

Believers Basics

A Simple Guide to Understanding and Growing as a Christian



By Andrew McGowan

Contents:

Letter to new believers In Jesus Christ

Part 1: What God has done for you

- God has saved you forever
- Your new life in Christ
- You have an inside source

Part 2: What God wants you to do

- Read the Bible
- Learn to pray
- Fellowship with other believers

Part 3: Being Christ to the world

- Love one another
- Becoming a disciple
- Sharing your faith

Additional resources

Dear New Believer,

I am so excited to welcome you to God's family. You are now part of a family with members all over the world. When you chose to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord, you became a part of a story.

You were adopted into God's family because you chose to believe in Jesus Christ. You heard humans were separated from God because of sin. There was no way to make up for the sin each of us has. God wanted to mend the relationship with man. He came to the earth in his physical form (Jesus Christ). Jesus lived a perfect life, but was killed on a cross. Jesus was buried in a cave, but after three days, he rose from the dead. Jesus chose to forgive man for killing him, and God now accepts the sacrifice Jesus made so we can be friends with God.

It is God's story. It is a story that has been told for centuries. The story is still being told all over the world. You have a part to play in this story. God chose you to be a vital part of his story. It is my sincere hope this small book will help you on your journey to knowing Jesus Christ better and serving him with your life!

Andrew McGowan

Part 1: What God has done for you!

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You are at the starting line

Every race has a beginning line. It starts at one place and finishes in another. The Bible compares following Jesus Christ to a race. The Bible tells us to run the race to win it not just to participate in it. This race will take our whole life to complete. It may be difficult at times. Right now you may be wondering how you can run the race well. You may be wondering what you need to do to be a good racer. You may be experiencing some questions.

- What should I do next?
- How do I learn more about Jesus Christ and his family?
- What rules should I follow?
- What does being a Christian mean for my life?

I know you may be feeling a range of emotions. You may feel excited, curious, or you may be thinking about leaving your new faith. This is an important time in your race to learn the basic things and get ready to grow with Jesus Christ.

You can be calm. God has already given you everything you will need to learn about him and to make him happy. God does not want this time to be difficult. Your first steps of growth will be easy and natural. Since you chose to believe in Jesus Christ, this means you are now friends with God. Being a friend with God is no different than being a friend with anyone else. It is simple to become friends. You spend time together and learn about each other. You tell friends things you would not tell strangers.

God wants you to grow and learn about him. This is great news. If God wants you to learn about him, he will help you learn. He will help you get to know him and follow him well. As you get to know him, you will learn how much he already cares for you and loves you,

Even though you are anxious to learn about your new Christian life, we should start with a basic truth about God. God is one God, but he has three parts. He is not three separate Gods. Each part of him works differently. God's three parts are: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Some people find this difficult to understand. It does not need to be difficult. Think about it this way: A man is married and has children. He has three parts. He is the son of his father. He is the husband to his wife. He is the father to his children. We would not say he was three different people. Each person has different responsibilities, but he is still one person. God has three parts, but he is still one God.

This scripture talks about each part of God. Look closely and see what each one does:

"I pray that from God's glorious, unlimited resources he will give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit, and I pray Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high and how deep his love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God," Ephesians 3:16-19

So we can learn God's love for us is big. He loves us more than anyone else. We can also learn that God the Father has unlimited resources ready for us. We learn that God the Son (Jesus Christ) wants to be at home in our hearts. He wants to be our motivation for living, and he loves us with an undying love. We learn that God the Holy Spirit has given us spiritual strength and power. He is the source of our ability to live a Christian life.

With a basic understanding of the three parts of God, let's begin the race!

God has saved you forever

The Bible is full of books, chapters, and verses. There are many of each, and they talk about different things. Many times we will use a verse from the Bible to help learn a truth God has told us. There are 31,101 verses in the Bible. There are so many it might be easy to be overwhelmed. Verses and chapters were added to the Bible to help us study and memorize it. We need to keep in mind that dividing the Bible into verses did not come from God but is a tool to help us study the Bible with other Christians

When we study a verse, we list it this way: book of the Bible, chapter of the book, verse in the chapter. To begin we will look at the most popular verse in the whole Bible: John 3:16.

"For God so loved the world He gave his only son, so everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" ~John 3:16

When we study a scripture from the Bible, we look at each phrase of the scripture and learn what it is telling us. This verse tells us a lot about God and his plan for us.

"For God so loved the world..." This is God's motivation for coming to the world to die on the cross. God loved the world. This means he loves every person in the world. He knows each person and wants a personal relationship and friendship with them. It is also important to see that God loves us first. This verse does not tell us God only loves the rich or good people. He loves every person. We are not perfect. We all sin, and we make mistakes. It does not matter to God how you are. God loves you exactly how you are.

"...He gave his only Son..." God is the one doing the work. He came to earth and would be killed on a cross. He knew this would happen, and he came anyway. We did not deserve for God to come to the earth as Jesus. We were separated from God. This means we could not even ask for help. There was no way we could reach out to him. There was no way to do enough good things to earn his favor or a relationship with him, and so he did the work on our behalf. He came to earth to die for each one of us.

“...so everyone who believes in him...” God is seeking people from all over the world. He does not limit his offer to people based on their country or how much money they have. He does not care what they do to earn money or the politics they like. There is only one thing God requires for us to be acceptable to him. He requires us to believe in him. Lots of people believe in many things. God requires us to believe in him only. This means giving up our plans for our life. It means living for Jesus Christ instead of living for yourself.

“...will not perish but have eternal life.” All of us will die. Our bodies will get old, and one day they will stop working, but our physical body is not the only part of us. Each of us has a spirit in us that will live forever. When God saves us, he is saving us from spiritual death. This means when you accept Jesus Christ, you will live forever from that moment on. God also promises to bring our physical bodies back to life one day, but they will be changed. You already have eternal life. God gives you this gift as a follower of Jesus Christ.

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John 3:16 teaches a lot about God and about us. God’s desire is for us to continue to learn more about him. He has shown us grace. Grace is a word we use to describe Jesus Christ forgiving us even though we did not deserve it. There is much we can learn about God’s grace for us. Here a few things to learn about grace:

- Grace means God loves us without conditions. What we have done in the past and what we do in the future do not matter. There is no condition which will change his grace for us. God knows everything. God knows everything you did in the past and already knows everything you will do in the future. When God chose to accept you, he knew who you were and who you will be. Both good and evil, God knows everything about you. You cannot surprise him. Since he knew how you will be and still chose you, it means you can do nothing to change his mind.
- Nobody deserves grace. You can do nothing good without God’s help. God did not choose you because you are good. He chose you because he loves you. You can do nothing to earn his free gift of forgiveness. Since you can do nothing to earn the free gift, you can do nothing to lose it. Even though the gift of salvation is free for us, we should always remember it cost Jesus Christ his life. We should never take the free gift for granted or use it as an excuse to sin.
- God’s grace means we can do nothing to make him love us more. Many times believers are grateful to God, and they want to do things to make him happy. God’s only desire is for us to know him better. As we know him, it will change our behavior. We will do things we would not have done before. God is not interested in us only following rules. He doesn’t want us to work hard at being good. He loves us the most he is ever going to love us right now. We can do nothing to make him love us more.

