortly after they are saved, doubts about their decision for Christ arise in their minds. Let me assure you that doubts are common to all. There is an enemy who will put all the doubts into your mind that he possibly can. His name is Satan.

Your next question is, "Why do I have these doubts?" Actually, doubts are good for you because they cause you to get into the Word of God in order to find assurance of your salvation. Your salvation is a fact guaranteed by God's Word.

ON THE QUESTION OF DOUBTS

Answering the following questions will help you to know for sure you are saved.

1. According to 1 Peter 5:8, what does Satan want to do to you as a Christian? _____
2. What animal is Satan compared to in 1 Peter 5:8?

3. Remember, Satan is your adversary (opponent), and you must fight the doubts he puts into your mind. How do you fight Satan according to 1 Peter 5:9?

4. To resist Satan, we must put on the armor of God. Below, list the armor that God gives us in Ephesians 6:10-18.
• _____

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

5. To resist Satan, you must learn to rid yourself of the doubts Satan puts in your mind. Refuse to dwell on these doubts. How can we do this (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)? _____
- _____

HOW SAVED AM I?

1. What kind of life did you receive when you accepted Christ (John 3:16)? _____
2. At the moment of salvation, you became one of God's sheep. Can anyone take you away from God (John 10:28-29)? _____
3. List the things that cannot separate you from the love of Christ (Romans 8:38-39). _____

4. What protects you according to 1 Peter 1:5? _____

5. Your salvation does not depend upon feelings. Feelings change, but God and His Word never change. Salvation is a fact not a feeling. 2 Timothy 1:12 says that God is able to keep you. Leave the keeping of your salvation up to God, not up to how you feel.

HOW CAN I KNOW FOR SURE I'M SAVED?

1. How can you be sure that you know God (1 John 2:3-5)? _____
- _____

2. You know you are saved because you love to be with God's people. The reason you feel that way is because you are now a part of God's family. What does 1 John 3:14 teach us?

3. When you were saved, the Spirit of God miraculously entered to live inside you. When you accepted Christ, you accepted His Spirit. What does 1 John 3:24 tell you about knowing that Christ lives within you?

4. According to 1 John 5:13, God has written the Word of God so that you would know what?

5. Take a few moments and in this space record how you were saved. If you remember the exact date, include it. Every time Satan brings doubts to your mind, re-read what you have written.

MEMORY VERSE: MATTHEW 28:19

After salvation God gives us a wonderful command. That command is to follow Christ in baptism. Baptism is the first step of obedience for the new believer in Christ. I have never known any Christian to grow in Christ or to be blessed by God who did not obey God in believer's baptism.

As you answer the following questions, ask God to teach you through His Word the importance of baptism.

THE MOTIVE FOR BAPTISM

Obedience

1. Your first motive for baptism should be obedience. In Matthew 28:18-20, God commands us to "go" and do three things. List them below:

- _____
- _____
- _____

Love

2. If you love the Lord, you will want to do what He says. Write out John 14:15 below:

Baptism proves your love for God.

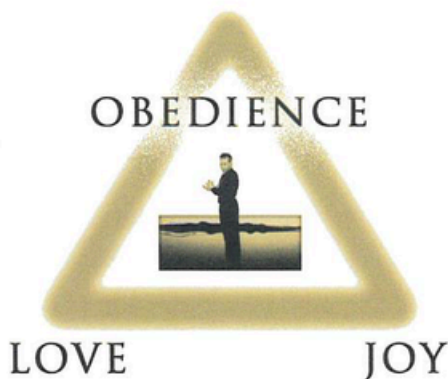
Joy

3. Read the story in Acts 8:26-40 of the Ethiopian eunuch's salvation and baptism. You will see in this event how baptism brought rejoicing to his heart. Now answer the questions below.

- What one thing was necessary before the eunuch could be baptized (v. 37)? _____

- Salvation must come before baptism. After the eunuch was baptized, he "*went on his way* _____" (v. 39).

