

## The Steps of New Life

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As Christians, we received new life when we obeyed the Gospel. The apostle Paul wrote, “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4).

Remembering the day when we were reborn into the family of God is encouraging. At that moment, we were full of faith and resolve. We were hungry to learn. The Bible notes that the first disciples, “devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). They were busy in their new life.

As time passes, though, we tend to lose our determination. The new wears off. Perhaps some have lost their way in life. The world can distract us. The world can deceive us. We must grow into our new life. There are basic steps we must take as we learn to walk. In time, our footing will become firm, and we will be able to run.

For an infant, learning to walk is difficult. There is a lot of wobbling and falling. But, they are resilient. They keep getting up and trying to take those first steps. Eventually, they become strong and stable. They learn to walk. Then watch out!

Sometimes adults must relearn how to walk. Maybe they suffer an injury. They must rebuild strength and confidence. Through physical therapy, they relearn to walk.

Regardless of being an infant in Christ or a Christian who has been injured by sin, we must learn to walk. We have a new life in Christ. How we live must reflect something new and hopeful. Consider some steps of new life.

### Steps of New Life

**1). Repentance.** When the Gospel was first preached, Peter told the audience to “Repent and be baptized” (Acts 2:38). Baptism is an important act. This is how we share in the Gospel of Christ and have our sins remitted (Rom. 6:4). Repentance, however, is a life-long engagement.

Repentance is about self-examination. By the word of God, we must judge our hearts. When we find sin, we must stop the sin. In turning away from sin, we are to develop new attitudes and behaviors. Sin is to be replaced with the righteousness of God.

**2). Worship.** We have been made as the imagers of God. We are built to reflect His glory in the earth. Worship is an essential part of bearing God’s image. We express our gratitude for what God has done for us through Jesus.

We must regularly and consistently assemble with Christians to worship. Sometimes Christians grow cold in their love for Christ and one another. They infrequently attend worship. They deprive themselves of much needed strength to flourish in the harsh environment of the world.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Heb. 10:24-25).

**3). Teach.** Once the Gospel is learned and obeyed, we must teach the good news to others. Teaching was a central activity of the earliest Christians. When they were expelled from Jerusalem, these saints “went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). Nothing could stop them from teaching the Gospel.

When something good happens to us, we usually share the news with our friends and family. What is better than receiving salvation? Surely, we would want our friends and family to hear the Gospel and share in salvation. Tell them what you believe. Tell them what you did to obey the Gospel. Tell them how the Gospel has changed your life.

Teach your spouse. Show your children. Tell your neighbor. Invite your colleague to worship. Share a sermon from YouTube. Get the word out! Sow the seed! Spread the news!

**4). Encourage.** As Christians, we have a responsibility to one another. We are to love, support, and encourage one another. We must build relationships with fellow Christians. Much of this happens through the local church.

We must take an interest in one another’s faithfulness. There are circumstances in life that can test our faith. In the local church, Christians can bear one another’s burdens.

“Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:1-2).

**5). Serve.** Christians have been called to be servants. We are to serve one another. We are to serve our families. We are to serve our neighbors. Our service reflects the self-giving love of our Savior. Jesus came to serve His Father and the world. We must follow in His steps.

We are to use the gifts of God’s grace to serve. He has given everyone a gift to use in filling the earth with His glory. When we obey the Gospel, God’s grace may highlight a particular ability we have to be useful. Or God’s grace may open new gifts never before realized in our lives. Whatever our ability, we must diligently use our gift to the glory of God.

“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them” (Rom. 12:6).

### **Conclusion**

We were baptized to walk in the newness of life. We must never lose sight of this purpose. We must constantly be trying to be more like Jesus. Through time and practice, new Christians can develop into mature Christians. Even injured Christians can be renewed in strength.