- God's grace also means we can do nothing to make him love us less. God has not set up a system of laws for us to follow. Some people confuse scriptures in the Bible for laws. The only law God has for believers is to obey what he says. Even if we break this law, he still loves us just as much. He will continue to give us chances to obey him. We have a relationship with him. We are friends. This means he will listen to us, and we should listen to him. He will guide us into taking actions that please him and avoiding actions that do not please him. He will never love us less than he does right now.

Our faith must be in Jesus Christ alone. Faith is belief that causes action. If you see a car on the road headed directly toward you, then you would move. Your belief the car would hit you made you choose to move. There was no proof the car would hit you, but by faith you take action. Because you believe God has saved you, it will cause action in your life. This is your faith. What you do in response to what Jesus Christ did is the proof of what you believe about him. It all begins with belief.

As we get to know Jesus more and more, we will hear him lead us in our Christian life. Sometimes the things he asks us to do will be difficult. Sometimes they will make no sense, and sometimes people will question if he is really leading us. This is where trust comes in. We have to trust Jesus. He wants good things for our life. If we really believe in him, then we can trust what he asks us to do is good even if it is strange or difficult. He died to have a relationship with us. He will not lead us to destruction. We can test every leading of God by reading the Bible. God will not ask us to do something the Bible tells us not to do. We build our life on the trust we have in Jesus Christ. He will lead us to incredible places if we simply trust him.

When we believe God and obey him because we trust him, amazing things will happen. He will use us to do things others cannot understand. When these things happen, we often experience a new emotion. We will want to praise Jesus Christ. We want to do something to show how grateful we are for what he is doing through us. This is called worship. When we worship, we give God the praise he deserves. We tell Jesus Christ how great he is. Worship can happen in many different ways. Some people choose to sing. Others tell Jesus how great he is. You can choose to worship in whatever way you want. He made you as a unique person to give him praise in ways only you can do.

Belief and faith go hand in hand. You can trust God. He did all the work to save you. Since you did nothing to earn your salvation, you can do nothing to lose it. Salvation is not based on keeping rules. It is not based on how good you are. It is based only on the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Because he died for you and rose from the dead, it is up to him. The Bible clearly tells us nothing can separate us from God's eternal love.

"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from His love. Death cannot and life cannot. The angels cannot and the demons cannot. Our fears for today and our worries about tomorrow cannot, and even the powers of hell cannot keep God's love away. Nothing in all of creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Jesus Christ our lord." ~Romans 8:38-39

Your new life in Jesus Christ

Followers of Jesus Christ are called Christians. Being called a Christian and actually being a Christian are not the same thing. Many people who are called Christian do not actually follow Jesus Christ or have a relationship with him. There are two parts to being a Christian. 1. You accept Jesus Christ as savior. 2. You accept Jesus Christ as lord of your life.

1. Jesus is your savior. Jesus has saved you from hell. Jesus has saved you from a life without meaning or purpose.
2. Jesus is your Lord. Jesus has become the boss of your life. He is the one leading you and showing you how to live a life that makes him happy.

We will talk more about both of these areas, but before we do, we are going to learn more about who Jesus Christ is. We are also going to learn about what Jesus means to you.

Who is Jesus Christ?

We have already talked about the three parts of God. Jesus is the physical body of God. God chose to show himself to us in the physical form of Jesus so we could understand him better. God the Father and God the Holy Spirit are both spirits. Jesus is physical. Colossians 1:15 talks more about this. Jesus was God in physical human form. John 1:14 says it this way:

“So the Word (God) became human and lived here on earth among us.” ~John 1:14

Though it may be hard to understand, Jesus is both God and human. He is completely human, and he is completely God. Jesus had a human body just like you or me. He had hands and feet, eyes and ears. We do not know what Jesus looked like. He also had emotions and feelings. He was just like us. There is only one important difference. Jesus never sinned. He never did anything to disobey God the Father. Even though he was tempted just like we are, he never sinned. You can read Hebrews 4:15-16 for more about this. Jesus is also completely God. Jesus was always in communication with the Father and Holy Spirit because he was one with them. He did many things to prove he was God. He performed many miracles. Nature obeyed him. He forgave sins. The greatest sign Jesus is God is his resurrection from the dead. Even death could not stop Jesus from completing his work on earth.

The truth about Jesus being God and man is very important. As a man, he connected God and humans. In order for him to be the perfect sacrifice, Jesus had to be completely human. He also had to be completely sinless. He could only be sinless if he was completely God. He had to be completely God to have the right to forgive the sin of humans. Both parts are required for our salvation to work. You can read more about this in Romans 5:18-19.

What did Jesus do?

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He was doing four different things at once.

1. He was the substitute for sinful man. Jesus Christ died in our place. Each of us deserved death and separation from God. Every person who was ever born is full of sin. Sin causes separation from God. Jesus Christ died and was separated from God for a short time on our behalf. You can read more about these things in Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23 and Romans 8:3-4.
2. He was the target of God's judgment. Sin is not without punishment. God promised there would be punishment for disobeying him. When Jesus died as an innocent man on the cross, He was taking all of the punishment on our behalf. God was completely satisfied by Jesus' death on the cross. God does not punish us since Jesus was punished and did not deserve it. You can read more about this in Romans 3:23-26.
3. He bought our freedom from sin and Satan. Before we chose to believe in Jesus Christ, we were slaves. We may not have been slaves to another person, but we were slaves to sin and Satan. Each person is born with sin already living inside of them. Sin entered the world through Satan. As a sinner, Satan had the right to lead your life. He owned every sinner in the world, but when Jesus died on the cross, he bought every sinner who accepts him back from Satan. When Jesus died on the cross, he paid the price for us. We could never pay this price. You can read more about this in 1 Peter 1:18-19.
4. He made it possible for us to be friends with God. Before the first man chose to sin, He was friends with God. God would visit him in his home. Sin caused us to lose this friendship with God. When Jesus Christ paid for us, he made us friends with God again. You are now a friend of God. You can even talk to him like you would talk to a friend. You can read more about this in Romans 5:10-11.