The threefold motive for baptism:



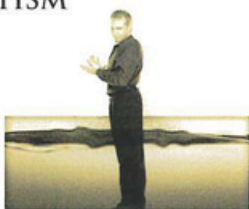
THE METHOD OF BAPTISM



DEATH



BURIAL



RESURRECTION

Baptism can only be performed in one way. In the Bible, no one was ever baptized except by immersion of the body under water. The word *baptism* literally means "to dip, to plunge, to submerge, or to immerse." Nowhere in the Bible is sprinkling of babies or adults taught.

1. Where was Jesus baptized (Matthew 3:13)?

2. Read Matthew 3:16. Christ could not have come up out of the water until first He was under it.

3. John 3:23 says they were baptizing in Aenon, because there was how much water there? _____

4. According to Acts 8:38, how did Phillip and the eunuch get into the water? _____

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

Baptism is a picture of your death, burial, and resurrection with Christ. Baptism shows the death of the "old man" before you were saved, burial of the old life, and the resurrection of a new life to be lived for the Lord Jesus Christ. Read Romans 6:3-5 to learn what God says about baptism.

STEP 3

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

MEMORY VERSE: HEBREWS 10:25

One of the most important elements in the life of a new Christian is getting to know other believers. And church is the best way to do this! At church you will receive instruction and encouragement on how to live the joy-filled Christian life. As you attend church, you will get to know other Christians as well as learn essential Bible truths through the preaching and teaching.

Your local church offers Sunday School classes or small groups. Find a class or group to attend every week. This is where you will establish strong relationships, ask pressing questions, and study the Bible.

Church attendance is a must if you want to grow in Christ and become a mature, joy-filled Christian. Learn to give God your whole Sunday. Giving God the first day of the week is like making Him your top priority. God will bless you for your faithfulness.

THE FOUNDER OF THE CHURCH

1. With what did Christ purchase the church (Acts 20:28)?

2. Who is the head of the church (Ephesians 5:23)?

3. How long ago did God plan to build His church (Ephesians 1:4)?

4. Who deserves the head position in the church (Colossians 1:18)?

5. Who established the church (Matthew 16:13-18)?

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

1. What does church give to new Christians (1 Peter 2:2)?

2. According to Jeremiah 3:15, God has given pastors to the church who will feed you in _____ and _____.

3. Another reason for church attendance is for connection with other believers. Read Acts 2:41-47 and list some of the things the early church did together.

4. What is God's desire for His church (1 Corinthians 1:10)?

5. According to Romans 10:17, how does your faith grow?

THE PASTOR

1. The word *pastor* in the New Testament means "overseer." God has given you a pastor (or pastors) to train and nurture you in the Lord. What is the pastor to do for his flock (Acts 20:28)?

2. Read Ephesians 4:8-11. God gave some gifts to the church. He gave apostles and prophets. Name the other gifts God gave to the church.

3. What is the pastor's job (Ephesians 4:12)? _____

4. Who made your pastor the overseer of the church (Acts 20:28)?

5. Read 1 Peter 5:2. In what way is a pastor to oversee God's flock, the church? _____

6. How is the pastor to lead his flock (1 Peter 5:3)?

THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH

What is the three-fold purpose of the church as given in Matthew 28:19-20?

- _____
- _____
- _____

MY RESPONSIBILITY

1. What does God warn us not to neglect (Hebrews 10:25)?

2. When should you give your tithes and offerings (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)? _____

3. What are some of the responsibilities the early church took upon itself?

- _____ (Acts 12:5)
- _____ (Acts 14:27)
- _____ (Hebrews 2:12)
- _____ (Acts 17:11)
- _____ (Acts 8:4)

MEMORY VERSE: PHILIPPIANS 4:6

*“Prayer is a strong wall and fortress of the church;
it is a goodly Christian’s weapon.” - Martin Luther*

You nourish your spiritual life through prayer. About 30 times in the New Testament the word *ask* is used to describe prayer. When you pray, you soar above mere mortal planes into the presence of God Himself. The ability to pray is within the grasp of every believer. When you are troubled, the door of prayer is always open. When you have a need, God is always there waiting to hear from you and to grant your request according to His will.

Every new disciple of Christ should set his or her heart and mind to learn how to pray. Great and wonderful blessings await you as you tap into the power of prayer.

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Many believe that prayer is simply talking to God, but prayer is also asking.

Look up the following verses and write down what God promises to those that ask:

1. Matthew 7:7 _____
2. Matthew 7:8 _____
3. Matthew 7:11 _____
4. Matthew 21:22 _____

5. Luke 11:13 _____
6. John 14:14 _____
7. John 16:24 _____

Prayer is simply asking God for the things you need which He can supply.

HOW SHOULD I PRAY?

When many people think of prayer, they think of a position of the body. They think you must fold your hands and kneel. However, learning how to pray has very little to do with the body, but a great deal to do with the attitude of the heart. When you pray, you must learn how important it is for your heart to be in a right relationship with God.

1. You must pray with God's _____ abiding in you (John 15:7).
2. You must pray in whose name (John 14:14)? _____
3. What do you need to do when you pray (Mark 11:24)?

4. How should you come before God's throne (Hebrews 4:16)?

5. When you bring your requests before God, you are to do it with what kind of attitude (Philippians 4:6)?

6. We should pray directly to whom (1 Timothy 2:5)?

How should you pray? You should pray by asking God boldly for the things you need in Jesus' name. You should believe that He will answer your prayer and thank Him for the answer before it even comes.

WHY SHOULD I PRAY?

1. **Because God commands it.** How often does God say to pray (1 Thessalonians 5:17)? _____

2. **Because your spiritual life depends on it.** Prayer is essential in your fight against whom (Ephesians 6:11-18)? _____

WHERE SHOULD I PRAY?

1. **God says you are to pray privately and He will reward you openly.**
God says you should pray in your _____
(Matthew 6:6).
2. **Every Christian should have a "prayer closet"—a special private place to meet alone with God every day and pray. Think of a place and a time you can be alone with God and make an appointment to meet Him there on a daily basis.**

WHEN SHOULD I PRAY?

1. **What times of the day does Psalm 55:17 say you should pray?** _____, _____, _____
2. **How often did Daniel pray (Daniel 6:10)?** _____
3. **How often does Luke 18:1 say you should pray?**

Every Christian should take any available opportunity to pray.
You should pray every day alone with God. You should pray with other Christians at church, at meal times, as a family; anytime there is a need for prayer is the time to pray.

HINDRANCES TO PRAYER

It is only fair that every Christian should know that certain things will hinder his prayers before God.

Look up the following verses and write down what each verse says will stand in the way of getting answers to prayer.

1. Psalm 66:18 _____
2. Mark 11:25-26 _____
3. James 4:3 _____
4. Jeremiah 5:23-25 _____
5. 1 Peter 3:7 _____

A great way to keep track of your prayers is to start a Prayer Journal. When you have your daily time with God, write down some of your prayer requests and the date. When the prayer is answered, you can check that prayer request off and write the date it was answered. This is a fantastic way to monitor your prayer progress. And you will feel great joy when you are able to check a request off your list. It's like keeping a record of God's blessings on your life. (*A sample is below.*)

PRAYER JOURNAL

<i>Prayer Request</i>	<i>Date Asked</i>	<i>Date Answered</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

MEMORY VERSE: 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

You are now a part of the family of God and you need to grow up into an adult Christian. Spiritual growth can only come as you read and study the Bible. The Bible teaches that as a newborn in Christ you must desire the “milk” of God’s Word. (See 1 Peter 2:2.)

The best way to grow in Christ is to begin right now to develop habits that will ensure the joy-filled Christian life. One of those habits is reading the Bible every day. I suggest you do as millions of Christians before you have done: rise a little earlier in the morning than usual and spend a few moments reading a chapter of the Word of God. The gospel of John should be read first, and then you could start at the beginning of the New Testament and read it through. Continue reading as much as you want. Reading four chapters a day will take you through the entire Bible in one year.