God does not require anything else from us. Jesus Christ has paid the price in full. We did not help him, and we can do nothing more. The whole work of our salvation is complete when we choose to believe in Jesus Christ and make him the lord of our life.

Where is Jesus now?

Jesus Christ did not stay dead. He was raised from the dead. He had power over death. When he did this, he defeated death. We can have eternal life because Jesus Christ defeated death. When Jesus died on the cross, he made the full payment for our sin. When he was raised from the dead, he opened the door for eternal life and friendship with him.

After Jesus was raised from the dead, he visited over 500 people who saw him alive. He taught them about himself, and he gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit. All believers receive the Holy Spirit when they accept Jesus Christ. We will talk more about this later. After Jesus Christ appeared to his followers, he returned to heaven where he is now. The Bible tells us he is doing at least three things while he is there. Everything he is doing is for you!

1. Jesus is preparing a place for you. Jesus is building a house for you in heaven. It will be the most beautiful place you have ever seen. He is building it just for you because he loves you. You will join him in heaven when your body dies. Read John 14:2 to read where Jesus promised to build you a house.
2. Jesus is praying for you. He is focused on your life. He is working to make your life with him exciting and fruitful. He is the reason you have a friendship with God. He is leading you and guiding you from heaven through God the Holy Spirit. Read Hebrews 4:15-16 to learn more about Jesus praying for you.
3. Jesus is holding the world in his hand. Jesus is the reason everything happens in the world. He causes the sun to come up and the seasons to come. This entire world is under his control. He is sustaining this world for you. Read Colossians 1:7 to learn more about this!

When we think about just how much Jesus has done and is doing for us, we cannot help but want to praise him. Paul, a Christian from about 2000 years ago, said it this way:

“Because of this, God raised Him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name that is above every other name, so at the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!” ~Philippians 2:9-11

You have an inside source

Someone shared the story of Jesus Christ with you. It might be someone who visited from far away, or it might be a person you see every day. As a new believer, you may feel like you need someone to help you all the time. You may feel like you need a guide to help you live as a Christian from day to day. There are probably some areas you feel you need help in. Here are three basics that may be familiar to you as a new Christian:

- How do I know what makes God happy?
- I want to read the Bible, but I am not sure how to use it as a guide to knowing Jesus Christ better.
- I know I should be praying, but how do I learn to pray?

Do not worry. Most new Christians share these feelings. There is great news. Jesus Christ has given each believer a great gift. When Jesus went to heaven, he sent God the Holy Spirit to live inside you. God is living inside you, and he has promised to guide you in your race as a Christian. God the Holy Spirit is a spirit. He is not just floating around you. He is alive and inside you. You can learn to hear his voice and obey what he leads you to do. Look at these verses from the Bible talking about the Holy Spirit:

"I will ask the father, and he will give you another counselor, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth." ~John 14:16-17

"Do you not know your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given by God?" ~1 Corinthians 6:19

Your body is the house for the Holy Spirit. He lives in all believers. He is our guide in the Christian life. He is always with us and is our source for the strength to live the Christian life. The Holy Spirit is an incredible gift. Jesus gave himself for us, and the Holy Spirit gives himself to us. Here are some of the things the Holy Spirit does for us:

- The Holy Spirit is proof of our salvation. The Holy Spirit is living inside of us. He came into you the moment you accepted Jesus Christ. Since nothing we can do will ever make God leave us, the Holy Spirit will always be with us. Since God is in us as the Holy Spirit, then we can be sure God has accepted us. If we were not accepted by God, then he would never come to live in us. He is the guarantee of our salvation.
- The Holy Spirit helps us know how God thinks. God's ways are not our ways, and his thoughts are not our thoughts. This means that, on our own, we cannot understand what he wants to tell us. When we read the Bible, it can be confusing and difficult to apply to our lives. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can understand the Bible. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can know what God wants us to know about him from the Bible.
- The Holy Spirit helps us to pray. Prayer is time spent talking to God. This can seem overwhelming because we want to be sure to say the right thing to the God of all creation. The Holy Spirit is like a translator. He takes the words and thoughts we pray and helps them make sense to God. The Bible clearly states the Holy Spirit is helping us pray to God.
- The Holy Spirit comforts us. Jesus described the Holy Spirit as the comforter. This means when we face difficult times in life, God will comfort us using the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us peace and strength in bad times. The Holy Spirit will make sure to give us enough to overcome the difficult times in life.

- The Holy Spirit helps us to worship God. God is incredible. He deserves for us to tell him how great he is. Just like with prayer, the Holy Spirit helps us communicate our worship to God. The Holy Spirit can also lead us to new ways of worship. The Holy Spirit may inspire you to write a new song of praise. He may inspire you to serve other Christians. He may inspire you to write a new poem. He will help us give good gifts to God in our worship.
- The Holy Spirit is our guide. The Holy Spirit knows what God wants from us because he is God. Since he lives inside of us, he will lead us down the right path to make God happy. If we listen to him when he speaks to us, we will make God happy. A guide already knows the path to take. Since the Holy Spirit is God, he knows how to lead us to make God happy.
- The Holy Spirit changes us. If we listen to the Holy Spirit tell us how to live our lives, then it will cause us to behave differently. The Holy Spirit will lead us to live our lives differently than we did before we knew Jesus Christ. As we obey the Holy Spirit, our lives will look more and more like the life Jesus lived. Living like Jesus makes God happy.
- The Holy Spirit will give us a gift to use for other believers. The gift from the Holy Spirit is called a “spiritual gift.” Not every Christian has the same gift, but they all come from the same source. Each of these gifts is meant to be used to strengthen and encourage the family of God. As a follower of Jesus Christ, you have a gift. God needs you to use your gift for him to make his family strong.

By learning to hear the Holy Spirit speak to you and obeying what he says, you will become a great follower of Christ. Not everything the Holy Spirit tells us to do is easy. We can test everything we hear from him by reading the Bible. God will not tell us to do something he has already told us not to do in the Bible. The Bible helps us to know if we are hearing the Holy Spirit or if we are hearing our own thoughts and ambitions. You have all of God living in you through the Holy Spirit. He is your guide and helper. Learn to hear him and obey him, and you will grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ. If you ignore him, you will struggle to follow Jesus.