No Christian can grow in Christ without developing the Bible reading habit. However, those who begin to read God’s Word are sure to become the spiritual Christians they desire to be.

Remember, every word of the Bible is given by the inspiration of God. That means that every word is “God-breathed.” (See 2 Timothy 3:16.)

Knowing that the Bible is God’s written Word to us should compel us to read every word, so that we will know God’s plan for our lives.

Answering the following questions will help you to understand how important daily Bible reading is for your spiritual growth.

WHERE DID WE GET OUR BIBLE?

1. Before man ever penned the pages of God’s Word here on earth, where was it settled forever (Psalm 119:89)?

2. When the writers of the Bible put the words of God on paper, who moved them to write (2 Peter 1:21)?

3. Read Psalm 12:6-7. The Bible was given to us by God and preserved by God so that we can fully trust every word.

4. How long did Jesus say the Bible will last (Matthew 24:35)?

HOW IMPORTANT IS BIBLE READING?

1. According to 2 Timothy 2:15, why should we study our Bibles?

2. What four things can we learn from the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16)?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

3. What does the new Christian just learning about God's Word need according to Hebrews 5:12? _____

4. Read Hebrews 5:14. How do you become mature?

5. How does your faith grow (Romans 10:17)? _____

6. How can you find success (Joshua 1:8)? _____

SEVEN RESULTS OF STUDYING GOD'S WORD

When you study the Bible you will reap immeasurable results. God will bless your life as you learn new things about Him through His Word. Look up the following verses. Each verse names a result of studying God's Word. Write that result next to each verse.

1. Psalm 119:116 _____
2. Psalm 119:105 _____
3. Psalm 119:99 _____
4. Psalm 119:11 _____
5. Hebrews 5:12-14 _____
6. Acts 20:32 _____
7. Psalm 119:160 _____

MEMORY VERSE: MALACHI 3:10

God has designed a wonderful plan to finance the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is God's will that all people should hear the truth of the gospel. In order for that to happen, churches must be built, missionaries must be sent to other countries, and many other ministries must be financed to get the gospel to a lost and dying world. The way these needs are met is by the giving of tithes and offerings by God's people.

God expects every believer to give one-tenth of his total income to Him. By every Christian giving at least one-tenth, God's financial program can be carried out.

God teaches us that our giving ought to be done on Sunday, the first day of the week. Tithing is the scriptural way of giving to God. Every offering is a free-will offering because no one is forced to give. However, every Christian ought to begin to tithe the very first week he or she is saved. Why shouldn't we give our tithes to the Lord? It is God that gave us our jobs and health to work for the money we earn. It is God that has given us our homes and every material thing that we possess.

When we have learned to tithe, we can begin to give an offering which is any amount over and above our regular tithe.

Actually, giving is the way we receive the blessing of the joy-filled Christian life (Luke 6:38). God definitely teaches us that the way to receive God's blessings is to give. Every Christian should learn to give, for God wants to bless us greatly, and He does this according to our generosity.

Notice as you answer the following questions the biblical basis for giving our tithes and offerings to God.

1. How much did Abraham give to God (Genesis 14:17-20)?

2. Jacob also gave a certain amount to God. How much was it (Genesis 28:20-22)? _____

3. Moses commanded Israel to give how much (Leviticus 27:30-34)?

4. We give our tithes out of _____ for God (2 Corinthians 8:24).

5. The Corinthian church collected their offering on what day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1-2)? _____

6. How had Israel robbed God in Malachi 3:8?

7. What did God do to those who would not tithe in Malachi 3:8-9? _____

8. The church is God's New Testament storehouse. What kind of blessing does God promise to those who will tithe (Malachi 3:10)?
-
9. Write in a few words what you believe 2 Corinthians 9:6 means concerning giving.
-
-
-
10. What did the church at Macedonia give even before they gave the Lord their tithes and offerings (2 Corinthians 8:5)?
-
11. Read what God says about giving in Luke 6:38.
12. One of the greatest privileges God has given you is to be able to give tithes and offerings. Giving is the only way God's work can continue in this world. How does God want you to give to Him (2 Corinthians 9:7)?
-
-
-