Part Two: What God wants you to do

As a new follower of Jesus Christ you are probably wondering what it all means. You are probably wondering what you need to do next. You probably want to know what God wants you to do. Look at Colossians 1:9-10 to find some answers:

“We ask God to give you a complete understanding of what He wants to do in your lives, and we ask Him to make you wise with spiritual wisdom. Then the way you live will always honor and please the lord, and you will continually do good, kind things for others. All the while, you will learn to know God better and better.” ~Colossians 1:9-10

Here is what we learn that God wants from us in this scripture:

1. He wants us to understand what He wants from our lives.
2. He wants us to be spiritually wise.
3. He wants us to live our lives to honor and please him.
4. He wants us to do good and kind things for others.
5. He wants us to know him more and more.

We will learn how God is going to accomplish these things in the next section. He accomplishes them through spiritual training. When a person wants to learn a new job, they go through training. Someone shows them how to do the job. Since you have the Holy Spirit to guide you, he will train you through several exercises. Let us look at these exercises and learn how to do them well.

1. The Bible

Read the Bible

The Bible is important for many reasons. One reason is so we can test what the Holy Spirit says to know whether what we are hearing is from God or from us. Another reason is because the Bible was given to us by God. It is his letter to us. He used men and women to write the Bible over hundreds of years. The Bible has 66 books divided into two major sections. The Old Testament is the time before Jesus came to earth to die for our sins, and the New Testament tells us about Jesus coming to earth and how to live as Christians. The entire Bible is really the story of Jesus.

You may only have one book of the Bible or only the New Testament. Hopefully you will be able to get all of the Bible soon, but for now you can focus on what you have and read it.

When we study the Bible it is important to understand the whole picture. The whole Bible is the story of Jesus Christ, but he is hidden in the Old Testament. God took a long time to reveal himself to people. He showed more and more of himself until he was fully shown to us in Jesus Christ.

When we study the Bible, it is important to realize God was working towards a goal and had a purpose in everything written in the Bible. If we look at the beginning of the Bible and the end, we can discover his goal and purpose. His goal and purpose was to have a relationship with humans. God wanted to be friends with us. Take a basic look at the Bible:

- In the beginning, God created man without sin. Satan tempted the first man to disobey God. The first man, Adam, listened to the temptation, and he sinned. Every person who came from Adam and his wife, Eve, sinned. In fact, sin became a part of all humans. Since we all came from Adam, he passed down sin to us. We are born with sin already living in us.
- Many years after Adam sinned, God decided to make a special nation of people. All of these people came from a man named Abraham. These people are the Jewish people. God had a special relationship with them and would speak to them even though they were filled with sin. He had them offer sacrifices to him to make up for their sin. There were many types of sacrifices. None of these sacrifices were permanent. Even if the people made the sacrifice, they still would have to make more because they kept on sinning.
- The Jewish people had a problem. They kept turning away from God and would worship other gods and idols. When they turned away from God, he would punish them, and then they would come back to him. This happened over and over. God would bring people called prophets to the Jewish people to warn them to turn back to God before he judged them. These prophets also foretold Jesus coming to earth.
- Jesus was born about 2000 years ago. He was God and man. He was born in a town called Bethlehem. We celebrate his birth during the festival of Christmas. He grew into a man and taught about himself. The Jewish people rejected him as their king and had him killed. He died on a cross and was buried in a cave. Three days after he died, he was raised from the dead. We celebrate Jesus rising from the dead with the holiday called Easter. Forty days after he was raised from the dead, Jesus went to heaven to prepare a place for us.
- Jesus is coming back to earth someday in the future. We don't know when this will be. It could be tomorrow, or it could be 1000 years from now or even more. When Jesus returns, He will judge every person who decided not to be his follower. They will still be separated from God because of their sin. At this time God will set up a kingdom on earth. Eventually Jesus will create a completely new heaven and earth. When God makes a new heaven and earth, he will destroy the old one. The Bible tells us he will destroy this world with fire.

As you read about the story of Jesus in the Bible, it is important you know how to use the Bible as a guide. We get to know God better by reading the book he gave us. It is important to use the Bible the way God intended. Many people misuse the Bible. They think it is saying something it is not. Sometimes people make mistakes. Other times they are trying to misuse the Bible to lead you away from Jesus. It is important to know how to read the Bible so you can tell the difference. One easy way to tell if someone is teaching wrong things is to see on whom they are focusing. As a Christian our focus should always be on Jesus Christ. If someone is teaching to make you follow them or take your money or make you follow rules, then you need to not trust their teaching. If a person's teaching leads you to know Jesus better and serve him better, then you can trust that teacher.

Interpret the Bible

When we study the Bible, there are some important things to keep in mind. Remember it is all about Jesus Christ. Every part of the Bible will eventually lead us to know something more about Jesus Christ. When we interpret the Bible, there are four keys to understanding what it wants to say to us:

1. Context is most important. There are many thousands of verses in the Bible. We need to remember the Bible was originally written as books and letters. The chapters and verses were added to help us find and study scripture. This means we should always look at the whole chapter to understand a verse. It often means we have to know what the whole book is about to understand what God is teaching us.
2. Scripture does not contradict scripture. Sometimes it may seem like one verse says something completely different than another verse. This is because you don't really understand what the verse is saying. Keep reading and studying the Bible, and eventually it will make sense.
3. Discuss it with other Christians. Many Christians have studied the Bible longer than you have. It is always good to ask other believers about scripture you may be struggling to understand. One of the jobs of all believers is to teach each other. Before long, you will find you will be able to help other Christians understand the Bible better.
4. Let the Holy Spirit guide you. You can trust the Holy Spirit to lead you in your interpretation of the Bible. He will always point you in the right direction. Often we know when the Holy Spirit is leading us when a verse or chapter of the Bible seems extremely important to us. It will seem like we should spend a lot of time reading and thinking about the scripture. This is the Holy Spirit trying to teach you something important for your life.

When we study the Bible, it can be difficult to know what God is saying to us. God is still speaking through the Bible to each believer. You can ask four basic questions to help you hear what he wants to say to you. You can ask these questions and look at the scripture for the answers, and you will hear God better.

1. What does it say? We can understand the scripture by learning what the passage is talking about. It may be telling us a story or teaching a truth. We can learn more by understanding what the author was trying to tell us.
2. What does it mean? We should try to learn what the author wanted to tell us when they wrote the scripture. Make sure you know what the words actually mean so you better understand what the scripture is saying.
3. How does it apply to me? Every scripture is meant to help Christians. Look at the scripture, and see if it is telling you to make a change in your life. You can look to see if it makes you think of something going on in your life right now. Every scripture will be used to convict us, encourage us, or teach us.
4. How does the scripture point to Jesus? Jesus told his followers that all the scriptures point to him. Sometimes the scripture will plainly speak about Jesus, and other times we will have to look hard to see how the scripture is pointing to Jesus. When we use this question correctly, we will grow in our understanding of Jesus more and more and we will get to know him better and better.

If we use the four keys and the four questions, we will learn to accurately interpret the Bible. It will become a great tool for being a Christian. We will become better followers of Jesus when we get to know him through the reading of the Bible.

Commit to the Bible

God wants us to commit to the Bible. He gave it to us as the clearest way to know him. He is telling us all about himself in the Bible. God wants us to spend time reading, studying, and thinking about the Bible. Many Christians choose to spend time with the Bible every day of the week. Many people choose to start their day reading the Bible. They want to make sure their life is focused on God. This is a good habit to start and keep. Sometimes we will be tempted to believe that we understand the Bible and do not need to read it anymore. This is wrong. Look what the Bible says about itself"

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than any two edged sword cutting between the soul and spirit, between the joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." ~Hebrews 4:12

Since the Bible is so useful to us, we should commit to keeping it in our lives. There are three areas we need to commit to:

1. Commit to reading the Bible. Do not ever stop reading the Bible. God will use it for the rest of your life to grow you as a Christian. The Bible is God's gift to you. Do not ever give up on it.

2. Commit to applying the Bible. You have to listen to what the Bible is telling you. You need to apply the Bible to your own life. God gave you the Bible as a guide. The Holy Spirit will show you how you need to change your life through the Bible.
3. Commit to sharing the Bible. As you learn more and more about the Bible, you should be sharing it with other people. You can use the Bible to help other Christians to grow. You can show them what God is teaching you, and he may use the same scriptures to grow them as well. You can also use the Bible to share the story of God with people who do not know him yet. As you learn the story of Jesus more and more, then you will be able to tell your friends and family so they can know God in the same way you do!

The Bible is a vital part of our life with God. We must use it as he intended. It is a great gift from him so that we can know Jesus better and learn to follow him.

2. Prayer

Learn to pray

You may be scared to pray to God. It can be frightening to talk to the God who created everything. Remember the Holy Spirit is helping you talk to God. It is not about what you say, and it is not about how you say it. Prayer is actually very simple and gives us many benefits as followers of Jesus Christ. God tells us very clearly in the Bible that he wants us to pray. Look at these verses:

“Pray at all times.” ~Ephesians 6:18
“Devote yourselves to prayer.” ~ Colossians 4:2
“Keep on praying.” ~1 Thessalonians 5:17

Why should we pray? Aside from the fact that the Bible tells us to, there are other reasons. Before we talk about these reasons, we need to understand that God does not need us to pray. We need to pray. Prayer is not for God. It is for us. We cannot follow Jesus well without prayer being a major part of our life.

Let us look at some of the benefits God has given us through prayer:

- ~Prayer is our direct line of communication with God.
- ~God promises to always hear our prayers.
- ~When we pray, we gain spiritual strength.
- ~Prayer helps us fight temptation to sin.
- ~God promises to give us wisdom when we ask him for it.
- ~Prayer plays a part in physical healing of people.
- ~We get to know God better by talking with him.

Here are some things that will help us in our prayer life. Remember these to help you to be comfortable talking to God.

1. We can pray at any time. God will always hear you no matter where you are. You can pray when you wake up. You can pray when you are walking down the street. You do not have to be with a church or at a temple to pray. God will hear you anytime you talk to him.
2. Prayer is not a letter. Prayer is a conversation. You talk to God, and then you can wait to hear back from him. Sometimes he will talk back to you. Prayer is not just about you talking to God. It is about you talking with God. He wants to guide you through prayer.
3. God is your friend. You do not have to be formal with God. You can talk to him as you would a friend. He already knows everything you are thinking and feeling, and so you should be honest with him. He is your friend. Talk to God just like you would talk to one of your friends.
4. You have freedom in prayer. Prayer is about your heart. You can pray out loud or quietly in your mind or heart. You can pray in any language. You can stand, sit, kneel, or lie down to pray. You can pray with your hands raised or at your side. You can pray with your eyes open or closed. You can pray when you are happy or mad. All that matters is being honest and speaking plainly to God and listen for him to speak to you.

How to Pray

If you still struggle to know how to pray, here is a basic form you can use. It is only to help you until you learn how to be at ease praying.

1. Start with praising God for who he is. Praise him for what he is doing in your life. Thank him for his sacrifice to save you. Praise him because he wants a relationship with you. Thank him for the things you have been learning about him.
2. Be silent. Just stop and listen for him to speak to you. You may experience feelings. You may feel happy or encouraged or grateful. Sometimes this is God telling you how he feels about your praises.
3. Confess the areas you are struggling with. Even though you are a follower of Jesus, you will still sin. You won't want to, but your old sins will still be there. Tell God about your sins. Ask him for help defeating them. Ask him to give you the strength you need to continue to follow him. Praise him for loving you when you sin.
4. Ask God what he wants you to do for him. He will often bring things to your mind while you are praying. As you think about them, he may be telling you how to deal with them. You are his representative, and so he will ask you to do things to bring him glory and to tell others about him.

5. Pray for other people in your life. If other believers have shared prayer requests with you, then ask God to help those people. If you have told someone you will pray for them, do it. If you have needs in your own life, tell God about them. He already knows all of our needs but wants you to be honest and open with him.

6. Praise God again. Thank him for hearing you. Thank him for knowing you and working in your life. Thank him for being with you. Thank him for giving you the Holy Spirit to help guide you every day!

As you go throughout your day, you can always talk to God. Always be ready to pray for people and situations in your life. Prayer will focus you on God instead of yourself. If God speaks to you when you pray, be sure to obey what he says. It is often easy to hear God, but if we do not do what he asks us to do, then he will speak to us less. As you learn to hear God's voice, you will desire to spend more and more time praying with Jesus.

3. Fellowship

What is fellowship?

When believers gather together to share their lives in Jesus Christ, this is called fellowship. They share how he is working in each of their lives. God's desire is for us to be a part of a small group of believers who gather to focus on him. Many people use the word "church" to describe the gathering of Christians. Sometimes Christians will meet in a specific building every week. We call this building a church as well, but God does not consider the building anything special. He cares about the people who meet together. It does not matter where they meet. As long as the people are meeting to praise God and encourage each other, then he is happy.

What to expect at fellowship.

Fellowship or church is a group of people who follow Jesus Christ and meet together. The first thing you should expect is that the meeting be about Jesus Christ. Every fellowship or church is a part of a much larger group of believers. God considers every Christian in the whole world to be a part of his family. Your small group of believers you meet with is a fellowship or church. Your fellowship or church is a part of God's family. This means you are a part of God's family. Many times, fellowships and churches will do many similar things when they meet. Fellowships and churches are free to share God with each other however they want and however the Holy Spirit leads them. Every fellowship or church is different, but some things are common in most fellowships and churches. Here are a few things that will probably happen:

- People will worship God. They may use songs they have written or songs other people have taught them. They may stand up and tell others what God has been doing for them or something he has done in the past. There is no right or wrong way to worship God as long as your praise comes from the heart.