MEMORY VERSE: ROMANS 1:16

WINNING OTHERS TO CHRIST

MATTHEW 10:32-33

ACTS 1:8

The thing that will bring the most excitement to a Christian is winning others to Christ. Nothing brings more joy than sharing Christ's love by telling others what Christ has done in your life. I am sure you have unsaved friends and perhaps members of your own family who are not saved. By living a changed life before them and witnessing to them, you can share your joy with them—joy that only comes from the love of Jesus Christ. You can start by inviting your friends to attend church with you, where they will hear the gospel.

The very last command Christ gave to Christians before He went into heaven was to share His message with others. In every single gospel—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—we are told that we have a responsibility to bring others to Christ. In Acts 1:8 Christ promised that we would have the power of the Holy Spirit living within us to perform this important task of sharing Christ's message.

There are many reasons for winning others to Christ, not the least of which is the reality of an eternal hell. Yes, there is a heaven for the people of God and a burning hell for those who reject Christ. Certainly it is every Christian's desire to see his friends and relatives in heaven for all eternity.

Begin now to learn the brief gospel outline provided below, and you will surprise even yourself as you begin to share with others the truth about eternal life through Jesus Christ.

BRIEF GOSPEL SUMMARY

This is a great way to explain God's salvation plan to those who might not understand it. This will help you as you tell others what Jesus Christ has done for you.

1. WE ARE SAVED BY THE LOVING GRACE OF GOD

Write out Ephesians 2:8-9.

It is absolutely impossible for people to save themselves. Therefore they must depend on God's grace; grace is the undeserving favor of God.

2. WE ARE SEPARATED FROM GOD BY OUR SIN

Write out Romans 3:23. _____

Every person has sinned and cannot save himself. God will not live in the presence of sin; therefore we must come to God through Christ.

3. THERE IS A PENALTY FOR SIN

Write out Romans 6:23a.

The payment for sin is eternal death in hell, which is known as the second death.

Write out Revelation 20:14-15.

4. GOD IS LOVING AND MERCIFUL

Write out Romans 5:8.

Christ died on the cross for our sins over 2,000 years ago because He loved us so much that He wanted to pay our sin debt.

Write out Romans 6:23b.

Now for all who will trust Christ, God offers the free gift of eternal life.

5. WE MUST RECEIVE CHRIST AS SAVIOR

Write out John 1:12.

It is not enough to say you believe Jesus Christ is real. You must believe He died on the cross to pay for your sins and rose from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). You must receive Him as the only

Lord of your life and Savior of your soul, for only He can save you from your sins (Romans 10:9-10).

Write out Romans 10:13.

Will you receive Christ right now by turning from your own sinful way and trusting Him as Savior and Lord? Pray now and ask Him to save you from your sin.

I hope this brief gospel summary will be helpful as you tell others about Christ. Below you will find some questions to answer that will help you further.

1. Why should you tell others, according to:
 - Matthew 10:32-33? _____
 - Mark 16:15? _____
2. Who gives you the power to be Christ's witness (Acts 1:8 and Luke 11:13)? _____
3. How do you glorify God (John 15:8)? _____
4. What has God chosen you to do (John 15:16)? _____

5. How can you make heaven rejoice (Luke 15:7)?

6. God compares witnessing to what (Matthew 4:19)?

7. What does 1 Peter 3:15 say you need to be ready to do at all times?

8. You need to convey five main points in order to bring an unbeliever to a greater understanding of Christ.

- We are saved by the loving grace of God (Ephesians 2:8-9).
- We are separated from God by our sin (Romans 3:23).
- There is a penalty for sin (Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:14-15).
- God is loving and merciful (Romans 5:8).
- We must receive Christ as Savior (John 1:12).

9. What was the main reason Christ came to earth (Luke 19:10)?

*I trust that this booklet has been a source
of blessing to your newfound Christian life.
If you will stay faithful to the Seven Steps to Joy,
you will be successful in your daily walk with Christ.*