- People will be sharing teaching from the Bible. Every fellowship is different. Any person should be free to share from the Bible what God is teaching them. Sometimes this will be presented in a formal way. A person may work to present the teaching by speaking in front of everyone. This is called a sermon. Sermons are helpful in teaching the Bible, but they often don't allow people to ask questions or to have input.
- People will be sharing in communion. Communion is a ceremony used to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for each of us on the cross. As a believer, you have a right to participate in this ceremony. There are two parts. You will eat a piece of Bread which is meant to symbolize the body of Jesus being beaten and broken. Then you will drink a small cup of juice or wine. The juice is meant to symbolize the blood Jesus shed for you on the cross. Communion is a serious time, and people will be quiet as they think about what Jesus did for them on the cross.
- You will see and take part in Baptism. Baptism is another Christian ceremony like communion. In this ceremony, a new believer will be dunked in water. The ceremony is meant to show what has happened to you as a follower of Jesus. Before you are dunked, you represent the old self who was a slave to sin and Satan. When you are dunked in the water, you are saying the old self is dead and buried. When you come out of the water, you are saying you have new life. This new life is led by Jesus who was raised from the dead. Jesus commands that each person who follows him be baptized. Jesus was even baptized as an example for us to follow. Every person who was baptized in the Bible was dunked in the water of a river.
- People will give time and money. When a fellowship meets, it is often the case a need will come up. God wants us to meet the needs of other believers and even those who do not believe. Sometimes the need can be taken care of with money. If someone is led by the Lord, they will give money. Other times the need can be met with time. If someone is led by the Lord, they will use their time helping the brother or sister who has a need.
- People will be using their spiritual gifts for the building up of other Christians. A spiritual gift is an ability the Holy Spirit gives you. It is a talent you will possess to further the goal and purpose of God. The Bible tells us all spiritual gifts should be used for the encouragement of other believers. Soon you will discover your own gift. You will find you have a desire and an ability to meet a need for the whole fellowship. There are many different spiritual gifts. You can read about the spiritual gifts in the Bible in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Romans 12:6-8, and 1 Peter 4:10-11.

No fellowship is perfect.

Fellowships and churches are made of people who were all sinners and are still trying to know God better. This means we make mistakes. We often have problems. That is ok. God is still working on each of us to make us more like him. As we learn, we will make mistakes and do things the right way, too. Just remember, God has put you in a fellowship

of believers because he needs you there to help the other followers of Jesus Christ become stronger. You have a job to do, and so does every other member.

Part Three: Being Jesus to the world

Jesus is no longer walking on the earth. He went back to heaven to prepare a place for us. So how will the world see Jesus if he is not here? It is simple, actually. You are now Jesus. No, you are not God, but you represent Jesus. When people want to see how Jesus would speak or behave, they will look to the people called by his name. As a Christian, you are now an ambassador for Jesus. You are the Jesus people will see with their eyes. So how do we show Jesus? There are many ways. Here are three simple ways to be Jesus.

1. Love One Another

The Bible tells us “God is Love.” If we want to show Jesus to the world, we start with love. I am not talking about the love a man has for his wife. The love of God is like the love parents have for their children or brothers and sisters have for each other. It is the love of a family. This means you treat every follower of Jesus Christ as your own brother or sister. We are all one family. God is our father. Jesus gave a direct command about loving one another:

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” ~John 13:34-35

Jesus commanded each and every one of us to love each other. He says it is the proof we are his followers. We must love each other, but how do we show this kind of love to each other? Look at this passage of scripture:

“Since God chose you to be the holy people whom he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. You must make allowance for each other’s faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. And the most important piece of clothing you must wear is love. Love is what binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts, for as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.” ~Colossians 3:12-15

The scripture lists several things we should do to show God’s love to each other. You may be thinking these will be hard to do. You are right. They will be hard for you to do, but they are easy for God to do. If we rely on God and the leading he gives us through the Holy Spirit, then these things will become easier for us to do, as well.

Another passage of scripture tells us about the result of having the Holy Spirit in our lives. These are also ways we show love to each other:

“But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” ~Galatians 5:22-23

Each of these results of having the Holy Spirit live in us will help us obey the command to love each other. Let us look at each of them:

- **Love.** This is pretty simple. We are to treat everyone with love. We should behave just like Jesus. He loved us so much he gave his life for us. You should be willing to give your life for your spiritual family.
- **Joy.** Joy and happiness are two different things. Happiness depends on what happens. Joy is a feeling of hope and excitement at what God is doing no matter the circumstances we face in life.
- **Peace.** Sometimes we face hard times, but we can be at peace when difficult times surround us because we have the Holy Spirit in us. We know God has not forgotten us and wants to be a part of our lives even in the bad times. We know he is preparing a place for us even now, and so we can have peace because this world is not our final destination. No matter how good or bad this life is we know Jesus is preparing something much better for us in heaven.
- **Patience.** Waiting can be hard. Sometimes we want things to happen quickly, but when the Holy Spirit is in us, we learn to wait for God to move without complaining or getting upset. We can also be patient with other believers as they learn about God in different ways than us.
- **Kindness.** Being kind is a sure sign the Holy Spirit is living in you. When you start to see people the way God sees them, you will be moved to treat them differently. You will become kind towards other believers and even people who do not know Jesus yet.
- **Goodness.** The Holy Spirit will lead you to do things for others that do not give you any benefit. Only God knows what is truly good. When we listen to the Holy Spirit, we will do good things that please God.
- **Faithfulness.** God never lies. We can trust him in every way. He wants his followers to be the same way. Being faithful means being honest and truthful. Being faithful means being fair and having a good reputation.
- **Gentleness.** When the Holy Spirit changes you, you will become gentle. This means you will not be harsh with people, and you will be pleasant to be around. It means you will not get angry or yell at people.
- **Self-control.** The Holy Spirit is now in control of your life. This means you are no longer making the decisions. You are waiting on God to tell you what to do, and you follow his instructions. You have removed yourself from being the boss of your life, and now God is your boss. This means you will be able to better control your behavior, your thoughts, and your emotions because you have given them all to God.

It is impossible for you to do all these things on your own. If you try, you will become frustrated and weak. God's desire is for you to allow him to show his love to followers of Christ and to the world through you. You are the only Jesus many people will ever see. As you learn to love like God loves, they will see Jesus more clearly. You can pray and ask for help in all of these things. Listen to how he leads you, and you will slowly change into a person Who clearly looks like Jesus Christ.

2. Being a Follower of Jesus

When Jesus met people in the New Testament he often said, "Follow me." He wants us to be his followers. The Bible also uses the word "disciple" to describe followers of Jesus. The word disciple literally means "student." We are learning from Jesus. We are learning how to be Christians. We are learning how to live a full life, and we are learning to be his representatives.

How to become a disciple

Being followers or disciples of Jesus is not just about gaining knowledge. It is not about doing the right thing. Being true disciples means we are committed to Jesus Christ. We get to know him better through his teaching in the New Testament. Jesus is our focus. If we want to represent him well, we should be focused on knowing him. We commit to Jesus in two ways.

1. Commit to Jesus as a person. Jesus already committed to us more than we can ever repay. He died on the cross and was raised from the dead for us. We should get to know Jesus. You can imagine Jesus as a new friend. When you make a friend, you care about their wishes. You care about the things they care about. As we get to know Jesus, we will see what makes him happy, and we will want to make changes so our lives will make him happy. As we make these changes, people may even start to notice we are changing.
2. Commit to what Jesus taught. We can find the majority of Jesus' teaching in the first four books of the New Testament. We need to devote ourselves to the things Jesus said. While we want to be friends and know Jesus as a person, he is also God. When we devote ourselves to his teaching, we are learning about him as our God. When we read the words of Jesus, we will often find he teaches things difficult to hear. We will often realize we are doing the things he is saying not to do. As true disciples, we must make changes to ensure our lives match the teaching of Jesus. Obedience is one important way we become true disciples and followers of Jesus. If we are unwilling to obey what he says, then Jesus is not our God.

How to make disciples

Jesus is the one who is saving people. You cannot save anyone, and God does not expect you to. God will use you to lead others toward Christ. You may be able to tell his story to people and ask them to follow him. Look at what Jesus told us about making disciples:

“Jesus came and told His disciples, “I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. and be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” ~Matthew 28:18-20

There are three basic things Jesus tells us to do:

1. Make disciples. Notice he is not telling us to save people. He is telling us to help people follow Jesus. There may be many times when you are the person God uses to bring someone to know Jesus. You have a responsibility to make sure new believers get a good start to knowing Jesus.
2. Baptize new believers. When a person understands what it means to follow Jesus, their instinct will be to be baptized. You may be baptized by a leader in a church or a friend who led you to Christ. Baptism is meant to be done in a public place. It is showing a picture of what God has done in the new believer. Baptism is a symbol. When you become a mature follower of Christ, you may be asked to baptize people as well. It does not matter who does the baptizing. There is no magic in it. The important part is that the person being baptized knows they are giving a public testimony of what Jesus did for them.
3. Teach new believers. Jesus told every follower of his it would be their responsibility to teach new believers. This may seem like a task only for more mature Christians. Any believer can teach. As you study the Bible and listen to the Holy Spirit, you can share what you learn. This is teaching. Specifically, Jesus is telling us to teach the things he taught while he was on earth. This is one of the ways we become Jesus to the people in our lives.

When we look at the verses above, we can see there are two things to encourage us to obey. One is that all authority in the whole world belongs to Jesus. He is the King. We have the ability to obey him because he has the authority to tell us what to do. The second is that Jesus promises to always be with us. He will never leave us nor forsake us. Sometimes it may feel like you are the only one who is working hard to make disciples, baptize new believers, and teach new believers. You are not alone. Jesus is with you. The Holy Spirit will never leave you. This means Jesus is inside of you helping you to do the things he has commanded us to do.

3. Telling others about Jesus.

It may seem difficult to tell other about Jesus. You may be afraid you will say something wrong. You may be afraid you will be persecuted for talking about Jesus. Both of these things could happen, but it is ok if they do. We all make mistakes. Jesus promised we would be persecuted. As we obey God, he will lead us to tell others about Jesus. So how do we tell people about him? There are many ways to tell others about Jesus. Here are two:

1. Present the story of Jesus.

As we learn more and more about Jesus, we can tell his story to someone who is willing to listen. We should not force someone to listen to us. God wants us to share, but we should be kind and loving when we do.

When we share the Story of Jesus, we should cover these basics:

- God created man as a perfect being without sin, but man chose to disobey God.
- Sin separates God from man.
- Jesus came to earth to tell of His love for mankind
- Jesus was killed by men and was buried in a cave.
- Jesus was raised from the dead three days later.
- Jesus chose to forgive people for their sin.
- When we accept Jesus as our savior and our lord, the Holy Spirit will live in us.
- Jesus wants us to share the Christian life with other believers.
- One day Jesus will return to earth.

We can add many details to these basics. We might tell the story of Adam and Eve in the garden. We could describe the many miracles Jesus did to prove he was God. If someone will listen, we can share the basic parts of the story of Jesus with them.

2. Tell your Story

The other way is much simpler. As a follower of Jesus, your life will change. You will give up sin and start to become more and more like Christ. People will begin to notice something has changed. The best and easiest way to tell others about Jesus is to share your story. This is called a testimony.

When you tell your story, you will only be sharing about what Jesus has done for you. A testimony can be very simple. Here is an example:

“Before I knew Jesus, I used to get drunk and beat my wife. When I accepted Jesus, I stopped getting drunk. Now I do not beat my wife. Jesus has made our family happy and has given us peace”

When we share a testimony, it has three parts:

1. What my life was like before Christ. (I got drunk and beat my wife.)
2. How Jesus changed me. (I don't drink or beat my wife anymore.)
3. What my life is like now. (Our family is happy and peaceful.)

A testimony is great for sharing about Jesus for many reasons. When we share our own testimony, we prove Jesus is still alive and working today. People cannot argue with our testimony. If we only tell people the story of Jesus, then they may disagree with something we say. When we share our story, they cannot prove us wrong.

Keep God's perspective

When we share about Jesus, it can be easy to feel pride. We were accepted by Jesus. We are part of his family. These are good things. The person we share with is still a slave to sin and Satan. This does not mean they are worth less to God than we are. We were sinners and slaves once, too. If the person accepts Jesus, then they become our brother or sister. We should always treat someone we are telling the story of Jesus with respect and love. They may not accept Jesus right away. They may accept him at a later time. We do not need to get mad at someone who does not accept right away. Sometimes God will take a long time to convince someone to accept him. We must keep God's view of people. He loves them and wants them to accept him. He is patient and kind. He shows them love and compassion. We should be the same way.

One of the most exciting times in your life will be when you help someone accept Jesus Christ. God is using you to share his story. Not everyone you share with will accept Christ. Do not get discouraged or disappointed. Keep telling his story, and people will come to know him.

Additional Tools for your Growth

Get to know Jesus:

The following is a 30 day Bible reading plan. You can look up a passage of scripture each day. As you read them, you will learn more about the story of Jesus. This is a great start to get to know Jesus. He will show Himself to you. Listen for the Holy Spirit to talk to you as you read these passages.

Day 1	Jesus is God.....	John 1:1-18
Day 2	Mary will be the mother of Jesus.....	Luke 1:26-38
Day 3	Jesus is born.....	Luke 2:1-7
Day 4	Jesus is baptized.....	Matthew 3:13-17
Day 5	Jesus and Nicodemus.....	John 3:1-21
Day 6	Jesus talks to the woman at the well.....	John 4:1-26
Day 7	Jesus and the fishermen.....	Luke 5:1-11
Day 8	Jesus claims to be God's son.....	John 5:19-30
Day 9	Jesus teaches how to live.....	Matthew 5:1-12
Day 10	Jesus teaches about worry.....	Matthew 6:25-34
Day 11	Jesus forgives an adulterous woman.....	John 7:53-8:11
Day 12	Jesus comforts Mary and Martha.....	John 11:17-37
Day 13	Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey.....	John 12:12-19
Day 14	Jesus tell about the future.....	Matthew 24:1-25
Day 15	Jesus prays for Himself.....	John 17:1-5
Day 16	Jesus prays for His disciples.....	John 17:6-19
Day 17	Jesus in the garden.....	Mark 14:32-42
Day 18	Jesus is questioned.....	Mark 14:53-65
Day 19	Jesus stands trial.....	Matthew 27:11-14
Day 20	Jesus is sentenced.....	Mark 15:6-15
Day 21	Jesus is crucified.....	Mark 15:21-41
Day 22	Jesus is buried in a cave.....	Mark 15:42-47
Day 23	Jesus is raised from the dead.....	Matthew 28:1-7
Day 24	Jesus appears to the women.....	Matthew 28:8-10
Day 25	Jesus appears to the disciples.....	John 20:24-31
Day 26	Jesus talks with Peter.....	John 21:15-25
Day 27	Jesus gives His final instructions.....	Matthew 28:16-20
Day 28	Jesus goes to heaven.....	Luke 24:50-53
Day 29	Jesus returns to earth.....	Revelation 19:11-20:6
Day 30	What heaven is like.....	Revelation 21:1-22:5

Get to know about being a Christian

The epistles are books written by the first followers of Jesus. They explain what it means to be a Christian and how to follow Jesus. They are books that were written to fellowships in the years after Jesus returned to heaven. We can read these books to know how our fellowships and churches should work. We can read these books to better understand what it means to be a Christian. We can read these books to better understand what Jesus did for us.

Day 1	Romans 1-4
Day 2	Romans 5-8
Day 3	Romans 9-12
Day 4	Romans 13-16
Day 5	1 Corinthians 1-4
Day 6	1 Corinthians 5-8
Day 7	1 Corinthians 9-12
Day 8	1 Corinthians 13-16
Day 9	2 Corinthians 1-4
Day 10	2 Corinthians 5-8
Day 11	2 Corinthians 9-13
Day 12	Galatians 1-3
Day 13	Galatians 4-6
Day 14	Ephesians 1-3
Day 15	Ephesians 4-6
Day 16	Philippians 1-4
Day 17	Colossians 1-4
Day 18	1 Thessalonians 1-5
Day 19	2 Thessalonians 1-3
Day 20	1 Timothy 1-3
Day 21	1 Timothy 4-6
Day 22	2 Timothy 1-4
Day 23	Titus 1-3, Phil. 1
Day 24	Hebrews 1-4
Day 25	Hebrews 5-8
Day 26	Hebrews 9-13
Day 27	James 1-5
Day 28	1 Peter 1-5
Day 29	2 Peter 1-3
Day 30	1 John 1-5
Day 31	2+3 John, Jude

Get to know how to treat other Christians

The phrase “each other” is repeated throughout the New Testament. Every time the Bible uses the term “each other,” it is giving instructions on how we should treat other Christians. These commands are a road map to making God’s family stronger.

The Each Others

Accept each other	Romans 15:7
Admonish each other	Colossians 3:16
Agree with	1 Corinthians 1:10
Be devoted	Romans 12:10
Be encouraged by	Romans 1:12
Be humble	1 Peter 3:8, Ephesians 4:2
Be kind	1 Thessalonians 5:15
Be sympathetic	1 Peter 3:8
Endure with	Ephesians 4:2, Colossians 3:13
Strengthen	1 Thessalonians 5:11
Carry burdens	Galatians 6:2
Compassionate	Ephesians 4:32, 1 Peter 3:8
Confess your sins to	James 5:16
Encourage	1 Thessalonians 5:11, Hebrews 10:25, Hebrews 3:13, 1 Thessalonians 4:18
Equal concern for	1 Corinthians 12:25
Forgive	Ephesians 4:32 Colossians 3:13
Gentle	Ephesians 4:2
Good Deeds	Hebrews 10:24
Greet	1 Peter 5:14, Romans 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:20, 2 Corinthians 13:12
Have fellowship with	1 John 1:7
Honor	Romans 12:10
Hold in highest regard	1 Thessalonians 5:13
Instruct	Romans 15:4
Be kind to	Ephesians 4:32
Live in harmony with	Romans 12:16, 1 Peter 3:8
Live in peace with	1 Thessalonians 5:13 Mark 9:50
Meet with	Hebrews 10:25
Be patient	Ephesians 4:2
Pray for	James 5:16
Serve	Galatians 5:13
Sing songs to	Ephesians 5:19
Spur toward love	Hebrews 10:24
Submit to	Ephesians 5:21
Teach	Colossians 3:16
Wait for	1 Corinthians 7:5. 1 Corinthians 11:33
Love	1 Thessalonians 3:12, 1 Thessalonians 4:9, 1 Peter 1:22, 1 Peter 3:8, 1 John 3:11 1 John 3:23, 1 John 4:7, Hebrews 13:1, 1 Peter 4:8, 1 John 4:11, 1 John 4:12 2 John 1:5, John 15:12, John 15:17
Do not be conceited with	Galatians 5:26
Do not be provoked by	Galatians 5:26
Do not use biting words with	Galatians 5:15
Do not be in debt to	Romans 13:8
Do not destroy	Galatians 5:15
Do not devour	Galatians 5:15
Do not envy	Galatians 5:26
Do not grumble against	James 5:9
Do not judge	Romans 14:13
Do not lie to	Colossians 3:9
Do not slander	James 4:11